AAS Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/6/2014
Meeting begins: 8:36 p.m.

I. Attendance

II. Swearing In

Abigail Xu swore in Joe Hussien, Fawzi Itani, Will Jackson, Zoe Kayton, Tasha Kim, Scott Nelson, Obinna Ukogu, and Phillip Yan as senators for the class of 2018 and Reynaldo Pena as a senator for the class of 2017. She also swore in Tomi Williams as Student Body President.

III. Public Comment

Hannah Raskin from Amherst Reflects asked senators to be involved with her project that takes up where Ask Big Questions left off. She asked people to email her back if they wish to be involved.

Christina is an intern at the Career Center for non-profit and government jobs. She explained that they are sponsoring a trip to DC over spring break that is a really amazing opportunity to get to know alumni that work in this field. The application is open until October 20th and she encouraged people to apply.

IV. Budgetary Committee Recommendations

Tierney requested the remaining $150 dollars of the $200 dollar food rule for the Amherst Political Union.

Blaine Werner representing Water Polo requested five rooms at $160 dollars a night for two nights, a total of $1500 dollars, to attend the championships at Bowdoin.

Paul Gramieri presented the Budgetary Committee’s recommendations for the week on behalf of Hao Liu.

*Marie Lambert moved to approve the BC recommendations.*

**Roll call vote to approve BC recommendations.**

*Result: Passed.*

V. TEDxAmherstCollege
Terry Lee and Phillip Pang presented to the senate on what they are have planned for their event on November 16th. They have six speakers planned and four of them are women. They solicited recommendations from the student body on the selection of the speakers and vetted them thoroughly for content and speaking quality. They have gathered a large group of supporting administrative offices and groups. They are requesting $12,000 dollars from the AAS for the event.

Peter Crane asked what was budgeted for the event last year. The answer was $7,700 dollars.

Claire Jia asked if they could use the video production equipment from last year.

Phillip explained that they outsource this responsibility to a company.

Terry explained that student groups my have other events with speakers of interest throughout the weekend.

Rama Hagos asked about the t-shirt costs.

Phillip said that there will be three different kinds of shirts: shirts for speakers, shirts as giveaways, and shirts for volunteers.

Blaine Werner asked if the senate sponsored any particular line items last year.

Terry said they primarily funded production.

Blaine asked about how ticketing would work.

Terry said that they will be using Eventbrite again and tickets will be available to 5-College students.

Sam Keaser asked why they needed more money this year

Terry said that the President’s office cannot commit as much as they did last year.

RJ Kermes asked what the Provost’s office did for the event.

Terry said that they did not commit any money but want to make it part of Ask Big Questions.

*Blaine moved to fund technology management in full, a total of $9,300 dollars.*

Blaine explained that they didn’t want to send this to referendum.
RJ explained that we want to fund the speaker accommodations through the AAS so we could get rooms at the Lord Jeff for a discounted rate. The BC recommended spending $7,700 dollars. He said he would recommend adding the accommodations in full.

*Blaine amended his motion to what the BC recommended, with an additional $1,500 dollars for sound.*

Abigail said that we have the funds to support all that they are asking for and they shouldn’t be afraid of the referendum. The only thing thats contentious is the t-shirts.

RJ said the reason they didn’t go over the $10,000 dollar limit was based on how much money they have left in discretionary to spend.

*RJ made a substitute motion to table this motion until BC members and the TedX representative can decide what to spend.*

*Vote to switch motions.*
*Result: Passed.*

**VI. Senate Projects and Innovation Training**

Megan Lyster led an orientation program called IDEA where a group of students worked to solve problems on the campus and wanted to use the principles of the Design Thinking Process to teach senators how to manage their senate project.

Juan Gabriel Delgado Montes explained how senate projects work saying that there is $10,000 dollars in the Senate Fund to use on these projects.

Megan said that Design Thinking comes from architecture design and has recently been adopted by cutting edge entrepreneurial business projects. She provided the example of working with Book and Plow to determine how to increase visibility of the farm on campus. The students pooled their own knowledge on the farm, interviewed other students, and met with the head chef of Val.

A new senator asked when and what training would be like.

Megan suggested a multiple training sessions in the context of regular senate meetings and can adapt to what they feel they need. The sessions would be 40-60 minutes of interactive stuff.

Johnathan Appel asked if they could meet with her by herself. He also asked how you identify and work with goals.
Megan said that she would create time for office hours each week for people who wanted to chat.

Olivia Pinney thanked her for coming and is happy to know that she is a resource.

Siraj Sindhu suggested waiting for the sessions until a majority of people have a vague idea of what their senate project is to make the most out of these meetings.

Megan said that they could make that work and also set it up so you have the tools to use when you are ready with an idea. She thanked Senate for their time.

VII. TEDxAmherstCollege continued

BC said that they would like to increase their recommendation to $9,300 to show the administration that this is what they can fund and that they need to take initiative to share the responsibility of the event.

RJ explained that we’re ahead of pace for discretionary spending for the semester. However, they decided to up to allotment because they recognize the value of the event.

*RJ moved to fund $9,300 dollars.*

Blaine objected.

Abigail said that there is wiggle space because a lot of time the money that is allocated is not spent.

Blaine asked if we are funding the audio and visual production, not any accommodations.

RJ explained that this was at the request of the group.

*Vote to fund $9,300 dollars for TEDxAmherstCollege.*

Result: Passed.

VIII. BC Reform Committee Bylaw Amendments

RJ Kermes and Tierney Werner presented their recommendations to bylaw amendments. They realized that there is no limit on where requests for check replacements can be made. This amendment will limit the time to request a check to 365 days.

RJ said that there nothing in the bylaws that mandates that they have one discretionary fund meeting a week. This bylaw would allow for two discretionary fund meetings, the new one occurring half an hour before the regular senate meeting. This would take discussion of emergency funds out of the regular senate meeting and save time.
Sam said that he thinks that there is value in codifying the practice of discretionary funding meetings in the semester. He suggested changing the language to “no later” than the second week of the semester.

Sam said that he doesn’t feel comfortable passing this tonight and wants to table until next week to provide time to look it over.

*Sam moved to table discussion.*

Peter disagreed because these two amendments should be in the same email and we’ll have to spend time on it later.

Sam argued that its worth our while to make sure we get this right in the first place.

Johnathan said that the freshman should be given some time to learn the ropes and make an informed decision.

Karen Blake said that the BC could benefit from having these passed tonight and that if nothing jumps out at you now to change then it probably won’t.

**IX. Transportation Committee**

Peter explained that they provide free shuttles to airports each semester and this committee is responsible for organizing the logistics for this initiative. It is a $10,000 dollar project and lot of work.

Will Jackson, Zoe Kayton, Phillip Yan, and Fawzi Itani were nominated and appointed.

**X. Reports**

a. Committee Reports

Kyra Ellis-Moore, representing the Sexual Respect Task Force, reported that they are working on creating a sexual respect climate survey for the student body.

Blaine, representing the Five College Student Coordinating Board, reported that they met on Friday and elected a chair. They discussed what they would like to see in terms of Five College socialisation.

Virginia Hassell, representing the Powerhouse Committee, reported that they are approving quite a lot of events for the space which includes a wider variety of activities. For instance, today a yoga class took place in the space.
Sam, representing the Committee on Educational Policy, reported that they will hopefully be able to ask tenured faculty permission for student reviews of their classes soon.

RJ, representing the Dining Services committee, reported that they had a successful Late Night Val last night and November 5th will be the next one.

   b. General Announcements
Blaine stated that he is working on creating a Surveys Committee and is putting language together. There will be a proposal in a couple months.

Olivia said new senators should contact older senators if they are interested in what they have been working on to get involved.

   c. Officer Reports
Christina stated that she just sent an email to freshman asking them to send in a bio for the website. She apologized that the attendance policy wasn’t clear. If they have absence, email Juan and Christina to notify them beforehand.

Abigail stated that there is a JC complaint hearing in Morris Pratt ballroom tomorrow night and there is still an open spot on the JC.

Paul, reporting on behalf of Hao, stated that the office is running smoothly.

Juan reported that he is happy we have president. He met with IT again last friday about the Amherst app and it takes two weeks for the Apple Store to approve an app. He stated that he will contact people who were interested about white boards in Keefe. He also explained that he wants to invite different student groups to senate to talk about their goals and problems.

Tomi said thank you to the e-board for taking on the duties of president over the past few months. He’s going to be making rounds with key staff, administrators, and faculty to see what they need. He will be visiting all the resource centers and opening up to student groups. He will be appointing cabinet positions and encouraging ABQ participation.

   XI. Approve the minutes

Sam moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 29th, 2014.

Vote to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 29th, 2014.
Result: Passed.

   XII. New Business
Blaine said that he is meeting with Residential Life about policy on dorm damages.
XIII. **Adjournment** 10:54 PM