Associated Students
Sonoma State University
SENATE MEETING
Friday, November 15th, 2013
1:00 p.m., Board Room, Student Center

Minutes


MEMBERS ABSENT Tyler Davis (unexcused)

OTHERS PRESENT Student Government Coordinator Justin Gomez, Executive Director Erik Dickson, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Richard Senghas

I. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate, at 1:02 PM.

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comment

IV. Task Force Reports

a. Senator Dippel reported that she met with Executive Vice-President Gallino and Senator Davis. They were trying to restructure the task force to make it more productive but it was a mess. They realized the complexity of the issues they were dealing with. Gallino mentioned that this was prior to the reorganization of task forces.

b. Vice-President of Finance Dougherty reported that their task force was in the same boat.

c. Senator Tesluk reported that he met with Senator Rice and Senator Dinari and discussed the advising resolution. They worked on editing the resolution and will continue to work on it through a Google document. Tesluk added that it was a very productive meeting.

V. Business


i) Discussion- Senator Dippel brought forward two ideas, one of them being to state in the resolution that AS will not distribute plastic water-bottles at any events and the other idea being to table the action of this resolution to be further knowledgeable. She was trying to come up with a way to guarantee something will be done if the resolution is passed. She mentioned that President Hart met with Niel who could further help them with the follow through. Senator Sampo agrees that they should table the action of this resolution for the next meeting so Niel can come in and answer any questions the Senate may have regarding current sale of water bottles, current revenue of water bottles, etc. Senator Zamora comments that she does not agree with the resolution because she feels they should not limit students' choices.
Senator Dippel mentioned that another idea she had would be that AS giveaway a lot of reusable water bottles next semester. Senator Tesluk agrees with tabling the resolution. He added that during his outreach a lot of students were having misconceptions about what the resolution would do. Senator Rice likes Dippel’s notion to add that AS will not be handing out plastic water bottles at any events, but she does not think the resolution should be tabled. She adds that talking to Niel is more about follow through and not something that needs to be done prior to the action item. Senator Green agrees with Rice. She adds that they only have a few meetings left. Executive Vice-President Gallino agrees with the idea to table the resolution because they do not know how many water bottles are currently being sold, what money they bring in, where that money goes, etc. He adds that they do not know enough to pass such a resolution and impact our students in such a way. He comments that he agrees with banning the sale of plastic water bottles and thinks the resolution is well written but more research needs to be done as far as the impact this resolution will have at SSU. President Hart agrees with Gallino. He thinks it would be a good idea to bring Niel in and get his feedback. Hart believes that it will make the resolution better in the end. He would be more confident in its passing and thinks AS would be more respected if they have the correct information. Hart adds that AS not distributing plastic water bottles at their events would be a different piece of legislation. Hart also agrees with Senator Zamora’s point. Senator Green thinks someone should have talked to Niel before the resolution was put on the agenda to get his feedback. Hart answers that it was intentional to not bring the unofficial resolution to him because it would be better to bring him in to meeting to talk with all of Senate. Hart adds that Niel did give advice in regards to the resolution during their meeting and he emailed said advice to Senator Dippel but realizes now he should have emailed that advice to everyone. Senator Tesluk agrees with Hart. He believes the sudden loss of plastic water bottles would be a shock to the students and that a phase-out may be a better idea in order to make the impact a gradual transition. Tesluk also agrees that bringing Niel in to help would be good idea. Executive Director Dickson adds that while Niel’s opinion is important, they should also contact the SSE Board of Directors. He comments that they need to have a good idea of what they are passing as a body and they need to be knowledgeable. Dickson adds that the university also buys plastic water bottles from SSE for multiple events; they do not just sell them. He urges the senators to talk to their constituents and get the opinion of numerous students and see what they think. Dr. Senghas comments that circulating drafts earlier in the process when you are able to can be beneficial. He says that people can bring forth ideas and catch things that some one else might not have. Senghas adds that just as long as people know it is a draft, it is fine. Senator Green agrees with Dr. Senghas. She believes they could have come with a draft to Niel beforehand and gotten the facts. Student Government Coordinator Gomez adds that even though Senator Dippel and others wrote the resolution, any one of the senators could have brought forth questions to Niel that they wanted to ask. He urges the senators to think about the level of preparation they are currently bringing to Senate and how they need to raise it. Senator Dippel mentioned that Senator Jenks has emailed the director of SSE at dining services but she has not heard back. Executive Director Dickson wonders what the Senate’s reasons are to choose to tackle the issue of plastic water bottles. Senator Jenks thinks that water bottles are a good issue to tackle because a lot of people drink plastic water bottles and it would be an easy transition to a reusable water bottle. Senator Dinari thinks that the campus may not be fully equipped to transition every student to reusable water bottles. She thinks some students may find it difficult because they will notice
the change. Senator Durkee mentions that they should create a separate resolution about getting more water bottle filling stations before this resolution passes. Executive Vice-President Gallino wonders how focused the Senate is on this issue. He thinks they need a comprehensive plan on how to transition the school into a Green College where they want it. Senator Green states they she agrees that it would be an easy transition and in regards to Gallino’s comment, she believes it would be one step in the right direction towards that Green College that they want. She adds that they are already leaning that way, but they need more filling stations first. Senator Zamora thinks this resolution will be a negative impact because of the choices they are taking away. President Hart thinks that the Senate has an opportunity to create a base and then from there they can narrow down the issues they want to focus on this year. Hart wants to make sure they can address the entire campus, not just AS. He wants to move forward as a whole institution, which can be done through outreach. Dr. Senghas mentioned that sustainability programs that re currently on campus should definitely be brought in. Matthew Lopez-Phillips thinks they are taking on a tough issue, but there will be times when the body needs to react. He gives the example of changing registration. It was a huge change but it was needed. He encourages the senators to talk with as many constituents as they can but adds that they are on the right track. He encourages them to not lose focus and to keep up the good work. Executive Director Dickson reminds the Senate that there will be landmines and they need to try to be aware of them so they can step around them. Dickson provides the issue of visitors to the campus who may not know that such a resolution is in place, etc.

ii) Action
Senator Dippel moved to table AS-R.49.13.14 for the next Senate meeting. Seconded by President Hart. In discussion, Executive Vice-President Gallino mentioned that the Senate should make sure to come back prepared. Executive Director Dickson mentions that he will compile some information about the impact of banning plastic water bottles. Student Government Coordinator Gomez encourages the senators to talk with students and collect feedback. Vice-President of Finance Dougherty agrees with Gallino. They need to come prepared because they shouldn’t be having to table things. Senator Rice asked if Niel will be coming in next week. Chair of the Senate Rashed answered that she will contact him. Rashed asks Dickson about inviting SSE as well. Dickson answers that they should give that choice to Niel. President Hart clarified the research plan for the week.
13 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions (Davis absent)

b) AS-54.13.14 Review of Legislative Checklist (Discussion)

i) Discussion- Chair of the Senate Rashed wanted to go over the legislative checklist because they seem to not be following it regularly. She asks the senators why it hasn’t been working. Vice-President of Finance Dougherty wants to add the notion of circulating a "draft" of a resolution prior to meeting to the checklist. Executive Vice-President Gallino does not think the checklist reflects the task forces that were created. He thinks the signatures and such is not as necessary as they thought it would be in the beginning because it is not working for this group. Senator Tesluk thinks that there should be more outreach before something is passed instead of after. President Hart thinks the structure is good, but sometimes they forget to talk about action or outreach plan. He adds that it also doesn’t include the task forces they are currently working with, but he also thinks it is on the senators to get back to the process laid out in the checklist. Hart thinks as far as outreach goes, they just need to go out and talk to constituents and not just friends. Senator Dinari thanks
Senator Tesluk for bringing up outreach. She thinks it is important to create a connection with constituents. She adds that one signature is good when they’re talking to each other but there should be some other number of students that they should have to talk to as well. Dinari also thinks adding such a number to the document would solidify the idea of talking to people they are affecting before they affect them. Senator Durkee thinks it would be helpful for Senate to know when resolutions are being written. She suggested that at the end of the Friday meeting, senators should announce resolutions they are writing. Student Government Coordinator Gomez comments that they don’t need to wait until Friday to be bringing up new resolutions. Gomez adds that they bring up outreach a lot but they never actually get out and do it. He comments that outreach is just about being visible. Executive Vice-President Gallino thinks they need to work on what is best for those in this group and figure out the best way they can accomplish what they want to accomplish. Dr. Senghas suggests that it would be a good idea to get agendas out on social media or a website and provide a place for students to give feedback.

Senator Green comments that she does talk to people but there are so many different places to reach people so she is conflicted as to where to outreach. Senator Tesluk agrees with Gallino; they need a cohesive system. He adds that they need to make sure that they reach as many students as they can. Executive Director Dickson encourages the senators to talk to people who are in a different group than they are to get a different perspective. He adds that there doesn’t need to be number but they should realize that zero doesn’t count. Dickson reminds the Senate that they removed the committee aspect of legislation so there is no backside process. The authoring process should be the shortest process according to Dickson and they all need to be doing the same research as the author(s). Senator Sampo thinks there is a major problem with Orgsync; it is very outdated. Senator Durkee says that it is the responsibility of the clubs to keep those websites up to date. Sampo adds that she thinks Orgsync would be a great place to connect with constituents if it worked correctly. Chair of the Senate Iman Rashed ends that senators need to be meeting with their task forces, etc.

VI. Items for the Good of the Order- Vice-President of Finance Dougherty mentions that emails to clubs regarding the new CSO Policy will be out on Monday. They have decided that tiers 3, 4, and 5 will be open the rest of the semester and tiers 1 and 2 will be available starting December 1st, because they require 30-day planning. Senator Dinari asks when the Lobo Preferred training will begin. Dougherty answers that this semester normal funds will be available and next semester after training at beginning of the semester Lobo Preferred funds will be available. Dr. Senghas reported that at the GMC board of advisors, they will be bringing up the issue of oversight and is looking for any input the Senate might have. He also wanted to express kudos to the work they are doing, and what they know. Executive Director Erik Dickson encourages the Senate to be flexible that this is a new building and we will get there. He wants to make sure that senators are not the givers of bad information to questions of the new building. He adds that many things are unknown. Also, he urges senators to not use the back door but instead they need to come through the front so the front desk is aware of who is here. Senator Durkee mentions that she was at the transfer orientation and she was able to do a lot of outreach. Also, she adds that she wrote a resolution on bike racks and wants everyone to take a look. President Hart comments that the Senate is a leader and he encourages them to be present in the new space and dictate how they use it. He adds that essentially they are changing the culture of school. Senator Dinari mentions that her
VII. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned by Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate at 2:48 PM.

Approved by the Associated Students Senate on 11/19/13.

[Signature]

Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate