

April 02, 2012

Student Government Association Senate meeting minutes: 04/02/2012

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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Senate Minutes

Student Government Association
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Quorum: was met.

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

The minutes *are approved* as amended without objection.

Executive Vice President Will **Pett**:

- 10
- I worked with Cabinet to set procedures for upcoming internal elections to ensure fairness to all candidates and efficiency.
 - If you are nominated tonight please see me afterwards so we can get some information to verify your eligibility.
 - Nominations will remain open until next week's meeting, but nominations need to be accepted by Friday at 5PM for your name to be on the actual ballots.
 - The Elections Committee has been hard at work over the past week to promote voting. We are currently short of the total and voting closes tomorrow at 11:59 pm. If each of you gets 15 people to vote before then, we will reach our goal.

20 Northeastern University's **Associate Director of Housing Services, Tim Touchette** spoke before the Senate.

Northeastern University's **Associate Director of Service and Community Partnerships, Sara DeRitter** spoke before the Senate.

President, Michael **Sabo**:

- 30
- I will be meeting with EVP **Pett** and Senior Leadership Team tomorrow to go over the budget for next year. The meeting for the roll out is this Wednesday at 5PM in this room. I encourage you all to attend.
 - I want to thank everyone for their activism with the T cuts situation. We won a victory of sorts by not having E line service be cut.
 - After a lot of careful thought and consideration I have appealed our Annual Budget to the Vice President for Student Affairs. I have recommended to her that a baseline of funding be set for next year's officers, to essentially make sure there is some funding available so we can explore other options for funding. I would like to engage all of you in this process, if any of you are passionate about this issue, I encourage you to contact me and we can do some work. It is clearly a student driven issue, so it's definitely time we engage everyone in this. I'm confident at the end of this process it will yield results that are positive for the student body.
 - Please reach out to get everyone you know to vote.

40 Comptroller, Anthony **Golia**:

- Here are some details on the SAF allocations up to this point:
 - 196 different events put on by 98 different student groups.
 - There has been over 1.9 million dollars allocated.
 - All but 7 have been free for undergraduate students.
 - There were ten groups that received annual budgets with roughly \$500,000 allocated for that.

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

- Classroom evaluation surveys are up on the MyNEU portal. Please get everyone you know to fill it out.

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

- AVP **Gormley** collected food on Friday and Senator **Carville**, Chief of Staff **MacCormack**, Director **Caron**, and VP **LePage** provided a lot of help in Sunday's neighbor to neighbor spring cleanup day.
- We have been debriefing diversity week for the past week or so and have been thinking about how to move forward for next year. It was brought up to potentially do it in the fall. With that, it's a quick moving process. Anyone who is interested in looking into planning it for next year please let me know.
- OPEN is working on a red watch band initiative to educate students of the dangers of over intoxication. They are looking for students to help with a steering committee.

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

- Last week we approved the Armenian Student Association.
- We are working to get groups before the board before the end of the year.
- This Thursday at 7pm we are having a workshop about effective transitions. We have a lot of feedback from groups saying this is where they struggle, so we will teach how to effectively transition executive boards. Please encourage your groups to attend.
- Senator **Chandley** and I are putting the final touches on the application for space in the student organization suite in 240 Curry. That will be going live in the next week or so.

70

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

- Hertz has submitted its proposal to the university and it is under review. We are looking at the potential of up to 8 rental cars being on campus in the immediate future.
- Last week I attended a retirement party for Jim Ferrier. We will maintain a great working relationship with Public Safety.
- They recently installed new signs by all the bike stands about proper usage of locks, so look out for those.

80

Chief of Staff, Terry **MacCormack**:

- The SGA apparel survey closed last Monday and the most popular item was the fleece.
- Those of you have participated in elections committee non-partisan dorm storming this past weekend, those hours do count towards office hours.
- Finally, applications for Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Communications will go live tonight. They will be under the forms page. They will be moving forward based on the timeline of when elections actually end up ending.

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

- I have a sign-up sheet for this Wednesday's outreach event from 11am to 1pm. Even if you can only help out for a few minutes, please sign up.

Parliamentarian, Ryan **Gordon**:

- We had an OAB appeal. Please let me know if you want to know the full decision.
- We really need these votes. The alternative is not fun for anybody, so please get everyone you know to vote.

Elections Chair, Taylor **Cotter**:

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- Elections Committee will not be meeting tonight. Things we would do tonight are moved to Wednesday.
- We need about 700 votes. The things that I found to be the most helpful would be Facebook chat people just because they're sitting there not doing much. In each of your classes you can email your entire class through blackboard. I encourage you to take advantage of this and get your entire class to vote. If you're a freshman, go through the halls and knock on doors, and remind people that you're a senator and they can talk to you if they have suggestions. Also, talk to your RA's since they can email your whole building. I also suggest that you email people. I've reached out to people in this election that I haven't talked to since four years ago when I came for orientation.

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The **Senate** moved into Question Time.

Senator **Quijada** asks on what grounds the appeal was filed. President **Sabo** says the ruling was arbitrary and capricious.

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The **Senate** moved into Old Business.

SS-SP-12-103: NU and Contractor Neutrality

The **Senate** moved into Question Time on SS-SP-12-103.

Elections Chair **Cotter** asks if there has been any progress on this topic in the past week. Senator **O'Sullivan** says the coalition of students has continued to work with the workers, but there haven't been any new developments.

120

Senator **Corrado** asks if there is anything negative that could come to the workers by us passing this. Senator **O'Sullivan** says there is really no way it could hurt workers on the campus because it doesn't mention any workers by name.

Senator **Melillo** asks what union is involved in the process. Senator **O' Sullivan** says Unite local 26.

The Senate moves into 5 minutes of debate.

Senator **Melillo** wants to offer another point of view. He commends the author for this, as what the workers face is a serious problem that we should try to solve. However, he wants to say that asking the university to remain neutral when a foreign entity comes to our institution and alters our finances in a certain way may cause other problems that we should at least recognize before we move forward. This might drive up costs for the students that we represent. I want to address that and make it known that by solving one problem we may create another.

130

Senator **O'Sullivan** says this is a stance of neutrality. It is saying the workers themselves should make the choice. The University doesn't legally have a say on whether the workers organize or not.

Elections Chair **Cotter** says if such a thing occurs, we can deal with it as it comes. I'd rather stand for the workers and then if it goes down one path and it does have adverse effect on students, SGA could still hold the power to deal with it when it comes.

140

Senator **Freake** says this is an important piece of legislation and we've seen an unprecedented amount of students come together on this issue.

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Chief of Staff **MacCormack** says he is in favor of this specifically in regards to the other side of this, which is the statement that we as a student body condemn this kind of treatment.

150 Senator **Melillo** says he wants to reiterate that this is the first step in a longer process, and we should have all options on the table and not just the one mentioned in the sense of the senate which is unionization.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** says there are dollars and cents ramifications that come from the workers choosing to unionize, but that is a choice they can make. I encourage you all to send a message to the administration that we want them to hold those in charge accountable.

Senator **O'Sullivan** says some of these things are already protected under the law, but we want to make sure our university acts proactively. Regardless of if something is protected by law our university can take steps to protect it. Secondly, this goes beyond the law, and our moral obligation to students doesn't end where the law ends.

160 Senator **Ahktar** *moves* to adopt by unanimous consent.
Comptroller **Golia** *objects*.

By a vote of 42-0-2, the Sense of the Senate *passes*.

The **Senate** moved into New Business.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *moves* to allow drop downs for losing Presidential and EVP candidates.

170 Senator **Caron** *seconds* the motion.
With no objection, the motion passes.

VP **Coombes** *moves* to open nominations for Comptroller.
With no objections, the motion *passes*.

Comptroller **Golia** *nominates* Senator **Quijada**.
Senator **Quijada** *accepts*.

Senator **Shaw** *moves* to open nominations for VP for Academic Affairs.
With no objections, the motion *passes*.

180 Senator **Chandley** *moves* to nominate Student at Large **Lopez**.
Senator **Mitchell** *seconds* the motion.
Student at Large **Lopez** *accepts*.

Comptroller **Golia** *nominates* President **Sabo**.
President **Sabo** *respectfully declines*.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *moves* to nominate VP **Coombes**.
VP **Coombes** *accepts*.

190 VP **LePage** *moves* to open nominations for VP for Student Affairs.
With no objection, the motion *passes*.

Senator **Caron** *moves* to nominate student at large **Daly**.
VP **Edwards-Jenks** *seconds*.

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Student at Large **Daly** *accepts*.

Senator **Quijada** *moves* to nominate Senator **Harris**.

Senator **Corrado** *seconds*.

200 Senator **Harris** *declines* the nomination.

Senator **Counihan** *nominates* Senator **Bhadra**.

Senator **Bhadra** *accepts*.

VP **Edwards-Jenks** *moves* to open nominations for VP for Student Involvement.

With no objections, the motion *passes*.

Senator **McCarthy** *nominates* Senator **Chandley**.

Senator **Chandley** *accepts*.

210

Comptroller **Golia** *nominates* Senator **D'Amico**.

Senator **D'Amico** *declines*.

Elections Chair **Cotter** *nominates* Senator **Caron**.

Senator **Caron** *declines*.

Senator **Shaw** *moves* to open nominations for VP for Student Services.

With no objections, the motion *passes*.

220 VP **LePage** *nominates* Senator **Corrado**.

Senator **Corrado** *accepts*.

Senator **Pesaturo** *nominates* Senator **O'Sullivan**.

Senator **O'Sullivan** *accepts*.

Elections Chair **Cotter** *nominates* EVP **Pett**.

EVP **Pett** *declines*.

230 Senator **Shaw** *moves* to open nominations for Elections Committee Chair.

With no objections, the motion *passes*.

Elections Chair **Cotter** *moves* to nominate Senator **Donati**.

Senator **Donati** *accepts*.

Senator **Quijada** *nominates* Student at Large **Patten**.

VP **Coombes** *seconds*.

Student at Large **Patten** *accepts*.

240 President **Sabo** presents Senator **Mitchell** with Senator of the Month.

The **Senate** moved into Open Discussion.

Senator **Chandley** says the transition workshop is this Thursday at 7 in 442 Curry Student Center and you all should come. Also Sara Deritter talked about jumpstart during her address and I did that last year and if any of you have questions please ask them to me!

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Senator **Corrado** says Recyclemania ended this weekend and we did well. We came in at 199 of 605 which I think to be great. Also, we placed 22 out of 605 in the compositing portion. We reduced greenhouse gases by the equivalent of 127 tons of carbon.

250

Without objection, the **Chair** closed the meeting at **8:03 pm**.