SECRETARY’S REPORT NO. 2, MAY 12, 2010
REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE USG SENATE

The Student Senate met in Regular Session on May 12, 2010 at 6:32 pm in the Senate Chamber Speaker of the Senate Andrew Mikac presided.

Present: 37  Absent: 0  Alternates: 4

Antani  Brahms  Bruner  Christobek  Collins  DeDonato  DeFrance  Duggineni  English  Farinacci  Ferguson –Alt

Fitzpatrick  Flis – Alt (Kurt Gildenmeister)  Gusching  Holmes  Homan  Howard  Hutchison  Ingram – Alt (Tracee Huffman)  Kedia  Liles  Mbagwu – Alt (Kristin Reeve)  McCullough  McFarland  Messenger  Mikac  Nemire  O'Connell  Pandey  Perkins  Reu  Schaffer  Schmitt  Shoub  Stanley  Smidt  Tichenor  Tomack  Wurster

Senators and Senate Alternates were sworn in.

Approval of the previous Secretary’s minutes
Reinhard: I move for unanimous consent.
Messenger: Second
The minutes were passed with unanimous consent.

Open Forum for the Public
Anna Yonas & Matt Couch, on the University Structure: Board of Trustees is the highest university governance body. They’re appointed by the governor, and include Alex Swain as undergraduate representative. Then President (Dr. Gordon Gee), and University Senate. Of the 140 seats on University Senate, 26 are undergraduates, one of whom is the vice-president and the others are generally students. Students serve on most University Senate Committees. Athletic Council deals with the Athletic Department [kamrass.2@osu.edu]. Council on Academic Affairs deals with curriculum changes, and Council on Enrollment and Student Progress deals with student enrollment and how
students move through the university [usmani.4@osu.edu]. Council on Libraries & Information Technology handles computers, e-learning, and libraries, and COPE analyzes the physical space of the university, and physical access in the university to enhance student experience [christobek.3@osu.edu]. Council on Student Affairs allocates student activity fee, and oversees all Student Life issues [yonas.4@osu.edu]. Diversity deals with diversity & minority affairs work, including enrollment [beall.24@osu.edu]. Fiscal Committee deals with investments and return rates on those investments [anthony.122@osu.edu]. Government Affairs meets irregularly but deals with legislation affecting Ohio State, including the budget [usmani.4@osu.edu]. Research Committee fosters scholarly research and evaluates research centers at Ohio State [reeve.20@osu.edu].

Antani: do students serve on the Honorary Degrees Committee?
Yonas: No, they do not.

Mikac: Return these committee applications to the basket or to James by May 21.

McFarland: Who do we interview with?

Mikac: We don’t plan on doing interviews, except as a precaution. It would be with Mikac, Pyle, or Stallings.

Yonas: Also there is a Steering Committee, which will be composed of Micah Kamrass and Andrew Mikac. Tracee can you explain Rules Committee?

Huffman: Rules Committee oversees all university rules, from the largest rules stating that there is a university that is comprised of the following parts, all the way down to rules as small as the length of leashes of dogs walking on the Oval. It’s a good committee if you like grammar and you like rules. This year was a lot of semester rules changes, and next year will focus a lot on Arts & Sciences restructuring. [huffman.570@osu.edu]

Yonas: It’s important to wear appropriate clothing when having meetings with higher-level officials. Business casual is okay in for low-level meetings, be well-dressed when meeting with senior leadership.

Couch: I’m Matt Couch, Associate Director of the Ohio Union. (Jokes about how young he looks). I’m an advisor for USG, and should be your first contact when you need help getting started on a project. [couch.28@osu.edu] I can help you find the person at the university you need to contact. My strength is event planning, but I’m knowledgeable on Student Life. I’m also a part of the approval process for expenses. (he explains “Steakgate” of 2001).

Yonas: On that topic, let’s talk about the press. If the Lantern asks you a question, you should forward it to the Press Secretary, Jill Lockhart [lockhart.79@osu.edu]. The Speaker of the Senate is the official spokesperson of the Senate. Be careful to keep a papertrail, or else you might get misquoted like Zach Usmani.
Yonas: Know the difference between cc and bcc.

Mikac: If you ever meet with an administrator about USG stuff, MAKE SURE TO cc: myself [mikac.2@osu.edu], and Laura Christobek at [christobek.3@osu.edu]

Yonas: Send professional emails, not “Hey Dr. Gee”. Get gmail, also don’t put too long of an email signature. By the way, Gmail is a way of life for USGers, you are strongly advised to get it if you don’t have it already.

Couch: Send thank-you emails after your meetings.

McFarland: Also send it the thank-you email as soon as possible, within 24 hours.

Couch: The Student Activity Fee has been around since 2003. Before the fee, there wasn’t an involved, exciting culture full of events that there is now. It was a $15 fee in 2003, and this Winter it was raised to $25 to catch up with inflation and keep a high caliber of events. The largest percentage (52.75%) goes to Ohio Union Activities Board. Overall, the Student Activity Fee generates 4 million dollars, and 8.5% of the fee goes to the student governments (they had received 10% prior to the increase, but decided they wanted to maintain the same level of funding rather than increase proportionally). Student organizations can apply for funding from CSA. You will be approached by one of the 993 student orgs asking for funding, and it

Yonas: the 12.75% was meant to be the main source of funding for student organizations, and the student government’s 8.5% was supposed to be for student government initiatives to benefit the student body at large. Remind student orgs to apply for CSA for their primary source of funding. Also, when you pass a budget, remember that it’s the students’ fees that they pay each quarter.

Couch: Remember that you are not accountable to any administrator, that you represent students and are accountable to them.

Antani: What’s the breakdown between IPC, CGS, and USG for the 8.5%?

Usmani: 70% goes to USG.

McFarland: What percentage of students use the discount tickets?

Couch: I don’t know how many unique students, but that’s one of the things that is used more by graduate and professional students than other portions of the student activity fee.

Antani: Who decides on programming funds?
Couch: CSA Allocations sub-committee reviews them. Undergrads, grads, professional students, and faculty are on that committee. Operating funds are reviewed after the fact, and are approved as long as the expenses are eligible.

DeFrance: What are the programs that increased proportionally the most during the fee increase:

Couch: Discount Tickets, Buck-I-Serv both grew significantly. Signature Events are new, and it was to establish formal traditions at Ohio State like Homecoming, Buckeyethon, Taste of OSU and allow them stable funding.

Yonas: These events are student-run, student-led, also go through training. New events can apply to join the signature events.

Couch: Couch sensitivity training: a sofa has four legs, and a “Couch” has two. That’s the difference. A couple years ago, when students were burning couches, and I was a little worried.

Allyn Checovich was on Open Forum of the Public, but will come next week.
In her place, Mikac, on the budget: We had $10,000 at the beginning of the quarter, our new total is $4,738.63 if all outstanding receipts are turned in.

Executive Report
Kamrass & Pyle: To go along with Yonas, you are allowed to say what you want as a student as a senator, but it’s important for a unified message and so it would be good to channel these media requests through Andrew Mikac.
We had 102 applications, we will interview all of them. Interviews should be done on Friday, and it should be in new business for next week.
We had Rock the Block this Saturday. Congressman Mary Jo Kilroy was here, we learned Ohio Union logistics since it was the first time it was held here.
We held Office Hours on the Oval this week. It went well.
We have appointments in the agenda today: Laura Christobek, Lindsay Stallings, Brett Chessin. Next week will probably be directors, and the next week associate directors.
Fill out a university committee appointment application by May 21.
OSU Votes is a voter-registration program at Ohio State. In 2008, it was housed in USG as part of Government Relations Committee. Last year it was a joint partnership, and the board decided last week to dissolve the group. One of the biggest issues facing students in the coming years is the state budget, so it’s important to register students. We will be bringing OSU Votes into USG for the coming year.
The Legal Services Clinic will be discussed at Board of Trustees tomorrow. It was a USG initiative from two years ago. It’s an opt-out fee, but it’s basically a small law firm to cover students needs with landlords, misdemeanors, but there’s some exceptions.
The Ohio Union Off-Campus Bash is tomorrow from 4:30pm to 7pm.
The banquet and roast are May 25th, you’re all welcome to come.
Cabinet is starting up in the coming weeks. Also, expect a budget from me soon.

Antani: How will students be informed that they can opt out, if the Legal fee is passed?

Kamrass: It will likely be like Health Insurance. Also, students will have membership on the advisory board of the fee so they can express their concerns.

**Committee Report**

Christobek, for President’s Council on Sustainability: We talked about the removal of the 200-year-old sycamore trees by the medical center to extend Herrick Drive. The current plan is to save the healthier tree and use “green” materials to help keep the trees from dying. We also set aside funding for projects, including $5,000 for a inter-dorm competition on North Campus to see the impact that the installation that green devices can have on a dorm. Any building that we’re building or renovating must be LEED-silver certified, so Project 1 (Medical Center expansion) will be LEED-silver certified, and possibly gold certified by the time it’s finished in 2013. If you’re interested in these issues, or know someone who is, contact me – christobek.3@osu.edu.

**Old Business**

43-R-1 (Mikac) *A Resolution to Approve the USG Senate Committee Appointments*

Mikac: These are the committees to which you are assigned, and who your committee chairs are.
Antani: Move for unanimous consent.
Reinhard: Second
43-R-1 Passed with unanimous consent.

**New Business**

43-B-1 (Mikac) *A Bill to Support the Ohio State Crew Club’s ACRA Championship Trip*
43-R-2 (Farinacci) *A Resolution to Amend the USG Constitution*
43-R-3 (Farinacci) *A Resolution to Amend the USG Bylaws*
43-R-4 (Kamrass) *A Resolution to Appoint Laura Christobek as Chief of Staff*
43-R-5 (Kamrass) *A Resolution to Appoint Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor to the President*
43-R-6 (Fitzpatrick) *A Resolution to Amend the Standing Rules of the Senate*
43-R-7 (Fitzpatrick) *A Resolution Supporting a Single College of the Arts and Sciences*
43-R-8 (Fitzpatrick) *A Resolution to Amend the Standing Rules of the Senate*
43-R-9 (Yonas) *A Resolution to Approve the USG Treasurer*
43-R-10 (Kamrass) *A Resolution to Approve the Quarterly Budget Structure*
43-R-11 (Fitzpatrick) *A Resolution to*
43-B-2 (DeFrance) *A Bill to Support Circle K International at OSU*

Mikac: Make sure to send your thoughts to Nick Messenger, and read through all of this legislation. P&G will meet on 6pm on Sunday.
DeFrance: If something is written in committee, would it go in old business or new business the next Wednesday?

Fitzpatrick: You can submit something directly into committee, and it will go to old business.

Hosa: I move for 43-B-3 to be entered into new business.

Mikac: If I am correct on your intentions, “Move for immediate consideration” would be quicker.

Hosa: Okay.

Mikac: This will need a 2/3 vote. Hosa will discuss the motion.

Christobek: Why is this time sensitive?

Hosa: We need time to cancel the event.

Alternate Reeve: I yield my time to Kevin Flynn.

Flynn: We need more than two days to know whether or not we have the funding to bring Steve Moakler to campus.

DeFrance: So you wouldn’t have the budget to hold the event otherwise?

Hosa: No.

Huffman: Is there a budget? Oh, it’s on the back.

With 34 “aye” votes, the bill is moved into immediate consideration.

Hosa, as sponsor: Derby Days is our philanthropy event for our foundation, Children’s Miracle Network. The event will feature performer Steve Moakler.

Kedia: Who is Steve Moakler?

Hosa: yield to Flynn:

Flynn: he’s like John Mayer

Hutchison: Is this the first time?

Flynn: We’ve been doing this for several years. We’re hoping a big attendance.

Hutchison: Who is this event aimed at?

Flynn: predominantly a Greek event.

Fitzpatrick: How much funding left?

Mikac: We have $4,738 left, not including the other bills in new business.

Flynn: The total cost is $2,700.

Fitzpatrick: Where’s the other $500 coming from?

Flynn: We’d probably raise funding from around chapter to cover any extra expenses.

Pandey: In the past, how much money have you raised for philanthropy?

Hosa: We usually charge $150 for sororities to come, but this year we’ve also done bar nights to raise money.

Farinacci: What is derby days? Is it open to non-greeks?

Flynn: we aren’t doing bar nights. it’s a free concert, and we’re accepting donations.

Duggeneni: What marketing efforts are you doing to get non-Greeks to attend?

Flynn: We’re working with the Union to promote the event, and we’ve been working on raising awareness on campus.
Reinhard: Where is this being held? Attendance.
Flynn: Sigma Chi house. We’re trying to get at least 500 people, and we’re getting a noise permit.
Hutchison: Any marketing efforts toward the dorms?
Flynn: We’re trying to target the bigger dorms.
Hutchison: How did you fund this last year?
Flynn: last year we tried to reimburse ourselves, but it didn’t work well. This year we’re trying to maximize our profits.
McFarland: How much did you raise last year, and attendance?
Flynn: Last year we had 200 people, and $2400 raised.
McFarland: What are you doing to raise money?
Flynn: probably selling food. we thought about selling Coke, but realized we aren’t allowed to do that.
Messenger: What makes this different than a regular party?
Flynn: alcohol.
Antani: will there be non-alcoholic drinks? and are you aware that we refund?
Flynn: As former Chair of B&F, I’m familiar with USG’s reimbursement process. There will be Coke and non-alcoholic drinks at the event.
Brahm: Withdrawn.
DeFrance: How would we amend this bill if desired?
Fitzpatrick: It’s amendable on the floor.
DeFrance: If we gave you an additional $25, would you agree to put fliers in all the dorms?
Flynn: If you give us money, we can rearrange the budget to make fliers. Generally Senate can’t go over $1500, so we could always cut some funding from elsewhere in the budget and put $25 toward marketing if you guys stipulate that. Of course, this isn’t in committee so it’s not subject to B&F bylaws.
Shoub: You’re $900 dollars short overall?
Flynn: We’re planning on covering DJfive50 and some food and drink.
Fitzpatrick: You have $4100 in costs, and if we give $1500 and CSA gives $1500, where is the rest of the money coming from?
Flynn: Sigma Chi is covering most of it.
Huffman: What date and time? And just so I understand, no alcohol is being served?
Flynn: May 21st at 6pm, on 15th and Summit. Yes, no alcohol served at the event.
Kedia: Move to cap the question list.
Fitzpatrick: Remember that these are the questions that we had because it skipped committee. Overall, I like the event. I’m concerned about the difference that USG is funding versus you are funding, considering that this is your philanthropy event.
McFarland: I like the idea of bringing somebody in about getting the word out about the event and your philanthropy. For you to just break even, you need to raise at least $3,000 to break even. My question is whether it will be that profitable.

Messenger: There’s discrepancies regarding the budget. If this passed and new business passed, we would only have ~$900 left. I move to refer to this to committee.

Antani: Time Sensitive

McCullough: This is a great event, and it’s time sensitive. We should decide tonight.

Fitzpatrick: I’m going to abstain, it should be looked at.

Messenger: I think this should be seen in committee to discuss our budget.

Guschin: Withdrawn.

Christobek: I agree with Nick, I don’t think it’s good for us to be talking about it in Budget & Finance, but because we’ve talked about it already we should be efficient and look at it now.

Duggenini: We have three weeks left for that $900, that seems reasonable.

Nemire: We’ve already had discussion. It’s not in B&F’s best interest to see this again.

Reeve: I call the question.

By a vote of 6-28-7, the motion to send the bill to Budget & Finance Committee fails.

Discussion of bill continues:

McCullough: I’m a huge supporter of Derby Days, and it would be great to have USG’s logo on it. Also, philanthropies aren’t only about raising money, but raising awareness too.

Hutchison: The philanthropy issue is important to think about – should we support them?

Tomack: We need to remember our constituents, the Off-Campus community and Greek Life.

Guschin: The audience is mostly Greek, and we need to remember all students. Also, bringing in singers and events is what OUAB does well, and we should leave it to them. I also have reservations about the iffy budget and the time-sensitivity of this.

Farinacci: Philanthropy events are typically funded by USG. We funded World’s Longest Barbeque last year the first time it was submitted.

Fitzpatrick: I have concerns about the event. I think location is an issue, even though it’s a great event and on-campus students will want to come, but they won’t want to walk that far especially from West Campus. I have problems with the budget, especially with the proportionality that USG is funding proportional to Sigma Chi. I move to strike $1500 from the resolved clause, changing it to $1000.

Schaffer: Doesn’t it need to be a specific amount, for something we’re funding?

Fitzpatrick: No, they have a flexible budget and can add or subtract as needed.

Reeve: We can cut the stage and noise permit, and that would make it $1,050.

Flynn: I agree with you about the noise permit being something I wouldn’t want USG funding.

Fitzpatrick: I accept it as friendly.
Mikac: It now will say $1050 instead of $1500, and will strike the noise permit and stage.
McCullough: It was great before, now it’s even better.
Duggenini: We should add $50 for advertising.
Kedia: no, I can tell them where free printing is on campus.
It was determined that Fitzpatrick’s amendment for $1050 in funding was seen as friendly by Hosa. The Senate moved back to discussion.
Messenger: is it a friendly amendment to raise it to $1200 to completely fund the entertainment?
Mikac: I rule that as something that needs a formal amendment, rather than the funding amount constantly increasing and decreasing.
Reeve: I yield to Flynn
Flynn: Coming up with that last $150 is a heck of a lot easier than coming up with $1200. The event can occur with $1050 in funding.
Hutchison: Like they said, the event will occur with $1050 or $1200. I’m more comfortable with the smaller amount.
Messenger: I think the points that were made are valid. I wanted to make it a flat $2700 (between CSA and USG funding) so we make sure Steve Moakler can come, but I’m okay with it either way.
McCullough: I want them to have either amount, but I don’t want the higher amount to hinder people from voting from this bill.
Huffman: I like this event, but I disagree with Messenger’s point. Either way, the event will occur with $1050 or $1200, and we shouldn’t pay for the full event. It’s their philanthropy, and making them work hard to raise the last bit of funds makes sense since they didn’t plan fully for the event in advance.
Smidt: I didn’t like the original amount, and I’m more comfortable with this amount.
McFarland: You guys won’t literally starve, right?
Flynn: We can fund the event with $1050 or $1200, but not for nothing.
McFarland: I want people to be cognizant of how many student orgs will be asking us for funding, and how we can’t just vote yes because we want to go home.
Kedia: I call the question.
Fitzpatrick: We can always make amendments to how much funding we have for student organizations, and it was Flynn last year who did that. I’m completely in support of the $1050.
Pandey: You said you’re still looking for more funds?
Flynn: Ya, but we haven’t heard back from them yet. One is from an alum, and would be in the form of food.
The Senate votes on the motion to amend the resolved clause to increase funding to $1200. Fitzpatrick calls for division. By a vote of 11- 22-2, the motion fails.
Mikac: Make sure to not repeat yourself.
Reeve: withdrawn
Duggenini: withdrawn.
Antani: Move to cap the speaker’s list.
DeFrance: In my time fundraising for student org events, never have I gone to a subjective funding source and pressured them by saying the event couldn’t have occurred without extra funding. I find it inappropriate.
Nemire: We need to outreach to off-campus students, not just the students in the dorms. This event is also not a philanthropy event, it’s a performance event.
Kedia: Make sure to advertise.
Huffman: I agree with DeFrance’s concerns
McFarland, Messenger, and McCullough withdraw.
Schaffer: It’s a huge event, we should support it.
Stanley: Withdrawn.
DeDonato: One of the cool things about this is that it’s a Greek event, but it’s not just Greek students that will be attending this event.
Fitzpatrick: Remember your constituency
Hosa: Let’s Vote!
By a vote of 26-3-6, 43-B-3

Announcements

Mikac: Senate Social May 21st at 10pm at 200 E. Oakland.
Stanley: Say Cheese is tonight.
No Senator of the week this week. We’re going to do it sporadically, when senators make a significant contribution.

Mikac: You see why we have these accommodations for time-sensitive resolutions, but as you can see New Business is the way to go. From here, the bill will go from me to Micah, who has seven days to veto it.

Reinhard: This Saturday at 6 in the Grand Ballroom there will be the EHE fashion show, with a musical performance Email me at reinhard.38@osu.edu for $10 pre-ordered tickets.

Reeve: On May 21st around 1-3pm, is Research Committee. If you want to see what it’s like, you can alternate for me reeve.10@osu.edu

Antani: Regarding what was said in Executive Report, the board of directors of OSU has not yet dissolved the group, there may be a resolution but they could continue to exist and USG would just duplicate efforts.

Christobek: We’ll organize the office on Saturday, May 22nd around 4pm.

Fitzpatrick: Meet the Deans is tomorrow at 6pm in the Cartoon room, it would count as a constituency event, and it’s a good time to talk to the deans of your college.
Monday, May 17th is Meet Gee in the Round Room.

Bruner: Buckeye Campaign against Suicide in the RPAC next Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:30pm.

Tichenor: Student Life members, meet me after the meeting.

Fitzpatrick: If you need alternates, ask me or someone else. Get alternates.

McFarland: Meet me after the meeting to pick a B&F time.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

Secretary’s Report submitted by Keely Ingram, Senator of the College of Nursing.