SECTOR’S REPORT NO. 16, JANUARY 12, 2011
REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE USG SENATE

The Student Senate met in Regular Session on January 12, 2011 at _____ PM in the Senate Chamber. Speaker of the Senate Andrew Mikac presided.

Present: 37 Absent: 0 Alternates: 4

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Senators and Senate Alternates were sworn in.

Approval of the Previous Secretary’s Minutes.

Open Forum for the Public
Alex Swain: I’m just going to tell you all a little bit about my history of USG and some of the details to see if this position might be something for you. The story goes that I started out as a freshman and I wanted to do biomedical science and cure Alzheimer's. I worked in research, shadowed doctors and found out that's not what I wanted. I was really embarrassed I tried different things and got involved with other student organizations. In one of them there was a senator and he talked to me about
USG and said when someone can’t go we have alternates would you like to alternate for me? I said absolutely and then I joined and then soon became a south campus senator and ran as secretary that year. I also served as a sub committee chair and I was the first secretary to record meetings. My big baby was a sidewalk that connected places. I also got the numbers on the back of the buck id’s. I decided to stay involved and was the chief of staff for CSA. I then took on the project of becoming University Undergrad on the Board of Trustees. It’s a long application process you wait, wait, and wait, then apply then wait, and then interview and of course wait again. It is exciting and on the board you get to deal with big issues. Overall I’ve met phenomenal people and developed great critical thinking skills. Therefore anyone eligible to join should do so the applications are due JAN 28th and I’m happy to take any questions.

Mikac: Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you Alex.

Brandon Edwards: I wanted to come speak to you about the OSU COTA partnership advisor committee. In this committee there are students and staff that oversee many of the busing routes and I wanted to come and get your guy’s opinion on a couple of the routes. I would like to get your feedback on the 84 bus which goes from OSU to the Lennox Town Center as well as the 2 bus that goes up and down high street as well as the 21 route that mirrors the 2 bus but runs late at night. The night owl provides entertainment and is going to be expanded into the high five urban districts main entertainment. I’m looking for any feedback on if you’ve ridden these buses what was your experience so I can discuss this at our next meeting on Jan 14th. Also Kurt is a member as well and I wanted to come in and speak to you guys for any comments.
Fitzpatrick: I rode the 2 bus all last summer to and from work it was great and I liked it. My fun story for the 84 bus is that I got on the wrong letter and ended up god knows where. Not being from Columbus the busing is better then most places that I’ve lived and it works for the most part.
Edwards: That’s the plan for the 84 is to break that route up and make one a quick shuttle from campus to the Lennox then have another route.
Hutchison: I’ve also fallen victim to the 84’s awful route.
DeFrance: I’ve been riding both 84’s without any mishap there isn’t a fantastic way to get to any shopping venue though.
Edwards: On the 84 do you use it to get to Upper Arlington?
DeFrance: No it’s just more useful for the placing of where I work to take that one.
Antani: I know they do the route to Port Columbus during finals but they need to better advertise that for International students maybe through OIA. I think that might be helpful.
Edwards: for the 52 bulks of them come multiple weeks early and it doesn’t run for those weeks. Our committee has emphasized this and they say it’s in their plans. I think that marketing is very reasonable and should be expected.
Hutchison: Anytime I use the texting service for Cabs it is great COTA not so much. Edwards: they are trying to make that real time GPS they just aren’t there yet. Cab’s is perfect COTA just isn’t there yet.
Smidt: I think that expanding the 52 would be great.
O'Connell: I was trying to get to the ARC and getting there on a bus can be so confusing I thought it was going to take a shorter amount of time and it probably actually would have been quicker to walk.
Poole: I’ve seen improvements for COTA bus schedules at the stop but for the number 2 we haven’t seen that.
Edwards: First of all do you think nine dollars is a good amount on the student activity fee? Do you think it’s too much not enough you are over using it? Also what is going to happen instead of showing your buck id you are going to have to swipe it and this should be set in the fall are there any concerns with that?
Perkins: my concern is what about students in the summer?
Flis: This is actually something I found out from my parents. We pay the COTA Fee and so do the high school students that take classes here. My brother never uses the COTA is there anyway they can have an opt out service for this?
Mbagwu: as you know you have to be an OSU Student to take advantage of this but what if they pay their fees late would it be easier to have a grace quarter?
Fitzpatrick: as someone who has lost my buck id many times how long would it take to re authorize it?
Edwards: Ideally it would be as soon as you get it.
Fitzpatrick: would it work the same as a temporary?
Edwards: yes. If you have any more comments or concerns please feel free to email me at edwards.842@osu.edu

Ashley: I want to direct your attention to 43-R-57 in New Business. That is no longer the case the group voted to remove the 15% fee and I can provide an email with that as well but basically the 15% fee is no longer viable they just have to pay for any damage that may be done. I hope that is helpful and if you have any questions just email me at sinram.2@osu.edu

Executive Report
Kamrass: The Carve-out recommendation was made from CSA last night with a 12-1 vote. We will hear more from that as more develops because it is now in Dr. J’s court. Good work on that and we put Mandy’s office hours there as well. Coming up this Friday we are having our first Government Relations forum and we will be listening to students about any issues they have on any level of government. Please go to that and invite your constituencies as well. Also the UC conference is coming up Laura and Adam are doing the planning for that. I got to meet with some of these people over break and they are a lot of fun and they have some great ides. Please RSVP by Monday because of the planning needed. Time for this will be Friday night, then Saturday from about Lunch to dinner. It would also be great if you come to State of University two weeks from now Jan 26th. We’ve invited University Admins, student
and organization leaders, cabinet, and please invite your constituencies. This is a chance to tell our story and show people what we have done. Also Enrichment Grants please talk to Laura, Kelsey, or Brett about that. That application is now on the website. Also there is talk about DC 11 we put it online and I encourage you to apply those are due Jan 28th as well. Only members of USG are available and an email went out about Student Org Summit. They are usually successful and that is Jan 29th at the Union. Any questions?

McFarland: Did we go over the USG Shirts in the office?

Kamrass: I thought marketing was going to come to B&F?

McFarland: and we didn't see them. We will talk about it later.

**Committee/Constituency Reports**

DeFrance: president and provost of sustainability had their first meeting with Dr. Sega super cool guy. The fore mentioned online survey that I asked you to fill out we got over 3,000 responded. We found out that 1300 want to become more involved and left contact on all three levels and the faculty is up next.

Mikac: CSA went ahead and made a recommendation to Dr. J on the Carve-out policy.

**Project Updates**

Fitzpatrick: Esuds if you don’t remember was the laundry texting service that I had talked about last quarter. Well I haven’t heard back from them but hopefully if I get more aggressive and keep sending emails they will get back to us. If you were still interested with that or helping I’d love to spread some of my work around.

**Old Business**

43-R-54 (O’Connell) *A Resolution to Support Requiring Off-Campus and Commuter Students to Provide Updated Addresses*

O’Connell: Right now obviously the students that do live on campus they know where they live but everyone else the University has no idea. There is an optional thing for students to update their addresses but many students do not do this. This makes it difficult for the University to make decisions on things like bus routes or safety precautions like lights. It’s hard to help when they don’t know where these students are. We recommend that students be required to update their addresses at the start of fall quarter.

Mikac: any questions for Natalie?

Fitzpatrick: If this starts fall quarter when should we see results?

O’Connell: as soon as we can.

Jason: If students were to provide would they receive the same amount of spam as the undergraduate students do?

O’Connell: that would potentially be an issue.

Brunner: Is this something like you can’t get into your student center if you don’t update your address or is more of a recommendation?

O’Connell: This would be a requirement.
Kedia: I know some people are concerned with having our name and information if something were to happen to the system. Are there any potential problems with people looking up where you live?
O’Connell: This information is kept safe along with your social and many other facts that the University knows about you.
Mikac: Ok any more questions? Seeing none we will now move into discussion.
Fitzpatrick: I agree with Rhadika in terms of safety but I also see how powerful of a tool this could be. I mean even for us coming off reapportionment it’s always a shot in the dark on how many off campus students there are. I think it has a lot of great potential and I support this.
DeDonato: I talked to Off Campus Student Services on the spam concern but I got it explained to me that actually you might get less. Because right now they don’t know where anyone lives so if they need to send an email to the commuters they just send them to everyone because they don’t know who really is a commuter so they can actually narrow the email listening when sending out a certain email. So it is more emergency based.
Antani: to go back to what Sean said they don’t have any proof that anything was taken. It’s not going to be public and you can already by everyone’s email address and stuff. I think the benefits of this outweigh the concerns. One of the reasons I like this is for the bus routes and that way we can see where the students live and fit the routes around that. With that I call to question.
Mikac: Ok it has now been called to question. Anymore questions? Seeing non, ok we will now vote.
1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

43-R-54 passed

43-R-52 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Add an International Student Emissary to the USG Senate

Fitzpatrick: Try to forgive me it’s been awhile since I have seen these. What we have here is a resolution to create a position for international students. We recognize that there are a lot of burdens and they have a lot of problems that we cannot address. Because we are focused on Academic and some of their issues are not tied to the issues and sometimes we set them in the waste side unintentionally. We want to make sure this isn’t permanent but we want to see it re evaluated and make sure that there is enough important stuff for this person to do and be a part of.
Mikac: are there any questions?
DeFrance: Have you in fact gotten feed back from the international students?
Fitzpatrick: Personally I didn’t get a ton of feedback I live in Taylor the 2nd largest housing for International Students and yes I’m a representative for North Campus but I haven’t done anything to do with the international students. I want to turn it over to Saul.
Pandey: Through out my experience with the administrations and people that I’ve spoke to about this there are a lot of issues especially with OIA and issues with visas
and things like that and I think it will be nice to have a voice for the international students when we discuss issues.

Perkins: I was looking at the bylaws and what would they be doing?
Fitzpatrick: they serve currently on P&G and first of all that’s where they fit in terms of what they should be doing. They also can’t sit on Student Life, B&F, or Academic Affairs. I will turn it over to Mike for this answer as well.

Mbagwu: One of the compromises we came up with I still want to start a Diversity group and they could either sit on P&G or the Diversity Committee that I would like to start.

Hutchison: This was kind of addressed by Mike and Saul but what about these two groups that you’ve selected stands out because to me you can make a ton of groups that are special what makes these two different?

Fitzpatrick: for me specifically was the large numbers of each there are like 5,000 international students and 6,000 out of state students. A lot of their needs overlap like transportation, storage, busing, and even some orientation issues.

Pandey: There are also Visa Problems as I have mentioned and helping them get things straightened out. There are issues with OIA they just receive feedback there isn’t a way to go to them and say as a group we would like to see this it would just streamline the process a little more. I have to apply two weeks for a job then wait another two weeks and I know there are better ways to do this. I know I applied for a job and it took OIA four weeks I didn’t get the job because they said it took too long.

Fitzpatrick: to put it in context they want to expand the International students and we are identifying several problems that aren’t being addressed by us and we are asking for these students to come so we need to have them represented.

Mikac: please speak towards the front of the room so everyone can hear you.

Jason: I know this resolution is within the goal and duty of the senate but do we expect a veto from the senate?

Mikac: Please don’t make any speculations.

Pyle: I yield to Micah.

Kamrass: I just feel like we should motion to move it from 2012 to 2011.

Fitzpatrick: I would be ok with that since we did it last time.

Hosa: Why do we think its ok for one seat to be enough for 5,000 people?

Fitzpatrick: There is a good argument to be made here and its that this is just a special interest seat and that they still have a living senator or an academic senator this is just for additional issues that they go through.

Mikac: any more questions? Seeing none ok we will now move into discussion.

Mbagwu: I move to amend it to read 2011 instead of 2012.

Fitzpatrick: it is now amended

Mikac: Ok it now reads to go into affect for the next election cycle.

Fainacci: this is something that I’ve been trying to get accomplished for a while now. I don’t think emissary is enough. There are a lot of things that really none of us can emphasize its often their first time higher education and the first time they have come here and a lot can’t find jobs. Having someone here is a good way to give them a voice in order to get progress and Sean made a lot of good points. I think this is limiting them too. I mean limiting them to certain committees or an emissary. I think
we should make this a full senate position. I think this is a nice step but I want to see it full blown.

Antani: To address the full blown issue I attended the Commission Meetings for this and we went through three sets of criteria. 1) How would they be selected? We asked the registrar which are and which aren’t international students and when they log in you will know and you will know that when they vote. 2) What committee would they join? I as a member of AA felt that if they were allowed to serve on AA or SL it would tread on that committee’s toes. 3) Would they be a senator, emissary or ex officio non-voting? Some wanted full senator and I wanted ex officio so we compromised on Emissary. I think while they have issues they are well represented through their living and academic senators and we could create a task force in senate to help establish and fix their other issues. I’m not against this because of them being international students but because we govern a specific way and I think this goes against the way we govern and I’ll be voting no.

Fitzpatrick: as you all know I was someone who was against an international seat and then through a lot of our conversation and conversation with Saul I realized their needs. And they weren’t being met, I saw that cabinet was taking a bigger role in and then I realized it is really need. I changed my mind and proposed this, I wanted to address a couple issues as to why they are just an emissary. We don’t want someone to have an extra vote over activity fee money. I think a lot of that will come from this first person and how they will shape this position. We are all here to help them with the transition and while it was not the preview the Diversity and Conclusion Committee should help and act as an outside support mechanism.

Fris: to kind of ass to what Sean was saying I was in support of the Emissary position because I feel like this is a good learning experience for an international student. And Andrew keeps talking bout how you can be an affective senator without passing any legislation. We could easily get them the things they needed to get started on their project and help them through it I’m in full support of this.

Farinacci: I would like to make an amendment. I would like to remove the fact that they can’t join AA or SL.

Mikac: The motion has been made to allow them to participate in all. Moved and Seconded. Objected

Farinacci: It sends a bad message and doesn’t seem like a very good message to send them or other international students. There is no reason why they shouldn’t be able to join other groups I don’t think it will mess up representation all that bad.

Fitzpatrick: I understand where you are coming from for me when it comes to why those were excluded Niraj said it best. This isn’t designed or nor is the purpose of this seat. They are acting as a general add on. Yes some issues will fall where it’s neither but that’s not their purpose. We don’t want their blinders on we want them to stay focused and we want to focus them on international issues that are broad and harder.

Antani: They can propose resolutions that go to those but them sitting on those committees isn’t right. They aren’t an academic senator or a living area senator. I’m pretty sure that in our bylaws it says only academic may serve on academic affairs and only living senators can serve on Student Life. I understand the argument and it’s both by allowing them it could limit their scope and by putting them on P&G it
could do the same thing. But by putting them on P&G it allows them to tackle all issues as opposed to narrowing them.

Mbagwu: I call to question
Mikac: ok it has been call the question. Any objections? Seeing none
Farinacci: I don’t think its fair to speculate none of us are international students.
DeFrance: We were talking about who can serve where and for what I view P&G as a necessary evil if you were to ask students what they think about it and tell them what they do I think they would prefer it doesn’t exist at all. It serves them in a round about way but self-serving or non-serving I really don’t think that international emissary’s need to be on it.

Jason: withdrawn

Flis: the committee meetings are open they just can’t vote correct? Kind of a point to throw out I can’t speak for any other chairs but I would love it if people came to my meetings so people that aren’t on the committee can still have a voice if they would like to be on that committee. They could still go hear and talk and share just something to consider.

Smidt: correct me if I’m wrong but every current position is open to anyone from any part of the world? Never mind withdrawn.
Hosa: to piggy back off of what Farinacci said we shouldn’t be like they can join this but not these its all or nothing we keep it open or we just can’t you can’t be a part of that and they can still fulfill their duties and still make resolutions. I don’t understand the whole P&G that’s what will propel them? I just don’t think we are capable of making that decision.

Mbagwu: point of information what do you have to do to sit on P&G
Mikac: any senator can sit in on P&G
Mikac: we are now moving into voting on the motion that will allow them to serve on any committee.

14-16-1

The motion fails

Farinacci: I would like to make the motion that it is filled by international students

Fitzpatrick: our seats are designed under our bylaws the way they are filled and who may sit on them our elections by law issue and I’m currently working on a piece to update the ones we already did. Should that pass this would be considered like John Glenn and could go to anywhere.

Mikac: that motion is out of order because it can’t be made.

Antani: they are an article.

Mbagwu: I’ll wrap things up by saying the main intention is to talk about making it an adhoc committee we didn’t do this because we want permanent representation for international students. We felt this was a lasting solution.

Fitzpatrick: withdrawn

Smidt: withdrawn

Brunner: Call to question.

Flis: point of information its cold can we adjust the heat.

Mikac: yes

Antani: To go back to Mikes point I understand that this is supposed to be a continuous seat because it is a long-term problem. However when you do transition
obviously some will be re elected. There are ways to make sure that the Ad Hoc committee will be secure.
Stepp: I don’t know if this is a point of information but how could one person represent all these languages?
Saul: you are required to know English if you come here the problem is things like academic misconduct and visas.
Poole: I’m in full support of this last year for FYE I went to a panel of Chinese Students and they were talking about their transition. I thought it was beneficial to hear their voice and I think it will help for them to be represented. IT is very important and I was looking this up and office of international affairs has a thing with our sister college where they learn about the politics so the argument that they wouldn’t know what to do doesn’t work.
Pandey: withdrawn
Mikac: ok we will now be voting on this issue
1 opposed 2 abstentions.
43-R-52 passes.

43-R-53 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Add an Out-of-State Student Emissary to the USG Senate

Fitzpatrick: The decision making process is the same the difference between this one and the previous they all do over lap by about 50/50 it comes down to the transportation and housing issues. But there are some different issues that a lot of out of state students and even the farther you go out to Ohio’s boarders that affect them besides the fact they pay more.
Smidt: How would this person go about reaching their constituents?
Fitzpatrick: in my opinion it’s necessary there isn’t an office for this. And their aren’t a lot of out of state groups so this is why we are proposing this.
DeFrance: withdrawn
Brunner: can I ask any personal issues that you have had?
Fitzpatrick: Trying to get rides home for breaks especially if you are in that like 3-4 hour ride home where its not worth flying but not an easy way to get home. Banking, scheduling, and some of that is just implicit while tuition may not be a problem it is still an issue and something that should be monitored.
Perkins: Point of information what was the vote on this.
Mikac: I’m sorry both of these were unanimous out of steering.
Tomack: I’m just curious what were some of the ideas that you thought USG could do my issue was not knowing anyone but I’m not sure how we can help with that.
Fitzpatrick: some things you could do would be work on getting a car pool thing for driving things like project based.
Stepp: withdrawn
Pyle: I yield to Micah.
Kamrass: have we looked at with the current senate what out of student representation is.
Fitzpatrick: its just about there we are around 7.
Kedia: Point of information what where you trying to get at by asking that?

Kamrass: how many of you there are that are out of state students compared to the student body.

Mikac: Ok any more questions? Seeing none we will now discuss.

Dugginenni: As an out of state student and I know there are a lot of issues and I feel that like many residents of Ohio don’t realize them. Like transportation is a large we I had a friend from San Diego and with Thanksgiving Break being shorter he actually has a lot of problems going back home we have thanksgiving Break and then winter break two weeks after so its not feasible to go back home and then come back and then go back home. So he just sat in his dorm while everyone else went back home I think this would be a good support system.

Kedia: the fact I feel Micah was getting at I can’t infer that we are already representing students I don’t think you can put that into acceptation because I am an a diverse student but that doesn’t mean that I’m focused on representing diversity.

DeFrance: Fitzpatrick and a few others of us discussed this before break and it came out of nowhere my gut was to be against this. I started talking to various people and mostly the general response was they didn’t have a whole lot of use for this one said he would be against this and it was a waste of someone’s time and resources. I was trying to sell him on this and I started to think about and ultimately I could not find people who really wanted this and when many issues that are discussed right now are kind of non resolvable.

Perkins: As an out of state student I don’t see a huge need for this. As for banking and phone service and stuff I toured OSU first and saw the banks and services around me and as a student I was either willing to exchange them or if it wasn’t feasible I would just have to say that OSU was not for me.

Mbagwu: call to question.

Stepp: I believe that we would be leveling the playing field for them. This is just another opportunity for them to find their niche and converse with another person that understands. I vote you support this.

Brunner: if the biggest issue is transportation I don’t see how we can make a huge difference I like the principal but I don’t think there is a whole lot that we could do compared to the international seat.

Poole: with the OSU Car pool service anyone can post on the way and also the Thanksgiving issue the Union offers a thanksgiving dinner every year and it is actually growing and a lot of people seem to enjoy it.

Antani: I won’t repeat anything I just want to let everyone know why I was against. I really think its un necessary and if you are voting just because we passed the international one I urge you to vote no.

Fitzpatrick: I’ll just say a couple of things one if we want to explain specific issues thanksgiving with our families is obviously better then the union any day. I guess a lot of people have brought up valid points there are a limited number of projects that said you might feel are viable. But there is a current need for this and as we discussed this can be reviewed in a year or two and if they don’t see a need for this seat then they can always remove it. As the committee saw it this time and currently there was a major need for it. I encourage you to support this and it can have a lot of
positive impact on a lot of projects and if you want to change it from 2011 from 2012 you are more then welcome.

Moved and seconded.
Mikac: ok it will now read 2011 instead of 2012
Dugginenni: Yield to Smidt.
Smidt: has there been an out of state seat before?
Fitzpatrick: no but it’s a place we are pushing for more students just like the international students.
Dugginenni: I think the main reason for this was not just to present them with projects or ruin resources but also to offer the OSU students something and I think it’s a good step forward. I think even though there are a lot of resources already with this seat someone can gain the connects and have the support needed to make them even better and more affective. I think there are a lot of things that may come up and an actual emissary seat may be able to answer better and we have rules that allow us to amend this seat later.
Stanley: withdrawn
Smidt: As an out of state student I don’t feel that there is enough to see the point in this compared to what our senate already does. As a USG member I don’t feel its necessary and if we support this one just because we did the other one it doesn’t make sense.
Schmitt: to issues on finding a ride we have all seen social network.
Shoub: I don’t see the need it proposes a lot of good ideas but I just don’t see the need for it.
Fitzpatrick: I want to say a couple of things we focused on this ride issues. But there are other issues such as credit transfers and we as senators should not be responsible for just out of state students we have other constituencies that need to have their needs met as well.
Mikac: ok we will now vote
9-23-3
43-R-53 fails.

New Business
43-B-20 (Messenger) A Bill to Support the “Digging Deep: Cultivating the Seeds of Leadership” Conference
43-B-21 (Ahmad) A Bill to Support the Office of International Affairs’ funding to Student Groups participating in Taste of OSU
43-B-22 (Gusching) A Bill Supporting Alleviating Poverty Through Entrepreneurship
43-R-57 (Messenger) A Resolution to Support the Accommodation of Cultural/Religious Events into the Ohio Union Catering Policy
43-R-58 (Kedia) A Resolution to Amend the Standing Rules of the Senate
43-R-59 (Mikac) A Resolution to Appoint the Elections Governance Board Director

Announcements

Adjournment