SECRETARY’S REPORT NO. 19, February 22, 2006
REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE USG SENATE

The Student Senate met in Regular Session on February 22, 2006 at 6:30 in the Ohio Union, Grey Suite K. Speaker of the Senate Nick Benson presided.

Present: 39  Absent: 5  Alternates: 5

Allie Baker Barylak Benson Bhatt
Brin Bullard Capone Cropcho Dodovich
Evangelista Fogt (A) Fuquen Hoque Hornsby
Howell Innes King Knoepfler Lawson (A)
Lockshin (A) Luby Marconi Martin Noon
Nystrom Pineiro Pittman Reed Rothacker
Samuels Seger (A) Singla Smith Steele
Surovjak (A) Valentine Wallace Webb Wireko
Wiseman Yeh Byerly Sprinkle
Rosen Tan Jones Aten Carona

6:35, SWEARING IN OF NEW ALTERNATES, SPEAKER BENSON

OPEN FORUM FOR THE PUBLIC

-Mr. Dave Knapp, USG Policy Committee Director: A group of about 12 individuals have been meeting from both Senate and Executive to review the McHale Report. They have been analyzing and reviewing concerns. Here is a brief overview, if you have any concerns, you MUST let Mr. Knapp know BY NEXT WEDNESDAY:

-The four objectives of McHale are coherence, flexibility, oversight, and transparency. It looks at two main questions posed from Provost Snyder.
-The new GEC credits are called “Non-Major Requirements” or “NMRs”
-We will not be discussing implementation issues. This report discusses the theory of a general education, not implementation.

1. Reduction of Credit Hours: McHale calls for the reduction of GEC credit hours from 85-60 for BA students and 85-65 for BS students. DISCUSSION:

-Ms. Amanda Dennis (Alternate for Ms. Lawson): Do you feel at times we are dragging away from the idea of a Land-Grant University with the university continuously raising the bar? There is some concern in that but this report is looking at the retention rate.
-Ms. Amanda Dennis: In her major, Agricultural Education, she only has 15 GEC hours and would like more but she understands that it is different for each college.
-Mr. Howell: How did you figure out the average of 36-38 classes for a degree? It was merely a division of the standard class from the assumption of them being five hour classes.
-Mr. Howell: Is it normal for Ohio State to require fewer classes for graduation then other universities like Northwestern? The Review Committee is still looking at the date on this issue.
-Mr. Howell: How did you determine what were substantial classes at Northwestern? The Review Committee has a copy of their curriculum.

-Ms. Singla: Five credit hours is only the standard for SBS and Humanities but it definitely is not for engineering majors. Do other universities have 5-credit hour classes across the board? If so, can we adopt a similar system? That issue has been definitely brought up in committee.

-Ms. Hoque: Are we looking at only private schools? We are reviewing both private and public schools.

-Ms. Hoque: Does the review discuss the semester system? The McHale Report discusses the semester system as 180 would be more commensurate with it but our review does not go into that because it deals with implementation.

-Mr. Reed: What do you mean by the “bare minimum”? The review committee is saying that there will be a greater opportunity to use the system to each student’s advantage.

2. Modification of GEC Categories: They modify many categories to be a better fit.

-Ms. Hoque: Have you taken into consideration that it takes five years for people to graduate not because of GECs but because they change majors so often? These GECs are supposed to be standardized across the university so that if you change your major, then you won’t have to take completely new GECs. It would be much easier to graduate in four years.

-Ms. Hoque: This brings up the issue of how well the faculty is trained to help students? Is this part of us? That would be an implementation issue.

-Mr. Rothacker: What are they doing with Cultural Ideas? That category is becoming Miscellaneous. It is no longer a requirement to take a class in the Cultural Ideas Category.

-Ms. Amanda Dennis: Have you taken into consideration transfer students? It is extremely hard to transfer here and you might have to take more classes that you’ve taken before at another school. They will look into that.

3. Written, Oral, and Visual Expression: These will be our writing requirements, including a required third writing course. This will also include a Moral Reasoning requirement.

4. Creation of a Foreign Culture Category: Reorganizes the former requirements of foreign languages and cultures and gives four options for fulfilling this requirement. Foreign language proficiency will be decided at the college level instead of across the US. This will also include a requirement in Social Diversity in the U.S.

5. Senior Capstone Requirement: They’re hoping to have specialized major capstones

6. Freshman Cluster System: This would meet 3 NMR requirements in the first year and would fulfill the first two WOVE requirements out of three. After completing it, you’ll have completed 40% of your NMR.
7. Exemption and Substitution: This allows for flexibility in the general education program.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, E-MAIL THEM TO DAVE AND BRING THEM TO NEXT WEEK’S MEETING AS WELL (knapp.143@osu.edu)

-Mr. Matthew Monta, THE UNDERGROUND: There are a lot of questions about the MOU Contract. This is the tenth anniversary of THE UNDERGROUND. It has always been a staple of the student body and the student voice and was founded in 1996 by former USG President John Carney. This year, USG is supporting the student voice. Unfortunately, student media is not on the radar of the university administration. THE UNDERGROUND is very happy that USG is stepping up to help out. Regarding the MOU, it is a contract that asks for USG to fund THE UNDERGROUND for $20,000 a year for the next five years. There have been some concerns about a University Liaison, who would be an Ohio Union staff member and would act as an advisor. Concerning oversight, CSA is going to be monitoring progress. Furthermore, they have been discussing specific issues like, what happens if THE UNDERGROUND suddenly comes upon a ton of money? They have made some improvements:

-They have had open elections for the first time in quite some time.
-They are partnering with OUAB, USG, and THE LANTERN
-They are doing new programming ideas, including live broadcasts like they did last night at President Scharer’s State of the University.
-They are looking into broadcasting at the Commons during mealtimes.
-They are working on production and technology, specifically pod-casts that would reach out to students better.
-When the Union is torn down next fall, they are hoping that their initiatives right now and their connection with USG will help build THE UNDERGROUND into a wonderful resource.

QUESTIONS:

-Mr. Dodovich: Do you know where your swing space will be? It is being decided between the Fawcett Center and the Drake Union? Mr. Monta is vying for the Drake Union.

-Mr. Sprinkle: Do you feel that it is fair for the members of the 38th USG Senate to be requiring future senates to fund THE UNDERGROUND? Mr. Monta feels that it is the right thing for USG to do. Students should have a communicative outlet, especially at a university as large as Ohio State. He feels that it is in USG’s benefit to fund THE UNDERGROUND.

-Ms. Dennis: Wouldn’t the Fawcett Center be better? Mr. Monta feels that it is very far out and we’ll have to see how students readjust to the closing of the Union. He feels that it’ll be good to have a location on campus that students can walk to.

-Mr. Noon: How close is THE UNDERGROUND to getting back to normal frequency? Getting a frequency costs millions of dollars and OSU is not willing to invest in this. They are looking at low power FM and it is his understanding that this option has been pushed out in the past few years by the FCC. They are on News Channel 4 and have a live stream on the internet.
-Mr. Knoepfler: What measures are you taking to get $2 million of outside funding? That is more of a hypothetical. They’re starting by making THE UNDERGROUND into an effective radio station. They are also doing work in the community and promotions. Doing these things will allow them to then go to businesses for advertising and funding. They are also reaching out to student organizations for advertisements and publicity. They are having student groups and student programs underwrite certain hours of the show.

-Mr. Luby: Currently we have this outlet but people don’t really care about it or listen to it. So if people aren’t using this outlet and don’t care about it, then why do we need to pump more money into it? People used to care about it. It used to be huge. Back then, THE UNDERGROUND was really invested in student life. Right now, Mr. Monta is piecing together its history and when people started caring. He believes it happen in the early 21st century. They are doing programming and collaborations to show that THE UNDERGROUND cares and to make students care.

-President Scharer: Do you think that with this support, THE UNDERGROUND could be picked up by an undergraduate college? Mr. Monta has a lot of faith that this could happen. In the past, THE UNDERGROUND was isolating itself. Now, however, people will see that there’s a demand for public radio and an academic department will eventually pick them up.

-Mr. Martin: How many people are usually listening? It is tough to tell. The amount of listeners kind of varies per show. They don’t have a system to track listeners. Some shows have a very wide following and they are hoping that maybe the Policy Group could conduct a survey of the student body about what they’d want to see from student radio.

-Mr. Dodovich: What does THE UNDERGROUND’s advertising budget look like? He cannot give us a number off of the top of his head at the moment. They do put up a lot of flyers and do word of mouth publicity at the moment, unfortunately. They use a lot of publicity resources. They are working extremely hard to come out with new ways to put themselves out there in the community.

-Ms. Hoque: How many people are in the student group? They have 75 people registered on file. At any time during the day, there are ten people in the office.

E-MAIL MONTA.3 WITH MORE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

-Mr. Terrell Danzy, Black Men & Women Investing: They are coordinating a conference, “Success is in Your Hands,” and would like our support for it. This is their second annual conference. Last year, they had over 240 high school and college students registered for the one-day conference. This year, they have expanded the conference to a three-day event (March 2-4, 2006). The schedule is jam-packed! Their keynote speaker is Chris Sanders, who is an OSU alumni and a retired Tennessee Titans football player. They are expecting over 500 participants. They have really reached out to the high schools this year and have created two scholarships for high school seniors.

QUESTIONS:

-Mr. Jones: He is also a member of this organization and it is a great way to help African Americans out in their various pursuits. They are also growing into a national organization. He is also co-sponsoring the bill.
-Mr. Noon: What do platinum sponsors get? They actually get access to all parts of the conference and a ton of publicity throughout the event.

-Ms. Dennis: What made you want to increase attendance? The attendance was so great last year that they knew that they could expand it. They are already considering plans for next year and want to make it even bigger and better.

-Mr. Aten: Is the program open to everyone? Yes it is.

E-MAIL DANZY.2 WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

-Ms. Andrea Kendall and the OSU Mock Trial Team: They are a forty member organization and are here to talk about a proposed fund that they have requested from USG Senate. This past Sunday, two of their five teams qualified for the National Competition in St. Paul, Minnesota. They have had a very successful season. While going to Nationals is a huge honor, it’s also a huge financial burden. However, since Mock Trial is not affiliated with an academic department, they do not have additional funds to pay for travel to competitions. They would really encourage the support of USG to send 20 students to St. Paul, with sixteen competing and the others observing. Last year, they were also offered a bid to Nationals and the USG Senate supported them with $1100. There is a bill before us today, 38-B-27, and they hope that they will support us and even further fund us. Mock Trial is a wonderful opportunity for professional development and they also put in an exceptional amount of time in preparation. Because they spend so much time preparing, it is very difficult for them to fundraise. Their competition schedule actually begins before the school year. They would appreciate any funding that USG could provide for us. QUESTIONS:

-Mr. Marconi: Would you describe the nature of the national tournament? There are 90 teams around the nation invited to this tournament and there will be four rounds of competition. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase their talents and to get input.

-Mr. Marconi: The bill that you presented was for only one of your groups. Would you be willing to submit an additional bill for your other group?

-Ms. Hoque: Have you thought of other alternate means of transportation besides flying since that’s your biggest cost? They have but the competition is the Friday after finals week and they would not like to drive all night for the event. However, it is a possibility.

-Mr. Carona: How many were sent last year? They sent eight people last year.

-Mr. Carona: How was the rest of the funding paid for last year? It was paid out of pocket. One team member last year paid $500 out of pocket. Last year, USG Senate was also restrained with how much it could fund because we cannot reimburse flight tickets.

-Ms. Dennis: You don’t qualify for other student organization funds? No they do not. Have you looked into fundraising next quarter? Yes they have.

-Speaker Benson: Knowing that you made it into nationals last year and being a professional development organization, was there some effort to fundraise throughout this year to prepare for possibly going to Nationals? Their fundraising has been limited because their schedule is so compressed. They have done some fundraising but have been restrained with how much they were able to raise.
Furthermore, they have sought monetary contributions from academic departments.

-Mr. Jones: Where did you finish last year in the tournament? Ms. Kendall is not sure of their standing but they were extremely competitive last year.

-Mr. Dodovich: Is this national tournament commensurate to last year’s tournament? Yes it is.

-Mr. Smith: Are the other three teams not going then? The National Association requires that only two teams can go to Nationals. Ms. Kendall also submitted the bill to Senator Rothacker two weeks ago, before they even qualified.

-Ms. Yeh: How much has SBS and Humanities supported you all for and what would it go towards? Humanities has granted them $500 and SBS has not given them a dollar amount yet.

7:45, EXECUTIVE REPORT, PRESIDENT SCHARER:

-Thanks to Mr. Knapp for presenting and send more comments to him.
-Yesterday was the IUC meeting and they talked about higher education and this ThinkOhio idea. Furthermore, concerning the Blackwell Amendment is going to be very important for us and we’ll be working on it.
-CSA has brought together a lot of people concerning off-campus safety.
-Thank you for attending last night.
-Friday is our first meeting with Campus Partners concerning off-campus lighting.
-President Scharer has received a thank you note from Hall Director Flapp Cockrell for our support to the residence hall service trip last winter break to the Gulf Coast.

QUESTIONS:

- Mr. Sprinkle: What are the interns doing this year to make sure that this pep rally for the Spring Game won’t turn into what happened last year? The committee is working very hard and Director Christobek will be presenting the budget to us.

COMMITTEE/CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

-Mr. Reed: The Ohio Union Council will be adding more members. Furthermore, he’ll be going to a meeting tomorrow concerning the Anonymous Reporting Line and he doubts that they’ll go live on March 1st.

-P & G met last week to discuss the structure of the Tuition Commission.

-B & F met Monday and tabled 38-B-26 and reduced 38-B-27 from $4300 to $500. We are on track to spend our money at this point.

- President Scharer: Will the step show funding bill be back in committee next Monday? Yes it will.

-Mr. Rothacker moves to suspend the rules and change the bylaws and it is seconded.

DISCUSSION:

- Mr. Sprinkle: Calls to question and it is seconded.

WE GO INTO A HAND VOTE AND THE MOTION FAILS
OLD BUSINESS

38-B-24, A Bill to Support “Success is in Your Hands,” SPEAKER BENSON:
-This is a wonderful program to deal with African American male retention efforts. Mr. Danzy made a wonderful presentation to this. DISCUSSION:
  -Mr. Marconi: He liked this program last year.
  -Mr. Steele: He calls to question and it is seconded.
WE GO INTO A HAND VOTE AND PASS THE BILL 32-1-0.

38-R-78, A Resolution to Amend the Structure of the Tuition Commission, MR. SPRINKLE:
Over the last few weeks, there have been some problems with the Tuition Commission. He would like to re-charter the commission so that it has more focus. DISCUSSION:
- Mr. Noon: What are the major changes from the old charter? It cuts down voting members from fourteen to ten. It also allows the right to remove the chair if they are not working towards the committee’s goal. Furthermore, there will only be one chair chosen by the Policy & Governance Committee. Furthermore, all of Section 3 was added and Section 4 was amended.
- President Scharer: For 1E, shouldn’t it be a partnership between the Speaker and the President to remove the chair? The Tuition Commission was started in senate last year and Ms. Innes would like to leave it with senate. She would, though, not be averse to changing it for joint partnership for 1E. But, the chair is supposed to be chosen by senate.
- President Scharer: Is there anyway that we can chose 1B to create a joint partnership between senate and executive? It cannot be amended on the floor and they don’t really want to send it back to committee.
- Mr. Reed: According to the bylaws, this cannot last for more than one year.
- Speaker Benson: He disagrees with this clause and does not want to send it back to committee. He gives verbal guarantee that he will not remove the chair without consulting President Scharer.
- Mr. Steele: Last year, we had the same problems with attendance and there were virtually no changes made. However, we’re saying that the commission last year was “extremely effective.” He does not feel that he has not worked hard enough with the commission. However, he questions the motivations and the timing that this is being brought to our attention. No questions were ever brought to Mr. Steele from the sponsor of this resolution.
- Ms. Innes: This was in New Business for quite some time and there was ample opportunity to present your views to Policy & Governance.
- Mr. Sprinkle: He calls to question and it is seconded.
- Mr. Rothacker: Was there anyone on the speakers list before it was called to question? According to our bylaws, we must keep a speakers list. The vote is void. FURTHER DISCUSSION:
  - Ms. Singla: In looking at the objectives of the resolution, she feels that many of them are the goals of the work of the USG Governmental Relations Committee. Is this taking away from their work and efforts?
  - Mr. Dodovich: Mr. Fournier felt that these would be good ideas.
-Ms. Innes: These are not requirements that have to be fulfilled, they are just objectives.
-Mr. Dodovich: There can be no more speakers.
WE GO INTO A HAND VOTE AND THE RESOLUTION PASSES 19-3-12.

38-B-27, A Bill to Support the OSU Mock Trial Team, MR. ROTHACKER:
-He is incredibly disappointed that the bill was cut so much in committee to only $500. If this passes, then each member would have to pay $408 out of pocket.
-Mr. Marconi: The bill presented was only for one team and they didn’t even know if they were going to nationals at the hearing. He calls to question and it is seconded.
-Ms. Denning: She feels that $500 is a lot to give to one organization and she encourages us to fail this bill.
-Ms. Hoque: $500 does seem like a little but we gave Black Men in Investing $2000 but Black Women Investing is driving this weekend to Iowa. They can readjust their schedule to drive there.
WE GO INTO A HAND VOTE TO END DISCUSSION AND IT PASSES 27-10-1
WE GO INTO A HAND VOTE ON THE BILL AND IT PASSES 27-6-2

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:
-Policy & Governance will meet tomorrow at 6 in Scarlet Suite U
-The OSU Men’s Glee Club thanks us for our support from last week.
-Mr. Knoepfler: An issue that is second in priority to GEC Reform is off-campus safety. Next week, there will be a forum with three city council members where we’ll talk about off-campus safety. It will be next Wednesday, March 1st at 5:30 pm in Union Conference Theatre. Also, please hang up the flyers.
-Mr. Knoepfler: He will be resigning from his position as University Senate Liaison and if anyone is interested in taking over, please let him know. Mr. Howell will also be resigning and we’ll need a new Policy & Governance Chair. Anyone is eligible to run for those positions in front of the entire senate.
-Mr. Monta is playing this Friday at BW3s.
-There will be a speaker tomorrow at 4pm in the Hale Center concerning reparations for Asian Americans interned during WWII.
-There will be an Asian American Association next Friday. Tickets will be $10 a piece.
-If you have any opinions or comments about the GEC Report, please talk to Mr. Knapp.
-Mortar Board has extended its application for membership for another week. It is for seniors and juniors may apply.
-Collegiate Young Farmers is having a meeting next Wednesday in Room 108 of the Agricultural Administration Building. CARL ZULAUF WILL BE SPEAKING, YAY

SENATOR OF THE WEEK IS MS. CARA LAWSON, YAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18pm
Meeting Minutes Submitted by Eric A. Samuels (Diversity-at large Senator)