

The Student Government Association

Senate, Twenty-First Session

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 19th, 2024

Location: Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, Second Floor

Time: 8:09 p.m.-10:01 p.m.

Present: Nathaniel Lowell, Jazlin Chen, Apple Alvarez, Vicky Grijalva, Lila Glanville, Madison Situ, Maya Kates, Milo Flamenbaum, Kamran Haq, Bradley Kadets, Ellis Hemmerdinger, Samantha Majiedt, Jonathan Lipman, Ryan Lobner, Josh Maxwell, Carissa Pienkowski, Milo Flamenbaum, Katherine Sterling, Nicole Oletu, Leo Thomson, Cameron Whitney, Abby Brew, Carlos Navaro

Absent: Brae Tebo, Lucas Falick, David Aybar*, Emma Ferrigno*

* = has proxy

Call To Order

C. Lowell called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m.

Invocation

Invocation was read by S. Kates.

Approval of Agenda

On motion of S. Lobner seconded by S. Lipman to approve the agenda.

Unanimous Consent. Carried.

Approval of the Minutes

On motion of S. Maxwell seconded by S. Kates to table meeting minutes from 2/27/24 and 3/5/24.

Unanimous Consent. Carried

Weekly Committee Reports

C. Lowell said that the Executive Committee met before Spring Break and talked about the Bylaw Review process and elections. C. Lowell shared that VPAA Tess Malloy has resigned from her position. C. Lowell will be taking over this role until an interim VPAA is appointed. VPFA Maxwell reported on the Budget and Finance Committee. He said that he has compiled the budget for next year, which includes 90 club budgets. The Committee met Monday night and reviewed various SGA commitments as well as potential SGA compensation. VPSL Flamenbaum said that the Committee on Student Life is working on laundry signage, roommate questionnaires, and further housing transparency, as well as increasing the number of filtered water stations in residence halls and water/ice machines in the dining hall. S. Kates reported on Club Affairs. She said that Women in Stem and the Woodworking club have been approved to come to the Senate for an end of trial period hearing. VPIO Alvarez talked about collaborating with the Career Development Center. She also talked about collaborating with other clubs for open forum and dialogue. They are also updating the feedback form on the SGA website and the pronoun policy is still a

work in progress. SCP Grijalva said the ICC started selling tickets for the 50 Days Dance and are currently planning Senior Week. The sophomores are planning a midnight dodgeball event.

New Business

Hillel Supplemental Funding Request

S. Maxwell reported that Hillel came to BnF seeking \$4,500 in supplemental funding for three reasons: increase in prices for food, club and events have become more popular this year, and they were charged \$2,500 more by dining services than they expected due to a miscommunication. Since this request, they have been reimbursed by dining services for \$6,000, so are only requesting \$1,000 in supplemental funding.

On motion of S. Lobner, seconded by S. Kates to amend the requested amount to \$1,000.

Unanimously approved.

A roll-call vote on the Hillel supplemental request as amended occurred.

HILLEL SUPPLEMENTAL	VOTE		HILLEL SUPPLEMENTAL	VOTE	
	YES	No		YES	No
SENATOR ALVAREZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENATOR LIPMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR AYBAR	Absent		SENATOR LOBNER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR CHEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENATOR MAJIEDT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR FALICK	Absent			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR FERRIGNO	Abstain		SENATOR MAXWELL	Abstain	
SENATOR FLAMENBAUM	Abstain		SENATOR OLETU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR GLANVILLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENATOR PIENKOWSKI	Abstain	
SENATOR GRIJALVA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENATOR SITU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR HAQ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENATOR STERLING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR HEMMERDINGER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENATOR TEBO	Absent	
SENATOR KADETS	Abstain		SENATOR THOMSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENATOR KATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SENATOR WHITNEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A motion to move into public hearing for senate bylaws was proposed by S. Lobner, seconded by S. Kates. Unanimously approved. No public are present to speak. There was a motion to return to normal session proposed by S. Lobner, seconded by S. Majiedt. Unanimously approved.

S. Pienkowski proceeded to report on the survey results regarding gender and audition based clubs. S. Pienkowski said that there were 33 responses to the survey, which is a small sample size compared to the 128 club presidents on campus. 73% of the responses were from women identifying presidents, 24% male and 3% nonbinary. Many were in favor of allowing gender based clubs to continue at Skidmore. The vast majority opposed removing auditions in clubs. C. Lowell gave background on current regulations for

gender and audition based clubs, and provided examples from the University of West Virginia for possible amendments regarding gender and auditions regulations in clubs at Skidmore.

Resolution 34-70: SGA Bylaw Overhaul Act

Resolution 34-70 regarding the SGA bylaw overhaul act was introduced by C. Lowell. C. Lowell opened the Senate floor to questions and clarified that voting will occur next week. He clarified that the SGA clerk will replace the SGA secretary, with the position having the increased responsibility of assisting committees with their minutes. Lowell then talked about the SGA's ability to compensate Senate officers. Compensation would be separated into tiers, and each tier would be eligible for a certain amount of compensation. Compensation was originally addressed because SGA is not currently very accessible to those students who don't have the time to commit to "luxury volunteerism" due to other on-campus jobs. S. Alvarez asked why compensation is not on the table for those sitting on subcommittees. C. Lowell said that a line has to be drawn somewhere, and not everyone can be paid. S. Alvarez and S. Grijalva expressed concerns about the SGA Director of Communications role. S. Maxwell asked for clarification on the Class President position. Senators express varied opinions and concerns about compensation, such as "will this cause people to serve in the SGA for the wrong reasons?" S. Whitney said that given that the hourly wage would average out to about 3 or 4 dollars per hour, it seems there wouldn't be enough of an incentive to have people coming into the SGA with the wrong intentions. S. Alvarez broached the idea that maybe compensating only those who do above the standard amount of work required for SGA is a good approach. S. Hemmerdinger stated that this could pose an issue of students being deterred from coming into SGA and working lower level positions, because they may not be able to if they aren't getting paid. S. Majiedt brought up possible hurdles for international students.

Senators Forum

S. Flamenbaum provided further detail on updating housing application forms to enhance the randomization process. C. Lowell said that self-nomination forms are now open and also reminded Senators of the lunch discussion this coming Thursday on freedom of speech.

Adjourn

On motion of S. Haq, seconded by S. Hemmerdinger to adjourn at 10:01 p.m.
Unanimous Consent. Carried.