SECRETARY’S REPORT NO. 17, February 8, 2006
REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE USG SENATE

The Student Senate met in Regular Session on February 8, 2006 at 6:30 in the Ohio Union, Grey Suite K. Speaker of the Senate Nick Benson presided.

Present: 35  Absent: 11  Alternates: 1

Bhatt  Brin  Bullard  Capone
Cropcho  Denning  Dodovich  Evangelista  Fogt
Fuquen  Hoque  Howell  Hornsby  Innes
King  Klempay  Knoepfler  Lawson
Locksin  Luby  Marconi
Noon  Nystrom  Pineiro  Pittman  Reed
Samuels  Seger  Singla  Sprinkle  Steele
Surovjak (A)  Valentine  Wallace  Wireko  Wiseman
Yeh  Gates  Barylak  Rothacker  Smith
Allie  Byerly  Martin  Webb

6:34, OPEN FORUM FOR THE PUBLIC
-A few people are here from LEADERSHAPE. It is a week-long leadership seminar held right after Spring Quarter finals. It is a really wonderful event that will help people build leadership skills. Applications for the program are available and are due February 24th. Applications can be found off of the website of the Ohio Union, www.ohiounion.com. Whether you’re involved in a lot of things right now or are looking to become more involved, then this conference is really for you.
-Matt Killingsworth and Chad Davis of Delta Chi Fraternity: They are here this evening to talk about re-colonizing Delta Chi Fraternity at The Ohio State University. They are looking for me who want to bring a tradition back to Ohio State but also want to do it in the correct way. They are looking for men with at least a 3.0 GPA. If you are doing well academically, then you are obviously organized and involved. They are also looking for men of good moral integrity. If you know anyone who is interested, please let them know. They feel that the reason people are not Greek is because they were never asked about the opportunity. Matt’s cell is (319) 621-2301 or you can e-mail him at mattk@deltachi.org. For the women, if you know men who might be interested, please forward them to Matt. Their chapter house is currently being renovated. QUESTIONS:
-What is the timeline? They would like to have associate member pinning in the next week or so. Their associate member program is only about 5-weeks long and is not that intensive. In spring quarter, they’ll have pre-initiation week in the second week of spring quarter. Their initiation will be on April 15th. Both Chad and Matt will be on campus until February 21st.

-DISCUSSION OF UNIVERSITY SENATE CONSENSUAL RELATIONS POLICY
Dr. Eunice Hornsby and Dr. Deborah Ballam: At this point, the current consensual relations policy is housed in the sexual harassment policy and says that faculty who are currently teaching students cannot have a consensual relationship with a student that they
are currently teaching right now or are serving on a dissertation committee of. Right now, the policy does not explicitly “prohibit” consensual relationships between faculty and students. In the past, however, students have complained about issues that have come out of consensual relationships with faculty members that have gone “bad.” Therefore, the Woman’s Place has worked on this issue and issued several recommendations:

1. Actually use the term “prohibit.”
2. Require that arrangements be made with the department or department chair if a relationship between a faculty member who is teaching a current student cannot wait. QUESTIONS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS:
   a. Mr. Noon: Does this include TAs? Yes, it includes any faculty member, staff member, or graduate member who is teaching. It would also include undergraduate TAs.
   b. Ms. Singla: Would it count for those groups within each other? Only if they are in a teaching relationship or will have that relationship in the future.
   c. Mr. Reed: What do you mean by “likely to teach”? That would be defined on a case-by-case basis.
   d. Ms. Singla: Do all consensual relationships need to be reported even if it’s not prohibited? Right now, the policy has been redrafted to say that all relationships are prohibited but that is being redrafted out of it.
   e. Mr. Pittman: Has this been effective at other universities? This policy is more reactive to past cases at Ohio State. This makes the policy more effective and keeps people accountable.
   f. Speaker Benson: Do the recommendations have any specific punishments or would it be on a case-by-case basis? Right now, it is taken up by Human Resources and is decided upon on a case-by-case basis.
   g. Mr. Reed: What kind of misconduct does this fall under? It would violate the Sexual Harassment Policy.
   h. President Scharer: Can you talk about the research behind the POWER IMBALANCE and why some students may feel a need to be in a relationship with a faculty member? One of the issues that people have raised is that you cannot regulate this behavior. In fact, most every profession in this country regulates sexual relationships between the professional and the client. The reason many professions do this is the whole issue of the “Power Imbalance” creating the question of whether you can really consent. There can be a situation where this is such respect and esteem held for the person and the student here is the vulnerable partner in the relationship. Research suggests that the less powerful person in the relationship can be swayed to enter into a sexual relationship when they did not want to. Therefore, can vulnerable parties in the relationship have “real consent”?
   i. Another concern is that it’s an insult to women’s right to choose a relationship. While women are involved, so are men. No matter what your age or gender is, it all goes back to consent. Furthermore, Dr.
Ballam does not feel that the faculty should have a right to privacy when it comes to this subject. The consequences of these relationships can be quite devastating. Ohio State has seen a few cases of predator faculty members who have targeted international graduate students and preyed on them. QUESTIONS:

i. Ms. Hoque: Can we get a specific number? How many cases do we get a year? This issue first arose when some graduate students came to her office to talk about it. Because of privacy concerns, Counseling and Consultation Services cannot give a specific number but they agree that it is a serious issue that needs to be dealt with. National research suggest between 17 and 25% of students get involved in such relationships.

ii. Mr. Knoepfler: Has there been any criticism about the faculty’s ability to predict vulnerability or about the students’ desire to “get back” at professors? No, there is no information about that available at the moment.

iii. Mr. Fogt: Who will they be reporting their relationship to? It would be to their supervisor, which for most faculty, is their department chair. If it’s a prohibited relationship, then it is reported to Human Resources.

iv. Mr. Fogt: Are the privacy of students protected under FERPA? The students’ privacy would clearly be protected.

v. Mr. King: He is concerned about the protection of faculty. What if students were to be angry and would falsely accuse faculty members? That is dealt with in the Sexual Harassment Policy. False charges are very easy to spot.

vi. Mr. Martin: Would it prevent faculty members and students from dating but not sleeping with each other? It probably would.

vii. Mr. Knoepfler: As it stands, you have to report it if it’s consensual, even if there’s not a power relationship. But if there’s no power relationship, does it need to be reported? No, it does not have to be reported but it is strongly discouraged. That language has been redrafted.

viii. Ms. Barylak: If you have to report being in a relationship but don’t anticipate being in a power relationship? Arrangements would have to be made.

ix. Ms. Singla: Is there an assumption that if the relationship be over, that they should not then engage in a power relationship in the future? That is a good question and something that they have not dealt with yet. Their initial reaction is that it would be on a case-by-case basis.

x. Mr. Fogt: What’s the process for tenured faculty who are found to not be in compliance with this policy? They would go through the regular disciplinary processes but that possibility is limiting.
Speaker Benson: Where does this stand in University Senate? It will be discussed in Senate tomorrow and they take a vote or not. However, University Senate has no authority over Human Resources policies. This will be a consultative process. The ultimate decision is made by the President’s Cabinet.

DISCUSSION ON THE CONSENSUAL RELATIONS POLICY:

Speaker Benson: This will be discussed tomorrow in University Senate and we can discuss this and vote on whether or not to support it tomorrow during University Senate.

DISCUSSION:

- Ms. Hoque: She feels that we should vote against this because there’s a lot of holes in it and since University Senate really has no authority over it.
- Mr. Marconi: He feels that this is a good idea and we should be supporting it.
- Mr. Reed: Yesterday, this came up at the Anonymous Reporting Line Task Force. The concern there was that the initial report filed through the anonymous reporting line would be paramount to a police report and these reports would need to be released to the public. There is a lot gray area and the university is concerned about protecting privacy. There was some talk about further delaying this policy until the anonymous reporting line is implemented more.
- Ms. Hoque: She’s not against the general idea but still feels that there is a lot of holes.
- Ms. Innes: Do we have to take a stance on this as a USG Senate? No we do not.
- Mr. King: When the University Senate Ad-Hoc Committee reviewed the policy, was it viewed as covering a lot of ground. He does feel that it covers a lot of ground but it does have a lot of holes.
- President Scharer: Is the anonymous reporting line still on schedule to begin on March 1st? Yes it is. Wouldn’t the reports be through department chairs? If the party reporting was involved in the relationship but if the party reporting only has heard about the relationship.
- Ms. Lockshin: She feels that we should support this because it affects so many students. If we have suggestions for it, then we can bring those up.
- Ms. Innes: She agrees that it’s a good idea but there is also a lot of holes. She feels that it may be better to just not vote on the policy.
- Ms. Seger: If we’re not going to vote, then she would like for our University Senators to bring these suggestions up tomorrow during discussion tomorrow. The Speaker of the Senate, President, or University Senate Liaison could bring these opinions to the floor.
- Mr. Steele: He feels that we should support this and present the holes in the policy. Hopefully, we will then take our comments into consideration and then follow-up on it and see that our recommendations are followed through upon.
- Ms. Singla: She completely agrees with Mr. Steele. This is a step in the right direction.
- Mr. Pittman: He feels that we’re in University Senate to be a voice of the students. He feels that we need to support this because students would.
- President Scharer: There was an undergraduate who served on the board last year to help formulate this policy, Ms. Liz Hornikel. Furthermore, she would
encourage us to all read the report because it’ll answer many questions that we have. President Scharer will try to send it out to us through e-mail.
-Speaker Benson: Was Ms. Hornsby correct that University Senate has no authority over this policy. President Scharer believes that this is correct.
-Mr. Capone: Would we make a motion to support it?
-Mr. Steele: He motions for to encourage our 26 University Senators to take an individual position on the proposal tomorrow afternoon. It is seconded.

DISCUSSION:
-Mr. King: What would our vote actually represent? Our vote would have a bearing on the vote tomorrow. He’s not in support of the policy recommendations at this moment. The motion on the floor is for USG members of University Senate to not vote as a block tomorrow.
-Mr. Rothacker: He feels that we should really vote as a block. The vote is not putting the policy in effect, it’s just showing that we support it.
-Mr. Reed: We are here to represent the students’ best interests, not the faculty’s best interests.
-Ms. Innes: She does not agree with Mr. Rothacker because not everyone is of the same opinion on the policy recommendations.
-Mr. Luby: Whether we pass a motion in favor of it or against it, our vote will not really have any bearing on the policy. He calls the motion to question. It is approved.

WE GO INTO A HAND VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSES

7:24, EXECUTIVE REPORT
-Last night, the IFC and PHA installed their new officers and Senator Wiseman was just installed as PHA President.
-Furthermore, there was an e-mail sent out to all the undergraduates concerning the McHale Report. We are tracking the responses. Please respond to it.
-Honorary Night is tomorrow night at 6:30 in the Main Lounge.
-Bridging the Gap is THIS SATURDAY MORNING, PLEASE GO TO IT. You can register online at [www.usg.osu.edu](http://www.usg.osu.edu).
-Results of the freshman parking survey were put together by the Policy Committee. Some of the conclusions are:
  -There is less freshman parking on campus now.
  -The number of students staying on campus has not changed, which was one of the mission’s of the no freshman parking policy.
  -They found that OUAB is used regularly, COTA is used by around 25% of the students, Explore Columbus is used by around 35% of the student body, and 71% of the students don’t really support the creation of a student vehicle network.
-Information Sessions for Spring Quarter elections are next week and it is required that you attend at least one session. All the information is now online.

QUESTIONS:
-Mr. Samuels: Are we planning a Joint Senate-Cabinet Meeting or a President’s State of the University? President Scharer will work on getting those on the calendar. Mr. King would like to discuss THE UNDERGROUND and our Memorandum of Understanding with them. The State of the University will be on
Tuesday, February 21st at the Conference Theatre on 7pm. Should we encourage our attendance.

-Mr. Sprinkle: When will the Memorandum of Understanding between THE UNDERGROUND and USG be signed? It will be signed after February 11th. It’ll be signed by President Scharer, Mr. Matt Monta, Mr. Isaac Wu, and Ms. Tracy Stuck.

-Mr. Baker: When are we having another Student Forum with the President and Provost? There is not one planned right now but they will work on it.

COMMITTEE/CONSTITUENCY REPORTS
-P&G met last week and endorsed both candidates for the Judicial Panel.
-Budget & Finance met Monday and met 38-B-19. They failed the bill.

-Mr. King: What’s our budget left right now? There is around $20,000 left right now. We have spent about half of our budget right now.

-Mr. Reed: He attended the Anonymous Reporting Line Advisory Committee yesterday. The Anonymous Reporting Line is still on schedule to begin on March 1st. Right now, people are going under training for it. They also edited some of the guiding principles of the resource. Furthermore, the Oversight Committee is being planned right now. Hopefully, there will be undergraduate representation on it.

-Mr. King: The majority of South Campus Senators got together with Campus Partners to discuss on-campus safety issues. They’ll be discussing ways to make campus safer.

-Ms. Lockshin: Did you discuss the policy substation? No, that was not discussed.

-Ms. Singla: Student Affairs met this week and approved Resolution 38-R-49. Furthermore, they are discussing creating continuity between each year’s senate (possibly creating senate binders or having a training seminar for new senators with old senators). Furthermore, this coming Friday, the IAA and AAA are having a great event in the Union (for more information, please let Ms. Singla know).

Speaker Benson: We do keep senate binders and are required to write transition reports.

-Ms. Singla: Should you have received transition reports? It might not have been required last year by the Speaker.

-Mr. Rothacker: He received an e-mail from the SSDP about HEMPFEST. Are we working on that issue? Mr. Dodovich requested a budget from them.

-Mr. Cropcho: He’ll help with the HEMPFEST issue.

-Mr. Fogt: He met with Sean McLaughlin to talk about commuter issues. They don’t really know who commuters are. They’re working on a campaign to identify off-campus and commuter students.

OLD BUSINESS
38-R-49, A Resolution to Support the Creation of a Policy for Excused Religion Absences, MR. DODOVICH
-Currently, there is no policy concerning religious absences and each year, students must deal with holidays of Yom Kippur or other holidays and having to deal with class conflicts and exams. DISCUSSION:

-Mr. Luby: He strongly disagrees with this resolution.
Ms. Hoque: She strongly supports the resolution.

Ms. Singla: This resolution came out of the Policy Committee and it came out of professors and TAs who were unwilling to allow students to make up work or exams for religious absences. Furthermore, the issue was brought up that this could lead to fraud but it was decided and agreed upon that this policy would not be advertised amongst the students. Instead, it’d just be given to professors for their knowledge and guidance and there’s nothing there right now.

Mr. King: He strongly supports this resolution as well. Why would we not support students to get a day off?

Mr. Luby: He does not believe that Mr. King’s remarks accurately reflect his comments.

Mr. Pittman: He calls to question and it is seconded.

WE GO INTO A ROLL CALL VOTE AND THE RESOLUTION PASSES 31-1-2

38-R-50, A Resolution to Correct a Typographical Error in the Constitution, MR. DODOVICH

There’s not much of an issue here. We just need to change the error.

-It’s motioned to call to question and seconded.

WE GO INTO A VOICE VOTE AND THE RESOLUTION PASSES

38-R-68, A Resolution to recommend Judicial Panel Justices, VICE PRESIDENT KREINER

-Vice President Kreiner would like for us to approve the nominations of Mr. Ryan Mason and Ms. Hannah Smith for the Judicial Panel. Mr. Mason has a lot of experience and strongly believes in enforcing the rules.

MR. RYAN MASON:

-He has a great deal of experience working in law enforcement and in interpreting rules and regulations. He believes that ethics is a cornerstone of public service. Our experience right now is the cornerstone and foundation of our professional careers and our adherence to professional ethics.

QUESTIONS:

-Mr. Fogt: Have you ever been involved with USG or USG elections? He has never been involved with USG or USG Elections. While some may find that to be a detriment to his service, he feels that it is a positive because it deters any possible bias and keeps him impartial.

-Mr. King: Are you involved in any organizations that are affiliated with USG or have any political background? In terms of everything he has done in Ohio government, everything has a political background to it. He has no direct connections to USG.

-Mr. Reed: Have you read the USG Constitution and Bylaws? Yes, he has. He has not memorized the bylaws or constitution but believes that he is capable of interpreting them.

DISCUSSION:

-Mr. Dodovich: The way that the resolution is written, we’d have to approve both nominees, including Ms. Smith who is not here
tonight. We could separate the nominations but Vice President Kreiner could also speak generally about Ms. Smith.

VICE PRESIDENT KREINER: He discusses Ms. Hannah Smith and also mentions that he made it very clear to look for candidates who had no prior experience with USG.

-Ms. Hannah Smith is Rank 2 Political Science major. She has a deep interest in politics and believes in ethics. She is a page in the Statehouse and has been a Campaign Consultant for State Rep. Keith Faber. Furthermore, she is involved in Ohio Mock Trial as a senior in high school. Vice President Kreiner takes the blame for her absence this evening. She would like to make the election process fair and legal. QUESTIONS:

-Mr. Marconi: He motions to separate the nominations and it is seconded. The motion is not recognized.

-Mr. Capone: Why are we not considering the third nomination this evening? That nomination was tabled during Policy & Governance last week and will be taken up by them tomorrow evening.

-Mr. King: He feels that Ms. Smith is an excellent candidate for the position and that she was present at the committee meeting.

-President Scharer: Did she win the endorsement of P&G? Yes, unanimously.

DISCUSSION:

-Mr. Howell: He strongly believes that we should support her.

-Ms. Innes: She absolutely agrees with Mr. Howell.

-Ms. Seger: They tabled the third candidate because they want to get to know him better. She feels that it would be a good idea to pass Mr. Mason and Ms. Smith together.

-Vice President Kreiner: She is extremely professional and passionate in everything that she does. He is really looking forward to the opportunity to have her serve.

-Mr. Steele: It seems to be the precedent that the candidates are expected to show up to the main senate meeting and present themselves.

-Mr. Noon: He agrees with Mr. Steele. He does not want to pass a candidate that the general senate body has not seen.

-Mr. Reed: We did approve appointees to EGB without talking to them.

-President Scharer: Many cabinet director nominees did not go through P&G. We should trust our committee work.

-Mr. King: This candidate was thoroughly reviewed by the committee.

-Mr. Rothacker: P&G did pass her unanimously through committee.
We move into a hand vote and the resolution passes 21-5-4
Mr. Ryan Mason and Ms. Hannah Smith are now justices

38-R-71, A Resolution to Complete the Independent Officer Selection Committee,
Vice President Kreiner
-The clerk according to our bylaws needs to be approved by our IOSC. This, however, was not done last spring. There is one member still involved in the IOSC, Mr. Rickie Yeager, and he would stay on the committee. He would like to appoint Senator Dodovich and Mr. Eric Little, a current and very senior-member of the Judicial Panel Justice to the IOSC so that they can select a Clerk. DISCUSSION:
  -Mr. Sprinkle: Have you looked at any of the other justices for this position? He picked Mr. Little because he’s the most senior member of the Judicial Panel.
  -Mr. Howell: Calls to question and it’s seconded.
We go into a hand vote and the resolution passes 21-2-1.

Announcements
-Mr. Howell: P&G will be having its meeting tomorrow at 6 in Scarlet Suite U. They’ll be discussing the construction of the Tuition Commission. If there are any recommendations for the commission, please let Mr. Howell know.
-Mr. Luby: The SENTINEL is coming out on Friday. Furthermore, he needs an alternate tomorrow for University Senate.
-Ms. Hoque: Taste of OSU is Friday night.
-Ms. Yeh: She and Mr. Samuels need alternates for University Senate. Furthermore, Mirrors is having their annual Charity Ball next weekend. Tickets are $12 and it’s semi-formal.
-Mr. Rothacker: Mr. Matt Monta will be playing at BW3s on Friday.
-Ms. Singla: BRIDGING THE GAP IS THIS SATURDAY AND PLEASE GO AND BRING YOUR ORGANIZATIONS THERE AS WELL. IT’S GOING TO BE AN AMAZING EVENT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
-Mr. Dodovich: There was a positive editorial today in THE LANTERN about EGB Bylaw Reform. It is a great testament to all the work that we did last week.
-Mr. Knoepfler: There will be a University Senate meeting tomorrow from 3:30-5:30 in Drinko Hall, Room 130. YOU MUST ATTEND OR HAVE AN ALTERNATE.
-Mr. Samuels: We will be filling five senate vacancies next week but still have more vacancies. If you have anyone who may be interested in the other vacancies, please let Mr. Samuels know.
-Speaker Benson: We will have a bill next week to subsidize the transportation for regional campus senators to get to Main Campus on a weekly basis. Furthermore, congratulations to Vice President Kreiner for the successful process on approving Judicial Panel nominees.
Senator of the week is Mr. Larry King

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 pm
Meeting Minutes submitted by Eric A. Samuels, Diversity-at-large Senator