

May 07, 2012

Student Government Association Senate meeting minutes: 05/07/2012

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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Senate Minutes

Student Government Association
Northeastern University
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of Northeastern University

Quorum: *was met.*

The **Chair** calls the meeting to order at **7:00 pm**.

Executive Vice President, Will **Pett**:

- President **Sabo** and I are working on getting our Constitution and Bylaws through University Legal and signed by SVP Mantella on behalf of the President.
- I am working on transitioning EVP-elect **Naraghi** into the position.
- Chief of Staff **MacCormack** and I worked with the incoming Cabinet to staff Microfridge removals last week. This is part of our yearly fundraising efforts.

President, Michael **Sabo**:

- 10
- Thanks to all of you who came to Passing of the Gavel.
 - Good luck to potential COS and EDOC tonight. Senators, please ask questions to these candidates.
 - Meeting with President-elect **Petrin** for transitions.

Comptroller, Maya **Quijada** (*address delivered by President Sabo*):

- Finance Board will start meeting to hear September Large Events on June 13.
- We have both Senator and Student-at-Large seats available for the Board, so if you are interested, please apply via OrgSync.
- I will be away for a few weeks on a dialogue in Kenya and have appointed Vice-Chair **Lothrop** as the Acting Comptroller.

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

- 20
- The classroom evaluation survey is closed and we got 518 responses from students so I am sorting through those results.
 - The library survey had over 1000 responses evaluating their space so I will be working with them to try to get some of those changes implemented.

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

- Working with VP-elect **Daly** to transition her into the role.
- Next Thursday May 17, SGA, Northeastern's Office of City and Community Affairs and the office of City Councilor Mike Ross will be hosting a Students-vs.-Neighbors softball game at McLaughlin Field in Mission Hill. Please come out at 6pm and RSVP on the Facebook event.

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

- 30
- SIB has approved four new groups and three constitution changes.
 - We've received 48 applications for space in 240 CSC.
 - VP-elect **Chandley** and I have been meeting with Campus Activities administrators planning for Student Leadership Day this coming fall.
 - SIB will meet next on May 30.

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

- 40
- Hopefully you all got the email from Student Affairs and Dining Services about the Curry Student Center renovations. Work has already begun.
 - VP-elect **MacCormack** and I have created a survey about beverage options for the new Student Center food court and we've confirmed availability of all those options with Dining.
 - The Farmers' Market is on track to launch for the summer next week. We have our two returning vendors coming back as well as three new vendors to bring more variety.
 - The Renewable Energy Initiatives Board has been meeting, discussing changes to both the Board and Fund manuals.

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- UHCS and Facilities are moving forward on hand sanitizer pumps in the Marino Center.
- The Hertz proposal is moving along and we'll have updates for you soon.

Chief of Staff, Terry **MacCormack**:

- I am coordinating all the logistical operations associated with our transitions.
 - If you see someone who is on the roster who has gone away for the summer, please have him or her let me know so I can move him or her to the inactive roster.
- 50
- I am working on transitioning potential Chief of Staff candidate **Carville**.
 - Continuing work on closing out the FY12 budget.
 - Laying the groundwork for the Senate and Executive Board retreats.

Parliamentarian, Ryan **Gordon** *yields*.

The **Senate** moves into Question Time.

The **Senate** moves into New Business.

- Nominee for Chief of Staff, Noah **Carville** speaks before the Senate:
 - Chief of Staff is a young position and hasn't been fully defined and there is not much in the Constitution relating to the position.
 - I want to make it more exciting to be and remain a Senator.
 - I want to continue a lot of what Chief of Staff **MacCormack** has been doing in terms of recognition, the roster, and the budget.
 - I also want to do a lot more with member education and plan to hold new member workshops in lieu of office hours for new Senators. The goal is to make people more comfortable to voice their opinions in Fully Body Senates.
 - I want to make it easier for academic Senators to stay in touch with their constituents.
 - I also plan to be more involved with committees.
 - The floor is opened to questions for Candidate **Carville**:
 - Senator **Van** asks what the nominee thinks of IdeaScale and its usefulness.
 - Candidate **Carville** answers that it currently has a limited community of users, but it has a lot of potential for promotion. We should give it a greater presence at Orientation.
 - VP **Coombes** asks if he has experience with budgets.
 - Candidate **Carville** responds that he is currently working with the Massachusetts Senate budget.
 - Senator **Caron** asks if the mock Senates would be a deterrent to new Senators because of the time commitment.
 - Candidate **Carville** responds that these would replace office hours for the first 6-8 weeks of a Senator's term.
 - Senator **Vo** asks for one initiative he hopes to accomplish next year.
 - Candidate **Carville** answers the Senator workshops.
 - VP **Edwards-Jenks** *yields* to Student-at-Large **Daly**, who asks how we can make SGA a more diverse student organization.
 - Candidate **Carville** says that SGA does a great job with promoting itself in the first few weeks of classes in the fall, but that it is very intimidating to members once they arrive. We should make it less formal.
 - Debate is opened for Candidate **Carville**'s confirmation.
 - VP **Edwards-Jenks** says he speaks very highly of the candidate and his determination, intelligence and skills. He will bring a great perspective to the Executive Board next year.
 - VP **Coombes** *yields* to Student-at-Large **Naraghi**, who reads a statement from Senator **Petrin** in favor of the candidate, citing his passion, experience, and drive.
- 60
- 70
- 80

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- 90
- Chief of Staff **MacCormack** says that the candidate both grasps the volume of administrative work behind the scenes and has a great perspective on member recruitment, retention and development.
 - By a vote of unanimous consent, Noah **Carville** is **confirmed** as the next Chief of Staff.
 - Nominee for Executive Director of Communications, Elizabeth **Sullivan** speaks before the Senate.
 - I have been involved with SGA since last spring and have been involved with the Communications and Events committee as well as the Elections Promotions subcommittee.
 - I am a Communications major and am interested in political communications.
 - I am currently co-oping in DC working with operations for academic tours for the Smithsonian, and am volunteering on two campaigns – Heather Wilson for Senate from New Mexico and Sean Bielat for Congress from Massachusetts, which are giving me communications and public relations experience.
 - My co-op and volunteer experience qualify me and prepare me for this position.
- 100
- The floor is opened to questions for Candidate **Sullivan**.
 - VP **Edwards-Jenks** asks if the candidate values social media or face-to-face and outreach more.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** responds that a balance is valuable but that she has seen both sides from two different committees and sees the value in both.
 - VP **LePage** asks if she has any long-term plans for initiatives in SGA, and if so what are they?
 - Candidate **Sullivan** responds that she wants to continue many of former Executive Director **Dwyer's** initiatives, including NUideas and SGAMES, with a focus on starting small with various events.
- 110
- Senator **Van** asks how many semesters she has been involved with SGA.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** answers two semesters.
- Senator **Vo** asks for one event she would work on to promote SGA to the student body.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** answers that SGAMES has a real potential to be better, as long as it is planned correctly.
- VP **Edwards-Jenks** asks if the candidate would have a greater focus on promoting what SGA does or on getting feedback on what we should be doing.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** responds that getting feedback is more important to her.
- 120
- Senator **Van** asks if the candidate will be in Boston for the duration of her term as EDOC.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** answers that yes, she will be around Boston for Summer II whenever needed, and will be in classes both Fall and Spring semesters.
- Senator **Gormley** reads a question from Senator **McAllister** asking the candidate to speak to her knowledge of current committee members and projects and how she plans to move those forward.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** says that she has reached out to former Executive Directors **Cotter** and **Dwyer** to get a sense of where projects stand and what the image of SGA is on campus. My working relationships with the committee members who I know are very good.
- Senator **Gormley** asks if the candidate has any experience with chairing a committee.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** says that she chaired a fundraising committee for a service trip.
- 130
- President **Sabo** asks the candidate to assess SGA's relationship with the Huntington News and to speak to her plans to better that relationship.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** responds that being forward and positive with the News reporters is important.
- Senator **Gormley** asks how the candidate plans to translate her co-op experience to SGA and the needs of the student body.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** responds that her co-op experience in DC relates to event planning and that her volunteer work on campaigns relates to communications.
- Senator **Chandley** asks what role the candidate played in planning and executing SGAMES and monthly outreach events.
 - Candidate **Sullivan** responds that she worked a lot in the planning of SGAMES.
- 140
- Debate is opened for Candidate **Sullivan's** confirmation.

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- 150
- VP **Crimmins** says that while the candidate is a great person and this is not personal, he does not think she should be confirmed as Executive Director of Communications because there is no time to transition SGA communications because she is not in the Boston area.
 - VP **Edwards-Jenks** says that his biggest concern is that she will not be here consistently most of this summer, which is important for Orientation.
 - Senator **Gormley** reads a statement from Senator **McAllister** speaking against the candidate, citing her lack of experience when it comes to the projects the committee is currently working on.
 - VP **Coombes** reminds the Senate that this is a confirmation hearing and that the Senate is voting on whether this individual is the best person for the position.
 - President **Sabo** encourages the Senate to consider the value that the University puts on studying or co-oping away from the Boston area.
 - Senator **Gormley** feels that Candidate **Sullivan** does not have the adequate committee experience and did not display dedication to the Communications and Events committee this past fall.
 - VP **Coombes** yields to Student-at-Large **Naraghi** who says that he can do the work that the candidate will be unable to perform this summer. Further, I remind the Senate that this is a confirmation hearing.
 - Senator **Gormley** yields to former-Executive Director **Dwyer** who says that committee experience is a qualification to consider in this debate. Candidate **Sullivan** is a great person and a great asset to the committee, but not as EDOC. Some projects have the potential to fall by the wayside because the people transitioning her into the role do not have communications experience.
- 160
- By a vote of 3-10, the candidate is **not confirmed**.

The **Senate** moves into Open Discussion.

- Senator **Van** asks anyone interested in helping out with the Green Team at Red Sox games to contact him.
- Chief of Staff **MacCormack** encourages Senators to fill out the Curry beverage survey.

Without objection, the **Chair** closes the meeting at **8:07 pm**.

Respectfully submitted to the Senate by Terry MacCormack.