

January 23, 2012

Student Government Association Senate meeting minutes: 01/26/2012

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

Recommended Citation

Student Government Association, Northeastern University, "Student Government Association Senate meeting minutes: 01/26/2012" (2012). *Student Government Association Senate Minutes*. Paper 14. <http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20004735>

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Senate Minutes

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Quorum: was met.

The **Chair** called the meeting to order at **7:02 pm**.

The motion *passed* without objection.

Executive Vice President Will **Pett**:

- I am meeting with the Senior Leadership Team to present our findings on the budget priorities survey. If you're interested in reviewing the findings or the survey, please let me know.
- The findings are based in academics this year, as those were what students wanted.
- Rebecca's Café has agreed to donate hot chocolate and coffee for our three outreach events.

Northeastern University's **Director of Campus Activities Jason Foster** spoke before the Senate.

President, Michael **Sabo**:

- We attended the Roxbury Community College T meeting last week.
- Budget priorities presentation is this Thursday. I am also meeting with several students one on one to talk about their concerns.
- The first "open Mike" is this Wednesday in the Library, and I will be talking with students to see what they want out of the library.
- I hope some of you attended the Town Hall last Wednesday.
- You can make comments on the Master Plan at MasterPlan@neu.edu

Comptroller, Anthony **Golia** *yields*.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Josh **Coombes**:

- We had a productive committee last Wednesday.
- Senator **Chandley** will be our UCC rep, Senator **Harris** will be our Information and Technology Policy Rep, Senator **Lopez** will be on the committee with awarding the excellence in teaching award, Senator ____ will be our enrollment and initiatives rep and Senator ____ will be our enrollment and initiative policy representative.
- The Social Science and Humanities Town Hall was last Wednesday.
- We had our classroom evaluation go out.
- TRACE Subcommittee will be starting next Tuesday in the conference room.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Jonas **Edwards-Jenks**. **Delivered by AVP Daly**:

- I've been hard at work on Diversity Week.
- If any constituents are interested in moving off campus, feel free to talk to our Director of Off Campus Initiatives Ashley **Caron**.
- AVP **Daly** will be resigning her AVP status effective Wednesday. Applications to replace her are on OrgSync.

Vice President for Student Involvement, Matthew **Crimmins**:

- There are 2 senator seats open as well as 3 student at large seats on SIB. We work on what our student organizations need and how to support them. We allocate space and approve them as a recognized student group.

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- Tomorrow I am meeting with Jason Foster and the interim scheduling person about dance space issues.

50

Vice President for Student Services, Tim **LePage**:

- Marshall's Fenway farmstand will be closing their Fenway location. They will still be at the Farmers Market.
- I met with Dining to discuss initiatives with Recyclemania. If you want more info let me know.

Chief of Staff, Terry **MacCormack**:

- Thanks to all who helped at the Winter Activities Fair. We got 25 names signed up.
- President **Sabo** and I presented the Mid Year Budget Report to Finance Board.
- I will be giving a budget update to Senate in the next few weeks.
- We are hiring new office assistants.
- I am introducing a new initiative called the SGA Recognition Awards. You can go on Orgsync and nominate someone you think should win the award and there will be a poll and you can vote who wins. It is meant to recognize each other and for the great work we all do.

60

Executive Director of Communications, Kelly **Dwyer**:

- We are working on the Student Art Sale on campus.
- We are working on the Brought to you by SGA campaign. It will be the whole month of February.
- The outreach events will be between 11-1.
- We are planning Passing of the Gavel.
- We are trying to use Twitter and Facebook a lot more, so definitely make sure you are following us on Twitter and retreating and sharing the information to get it out to your constituents.

70

Elections Chair, Taylor **Cotter**:

- Elections Committee will start tonight at 9pm in here.
- If you are interested in learning about elections, please come tonight.
- The referenda process is a way for the Student Body to be involved on campus. Please speak to me if you have any questions.

80

The **Senate** moved into Question Time.

AVP **Daly** asked what Chief of Staff **MacCormack** was talking about with his Social Media Presence. EVP **Pett** says the service they currently use will no longer be free, so they are examining other options to allow multiple accounts to tweet from the same account.

Senator **Petrin** asked when the Master Plan website will go live. President **Sabo** says the website is the same as the email, MasterPlan@neu.edu, and if you put it in like that it will take you to the website.

The **Senate** moved into New Business.

90

The Senate Moves into the Parliamentarian Confirmation Hearing.

Ryan Gordon Addresses the Senate.

The Senate moves into question time on the Parliamentarian Hearing.

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Elections Chair **Cotter** asks that a lot of what happens is based on prior precedent, and how would he do given that he isn't familiar with our precedent. Gordon responds saying that he has a close relationship with Amy Holmes, and has contact with her, and she will assist him understand what he doesn't already know.

100

President **Sabo** asks him to speak to his experience with chairing meetings. He responds by saying that given his understanding that refining the Manual is important to the OAB at the moment. We are trying to increase the scope of what falls under the OAB. We felt that a lot of people don't know what it is the OAB is and how to appeal to it, so trying to get that off the ground is important.

The Senate moves into Debate on the confirmation.

Senator **Cotter** says that this is something that has never happened in SGA, that a person who doesn't have SGA experience is going to be parliamentarian. Please take that into consideration when you vote—either in a positive or negative way. This person will deal a lot with technical things. The appeals affect many committees and everyone and I want you to think if having someone with no SGA experience is really the best thing for everyone.

110

Senator **Daly** says she was able to speak with Ryan when Parliamentarian **Holmes** was doing some transition stuff with him and I can not support his nomination more than I currently do. I think this would be a great move for the Association especially because he has not been in SGA before and does not have any biases. I think this would be a great move so that our decisions aren't criticized for being biased.

Senator **Mitchell** says he doesn't feel prior experience in the Association is really necessary when he knows Roberts Rules as well as he does.

120

Senator **Daly** *moves* to call the question.
With no objections the question is called.

VP **Coombes** *moves* to confirm by unanimous consent.
With no objection, Ryan Gordon is confirmed as the Parliamentarian.

President **Sabo** brings SS-SP-12-101 to the floor.

130 President **Sabo** and Senator **Bhadra** present the Sense of the Senate.

- We attended the event at Roxbury Community College about the MBTA proposal. They are similar in nature, however they both will eliminate weekend E line service.
- The E line is a cheap and accessible mode of transportation for Northeastern students. It is an essential student service, and we as an Association need to improve on what we do externally, and this is something that affects all students and community members.
- Even if they eliminate the weekend E line service it will not change the deficit, so it's foolish and short sighted.

The Senate moves into Question Time on SS-SP-12-101.

140

Senator **Mitchell** asks if in the meeting they gave any bus to link the areas affected by the closure to where the E line meets up with the green line. Senator **Bhadra** says there is a bus on Huntington, but if E line service is cut, it will not be anything added to it.

Senator **Caron** asks if the Sense of the Senate is approved, what action President **Sabo** will take. **Sabo** says he has written an editorial in the News, attended the meetings and will continue to attend them, and he has

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submitted a written letter for the record which will be in the State records. The purpose of the Second clause is so we can update you so you don't have to search for the information.

150

Senator **Corrado** asks if the University has an official stance. President **Sabo** says they have not issued an official statement, but individual members of the Leadership Team are against this.

Senator **Corrado** asks if we have a method of informing the students on the whole process or how will we do it? President **Sabo** says Twitter and Facebook, potentially in the Senate updates. There isn't any specific time, but as developments occur we'd get it out through the appropriate channels.

The Senate moves into Debate on SS-SP-12-101.

Senator **Harris** says he is a member of Students Against T Cuts and he thinks this is great but it's just a piece of paper. Something only happens if people take initiative. I encourage you all to do your part and do whatever you can.

160

Senator **Caron** says she hopes the Senate votes in favor of the Sense of the Senate. This is much bigger than the NU Undergrad community. I have heard some of the heartbreaking stories of community members that use the T and need it to survive, so please make your voices heard.

Senator **Petrin** says we should definitely take action. My only issue with this is it talks about what we're against without talking about what we are for. I think we should add what our community needs and they need a sense of public transportation and a system which limits fare increases and service cuts. I also take issue with the bottom clause—it makes sense that the student government plays a major part in the discussion moving forward.

170

VP **LePage** *moves* to suspend the rules to allow the legislation to come to a vote.

Senator **Caron** *seconds*.

Senator **Daly** *objects*.

- VP **LePage** says it's very important we make a stance on this matter. The presenters did a good job of crafting this, and although some information may not be included, it is important to show the student body that we aren't sitting on things for the sake of procedures.
- Senator **Daly** says she feels it's very important, however because people in the Senate have taken issues with amending it, we should hold off and not rush into doing things.
- Senator **Caron** says there are a lot of students and organizations making action already which is great and we've had the opportunity to speak with constituents about this issue and we've all known about it so I think it is important to voice our opinion as soon as possible.
- Senator **Cotter** says there isn't a sense of urgency here. The decision will not be made before next Monday. This isn't for bureaucracy or procedure but to have people understand the legislation and communicate it with their constituents. Overriding it to just get it over with isn't ok.

180

By a vote of 19-17 the motion *fails*.

Senator **Petrin** *moves* to amend the document to add "The Northeastern University Undergraduate Student Body supports initiatives that holistically limit fare increases for both students and community members, and prevent service reductions and cuts so as to meet the academic, professional, and personal public transportation needs of the Boston community."

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President **Sabo** and Senator **Bhadra** *accept* this as friendly.

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The **Senate** moves into Open Discussion.

Chief of Staff **MacCormack** says that Senator **Mcarthy** helped him with the recognition system and he wants to thank her.

200 Senator **Daly** says last week Executive Director **Dwyer** and I made a Facebook group called SGYAYYY and please let us know if you're not in it. Basically all work and no play is no fun. After Senate we are going to go to Stetson East for dinner if any of you would like to join us. You will be back in time for Elections committee.

Senator **Petrin** says that he is challenging all to share SGA statuses on Facebook and to make sure that your friends know that you are an SGA senator. Whoever shares the most statuses will get 3 swipes at outtakes from him. Contest ends next Sunday.

210 Executive Director **Dwyer** says we have created an SGA Relay for Life team and you can sign up at www.sga.neu.edu/relay. Please sign up and join us because it's an awesome cause.

VP **Crimmins** says we should all thank AVP **Daly** for all of her hard work, especially with NU Starts. It's the best thing I've seen come out of this room in my time here.

Senator **Harris** says he will be bringing a petition to next meeting so be prepared.

Without objection, the **Chair** closed the meeting at **8:11 pm**.