

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
MLK ROOM CAMPUS CENTER
4:30 pm**

ATTENDANCE

Absent: E. Farese, B. DeCosta, J. Aaron

Arrived Late: M. Higgins

Left Early: None

Guests: Jim Dennis (SSC Development/Alumni Affairs), Jon Davids (MassPIRG), Ivy Connelly (MA Community Water Watch), Danielle Moyahad (MassPIRG), Aaron Shute (MassPIRG), Megan DeSmedt (MassPIRG), Laura Crandall (MassPIRG)

I. MINUTES

- There were no minutes to accept from the previous meeting

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MOTION: President Cogliano entertained a motion to remove Williams from the Freshman Senate.

Runyan/Cahill (Unanimous)

- President Cogliano introduced Kandace Kukas, the student attorney at Salem State College. She told us she services any students for legal advice of any kind. Last year she had a drop off in the amount of visitors who stopped by her office and she is looking for suggestions on how to fix that. She told us she speaks confidentially with students about legal concerns. She does not however act as an attorney, but rather a legal consultant and if legal action needs to be taken, she will then refer a student to a lawyer.
- Dr. Brossoit asked if Kandace could share some common themes of past students

- Kandace told us she has dealt with a variety of concerns from starting businesses to trust funds to employment discrimination. A specific example she gave us was of a Landlord/Tenant problem. She also mentioned that she is open to doing seminars to further assist the students of Salem State.
- President Cogliano told the Senate that Kandace's office hours would be posted.

MOTION: President Cogliano entertained a motion to appoint Scott LeTourneau to Sophomore Senate.

Mazza/Garvey (Unanimous)

MOTION: President Cogliano entertained a motion to appoint Nick Porter and Ryan Cahill to Public Relations Committee and Gavin Walsh to Academic Affairs Committee.

Runyan/Williamson (Unanimous)

- President Cogliano announced next week someone will be in to talk to the Senate about Roberts Rules of Order.
- Chief Anglin will also be in to speak on parking, the changes and improvements that have been made. He will also be addressing the shuttle bus issues.
- President Cogliano then reported that all Senators must sign-up for at least 3 contract/non-contract committees and they will be chosen accordingly. Also, everyone will be selected for at least one standing committee.
- Dr. Brossoit then mentioned that in the SGA binders a description of the committees can be found.
- President Cogliano then reminded the committees that all chairs must have a mandatory weekly meeting, as well as prepare a weekly report of their progress to be handed in to him before each Tuesday's meeting.
- Dr. Brossoit then spoke to us about some of the concerns around campus President Harrington wanted us to know about. He told us that on Wednesday, September 29th, the faculty would be protesting outside of the Sullivan building from 10am-noon. We were informed that the protest would not interfere with student's classes. The

reason the faculty members would be protesting was because they have not had a contract for 1.5 years and the contract they are being offered is a 0%, 1%, 1% contract. This means they would receive no raise this year, a 1% raise next year, and a 1% raise the following year. They were also protesting the contract because much of the wording would be changed. President Harrington also wanted us to know that Massachusetts received an “A” for education and an “F” for funding. The faculty would be protesting in order to show their frustration. Also, the plumber for the Central Campus would be there on Wednesday, September 29th between 7am and 8am to fix the plumbing so the washers and dryers would be of use.

MOTION: Vice President Cahill entertained a motion to accept the President’s Report.

Garvey/Runyan (Unanimous)

- Senator Porter was not aware of some of the Non-Contract/Contract committees.
- Senator Walsh was also unaware of where to find information on some of the Non-Contract/Contract committees.
- President Cogliano said to look in the binders under Miscellaneous for the descriptions.
- Dr. Brossoit mentioned that some of the newer committees may not be in there.

III. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Vice President Cahill reported that Haunted Happenings was coming up soon and he needs help in the set-up of the event. He spoke with Total Entertainment and we will be having a Moon Bounce, cotton candy maker, and sno cone maker at the event. He also mentioned that he would be asking Chartwell’s for a popcorn maker. He still needs help making flyers, sending letters to principal’s, and starting a committee. He explained a little about the Haunted Happenings event stating that it is for the community children. Student Theatre Ensemble does a haunted house in the basement of the Campus Center and all the senators help out and dress up.

- Dr. Brossoit let the Senate know that each year there is anywhere between 300 and 400 children from the community.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

- **NO REPORT**

V. ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT

- Assistant Treasurer Mazza opened himself up to questions, as he had, no formal report.
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VI. SENATE REPORTS

- **SENIOR SENATE**

- Senator Vella let the Senate know that Thursday at 7:30 pm in the Campus Center the Texas Hold'Em Tournament would be going on during the Salem State Drink out.

- **JUNIOR SENATE**

- The Junior Senate asked what positions were still open for screen-ins.
- President Cogliano responded by letting them know that there were still 4 Senior Senator seats, 1 Junior Senate seat, 2 Freshman Senate seats as well as Chair positions for the Academic Affairs committee and the Judicial Affairs committee.

- **SOPHOMORE SENATE**

- Senator Higgins reported that people were concerned with the soapy conditions of the Central Campus parking lot when it rained. He said that the parking lot actually has a soapy residue when it was wet.
- Dr. Brossoit asked that Senator Higgins email him about this issue, as it was the first he had heard of it.

- **FRESHMAN SENATE**

- Senator Anderson mentioned people were complaining about smokers not remaining 25 feet away from the building while smoking. Students were complaining that the smoke rises up in to their bedroom windows.
- President Cogliano said he would do something to fix this, as it is a law to remain at least 25 ft. from a building while smoking.

VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

• **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- Treasurer Garvey announced that Thursday at 6pm Finance committee would be having a meeting. PRSSA would be coming in to propose a budget. He was not sure of the room but told the committee he would inform them by the following day.
- President Cogliano suggested that Senator/Chair Williamson should also attend this meeting.

• **RULES COMMITTEE**

- Chair Mazza announced that he had two things to discuss. First being the MassPIRG referendum and second being the Program Council Constitution. He let everyone know if they had any questions about the new P.C. Constitution that they could be addressed to the President of P.C. Senator Runyan.
- Senator Runyan then explained the changes. They changed the wording “full time student” to “all students.” They also changed some of the names as well as how you could join Program Council (Article III). Other changes were the regulations for picking a coordinator and the list of the coordinators duties. They added a description in Article VII and at the end of Article VIII they added Central Campus to a site for them to hold their elections.

MOTION: Senator Runyan made a motion to accept the changes to the Program Councils Constitution.

Walsh (Unanimous)

- Chair Mazza then addressed the MassPIRG referendum.

- Aaron Shute, a member of MassPIRG from the gallery introduced himself and gave a brief history of MassPIRG and what exactly the \$7.00 waivable fee we were voting to make a referendum for was. He told us that the fee was used by MassPIRG to pay for people to lobby higher up to make bigger changes happen not just locally but nation wide.
- Senator Walsh asked how much has been collected from the fee
- Aaron Shute was not sure of an amount.
- Senator Porter asked Aaron Shute what MassPIRG does to benefit Salem State College.
- Aaron told us how they were running a campaign right now to help get the prices of textbooks lowered. They are urging companies to stop packaging CD-ROMs and unnecessary software that is drastically raising the prices of our textbooks. He also told us how MassPIRG was running the new voters drive here on campus where they were trying to register 10,000 new voters across the nation.
- Treasurer Garvey then asked if the MassPIRG option would be a positive or a negative check off on the tuition bill. Aaron Shute replied that it was indeed a negative check-off, which means it has to be checked off if the student does not want to make the \$7.00 contribution. Treasurer Garvey also asked why MassPIRG needed to have a vote on the \$7.00 fee every 2-4 years. Jon Davids replied by saying that historically it has been re-affirmed every 2 years.
- President Cogliano then expressed that the question might be worded in a confusing manner. He expressed that by checking the box saying you do not support the \$7.00 fee does not mean that you are saying that you do not support MassPIRG. The question makes it sound as if MassPIRG would not exist here on campus if the \$7.00 fee does not pass, but he just wanted to explain that we would not be kicking MassPIRG out if the fee did not pass but instead MassPIRG would be choosing to leave on their own.
- John Davids replied by saying that without funding, MassPIRG would not be able to remain at Salem State.

MOTION: Chair Mazza entertained a motion to accept the MassPIRG ballot question as official.

Higgins/Crowley (Unanimous)

- Sharon then spoke by telling everyone they needed to vote something. If they were for the motion, they were to say yay, against it, nay, and if they did not wish to vote they needed to abstain.
- The issue was revoted on after Senator Walsh expressed that the question felt like a threat and he was not ready to make a vote on it.

REVOTE:

Higgins/Crowley (Abstentions: 4...Motion Passes)

- Chair Mazza announced that the elections would be held October 13th and 14th and it would be a majority +1 decision. He also announced there would be a rules committee meeting Tuesday, October 5th from 3:30-4:30 in the Presidential Conference Room. They will be going over the S.G.A. Constitution. The first round of screen-ins will be held Thursday, October 7th from 10am-noon in the S.G.A. office.
- Dr. Brossoit mentioned that if students were to work the MassPIRG election poles they were not to express their opinion either way.
- President Cogliano then introduced James Dennis from the Speaker Series.
- James presented President Cogliano with the 35 regular seats, 4 premiere tickets, and 2 dinner seats in exchange for the \$2500.00 they had asked us to fund them this year. James gave a brief history of the 3 speakers and thanked us for our support over the years.

MOTION: Treasurer Garvey entertained a motion to contribute \$2500.00 to the Salem State College Speaker Series.

- Senator Porter asked James Dennis how the speakers were chosen and if the students had any input. James Dennis replied by telling him that the speaker series works with agencies to contract speakers with availability

and cost. He said they are always open to student suggestions on speakers.

MOTION: Treasurer Garvey again entertained a motion to contribute \$2500.00 to the Salem State College Speaker Series.
Williamson/Bottoni (Abstained: 1... Motion Passes)

- **STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

MOTION: Chair Williamson entertained a motion to appoint Mike Higgins and Candice Milan to Student Life Committee as well as to disappoint Gavin Walsh.
Morales/Walsh (Abstained: 1... Motion Passes)

- Chair/Senator Williamson mentioned that she would have a recycling update at next Tuesday's meeting. She also reminded her committee there would be a meeting immediately following the SGA meeting in the Martin Luther King room.

- **GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

- Chair Morales reminded everyone that October 13th was the last day to register to vote. He also told everyone that Tuesday, October 5th, Gloria Fox would be speaking at the upstairs dining commons. Chair Morales also mentioned he was working on a proposal to better state funding with Marie St. Fleur, a representative from the state house. He was doing this because he read an article in the New York Times addressing the fact that Massachusetts received an "A" for education and an "F" for affordability.
- Senator Walsh asked what could be done about absentee voting. Sharon replied by telling the senate that we have absentee ballot request forms in the office but they have to be mailed to your town.
- Dr. Brossoit was concerned with the fact that Chair Morales may be leaving to go on a singing trip. He was wondering if that would affect the job he was doing as chair of Governmental Relations. Chair Morales explained that he was no longer leaving to audition for American Idol and would be able to fulfill his duties for the entire length of his term.

- President Cogliano congratulated Chair Morales on all of the dedicated and good work he has put fourth thus far.

- **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

- **NO REPORT**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- NONE

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- Senator Abreu asked if Trustee Theberge would be the new Secretary for S.G.A.
- President Cogliano replied that Trustee Theberge was filling in as Secretary Spano's resignation was pending. He also said that the position of Secretary would be filled by screen-ins.

X. DISCUSSION

- **NONE**

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senator Porter gave a description of the radio station and the positive S.G.A. could publicize through it and gave Dr. Brossoit the good news that there is indeed a Reggae show.
- Jon Davids announced the New Voter's Confrence in Boston
- Trustee Theberge let the senate know that President Harrington is having trash barrels placed in the Central Campus Parking Lot due to the amount of trash seen accumulating outside of that building.
- Aaron Shute announced MassPIRG's kick-off meeting in the Underground at 4:30pm September 29th.
- Ivy Connelly announced there would be a beach clean-up this Saturday, October 2nd at 9am in Forest River Park.
- President Cogliano asked if the Senators had any feed back on the idea of having a collaboration meeting. Senator

Porter asked if it would be mandatory, but President Cogliano said it wouldn't be mandatory, but all should be in attendance. The Senate liked the idea overall of having such a casual collaboration meeting as it would help to benefit the student population overall.

- Dr. Brossoit then asked Trustee Theberge, if she could tell the Senate a little about her first Board Meeting, as Student Trustee of Salem State College. She announced her first meeting was September 22nd at the Alumni House. She gave a brief overview of some of the things that went on. She mentioned that the President had addressed the issue of the faculty and their frustration with the contracts being offered to them. She also told the Senate how the Board of Trustees wants more student input and involvement and how she hopes to do just that. Other good news for the campus was the \$197,000 grant received from the Department of Justice to aid Campus Police in the education against abusing women. She mentioned that this grant would allow Salem State College to purchase 3 new security cameras and 1 new emergency box. Senator Higgins was concerned with the location of these security cameras, but Trustee Theberge was not sure of the exact location.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: 5:42pm

MOTION: President Cogliano entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting

Mazza/Higgins (Unanimous)

SUBMITTED BY ROSEMARIE R. THEBERGE