

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 2004

MLK ROOM CAMPUS CENTER

4:35pm

ATTENDANCE:

Absent: S. Terbush, C. Abreu, J. Crowley, S. LeTourneau, D. Anderson, G. Walsh, E. Farese,

Arrived Late:

Left Early: B. DeCosta, A. Lemieux, J. Runyan

Guests: Stephanie Davion (MassPIRG), Jeremy Bowling (N/A), Shirani Madan (PSA), Elizabeth Caughlan (PSA).

I. MINUTES

MOTION: President Cogliano entertained a motion to accept the minutes from last week.

Runyan/Mazza
(Unanimous)

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Cogliano announced that on Friday, December 3rd there will be 100 parking spaces reserved until noon in the Peabody lot for a breakfast on North Campus.
- Treasurer Mazza speaks a little about the Political Science Association and there request for \$2,343.47 for the Model UN trip they would like to attend.
- Elizabeth Caughlan speaks a little about this trip which will take place at Park Plaza in downtown Boston for four days.

MOTION: Treasurer Mazza entertains a motion to fund PSA \$2,343.47.

Mazza/Porter
(Unanimous)

- Treasurer Mazza announces that the last meeting will be on Thurs December 9th and

the Criminal Justice Association and the Log will be giving proposals.

II. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Vice President Cahill announces the dinner SGA will have next Tuesday, December 7th, at 5:30pm, at VinnyTesta's Restaurant. All those attending will have to tell Sharon Rivers.
- Vice President Cahill spoke to the Student Nurses Association and they came to the conclusion to collaborate the blood drive. We will be advertising for the drive along with SNA. The blood drive will most likely be February 3rd.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Reported under President's Report.

V. ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT

- No Report

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- No Report

VII. SENATE REPORTS

- **SENIOR SENATE**
 - Senator Vella mentioned the lunch he and Vice President Cahill had attended with President Harrington. He said they addressed some of issues the senate has been speaking about.
- **JUNIOR SENATE**
 - No Report
- **SOPHOMORE SENATE**
 - Senator Porter said that the lawn on central campus had tire tracks going through it. Sharon Rivers mentioned that she witnessed a shipping truck run over the lawn and that company will be billed on the damages.
- **FRESHMAN SENATE**
 - No Report

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **FINANCE**
 - Reported under President's Report.

- **RULES**
- Treasurer Mazza announced that the last meeting will be December 7th at 3:30pm.

- **STUDENT LIFE**
- Chair Williamson mentioned that the bike locks and flags have all been purchased and will be coming this week.

- **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
- No Report

- **GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**
- No Report

- **JUDICAL AFFAIRS**
- Chair Meshesha announces that there will be no meeting until next semester.
- Dr. Brossoit mentions that Thursday he and Chair Meshesha will be attending the Student Life Committee meeting to speak about the changes in the Student Conduct Code from last year that will soon be proposed.

- **PUBLIC RELATIONS**
- No Report

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- None

X. NEW BUSINESS

- President Cogliano mentioned contacting other colleges to give Mitt Romney a call about our lack of funding for higher education. President Cogliano encourages everyone to stop by the office tomorrow and make a phone call.
- President Cogliano gives a PowerPoint presentation of the Revised Constitution he is proposing. This Revised Constitution is intended to make the Student Government Association more efficient (Please see attachment).
- After the presentation President Cogliano asks if there is any questions from the senate.
- Senator Vella asks why the name of senators hasn't changed or if it will change. President Cogliano said that it depends on how the senate feels about it.
- Senator Runyan asks if the second meetings will have voting and be set up as the regular senate meetings. President Cogliano answers that they will be formal but will still follow an agenda.
- Senator Williamson asks if the Vice President of Marketing will be an elected position. President Cogliano answers yes, but it can be a screened in position for this year. Williamson adds that she thinks the second mandatory meetings are a great idea

but she doesn't believe many people will attend. President Cogliano speaks a little about the importance of the time and effort put into SGA and that it needs to be taken more seriously.

- Senator Porter mentions the idea of the second meeting possibly taking place after the regular senate meeting.
- Senator Williamson brings up the disparity of students that attend other colleges like Texas A&M. Senator Higgins also addresses the size of Salem State College and the lack of participation in SGA. He believes that the revised constitution will not benefit the group.
- Vice President Cahill believes that the position of Secretary and Assistant Treasurer should hold executive board positions because of the amount of work they contribute. President Cogliano agrees that they do contribute a lot of time and effort.
- Chair Meshesha asks what will happen when the current Student Life chair loses their position and the Public Relations chair moves to the Executive board. President Cogliano believes this will make the organization better as a whole. The current chair of student life will be moved to assistant chair.
- Senator Runyan asks if the constitution passes and is not like can it be changed back. President Cogliano answers that it can absolutely be changed back after a few months if it is not working out.
- Senator Higgins thinks that the few members of the Executive board will hold all the power leaving the senators not as much say. President Cogliano disagrees because the senators will be engaged in all the committees which will give them a broader view and larger input in more decisions.
- Vice President Cahill thinks that the revision will take away more leadership positions which leaves less positions for other members and students.
- Senator Vella thinks that it will be better for the senate because they can have a say in all the committees.
- Stephanie Davion (MassPIRG) from the gallery thinks the revision is a great idea and that it should be at least given a try.
- Jeremy Bowling, also from the gallery, adds that he believes the members of the senate who are not attending meetings and not contributing can be voted out of the senate. Stephanie Davion adds that if the constitution was ran as a business and you didn't show up for work you would be fired.
- Senator Lauber thinks that it will eliminate the responsibility of some people and give it all to the executive board.
- Dr. Brossoit was wondering if the second meeting will be long enough to address all the issues of each committee. He had the idea of rotating the meetings so one committee will be discussed each week.
- Senator Vella thinks that the new constitution is a great idea and that it can always change back if it doesn't work out.

MOTION: Senator Vella entertains a motion to accept the revisions made to the constitution.

Vella/Runyan
(8 in favor/5 opposed)

- **Discussion:** Senator Porter was wondering why the five people opposed. Senator Lauber believes it takes power away from the government and that a government should not be ran as a business. Senator Williamson likes the idea but doesn't believe it will run well with anyone else besides the current Executive board. Senator Vella adds that he thinks it will run fine because with the new rule of being an SGA member for a year before obtaining a position on the Executive board. He added that will give members the chance to understand the responsibilities. Vice President Cahill likes some of the changes but he thinks the lack of leadership positions will get less people involved in the association.

(abstentions 2, motion fails)

- Senator Vella feels that the revision is positive and wants to know why people opposed. President Cogliano tells the senate if they would like to pursue this then they can type it up and return it to him.
- Stephanie Davion asks about the shuttle bus problems addressed in the previous meetings and Senator Vella explains them to her.

XI. DISCUSSION

- None

XII. ADJOURNMENT 6:00pm

MOTION: Senator Porter entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Porter/Lauber
(Unanimous)

SUBMITTED BY RITA BOTTONI