

February 27, 2012

## Student Government Association Senate meeting minutes: 02/27/2012

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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Quorum: was met

The **Chair** called the meeting to order at 7:58 **pm**.

Executive Vice President Will **Pett**:

- I apologize due to this not being our normal room, but an issue arose with there being Wednesday senates all month.
- There will not be any Senate next Monday.
- There are full body senates coming up. They are mandatory. They will be on March 12th, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and April 9<sup>th</sup>. Chances are the last one will not be in the senate chambers, but we will let you know.
- We have emergency legislation to bring before you.

The **Chair** introduces an emergency Sense of the Senate.

Senator **Splain** *moves* to table the legislation until Open Discussion.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *seconds* the motion

Without objection, the motion *passes*.

The minutes *are approved* without objection.

Members of Lead360 spoke before the Senate.

President, Michael **Sabo**:

- We have the budget tonight and I hope you will give it thoughtful attention.
- I am working with Student Affairs on working with vendors to contract for with skate rentals for open skate.
- People have been talking about Contracts lately. I have been working with Legal and right now the university is working on vetting an umbrella policy, which will create year-long approvals of vendors.

Comptroller, Anthony **Golia**:

- I met with Kier Byrnes today to talk about promoting Afterhours events on OrgSync, as it receives an annual budget from the SAF.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Josh **Coombes** *yields*.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Jonas **Edwards-Jenks**:

- We will be participating in a book drive for children's books. Drop them off in the office.
- There is a basketball tournament for kids ten to fourteen on March 11. We are looking for people to help out and coach.

Vice President for Student Involvement, Matthew **Crimmins** *yields*.

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

- We participated in recyclemania clean up at the hockey game.
- This is the last regular hockey game this weekend. We are looking for volunteers to come and distribute raffle tickets and what not.
- I'm aware there have been a lot of issues relating to network issues, and we're trying to set up an open forum for students. There is also a new IS twitter account that you can follow for information.

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50 Chief of Staff, Terry **MacCormack**:

- With SGA recognition awards, we have five categories of awards to give out. The winners are: Best representation of SGA, Senator **Carville**, Best Committee Projects, Senator **O'Sullivan**, Best participation and discussion in committees, Senator **Bhadra**, Best valuable senate discussion, Senator **Harris**, and Best events participation, Senator **Hwang**.

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

- Newsletter will be coming out on March 1st, so if you have anything you want in it please let me know.
  - I'd like to thank everyone for posting feedback about Chick-fil-A, it was good to see people engaging the student body for their feedback.
- 60
- Sign up for Relay for Life if you haven't yet.

Parliamentarian, Ryan **Gordon** yields.

Elections Chair, Taylor **Cotter**:

- I've been busy with the presidential and EVP elections. Nominations are the next senate on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- I've been working with the referenda process. We have five approved questions currently.

70 The **Senate** moved into Question Time.

The **Senate** moves into Old Business.

The Association Budget Proposal is brought to the floor.

The **Senate** moved into Question Time.

The **Senate** moved into Debate.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** moves to adopt by unanimous consent.

Senator **Splain** objects.

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By a vote of 21 for, 4 against, and 11 abstaining the Senate *approves* SGA's proposed budget for FY2013.

The **Senate** moved into New Business.

President **Sabo** moves to extend the time of adjournment indefinitely.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** seconds the motion.

The motion *passes* without objection.

90 The **Senate** moved into Open Discussion.

The Emergency Business is brought to the floor.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** says he feels passionately that this is a good chance as leaders on campus to be the voice of the entire undergraduate population, and that's why you are deciding this rather than just the eboard.

Elections Chair **Cotter** reads an email another senator received from a student at large.

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Senator **Branin** says that he speaks for his constituency when NU Pride doesn't support Chick-fil-A coming to campus, as their anti-gay donations are well known.

100

Senator **Freake** says that he fully supports that any company can use their profit on whatever they please, however as a university, when we choose to do business with people we need to choose people who are in line with our values, and urge everyone to vote against Chick-fil-A on campus.

Student at Large **Marino** says it hurts him to see his university attempt to delegitimize the voice of the gay community on campus. Chick-fil-A makes me feel less than, and I don't want to feel less than on my campus. Chick-fil-A is a symbol of repression and anti-gay, and I don't want to see that here.

110

Student at Large **McIver** says if Chick-fil-A comes, then the LGBT community will not be equals. She is also disappointed that this was a last minute thing.

Senator **Caron** says she is excited this came to the table. This could have been spoken by the executive board, but they let us speak. Secondly, I support Chick-fil-A to come to campus because it is important to recognize all of the opinions in the room. If people are worried about the financials of where your money would go, then we can try and convince NU to potentially donate to support organizations which do help these communities. Our Chick-fil-A would also be staffed by Chartwells employees, not necessarily Chick-fil-A employees, so I don't think there will be any discrimination.

120

VP **Coombes** says that Chick-fil-A has sponsored such events as LGBTQ Pride Week at Penn State, and they donate a lot of money to things that don't have anything to do with anti-gay. I support having Chick-fil-A come to campus because I know students that want it.

Student at Large **Nobel** says that she likes food, but likes human rights too. Because Chick-fil-A doesn't support human rights, I don't support Chick-fil-A.

130

Student at Large **Yunqi** says he supports Chick-fil-A, and he has friends who are in the LGBT community who support Chick-fil-A because it is a very healthy fast food option. I have done a poll on Facebook, and it is a 2:1 ratio to approve Chick-fil-A. I feel like you can't really base your opinion about Chick-fil-A on what they support, because the US supports al-Qaeda in Libya, and they are the same people who bombed us on 9/11, and I don't think you want to expatriate your US citizenship.

Student at Large **Andrew** says he is from Nashville and there is a lot of things on campus that go against his beliefs and he's always stood up for people's right to hold their beliefs. There should be a place for everyone's beliefs to be heard. I can't help but feel marginalized because an organization that is a part of my identity as a southern American man is being trivialized. Honestly, I feel like there should be room for everybody.

140

Student at Large **Cornado** says he supports students doing what they want. Chick fil A donates to companies that promote change from anti-gay and pushes people into suicide. By saying yes to Chick-fil-A, you are supporting suicide.

VP **LePage** says he doesn't have an opinion on this, but this will be run by Chartwells employees. It would be run and owned by Chartwells. There are also other brands on campus that have questionable practices and actions against the community, so I would ask that if you're questioning Chick-fil-A on these matters that you question those companies too.

Senator **Donati** says that she has discovered several neighbors in our community are opposed to this coming to campus.

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150 Senator **Naraghi** says he personally supports our campus community, but a large portion of people on campus are in support of this because they like the food. He then reads emails he has received in support of Chick-Fil-A.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *moves* to extend debate by ten minutes.

VP **LePage** *seconds* the motion.

Without objection, debate is extended by ten minutes.

Senator \_\_\_\_ says the Chick-fil-A issue is way too controversial to be involved with.

160 Senator **Carville** says he is all for money donations as freedom of speech, however as leaders it is our job to protect the minority.

Senator **Splain** says this is simple to him. He's all for chicken and eating, but a lot of his friends have strong feelings against this. His friends don't like it so he doesn't like it.

Senator **Corrado** says it's important to recognize which relationships are more important to us.

170 Senator **Quijada** says it's important that since this is something that is a huge issue on this campus, we should evaluate the vendors that are currently here. Taco Bell has actively fired people for being openly homosexual, but we have them on our campus. Now we are concerned with Chick-fil-A, so we should make sure we are evenly applying our values.

Student at Large **Marino** says this is something we can do right now that will make an impact. He's tried to get an LGBTQ center the past few years.

Student at Large **McIver** says she wants to put this into a different context. If Chick-fil-A were giving money to causes that actively lobbied for black students to be segregated in public schools, that's something that you would vote against. It's issues of identity and minorities.

180 Elections Chair **Cotter** says that Chick-fil-A operates under a franchise model which is different for any other company. Chick-fil-A costs \$5000 annually, but 50% of all profits go back to them.

Senator **Corrado** says that Chick-fil-A's nutritional value isn't that good.

Elections Chair **Cotter** says she has been working closely with NU Pride and we very much want to represent bringing an organization that does incorporate the views of everybody.

190 Senator **Petrin** moves to amend the statement to say "it is the sense of the senate that the undergraduate student body supports Chick-fil-A on the basis of the food alone but more strongly supports the principle of people over products and out of respect for the values of the LGBTQA community does not support the addition of Chick-fil-A as an on campus vendor."

Senator **Naraghi** *seconds* the motion.

With no objection, the amendment passes.

Senator **Starr** *moves* to amend it to say "The LGBTQA community and other human rights organizations."

Senator **Van** *seconds* the motion.

Elections Chair **Cotter** *objects*.

The Senate moves into two for two against.

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- Senator **Starr** says that we're making sure we cover all of our bases here.
- Elections Chair **Cotter** says she disagrees on the wording.
- 200 • Senator **Van** says other groups don't support Chick-fil-A, so we need to get that message across.
- VP **Edwards-Jenks** says he's against it because it should be the values of the entire Northeastern community, and this isn't what just the minority stands for. That's what it should say. I would prefer seeing an amendment that is more inclusive.

By a clear majority, the amendment fails.

VP **LePage** *moves* to amend to change to "Northeastern Community."

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *seconds* the motion.

Without objection, the motion *passes*.

- 210 VP **LePage** *moves* to amend to add an operative clause that states "And further that, Northeastern review current on campus vendors to ensure that they do not participate in any sort of actions that may harm or discriminate against community members."

Senator **Petrin** *seconds* the motion.

Senator **Corrado** *objects*.

The Senate moves into two for two against.

- VP **LePage** says he supports going against Chick-fil-A on the basis stated, but I don't support going against Chick-fil-A if we allow other vendors to be in this community for the same reasons we would be excluding Chick-fil-A. You can't have one but not the other.
- 220 • Senator **Corrado** says she agrees that we should be moving towards a streamlined set of values, but I think the wording here may harm. We should add values.
- Senator **Petrin** says he agrees with everything said and it demonstrates they care less about the individual organization and more about the values.
- Executive Director of Communications **Dwyer** says he agrees with the sentiment but is uncomfortable with the word Northeastern since it doesn't hold anyone accountable.

By a clear majority the motion *passes*.

VP **LePage** *moves* to *amend* to change "Northeastern" to "Northeastern University Office of Student Affairs."

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *seconds*.

- 230 With no objections, the motion passes.

Senator **Corrado** *moves* to amend to say "in any sort of actions which may discriminate against community members."

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *seconds* the motion.

Elections Chair **Cotter** *objects*.

The Senate moves into two for two against.

- Senator **Corrado** says she couldn't think of a better way to streamline the opinion that it is the values of the undergrad student body here.
- 240 • Elections Chair **Cotter** says that it is a step backwards since Chick-fil-A did not actively discriminate against community members.
- VP **Edwards-Jenks** says he is for it because he wants to further amend it.
- Senator **Branin** says the concept of harm casts a wide net that would capture aspects of what organizations may do.

By a majority, the amendment fails.

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VP **Edwards-Jenks** *moves* to amend to say “to ensure the values of Northeastern University are upheld.”

Senator **Petrin** *seconds*.

Comptroller **Golia** *objects*.

The Senate moves into two for two against.

- 250
- VP **Edwards-Jenks** says the first part speaks explicitly to the values the second part is more of a challenge to the administration.
  - Comptroller **Golia** says he is against the change because it is too broad. The values aren't described anywhere else. By keeping that we don't want anything that harms or discriminates against, it perfectly states why we don't want Chick-fil-A or why we don't want anyone else like them on campus. It says more and is more valuable.
  - Senator **Petrin** says he understands the legitimacy of both statements. He supports values but also says it's important not to narrow values too much.
  - Senator **Corrado** says if we're only saying our values are people over products, narrowing it to discrimination and harm is better.

260 By a majority, the motion to amend fails.

Senator **Caron** moves to add “or their values.”

Senator **Shaw** *seconds*.

Senator **Branin** *objects*.

The Senate moves into two for two against.

- Senator **Caron** says she thinks it will be a good compromise.
- Senator **Branin** says that putting values here, it sets values at odds.
- Senator **Shaw** says it's a more all encompassing statement.
- Senator **Chandley** says she disagrees that it could be very different.

270 By a majority, the motion passes.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *moves* to call to question.

VP **LePage** *seconds*.

Comptroller **Golia** *objects*.

By a vote of 18-17, the question is called.

By a vote of 31-5-8, the Sense of the Senate *passes*.

- 280
- Senator **D'Amico** thinks the legislation is wrong for two reasons. The first is that there wasn't enough time to consult our constituencies on this and to make a statement to represent my constituency without getting their feedback is wrong. The other thing is that this being emergency legislation, we made statements that were passed by the questions we were being asked by the administration, and our statements went beyond what we were being asked in an emergency situation.

Elections Chair **Cotter** says that she thinks the constituency process is broken. Senators aren't being responsible in representing their constituency. The project tracker is great, but the majority of projects are completed by the executive cabinet, so I don't know if how people become senators make sense anymore.

290 VP **Crimmins** says that we came to the right decision, but my concern is that there might be backlash against the community due to this.

Executive Director of Communications **Dwyer** says that the Communications and Events committee has been getting into discussion about how to streamline the feedback channels. If any of you are interested in helping with that, come to the committee.

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Senator **Corrado** says she would like to thank all students at large who came tonight.

Chief of Staff **MacCormack** says he'd be open to suggestions in terms of constituent feedback.

300 VP **LePage** says they're looking for volunteers for the hockey game.

Senator **McAllister** says she is working on the art sale, and they're hopefully meeting with Campus Activities. They will also be getting a subcommittee together so if you're interested in getting involved let her know.

President **Sabo** says this was a complicated issue. We attempt to represent the entire student body. The body came to the correct conclusion and I will sign it and deliver it tonight.

Student at Large **Maloney** says he is proposing two referenda and wants you to get involved and sign the form.

310

Senator **Splain** says if anyone needs the pictures for anything you can get it if you ask him.

VP **LePage** says that Student Services has been trying to get a smoking policy on campus, however there is a referenda coming up that you should sign.

Elections Chair **Cotter** says that another vendor will be chosen for Curry, and I urge the Executive Board to create a survey that allows the student body to express their opinion.

Without objection, the **Chair** closed the meeting at **9:35 pm**.

320