

STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING
State University of New York, College at Geneseo



Student Association meetings are Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the College Union Hunt Room. All are welcome to attend.

MINUTES #12, Wednesday, October 26, 2011

<i>Executive Committee</i>	
President:	Nicholas Spengler
Vice-President:	Tyler Ocon
Directors:	
Academic Affairs:	Justin Shapiro
Business Affairs:	Brittany Wolf
Inter-Residence Affairs:	Carly Annable
Public Relations:	Lindsey Hebell
Student Affairs:	Stasia Monteiro
Student Programming:	Heather Bristol
Advisor:	Patty Hamilton-Rodgers

<i>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</i>	
Dir. of SA Programs,	
Personnel & Finances:	Kate Rebban
Administrative Assistant:	Nancy Chirico
Graphics Coordinator:	Kristen Fuest
Service Manager:	Dianne Krenzer

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46-47	40-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$150.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to SA Programs, Account 1002, to fund a start up budget for Geneseo College Republicans. <i>Second of Two Readings</i>
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48	43-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE realign up to \$400 from Academic Affairs Committee, Account 1100, Line 20 – Rock Your Semester, to Line 20 – AAC Exec Programming, to create a new line and use for the Professor Recognition Ceremony. <i>First and Only Reading</i>
48	44-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE realign up to \$75 from Slavic Club, Account 1915, Line 10 – Culturally Relevant Books and Games, to Line 10 – Costumes, to create a new line and purchase materials to create cultural costumes for the Intercultural Dinner. <i>First and Only Reading</i>

- 48 45-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$150.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to SA Programs, Account 1002, to fund a start up budget for People for Animal Welfare (PAW).
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- 49 46-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$517.98 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to Japanese Culture Club, Account 1901, for funding to the East Coast Japan American League Conference.
First of Two Readings
- 49 47-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$839.16 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to Amnesty International, Account 1910, for funding to the Amnesty International Northeast Regional Conference.
First of Two Readings
- 49-50 ***Open Discussion.***
- 50 ***Adjournment***

Call to Order: 6:15 pm.

Approval of the Agenda:
Agenda passes 7-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes:
On page 40 reading 37-1112, we went into Reserves by \$109,000 not \$120,000.
Tyler says for my updates it's Urgo, not Erwin.
Minutes pass 7-0-0.

Updates

President, Nicholas Spengler updates: No new updates.

Vice-President, Tyler Ocon updates: There will be a brief presentation on the Geneseo self study for Middle States Commission today during open discussion.

Director of Business Affairs, Brittany Wolf updates: We finished up treasurer training. You'll be getting an email if your budget is frozen.

Director of Inter-Residence Affairs, Carly Annable updates: For IRC, this weekend we have a lot of programs. On Saturday the Rocky Horror Picture Show will be in the Union Ballroom and on Sunday is the Haunted Arboretum at dusk.

Director of Public Relations, Lindsey Hebell updates: Kristen Fuest and I are working on a really nice bulletin board sized poster; she sent me a proof of it and it will be up soon hopefully. Within next week or the week after you will be able to see it.

Director of Academic Affairs, Justin Shapiro updates: "Ahoy SA mateys". Last night at AAC we passed a reading for Geography Club. They will be going to Ithaca this weekend. Spanish Club will be having a "Day of the Dead" celebration in Welles 128 at 7pm.

Director of Student Affairs, Stasia Monteiro updates: Intercultural Dinner is this Sunday. Tickets are on sale tomorrow and Friday from 11am-5pm in the Union and will be \$7 for students.

Director of Student Programming, Heather Bristol updates: Tonight at 8pm in Wads is "Waiting for Superman". On Halloween there will be the Monster Mash Bash done by AC from 6pm-8pm in the Knightspot. There will be 2 live bands and from 8pm-9pm there will be "The Mentalist". On November 1st at 6pm there will be a gallery opening for an exhibit called "Emergence". It's a digital photography exhibit that will be open until December 10th.

Kate Rebban, Director of SA Programs, Personnel, & Finances updates: No new updates.

Patty Hamilton-Rodgers, SA Executive Committee Advisor updates: This Friday and Saturday, 8 students from Geneseo will be going to a conference. The research is funded in a big part by Student Association

Open Updates

Malcolm: Sean and I will be going to Latham to represent Geneseo at SUNY Student Assembly. There will be 3 major resolutions and 8 minor ones that I know of for the agenda, as well as presentations. We will report back on what happens with those resolutions next week.

Model UN: We are going to Georgetown tomorrow, bringing 20 people and hopefully coming back with awards.

Old Business

39-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$570 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to Women's Ice Hockey Club, Account 1417, to have 3 more practices and an additional home game.

Second of Two Readings

We are asking for this money to fund 3 more practices and an additional home game to develop our players.

39-1112: *Second of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

40-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$150.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to SA Programs, Account 1002, to fund a start up budget for Geneseo College Republicans.

Second of Two Readings

We would like money to put towards food at our meetings, and guest speakers to host them.

Tyler asks if you had a rationale as to how you are using this money. Just so we can see more details as discussed last week.

Representative says I do not have that personally; I am filling in for someone.

Brittany says I want to make it clear, we have started asking for constitutions from clubs. That's why this is the first time you are seeing a constitution in here, we are going to be looking through them now to make sure that they fall within our financial policy. A representative says there are going to have to be some changes that are necessary for this club, because it mentions SA non-funded accounts. And are clubs allowed to charge dues?

Tyler says yes.

Malcolm says considering that you are now having a club put in their constitution, the question comes- are you requiring clubs to submit their constitutional amendments whenever they want to amend their constitution?

Brittany says that is something that we have not discussed but that is something that should be and will be looked at.

Malcolm says at my last school the student government required clubs to submit the constitution at the time of chartering and every time they wanted to make an amendment after going through their process.

Charles says last week this club was asked to bring in an itemized list to see what they would do with the money. I'm discouraged that they didn't do that at your request.

Tyler says there is a GPA requirement for membership. In the past clubs have not restricted membership based on GPA. I was wondering the logic for it.

A representative says I am the former president, and that is a rule that we've never enforced but with my involvement in Greek life, I know that there are other groups on this campus that have GPA requirements.

Justin says the way I understand it, as a paying student for mandatory fees, you are allowed to join any club. We can't deny membership to the SA just because someone's GPA isn't good enough. However, there is a requirement for the exec board in terms of GPA.

Malcolm asks what does the constitution say at article 3 section 7 because it seems to jump from 6 to 8.

Tyler says there is not a section 7.

40-1112: *Second of Two Readings*, Fails 1-5-1 with Tyler voting yes and Justin abstaining.

Tyler makes a motion to untable reading 41-1112.

Seconded by Lindsay.

Motion passes 7-0-0.

41-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE give permission to surplus the items on the attached rationale.

First and Only Reading

Kate says last week the question of selling surplus technology to other organizations or to individuals came up. That mechanism doesn't exist. The SA discussed it, and someone would have to come through and we would have to pay them to clean the hard drives. The logistics of doing something like that would not work out. In the past we've gone through the process of donating it to places and having someone doing that and it became inefficient. We budget for a recycling company to come pick up our items.

Malcolm asks would anyone on SA exec like to comment any further on any additional reasons why a mechanism wasn't put into place?

Heather says we did discuss this and a big part of this is that we would have to bring in someone to clean off the computers. It's iffy selling things to the student body, and furthermore we have a surplus so that we are assured that it gets disposed of properly and if we did it a different way we aren't sure what will be happening to the technology in the end.

41-1112: *First and Only Reading*, Passes 7-0-0.

New Business

42-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE make the following change to SA Financial Policy in Section 4, Article L as reflected in the attached rationale.

First of Two Readings

Justin says the way it works now is that organizations have lines in their budgets for retreats. It's usually something small, just a dinner, but if an organization doesn't have a full exec board going into the next semester it becomes difficult to do because it takes 2 weeks after the start of the semester in order to vote. I want to change it so that it allows organizations to go on the retreat before they have a full board or at any point after. It's pretty simple.

Malcolm says I read rules and policies as part of my career path, although I sympathize with reasons behind the reading, your proposed language does not make sense. Is this what you are set on or are you open to rewording it to make it seem more plain so that you don't need to add a memo into the policy explaining it?

Justin says I realize it's kind of confusing. I did discuss with Tyler putting in sub laws explaining fully what would happen if there wasn't a full board. I don't see a huge reason to change it.

Malcolm asks with this being a 2 week reading, if you and I were to sit down could this be amended before fully passing this?

Justin says yes, I will type up a sub line and I will email it to you. Together we can change the financial policy of the Student Association.

Patty asks, when you say exec board is full prior to "succeeding" semester, what do you mean?

Justin says that should say "preceding" semester.

Tyler says in case this doesn't pass, organizations are still allowed to ask for exceptions to the rule. We should definitely cut it down and make it a little simpler.

Dara says I think it's a lovely reading and you shouldn't be embarrassed.

Stasia says depending on the rules that regulate how soon an exec board needs to be filled, maybe the wording should just say 3 weeks after it is filled?

Lindsay you shouldn't apologize for this because you are being affected by scurvy.

Carly makes a call to question

Seconded by Brittany.

Call to question passes 6-0-1 with Justin abstaining.

42-1112: *First of two Readings*, passes 6-0-1 with Justin abstaining.

43-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE realign up to \$400 from Academic Affairs Committee, Account 1100, Line 20 – Rock Your Semester, to Line 20 – AAC Exec Programming, to create a new line and use for the Professor Recognition Ceremony.

First and Only Reading

Michael, the vice chair of AAC, says we are trying to start an annual professor recognition dinner. The Teaching and Learning Center has a system where faculty members can nominate each other but there's nothing in place where a student can nominate anyone. It would be nice to be able to do this in order to give back to those who have given to us. \$400 from the Rock Your Semester fund would go to this. I've been in contact with Dr. Parfit who runs that program, and we'll be working with him to get this off the ground.

Nominations would be done by students and subcommittees would be reading through all the nominations and deciding who would receive whatever the award shall be. We will be working with CAS on the dinner. We just want a solid financial foundation for this event.

Stasia asks do you have an anticipated number of students who would be attending the event?

Michael says it depends on what Dr. Parfit says. I know a certain number of faculty members would come, and if we combined the two events there would be more people. If this passes, this dinner would happen next semester.

Carly says I think that this is a really great idea and I'm surprised that this hasn't happened earlier.

Justin says this is a program that I want to thank Mike for taking the initiative about, and I look forward to seeing a very successful event.

43-1112: *First and Only Reading*, Passes 6-0-1 with Justin abstaining.

44-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE realign up to \$75 from Slavic Club, Account 1915, Line 10 – Culturally Relevant Books and Games, to Line 10 – Costumes, to create a new line and purchase materials to create cultural costumes for the Intercultural Dinner.

First and Only Reading

We want to move \$65 from the books and games line to costumes so we can make costumes for the Intercultural Dinner. Every year we'd like to make more costumes to bring you guys a more culturally relevant club.

Justin asks how much will this leave you in the books and games line?

Representative says I don't know exactly, but I think it should be a good enough amount to still have the line make an impact on the club.

Brittany says there will be \$25 left.

Stasia asks since you didn't have this already allocated would you keep this and change it for next year?

Representative says yes.

Stasia asks does Slavic club have any resources in the Union?

Representative says we have an office.

Stasia asks where is your office? If you want to make this a more regular thing, would you be holding onto the costumes as the years go on and reusing them?

Representative says it's in MOSAIC A; it's being shared with 2 other clubs. For costumes we will be holding onto them but we haven't necessarily talked too much about it. I will discuss that at the next meeting.

Stasia says I encourage you to use space in the MOSAIC storage room.

44-1112: *First and Only Reading*, Passes 7-0-0.

45-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$150.00 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to SA Programs, Account 1002, to fund a start up budget for People for Animal Welfare (PAW).

First of Two Readings

Kate and Sara say we are asking for \$150. About \$100 will go to gas since our club volunteers specifically with Scottsville Animal Shelter which involves driving there. We currently have 9 students each donating 2 hours of time each week. We want to help them pay for gas. The other \$50 is for startup money for advertising. We're a really new group so a lot of people don't know who we are. We would use it for chalk if we want to do that, and posters. Mostly the money will be going to gas. Right now we have logged over 100 hours of volunteer time since the start of the semester. We have plans to get involved with many other places.

Malcolm asks why isn't there a constitution?

Kate says since it was a new we weren't aware of it. I talked to the president and he said it would come in, it'll be in for next week.

Carly says aside from the constitution, I appreciate how prepared you are.

Brittany says I agree and just so you know chalk and other items are available for any SA club upstairs.

Dara says I think it's a really well prepared reading and I appreciate that you came so ready. It seems like you are a really prepared organization

45-1112: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

46-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$517.98 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to Japanese Culture Club, Account 1901, for funding to the East Coast Japan American League Conference.

First of Two Readings

Brittany makes a motion to make an amendment to read \$577.48. Also, on the second page there are some numbers to be changed. Part A transportation for total number of miles is 650, 2 lines down line D is 286, next line total transportation funding is \$310, next line is \$155, and next page under part E is \$1154.96, total SA allocation is now the \$577.48.

Motion passes 7-0-0.

Representative says we are going to the East Coast Japan American League conference. We are asking for this amount of money to cover most of the cost.

Stasia asks how many people would be open to going to the conference?

Representative says we have nine people going.

Lindsay asks have you gone to this in the past?

Representative says a long time ago we did.

Justin says I feel like it's a very reasonable price for the conference and I appreciate the mix of the upper and lower classmen, it's not all seniors. I think it's a great opportunity.

46-1112: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

47-1112: BE IT RESOLVED THE SA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE allocate up to \$839.16 from Budget Increases, Account 1099, to Amnesty International, Account 1910, for funding to the Amnesty International Northeast Regional Conference.

First of Two Readings

Matt, president of Amnesty, says I've gone to this conference for the past two years, and this will be my 3rd year going. In the morning they bring in a lot of big speakers; last year they had prisoners of conscience. They are having a couple of professors come in and talk about the Middle East and Africa. Then we break off into different leadership workshops, depending on what the individual is interested in. I like to split everyone into each thing so that we get the most of the experience. All of the attendees then have the opportunity to go into Boston and have dinner. We can see the city, and if I'm not mistaken 10 out of our 12 members have not been to Boston yet. I'm asking for money for tolls because there are a ton of tolls. Mike Cooke had a vehicle but we didn't have another so we are renting one. There is an additional rental fee because it's the under 25 fee but there's a possibility that once we have the allocation we can get the \$79 fee waived, which will take \$40 off the \$839 that we are asking for. For the hotel, I took a long time to find the cheapest nice hotel within the district. And then I have funding for 2 dinners, one on the way there. We will leave as soon as everyone is out of class. The conference itself is \$20 per person, we will be asking for half of that. In the end each person will be paying \$40, which is low enough but it's still a decent amount of money.

Malcolm asks given that tolls on the thruway from here to Albany and then the Berkshire extension are over \$10 themselves and the Mass Pike has tolls east of 91, are you sure \$25 is enough to get both cars out and back?

Matt says honestly I'm not sure. I put it in a toll calculator and that's what it gave me. I did Geneseo to Boston both ways.

Malcolm says my feeling is that that will cover one car. My second question for Brittany is given the number of appropriations and reallocations assuming that everything today passes its second reading, what will our budget increases line be?

Kate says this is from the conference account, which is a totally separate amount of money.

Brittany says in that case I will have to allocate money to the conference account.

Dara asks are you doing money for parking?

Matt says it sounds crazy but I found a hotel with free parking. After driving to the conference there is a lot that they specifically allocate to conference attendees.

Justin asks you have been going for the past 3 years, have you considered putting it in your budget during budget hearings?

Matt says yes I am planning on it.

Justin says I'd like to point out on getting a nice mix of people going, and great way getting Geneseo's name out there.

Dara says this seems like a really great trip, Boston is a beautiful city.

47-1112: *First of Two Readings*, Passes 7-0-0.

Open Discussion

Paul Schacht and David Gordon introduced themselves as co-chairs of the college committee on Middle States reaccreditation. The Middle States Association is a grouping of colleges in the middle states (Penn, NY, NJ, Maryland, D.C., and Delaware) that does peer reviews of each other to ensure that the colleges are meeting certain standards of excellence. It occurs every 10 years. You do a self study where you go through and you collect a lot of data to demonstrate that you are meeting the goals and standards of excellence required by the association. The association was founded 130 years ago. Initially its focus was to standardize college credits and curriculum, so that students could transfer and still get credit for their work. Starting in 1921, Middle States Association founded the commission for higher education, getting involved in the accreditation process. In terms of the process, the importance to us today is that the federal government distributes its funds based on your accreditation status. All these regional bodies are important to the colleges because you need to be an accredited institution to receive federal funds. The other big change over the last few years is rather than just reviewing each other, we have started reviewing ourselves. Seeing where they fit into standards and seeing where they need to improve. More recently, throughout education there has been an accountability movement and certainly federal government has emphasized accountability. They want to ensure that students that are graduating have the knowledge that colleges say they do.

You've probably seen the learning outcomes, which are things you should be able to do once you finish a course. We have to be able to demonstrate that students are meeting outcomes so that we are accountable to Middle States and then the federal government. Every 20 years all of the colleges in our region undergo this process. We are undergoing it this year. We have the final visit, and we've been working on the self study for about two years. They will be here this spring, and we will be meeting with you and asking you questions and checking to make sure that you are getting the quality education you deserve.

We've been working on this for a couple of years. We have a committee that has been responsible for putting together the draft of the self study. We've paired people up: we have 6 chapters in each study. Each co-chair put together a working group to help them do research on a particular chapter. We had a few students for a while but they have graduated and now we have replaced them with Tyler and Justin. The self study is in draft form now; it's about ready to be completed. We've had a visit from the committee chair last week; he reviewed it last week and made suggestions for improvement. It is moving towards completion, when we are ready it will be online and everyone can see it on Wiki Space. We will have an open forum at the end of the semester about this. We want to get as much involvement across the college as possible. The two major goals that Middle States says we need to accomplish are to make sure that we are achieving the colleges goals and the second is to recommend ways in which we can do that better. It is still a process of self improvement. There are still things that we can change and improve our ability to accomplish our goals. What's distinctive about the self study is that we are attempting to do this all electronically this time, which is new for us. We have a Wiki page where this is living. We are trying to link all the supporting documents online to the study itself. This is already on the college Wiki Space. If you go to the menu the title of what's there at the moment is the Middle States self study. Each standard has a number of elements, or subcategories. It's a little complicated. With the self study, rather than marching through standard by standard we have tried to write a document that tells a story. We called it "transformation of learning". It involved 3 main parts: academic engagement, personal development and civic engagement.

Malcolm asks given the severe budget cuts the school has taken, is the committee even in part or in whole concerned about not meeting one or more of these goals for accreditation because of funding cuts?

I think that's pretty unlikely. We address budget cuts head on in the study and we address how we want to change them and how the cuts have affected what we do. Many schools have gone through similar budget cuts; I don't think that it, in of itself, will be a problem. Malcolm asks are you saying the people who review this are from SUNY schools or other colleges?

Other colleges in the Middle States. Malcolm says I ask because SUNY is at the mercy of the state legislator. Even though they go through budget processes they haven't had to deal with the same issues that we do.

Certainly one of the things to look at is the financial stability of the school. We have to make sure that the colleges have the finances to meet its mission. In terms of understanding finances, they have members who have specializations. There will be a person who is familiar with that aspect in colleges and they will make themselves familiar with the SUNY system and how funds are allocated in the state. They will have a good idea of the funding problems and will be able to make recommendations or address those concerns. The self study also addresses challenges we have to face and how we have maintained the educational quality.

Charles asks what can we do that can make this situation better?

One way you can help is that when it is finally posted, if you can go to it and read through recommendations and if you have any ideas or comments about it you can come to the open forum and express your views. When the Middle states team visits here they will want to talk to students. The chair came here and met with students to see how things are going here. Your view will be very important.

Michael asks has literature been available to define what transformation in learning is? Is this in summary or are there scholarly articles written about education?

Both exist on the Wiki page.

Dara asks is this process an all or nothing or is it in levels?

It's not an all or nothing process. It's possible for the visiting team to have recommendations that we would need to follow up on. It's possible that they would require us to do a follow up report. Justin says that this touches on a lot of aspects of the self study that everyone can comment on. It's not an abstract study; it touches on very specific aspects of campus life. Malcolm says you mentioned that there is a possibility of the team issuing recommendations that would need to be acted upon. Is there any kind of contingency plan in place, special funds set aside to implement such recommendations? There's no contingent fund for something like that. It's unlikely that they will recommend something that will be very expensive. Recommendations will be more about documenting things better.

The last time we had this process they didn't have any recommendations for us, we are hoping that something like that happens again. The federal department of education is putting pressure on them to be tougher in terms of accountability. When the visiting team leaves here, they will do an exit report. They will have a public forum where they report what their recommendations will be. It's the commission that will make the final decision. Are there other ways that we can keep you all involved in the process along the way?

Tyler says I will continue to update you all during meetings in terms of what is going on with this. Email me if you have any questions or want to meet with the visiting team.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lena Freed
Recording Secretary