SECRETARY’S REPORT NO. 15, January 25, 2006
REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE USG SENATE

The Student Senate met in Regular Session on January 25, 2006 at 6:30 in the Ohio Union, Grey Suite K. Speaker of the Senate Nick Benson presided.

Present: 39  Absent: 8  Alternates: 3

Ahern  Anderson  Baker  Benson
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Bhatt (A)  Brin  Bullard  Capone
Cropcho  Denning  Dodovich  Evangelista  Fogt

Fuquen  Hoque  Howell  Hornsby  Innes

King (A)  Klemay  Knoepfler  Lawson  Leland

Lockshin  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

6:36, SWEARING IN OF NEW ALTERNATE, SPEAKER BENSON

OPEN FORUM FOR THE PUBLIC

-Ms. Julia Leb: She is here to request that we approve the funding for the Hilliard Cares Adopt-a-School program. This is a wonderful program and one that deserves our support.

-Ms. Sara Feldenkris, Deputy Director of Governmental Relations: GR has four major programs for the rest of the school year and would like a senate liaison for each one:
  -Gubernatorial Primary Debate Panel (Mr. Martin)
  -Senate Primary Debate Panel (Mr. Sprinkle)
  -City Council Panel Discussion on Off-Campus Safety (Mr. Knoepfler)
  -Get out the Vote Initiative (Ms. Singla)

If you’re also interested in helping out, please contact Ms. Feldenkris at feldenkris.1@osu.edu or Mr. Ryan Fournier at Fournier.14@osu.edu. Also, thanks for your help last night with the Buckeye State Legislative Dinner

EXECUTIVE REPORT

-Winter retreat update: Thanks to those who attended (4 senators!)
-GR Dinner: It went extremely well last night
-Taft's State of the State Address: It was this afternoon and Governor Taft talked a lot about education and the “Stem Initiative,” to give tax credits to those who graduate in science, engineering, and mathematics.
-Underground MOU: We’re working on finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding
-Sportmanship Council: Stay tuned to a more detailed report.
-BOT applications: due Thurs Jan 26
-IUC Participation, Think Ohio: IUC is the Inter-University Council and the University of Toledo has come up with an idea of “Think Ohio” to rally for more higher education support. They would like for us to pass a resolution about their purpose.

-USG/CGS/IPC Safety Initiative: We’re getting the ball rolling on this to see how we could make the off-campus community safer.

-Ohio Northern MOVE Conference: If you’re interested in participating, please let President Scharer know.

-Greek: Working with Greek Councils on new Greek 101 program.

-Diversity: Working on Bridging the Gap, continued work with Multi Cultural Center

-Government Relations: Completed Legislative Dinner

-Interns: separating into 6 committees to determine and establish upcoming projects

-Member Development: completed Winter Retreat, working on the office

-Off-Campus: Rock the Block planning, Yellow Card is confirmed

-Outreach: Ordering promotional items, campustrades.osu.edu promotion, Buckeyes on Bourbon Street

-Policy: Academic Enrichment Grants, Text book prices and syllabi posting on Buckeye Link

-Projects: OSU Loves you Day planning, working with Outreach

-Residence Halls: USG Promotion activities in Residence Halls, legal file sharing project

COMMITTEE/CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

-Mr. Howell: P & G met last night and passed every resolution with a few amendments. Mr. Dodovich is the new Vice Chair. Furthermore, Mr. Howell met with the University Senate Government Relations Committee and would like to report that SB 24, the Ohio Academic Freedom Bill is burying his bill but universities are going to make students more aware of the grievance process.

-Mr. Luby: B & F met on Monday and changed 38-B-14 slightly. With 38-B-15, they changed the request of $1300 to $450; 38-B-11 passed without a change; 38-B-12 was reduced from $4100 to $1750; and 38-B-16 was knocked down by $100.

-Mr. Capone: He has joined the University Area Commission in the past few months and is serving admirably. University Gateway would like to build more parking garages on 15th and Lane. QUESTIONS:

   -Mr. Samuels: He has heard that they want to build a bus depot on Lane? It’s not a done deal in any way.

-Mr. Samuels: He held a great meeting with Dr. Allison Snow, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, last week and put his head together with Dr. Snow for some
great ideas. She will probably be coming to speak to us next week about our ideas concerning undergraduate research.

6:48, OLD BUSINESS

38-R-44, A Resolution to Improve USG Candidate Debates, SPEAKER BENSON
-Ms. Innes: They have amended the resolution in a few ways:
  -They amended the number of debates from three to two.
SPEAKER BENSON: What this would do would be to change a few ways that Presidential/Vice Presidential Debates. A few times last year, there were people not on EGB who did not moderate the debates. Speaker Benson would like for the debates to only be moderated by the EGB Director or EGB members so that there’s no chance for a conflict of interest. Furthermore, in the past, vice presidential candidates didn’t really have to speak at all. This resolution would have one debate where the vice presidential candidates would debate each other for half of the debate. Lastly, the resolution would include a panel of judges to evaluate candidate debates on substance and style. This has been done in the past and has been an effective measure of who won or lost the debate.
QUESTIONS:
  -Mr. Samuels: Is it really relevant to have the panel of judges evaluate style? He feels that it is important for the presidential and vice presidential debates to be poised because they will be dealing with university administrators and faculty.
  -Mr. Noon: Do you foresee any restrictions as to who could be a judge? That would be to the discretion of EGB.
  -Mr. Marconi: Do you really feel that we could get faculty members to invest time in this? It has been done in the past.
  -Mr. Rothacker: His only concern is with the idea of having a celebrity personality to moderate a debate. He is concerned about spending money on getting a celebrity personality to moderate the debate. Speaker Benson feels that a celebrity moderator could be a draw for more students to attend. EGB has an additional $1,000 to get somebody for this through a speaker’s fee.
WE TAKE A VOICE VOTE AND IT PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

38-R-45, A Resolution to Approve EGB Appointments, Mr. Dodovich
Mr. Dodovich: He would also like for us to add Ms. Vanessa McDaniel to the list of EGB Committee Members. Each member is qualified and should be approved.
DISCUSSION:
  -Mr. Howell: This passed unanimously through P & G.
WE TAKE A VOICE VOTE AND IT PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

38-R-46, A Resolution to Amend Section II.A.9 of the EGB Bylaws, Mr. Dodovich
-Ms. Innes: They have amended the resolution slightly in committee. The amendment will be forward to Secretary Samuels.
Mr. Dodovich: Currently, it says in the bylaws that all election e-mails must be sent from a university account. This was set up to monitor fraudulent e-mail but does not believe that it is effective.
-President Scharer: She feels that one of the main reasons behind this was for OIT to be able to monitor election e-mails. If it’s sent through Gmail or another account, then there’s no way for this to be checked. Mr. Dodovich responds that he still gets spam on his university account. However, OIT could track it. Mr. Dodovich did not check with them.

-Speaker Benson: OIT does not check election-related e-mails. They only track e-mails for a commercial purpose. He does not feel that this would apply.

-Mr. Dodovich: He does have the 100% support of the EGB Director.

-Ms. Allie: Concerning OSU’s Spam Policy, OSU does monitor spam but you do have to go to the student services website and the help desk to turn it on. It is a quite complicated process.

-Mr. Kreiner: He feels that this is okay, however, what did Mr. Dodovich mean about an Outlook account? Mr. Dodovich responds. Would people have to set up an Outlook account? Couldn’t they just set up a Webmail account? Outlook is just an option that could be set up but it’s unnecessary to do so if you already have another account.

-Mr. Knoepfler: Point of Information, if you have your e-mail forwarded to a Gmail account, does that mean that you can’t send e-mail from your Webmail account? We believe that you can.

-Mr. Rothacker: When you have an e-mail sent to your OSU account and you have your OSU account forwarded to another account, and then it will go to the account. When you have your personal Outlook account at home, any e-mail in Webmail will be deleted from Webmail once you open up Outlook at home.

-Mr. Reed: Isn’t pre-campaigning defined as before they have gotten support and started to gather resources? If you’re making them set up an e-mail account before pre-campaigning, then that seems like a hassle.

-Ms. Wiseman: She also believes that this is hassle. This could be a concern for the student body because people might not be able to get e-mails.

-Mr. Marconi: Motions to refer it back to committee. It is seconded and is approved without debate.

38-R-46 GOES BACK TO COMMITTEE

38-B-11, A Bill to Support Adopt-a-School Tutoring, Mr. Knoepfler
-Adopt-a-School is a program where OSU students tutor students at Hilliard Elementary School. This is a wonderful program and we should help to support it. This program applies to everyone’s constituents. Every quarter, over 150 people volunteer their time for this program, coming from all over campus. They’re basically asking for money for transportation.

-Mr. Samuels: Isn’t Adopt-a-School also done at other schools? Yes but they’re done during the week and people can walk to those schools.

-Mr. Samuels: What is ineffective about the transportation that they use right now? They would just like have funding for more CABS buses to be used this quarter.

-Mr. Dodovich: Calls to question. It is seconded.

WE GO INTO A VOICE VOTE AND 38-B-11 PASSES
38-B-12, A Bill to Allocate Funding for Men of Vision, Ms. Singla
-For this program, Men of Vision would like our help for their tutoring and mentoring program. This is an African American group and they do a lot of tutoring in the inner-city and for disadvantaged African Americans. DISCUSSION:
  -Mr. Fogt: What type of mentoring do they do? Ms. Singla is not sure but she knows that they do wonderful work.
  -Mr. Marconi: The person who gave the presentation on Monday did a wonderful job.
  -Mr. Samuels: The last whereas clause talks about how the organization does programming for African American Retention but then why is this funding going towards high school mentoring? They do a lot of other programs that work on retention issues.
WE TAKE A VOICE VOTE AND 38-B-12 PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

38-B-13, A Bill to Support the College of Humanities Career Night, Ms. Lockshin
-This is a really wonderful and important program for the College of Humanities. Humanities students don’t have a set career path and it’s really important for alumni to help educate humanities students about what they can actually do with their humanities degree. DISCUSSION:
  -Mr. Noon: Is this program done with the help of Career Services? It is only done through the College of Humanities.
  -Ms. Singla: This event is phenomenal. She has gone in the past and really believes that we should fund this program.
WE TAKE A VOICE VOTE AND 38-B-13 PASSES

38-B-14, A Resolution to Approve the Budget Adjustment, President Scharer
-President Scharer and Treasurer Schenz have cut the budget from last Autumn Quarter and have taken funds from line-items that were not completely used last year towards better programs, some of which President Scharer hits upon:
  -AIDS TESTING ($2000): This is partnership between USG and the Student Wellness Center to educate the student body about AIDS.
  -Policy Natural Survey ($2000): This is about how USG and the student body should communicate with each other.
-A total of $17,147 is being reallocated.
DISCUSSION:
  -Mr. Brin: What went wrong with the Bike Racks on High and what happened with the senate poster? With the Bike Racks on High, USG realized that the Off-Campus could not handle the project with its current manpower. Concerning the senate posters, they’re still considering doing a senate poster but it would come out of Printing Costs.
  -Ms. Singla: Is it really worth it to do a senate poster at this point? We tried to do it earlier but didn’t have all the photos. We’re still considering doing it.
WE TAKE A VOICE VOTE AND IT PASSES
38-B-15, A Bill to Support OSU Hillel’s Alternative Spring Break, Mr. Samuels
OSU Hillel will be taking nine students to the Gulf Coast over spring break to do service. USG would support nine $50 subsidies to help defray costs of the trip.
WE TAKE A VOICE AND IT PASSES

38-B-16, A Bill to Approve the USG Diversity Committee’s Bridging the Gap Conference, Mr. Samuels
This is the fourth year of the bridging the gap program to bridge the gap between different programs and clubs around campus and to come together and meet at the Hale Center. The bill has been submitted because the budget is greater than $1500.
DISCUSSION:
Mr. Dodovich: Did anyone come in and speak on the budget from the diversity committee? Yes, the Diversity Committee’s interns came.
WE TAKE A VOICE AND IT PASSES

NEW BUSINESS
-38-R-47, 38-R-48, and 38-B-17 are all referred to committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS
-Ms. Stephanie Gent: You no longer need to send Ms. Gent minutes. Please send them now to Ms. Amy McGrapth at amgrapth@studentaffairs.osu.edu. Furthermore, all meeting minutes and calendar schedules should be sent to Ms. McGrapth in the name of transparency. Ms Gent will send her e-mail address to Speaker Benson.
-Mr. Marconi: Thank you to the Budget & Finance Committee for all their hard work and congratulations to Speaker Benson on his two-month anniversary.
-Ms. Singla: The Asian American Studies Committee is having a reading event next Wednesday at 7pm at Kuhn concerning Japanese Internment during WWII. If you’re interested in getting involved, please contact Ms. Singla.
-Mr. Howell: Policy & Governance will be meeting tomorrow and there will be a full slate of things to be discussed. Please come tomorrow. Ms. Ghandakly will be coming to Senate soon with EGB amendments.
-Mr. Knapp: If you have project ideas or would like help on projects, please let Mr. Knapp know. Some new/current projects concern a youth hostel, left-handed desks, a way to unify Fees & Deposits into one office, and the GEC Reform.
-Mr. Baker: Please don’t schedule committee meetings too late.
-Mr. Wireko: He would like to congratulate Ms. Wiseman to her election as PHA President.
-Mr. Knoepfier: If you’re interested in University Senate seats, please let him know.
-Ms. Seger: She would like to have a meeting for all of the off-campus senators so that we could become more unified. Please talk to her about this at seger.13@osu.edu.
-Mr. Dodovich: He feels that there was some confusion about his resolution this evening. He will be hanging around after the meeting if you’d like to talk to him about it.
-Mr. Samuels:
  -Please come on time.
  -We may have a senate social activity on February 4th in the home of Senator Capone
- We are working hard to fill senate vacancies. We have candidates for Business, Off-Campus, and Pharmacy and will probably just go right ahead with them. If you have candidates for other seats that are vacant, please let Secretary Samuels know.

-Speaker Benson:
- There will be New Senator Orientation this Friday at 1:30 in the USG Office, 201 Ohio Union.
- SENATOR OF THE WEEK IS MR. MATT DODOVICH

Meeting Adjourned at 7:39pm
Minutes Submitted by Eric A. Samuels, Diversity-at large Senator