

March 26, 2012

Student Government Association Senate meeting minutes: 03/26/2012

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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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 minutes *are approved* without objection.

Executive Vice President Will **Pett**:

- 10 • We have full body senates the next two weeks. These are the last two meetings for the semester. At the next one is nominations and the following one is elections for internally elected positions. Absence at either leads to removal from the roster.
- Voting for President and EVP is now open. Please encourage your constituents to vote for both of these positions.
- I've been working on coordinating logistics for Elections Committee dorm storming this week with Senator **Pesaturo**. If you're not working on a campaign and are interested in helping please let me know ASAP.
- I am working with President **Sabo** and Student Affairs to get an email sent out to all students about voting.
- I've been continuing to update the status of proposals on NUideas as projects are started.
- 20 • When we're in senate meetings, if you're ever confused about why we do something procedurally please stop us and we'll be happy to explain what's going on.

Northeastern University's **Associate Director of Cooperative Education for the College of Business Administration, Mary Kane** spoke before the Senate.

Northeastern University's **Associate Dean of Student Development Val Randall-Lee** spoke before the Senate.

President, Michael **Sabo**:

- 30 • I am working with Student Affairs to identify potential opportunities for skate rentals at Matthews Arena.
- I want to thank everyone who attended Relay for Life. We had a great time at a great event and it is an important cause.
- Voting is now live, so please get the vote out there. Share statuses and information to get your constituents to vote.

Comptroller, Anthony **Golia**:

- We're sending out decisions about annual budgets and had our last meeting last week.
- We just sent out the SGA Annual Budget decision so if you have any questions please talk to me.

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

- Course Registration opened today.
- Last Wednesday we had a successful lunch with the College of Business which won the Intercollegiate TRACE Competition. Argo Tea sponsored it. It was great.
- In committee we discussed TRACE this year and library evaluations.
- We went over MyNEUCool again and went through it step by step and will be working with IS to improve MyNEUCool.
- I am working with Nancy Ludwig to get class evaluations on MyNEU under the surveys.

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- President **Sabo** and I met with the Provost's office and the bookstore to discuss fall adoptions for textbooks.
- 50 • We will be working on the enrollment and admissions policy in committee.

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

- Diversity Week went very well. Thanks to everyone who participated in it and helped it succeed.
- This Sunday April 1st from 10-2 there will be an awesome event called spring cleanup day where neighbors around the area do different spring cleanup projects. Students are encouraged to sign up and help out. This is the affinity of living the Pledge right here.

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

- We had two presentations in SIB last week.
- 60 • Senators **Chandley** and **McCarthy** are making progress on a transition workshop we will hold next month.
- I wanted to thank everyone on the Board for all of their help with all of the groups right now.

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

- Last week I compiled results from the Curry Student Center vendor survey.
- The margin between the first choice vendor ranged from 25-45 votes depending upon how you looked at it.
- If anyone has questions please let me know and I'll be happy to share my findings.
- We recommended to the administration that they look forward to perusing Popeye's as the final
- 70 • vendor.
- This week in Exhibition Kitchen there will be a food demo related to cooking with the CSA.
- The CSA is great on campus and the farmers market will begin again this summer in May. We will be looking into expanding the vendors.
- In committee we had a lengthy discussion on creating a smoking policy.

Chief of Staff, Terry **MacCormack**:

- Welcome to Senator **Chan**.
- I sent out the apparel poll. You can access it on the communications tab on the SGA OrgSync page.
- A reminder as EVP Pett said that absences at the full body will result in being removed from the
- 80 • roster.
- As I mentioned in the Senate Update email, we anticipate applications for Executive Director of Communications and Chief of Staff will go out on April 2nd.
- As VP **LePage** said the vendor survey got great feedback. We're looking to get those results on to the website so students can see what we submitted to the administration.

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

- We spent last committee planning for Passing of the Gavel.
- The newsletter is going out April 1st, so if anyone has anything they want me to put in please tell me ASAP.
- 90 • We have an outreach event on April 4th. This will be our biggest one yet, so please let me know if you can help.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in Relay. The SGA team raised almost \$1000, which is amazing.

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Parliamentarian, Ryan **Gordon**:

- We are hearing an appeal right after the meeting tonight. Please come up to me if you have any questions.

Elections Chair, Taylor **Cotter**:

- 100
- Voting is open on MyNEU. Please encourage your participants to vote early and often. It is important if we have to determine an extension for people to vote as early as they possibly can.
 - Anyone who wants a t-shirt you can have one. You can have as many as you want to hand out. If you get one please wear it throughout the week, because they are advertisements.
 - If you are a campaign worker, your candidate should have already gotten your t-shirts.

The **Senate** moved into Question Time.

110 Senator **Corrado** asks when the next time Jonas is having a collection for the food drive. VP **Edwards-Jenks** says it will be this coming Friday probably but he will know more on Wednesday.

Senator **Cotter** asks if the SGA budget is available somewhere. Chief of Staff **MacCormack** says they just got the decision today, so they will publicize it soon.

Senator **Splain** *moves* to reorder the agenda to bring New Business before Old Business.

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

With no objection, the motion *carries*.

The **Senate** moved into New Business.

120 SS-SP-12-103 NU Sub Contractor Neutrality

Senator **Cotter** *moves* to allow ten minutes for presentation of the resolution.

With no objection, the motion *carries*.

Senator **O'Sullivan** presents a sense of the senate saying that the students encourage the administration to remain neutral in the movement for dining hall workers to unionize.

Question time is opened.

130 Senator **Corrado** asks how they would make sure Chartwells wasn't doing anything to intimidate workers? Senator **O'Sullivan** says it comes down to Chartwells is a subcontractor of the university and works for the University and in the end they are held accountable to the University's wishes. Multiple other universities have done this without a problem.

Senator **Naraghi** asks if there are any workers that are opposed to this resolution. Senator **O'Sullivan** says not that he is aware of.

Debate time is opened.

140 VP **Edwards-Jenks** says this is something he is very proud of. We spoke about the pledge earlier and we are all Northeastern. These people come to serve us. It is our meal plan dollars that go to pay their salary. This is not the Northeastern that I am proud of. This is not our decision to allow them to unionize and it should not

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be the administration's decision. This is their decision and it should be, and we should hold those in charge accountable to remain neutral.

Senator **Corrado** says she thinks of all the controversial issues regarding what kind of voice SGA needs to be, this is something we need to fully voice and fully support. This is something our voice needs to say, on a human to human level, this isn't right.

- 150 Senator **Bhadra** yields to Student at Large **D'Angelo**. She says she came here to support this. She has heard testimony from three various workers and this has a lot of support. The Pan Hellenic Council has passed a resolution voting to support this, as well as many sororities, fraternities, and other student groups. This has widespread support, and supporting it in SGA would allow for a continuation of that effort.

Elections Chair **Cotter** says not only as a voice representing the greater Northeastern community, this stretches to all workers on campus which includes many if not most of the students on campus. This isn't... You can't even just pigeonhole this into Chartwells workers. This extends to the entire Northeastern community. Everyone needs to consider that.

- 160 Senator **Splain** moves to extend debate by five minutes.
With no objection, the motion carries.

Senator **Splain** says thank you to all Chartwells workers. He has been here five years and the food is amazing compared to most schools. Thank you very much. I appreciate you very much.

Senator **O'Sullivan** wants to share a couple of points that he forgot to mention. We had the speakout last Thursday and had over 420 people sign in. Including the live stream we had over 500 people watching the event live. Since then, over 350 hours have been streamed, and any of you can still watch it.

- 170 Senator **Bhadra** yields his time to Student at Large **D'Angelo**. She says because this issue is really important and some things have not been said. She has heard territory of women have threatened to be fired if they won't sleep with their bosses. I want to emphasize this isn't about fair wage, it's also about workers' rights and a good work environment.

Elections Chair **Cotter** says over the next week people will bring this to their constituents and discuss it. I urge you to contact Senator **O'Sullivan** for answers to questions. Many people have questions but don't know the answers. I want you to be well informed when you answer questions.

- 180 Senator **Naraghi** says the workers care for us as students. This initiative allows us to care about them.

Senator **Bhadra** says we are all human beings and we all have one singular voice on this. We need to help out these people.

VP **Coombes** presents the College Expectations Ad Hoc Committee Report.

Elections Chair **Cotter** asks it seems that there are any way this can serve as an accessible document that is updated on a regular basis. VP **Coombes** says nothing has been created at the moment, but it's definitely possible.

- 190 The **Senate** moved into Old Business.

IR-SP-12-101 Stipend Approval

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Comptroller **Golia** presents the Sense of the Senate.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** asks what the decision was for SGA's budget and how might that apply to this.

Comptroller **Golia** says the decision would now require Sabo and Terry to decide if they want to appeal. After that is finished, they would then send the budget to Senate for the action this calls for.

200 Elections Chair **Cotter** asks how this Senate is supposed to know how much cash is in the cash account.

Comptroller **Golia** says the way it has historically worked is that for the first six months or so the allocation of stipends is strictly out of the budget account. Because the Senate is only setting the initial amount the officers will be paid, the cash account is almost irrelevant, and wouldn't come into play until the President asked for the increase. That doesn't mean that Senate can't know how much is in the cash account.

210 Elections Chair **Cotter** asks what if the Senate decides the stipends should be less or non-existent. Would it be a mandated reallocation? Comptroller **Golia** says because the Senate is only setting stipends, they can't make the money go towards any other purchase in the budget. So they can't say \$5000 needs to go towards promotions. Any money for stipends needs to be spent, if at all, on stipends.

Senator **Petrin** asks if that money is not spent on stipends if it is returned to the SAF. Comptroller **Golia** says at the end of the fiscal year, any money that is unspent is returned to the Student Activity Fee.

Senator **Splain** asks given the funding allocation, how much money was given to the Association for stipends. Comptroller **Golia** says that Sabo and Terry have the right to appeal the decision, and anything this requires of the Senate would not happen until after any appeal is settled.

220 Elections Chair **Cotter** says that barring any appeal, this Senate or the Summer 1 senate would vote to allocate any amounts from the cash account towards stipends. Comptroller **Golia** says if the budget stays as is, the Senate does have the power to allocate cash account funds towards stipends.

Senator **Naraghi** asks if this gives the Senate the power to overrule an appeal? No.

Senator **Naraghi** asks if the finance board gives zero dollars for stipends, an appeal gives last year's amount, can the senate allocate zero for stipends? Comptroller **Golia** says this gives the Senate to set the amount. I wouldn't say giving zero is overturning an appeal, I would say it's setting the amount and the amount is zero.

230 Senator **Naraghi** *moves* to extend question time to the end of a speakers list.

Comptroller **Golia** *seconds* the motion.

Without any objection, the motion *carries*.

Elections Chair **Cotter** asks because the Senate sets the association amount before the Finance Board approves the budget, isn't it redundant. EVP **Pett** says the Senate is approving a budget proposal, not a final budget. The Finance Board is the only group that has the power to approve any student group's budget.

240 Elections Chair **Cotter** asks the Senate approved budget amounts in the budget proposal, then once again they approve it after the fact? Comptroller **Golia** says that was the Senate asking how much to ask for, this is after we know collectively how much we have how would we spend it.

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Elections Chair **Cotter** asks why that would be different. Comptroller **Golia** says the Finance Board allocates less for some positions sometime. Last year the Senate approved the EVP and all of the VPs at the same amount, however the Finance Board allocated the EVP more money based upon the prior year spending. In your world, the Senate approved all of the positions made the same amount but in the real world the EVP made more, so that is an example where if the Senate feels strongly about something it can have its voice heard rather than an outside entity arbitrarily telling it how to spend its money.

- 250 Senator **Naraghi** asks how cash and budget are allocated if this resolution doesn't pass. Comptroller **Golia** says the executive board has the power to spend money as they see fit. Hypothetically if this doesn't pass and SGA's budget remains at zero SAF dollars for stipends, the Executive Board could spend the cash account on stipends without the senate's approval.

Debate time.

Senator **Naraghi** *moves* to add "and the time for an appeal has expired." Comptroller **Golia** *accepts* the amendment as friendly.

- 260 Senator **Ahktar** *moves* to adopt by unanimous consent.
President **Sabo** *objects*.

By a vote of 28-0-16 the internal resolution passes.

The **Senate** moved into Open Discussion.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** says please go out there and get the word out about the sense of the senates. Also sign up for neighbor to neighbor.

- 270 Elections Chair **Cotter** says go vote.

Without objection, the **Chair** closed the meeting at **8:38 pm**.