SECRETARY’S REPORT NO. 17, JANUARY 19, 2011
REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE USG SENATE

The Student Senate met in Regular Session on January 19, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the Senate Chamber. Speaker of the Senate Andrew Mikac presided.

Present: 35  Absent: 2  Alternates: 4

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahmad</td>
<td>Gushing</td>
<td>O’Connell absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antani</td>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>Perkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brahm</td>
<td>Homan</td>
<td>Poole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunner</td>
<td>Hosa</td>
<td>Reinhard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins:alt</td>
<td>Howard alt</td>
<td>Reu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeDonato</td>
<td>Hutchison</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeFrance</td>
<td>Ingram</td>
<td>Schaffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dugginenni</td>
<td>Kedia</td>
<td>Schmitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farinacci</td>
<td>Liles absent</td>
<td>Shoub alt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson</td>
<td>Mbagwu alt</td>
<td>Smidt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>McFarland</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flis</td>
<td>Messenger</td>
<td>Tichenor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gildenmeister</td>
<td>Mikac</td>
<td>Wurster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senators and Senate Alternates were sworn in.

Approval of the Previous Secretary’s Minutes.

Open Forum for the Public
Nick: There are shirts up here that USG ordered this quarter. I have smalls, mediums, larges, and x-large. We also have these great planners that were designed just for USG in mind. They go January through August and have lined pages in between. Please pick up as many as you want I only have about 60 up here but there are a ton more in the USG office. IF you have any questions please let me know.
Mikac: Ok help yourself then. Any other questions? Seeing none. Ok now moved into exec report.
Executive Report
Kamrass: I want to welcome a couple people that will hopefully be filling vacancies tonight. The Lantern is also here his name is Kyle he’s sitting back there in the back. First line of business.
Pyle: Me and some other senators traveled to Purdue and met with a bunch of other Universities it was a very enriching and interesting weekend for nick and I and I’m glad we made it back alive.
Kamrass: the next thing coming up is we have the UC student government conference. They are bringing everyone so we hope you’ll be coming to those events this weekend that you can. Laura has a paper we will be passing around. Thanks to those of you that have already RSVP’d and if you haven’t just mark on the paper what you can come to. We really want to bring a good showing and we can learn from them as well. Please come to that in addition to all the new business State of University is on Wednesday at 6:30 it’ll be in one of the rooms downstairs. We will be discussing what USG has been doing the last 103 days and discussing what we plan to do with the rest of our time in USG.
Laura: Grants are still out. They are used for things like study abroad or research projects that students have. As long as it is academically positive they can apply so please pass that along if you know anyone interested.
Kamrass: Please contact Kelsy and Laura if you have any questions on this. Also if you are looking for something to do we have a ton of projects that we would love to have some help on. Jason is here and we are entering phase two of the website. We have fixed some of the things and we want to make sure everything is up and ready to go. All the agendas will be up including minutes by the end of the quarter. I have full faith in him that the senate stuff will be up and running.
Pyle: Bryan Ashton and I had a meeting with the code of conduct on Sexual Violence and things associated with that. We met with many groups that we interested and I will have more information for you as that progresses.
Kamrass: Mobile app. updates there have been a lot of success with that and we are really proud of that. We keep talking about the library and we are moving on that as well. One last thing save the date for the legislative dinner and a piece of information there was an article on the Christian Legal Society that was very interesting as well. Are there any questions?
Mikac: Ok seeing non we will now move into committee reports.

Committee/Constituency Reports

Messenger: Semester Conversion met last week and the main topic was the labeling system of courses under the semester structure. Such as will it be distance learning, on campus or a hybrid, which is a mixture of, online and class room elements. I won’t talk too much about it I’ll have a written report that I’ll send to Keely and she can include them in the minutes. Messenger.37@osu.edu
Edwards: Cota will be meeting Friday to discuss the things all of you brought up. Additionally University Rec is meeting next Friday Jan 28th to talk about the budget of the department if you have any ideas please let me know. Edwards.842@osu.edu

DeDonato: CSA will be reviewing the Student Code of Conduct as Brad mentioned and if you know of any changes you would like to see let me know as well as talk to your constituents. Niraj alternated for me on the meeting of Parking and Transportation and it looks like there is going to be some construction on Woodruff and 17th and they will be closed during spring and summer. Dedonato.2@osu.edu

Antani: CAA met today first thing we discussed the e learning status report they made a frame work in the future distance about when you schedule you’ll know if the class is in class, online, or a hybrid class. Hopefully this way it’ll be put in the SIS and be helpful for commuters who might not want to come to campus etc. What is interesting is that once its approved it will be sent to the various financial arms for consideration and be put on a fee framer as well. I’ll be able to update you on that later. Also met on the Bachelor of Arts and sciences about credit semester conversion material. Last thing was there was a proposal that the standard for the College Board Test is 50 points and that if a student got 50 points on any test we would accept that right now the standard is in the 55, 60, 70 range and faculty is concerned with lowering the score. They need to get credit quote for failure and CESP has looked at this so that’s still being discussed let me know if you have any questions. Niraj.antani@gmail.com

Flis: CESP had a special meeting talking about the GI promise and Cleft test a Niraj has described. We did receive a semi formal presentation as well to learn about these issues. Flis.4@osu.edu

Fitzpatrick: I have a quick update on the Curriculum not USG relevant but we failed the leadership minor while it is approved for other colleges here at the University if you are a representative of the arts and sciences your constituency can not take that minor if you have any questions on why feel free to let me know and I’ll pass that on. Fitzpatrick.135@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Mikac: any other updates? Seeing none ok now onto Project updates?

**Project Updates**

Mikac: Any project updates? Seeing none. Into Vacancies!

**Senate Vacancies**

Mikac: We have Senate Vacancies for John Glenn, Continuing Education, and Newark. We will move into exec session and all non-voting members will be asked to leave including those running. We will consider them as listed. The way it works each applicant will be given three minutes to present then three minutes to have questions asked at the end of that 6 minutes they will be asked to leave. We will start in alphabetical order. Any questions?

Antani: Can we clarify whether they have to stick around after before or during?
Mikac: As we approve each member they will be welcomed into the Senate and they generally stay. We will tell them at the end of each consideration if you have been voted in. Any other questions?

**Old Business**

**43-R-58 (Kedia) A Resolution to Amend the Standing Rules of the Senate**

Kedia: The reason I made this resolution was because thinking about it we haven’t used Secret Ballots a whole lot but we have used it four times. In the real congress they don’t have this and I know it’s not realistic to do a roll call every time I think it’s really important for transparency. I met with a politician and he said and I quote I don’t know how they can justify keeping a vote a secret its against democracy. I’ll take any questions.

Mikac: Any questions? Seeing Non we are now into discussion.

DeDonato: I’m speaking on behalf of Nick because he had to leave. I wanted to make a statement why I broke a tie and voted. I think it’s not a negative thing to make our votes public. I think there is often pressure from peers, or fear of scolding. As a Senator I often take pressure and I think it would be weak to protect our own egos. I think we should be proud to vote this way. I often times write my names on secret ballot votes.

Mikac: do you have anything to add to that

DeDonato: yes I agree. I think we are elected as Senators and they should know how we feel.

McLellan: On this you said you spoke to a representative my problem is they also have secret meetings. Especially the house, they do exactly the same thing just not with the ballot. I think who you vote for and such like the EGB should be kept secret.

Kedia: There are things that are still allowed to have a secret ballot. The things that aren’t are listed below.

Bruner: to prove an alternate can you share with us what you said in P&G Mikac?

Mikac: In P&G I spoke up with an opinion because I felt this issue warranted further thought. It seems a quick and easy thing to get on one side or the other. Yes it’s important and yes I made it clear that there is more to this than meets the eye. I think that the problem arises where we have very little exposure to the student body. This legislation is supposed to allow people to be aware of the way they vote the only thing that becomes accomplished is dividing. I’m not sure if that means that there should or shouldn’t be a secret ballot I’m not convinced. I think that they may be necessary or needed in the future there were a couple alternative options brought up but I will leave it to other members to introduce those.

Dugginenni: I along with Austin had the same view as the roll call being the highest order. My problem is that inheritantly people at the end of the alphabet are influence you hear what everyone else has to say and you are influenced. If every single one of you can say that you wouldn’t be affected then I change my opinion it’s in our nature its our basic nature to be influenced. I don’t think I agree with the transparency it should be obvious you should stand by your vote but I think taking it out completely or giving role call the highest isn’t the right move. I think dong what Nick does by writing your name is the best
The whole purpose is to make sure everyone votes well we could put our names on our vote turn them in and then they could be read aloud.

Stepp: I also feel role call is an issue. I want to make sure we don’t go into a culture where we cultivate fear. We can all vote and be ok I want to make sure I don’t know if that means we should ban secret ballots but we should take this issue and act as adults. Holmes: I have one big problem is that transparency will not be solved just because we do this. No one in the University will look at what we say and say that they voted this way. We have a duty for our constituency and having a roll call vote would put pressure on many people and possibly sway the outcome. I think this is the wrong way to go about it I think it needs to be there for those situations and I will be introducing a new bill next week so please keep that in mind.

Antani: A few things to answer what the speaker brought up before. I do understand that we can’t see into the future that there may be things that come up that we can’t foresee. I don’t think there needs to be a secret ballot and as far as roll call being the highest order of voting that’s only used when really needed. We often times do acclimation and hand votes. Someone said that congress they do their workings in the back door and I think they work out compromises however they have to be made into amendments in legislation and votes. I think this is a good idea. I think it increases transparency and those of us who would do secret ballots I think everyone of us is accountable and they should be able to come in here and hear us say yay or nay and see it in the minutes.

Brahm: Call to question.


Fitzpatrick: Because we follow Roberts Rules our version is calling and going alphabetically. I guess my opinion is I very much agree with Caroline it has been overused and at times its inappropriate. There have been large numbers compared to last year. There are other uses we just don’t usually have to use them but for me its we need to limit the use of it not get rid of it completely. We really need to be able to express our vote without pressure. I know I have almost no problem expressing how I voted. It’s not so much that I’m against transparency there are issues where yes we are adults but we are also just students as well we have to recognize we have to balance and we don’t need to much pressure on ourselves. This gives a way to alleviate some of that, I would be in support of something like Caroline’s. That said I have one other thing and I brought this up in P&G I really wish if we are going to over rule Roberts rule we list out of the orders of voting. It wasn’t changed in p&G and I’m hoping its friendly.

Mikac: That is friendly the legislation now has a second item a sub section three reads as follows roll call, hand vote, electronic voting, and then voice.

Hosa: Point of information what is the difference between electronic or secret ballot

Mikac: the electronic voting is a more accurate indicator of the order electronic has risky elements so that’s why it’s a lower order for that reason?

Fitzpatrick: that was an issue ultimately. I still encourage you to vote no and support a future resolution that would limit and now I don’t think this is the end all be. We may be making a bigger deal out of this then need be. If secret ballots are gotten rid of I won’t feel a need to abstain but I can see others who would.

Farinacci: Think about a time when we all had to do a voice vote and you disagreed with the majority and you did not want to be that one person. I do think there are people that are swayed and that definitely warrant the need for a secret ballot.
Kedia: I have actually been that one person who has voted nay. I don’t feel persuaded if I think its best I can do that maybe other people can’t which isn’t saying anything bad it’s just I feel confident I really think we should be the most transparent USG. I want to tell my constituency how I voted and I want them to know what I do with them. And this can be over ridden in the future if you have a 2/3 vote you can suspend the standing roles and do a secret ballot.

McFarland: I think its like keeping apples to oranges. I mean Niraj how long have you known you wanted to get into public service?

Antani: Freshman year of high school.

McFarland: He’s doing a great job of getting involved and being thorough that’s not everyone’s thing though. We need to talk about Student Government here people. Some of us are 18 and just went to prom less then a year ago. My next point is about transparency I agree with it and letting people know but I don’t think in a campaign people are going to say I voted for this and you can look at my record. I don’t think that’s a transparency thing they want to hear I think they want to hear us say I’m in Senate and we vote on bills and this is what we have passed. We have been active and we sit and talk to faculty and administration. I think with being such a young senate people do tend to idealize certain people in here and vote the way that person does. I want to make sure we keep in mind alternates that puts a lot of pressure on them I want you to fill in for me and vote this way and then the alternate doesn’t end up voting that way because he or she has been swayed. Then the senator gets upset. I will vote against this.

Perkins: withdrawn

Pandey: point of information how would I go about finding how people voted? I mean how do people find out about this?

Mikac: you would contact a senator with that information right now but then it will be up on the website soon and they can check there.

Brahm: how are we going to be voting on this issue?

Mikac: it’s at the discretion of the chair.

Ryan: So in terms of transparency like a lot of people would be hard pressed to find them and its not going to happen. But food for thought if you ask anyone in USG we would say we hold a leadership position. Its something you want to put on your resume and part of that is having the courage of your convictions. I can see idolizing someone but at the same time realize that you are an important position too. I disagree I know I need to be a leader and lead by example and vote the way I feel and not be pressured I know we are younger in terms of pressure and this shouldn’t be one. Be a leader and don’t be intimidated.

Edwards: I can guarantee on both sides that there are people that would be interested in knowing how we voted. They do care especially when we don’t make decisions on a day to day basis we made one two weeks ago and people do care I know that for a fact I’ve talked to them. I don’t want them to feel like we hid our opinions from the public I think that is imperative that we pass this. I think it’s the democratic thing to do. We try to uphold them everyday in this body I believe that it’s just unjust to hide behind a secret ballot and not allow the public at large to know how we voted.

Flis: Just to start I have a point of information since you eluded before by re arranging Roberts Rules its possible to amend our definition of a secret ballot?

Mikac: standing rules supersede Roberts Rules this would be our definition.
Antani: point of information it can’t be amended on the floor am I allowed proposing it? I propose that there be a clause that states a roll call vote should be names clearly written on the paper and their vote being read and recorded.
Kedia: Yes that’s friendly
Mikac: Sub section that reads section 3 a role call under that a role call vote defined as submitting names clearly indicated with the name and their vote it will then be read aloud and recorded in the senate minutes.
Motion Withdrawn
Fiis: I would like to yield my time to Niraj
Niraj: motion reinstated
Fiis: I do like this a little more. I did like Caroline’s suggestion and I’m not sure that I’ll remember them I do think its important to not remove secret ballots. But I don’t think its right to limit it in scope. Amending the role call vote helps serve both purposes only after you are less likely to be swayed. The speaker said there might be some un for seen that we should take that into consideration. There have been times when we have misused this and I think we should keep it in.
Edwards: It would still allow for a secret ballot vote if needed.
DeFrance: When looking at legislation rules of governing these things go into use without any testing. You operate under them or you don’t. We don’t know except previous times about the disgruntle with secret ballots. I do think there are some options that we have no yet thought of.
Mikac: I tried really hard to not come out and express an opinion my rule is to not do that. I’ve already compromised that when Bruner gave me the option so I’m going to clarify the way I see it. We have two roles and they are both about duty one to our constituency and the also be held accountable. One is more important then the other. Voting as they would expect you to is less important then being held accountable. It has been said many times that some may feel if I vote this way or that way I will receive grief and then they play it safe and abstain. In my mind those are two separate things and the most important is representing them even if it’s not ideal.
Kamrass: Whenever I go to do anything in USG I try to picture having every single one of my constituents in the room and saying ok what am I going to do and if it was to ask each of them that’s great but I better have a damn good explanation of why I voted that way. That’s how I go about it and I hope that’s how you go about it too and represent them and their interests. There is not a single thing in the world that we do in this room that we don’t deserve to tell everyone. I’ve heard someone say I like to keep my vote private sometimes I don’t think it’s your vote you vote on behalf of students. You got put in here to represent them and they have a right to know how you use their vote not yours. There has been a proposal making it more difficult and I don’t think this is gray its either black or white. I’m going to tell you or by saying we will make it harder all you are saying is I’m going to tell you unless it’s controversial. I would be disappointed if we sent this message. Its critical that we stand by what we said and as far as limits or things to come its either we are going to tell you or we aren’t and I certainly feel we should tell them now. I think the fix niraj proposed is helpful and I’m glad that’s through and I don’t think any of you have any reason to be afraid now. I’m not sure it’s the worst thing that you are influenced we spend hours in here every Wednesday we could save a lot of time by Andrew sending an email and then you replying with your vote. I don’t think being
influenced is something to be scared of its something we should agree with Niraj and what he recommended. What USG does I think is important and to keep in mind you have the opportunity and for all successors to come what we do it’s the work of the students. I encourage you all to say I’m willing to tell you how I feel and I hope you all vote in favor of this.

Kedia: First I’m going to yield my time to Sydney

Schmitt: I kind of had this last week we were in class and they were planning on doing something and I said I couldn’t go because I’m a senator and I had senate they asked oh what do you do and the generic what do they do for us so I explained. And we discussed the carve-out last week and they asked me how I voted and I told them. I felt no need to hide behind it some of them agreed some didn’t. I know we’ve used it as kind of a veil in some sense in past issues, which is unnecessary we shouldn’t be afraid.

Kedia: I’m a little mad that Micah said a lot of what I wanted to say. There is a difference but I think the spirit of the bill is still the same they aren’t our votes they are our constituents. If I voted no and Brett was upset with me and asked me why and said that’s not how my constituents would vote I would ask him how they know. I think we leaders and we shouldn’t feel pressured and I think we should all vote yes this is a step in the right direction.

Mikac: ok we will now vote

Roll Call vote

Secret Ballot Vote

Moved to suspend the rules. Objected

Ok we will now vote on suspending the rules it needs a 2/3 vote

Failed we will now vote in a secret Ballot.

43-R-59 (Mikac) A Resolution to Appoint the Elections Governance Board Director

Mikac: This is who they choose for a new governance election board until either graduation or resigning. We met and discussed the candidates and this was our best applicant he went through P&G are there any questions?

Hutchison: what made you interested in applying?

Jimmy: I went to a conference first year leadership experience there I learned my strengths and it fit well with this. I spent some time speaking with Ashley and I’m an intern as well. She gave me the low down and I felt like I could accomplish the task at hand.

Stepp: Basically besides knowing your strengths what kind of benefits do you see in EGB?

Jimmy: I felt my education could be enhanced by marketing this election.

Antani: As a first year and now having any previous experience in USG elections what benefits and or negatives would you foresee in your position?

Jimmy: Negatives I haven’t been here and I do not have a full understanding of what has happened in the past. Other then when I have talked to other leaders. But the benefits outweigh the negatives I do not have any alliances and I do not have any enemies also when I come to pot holes in the road I could have new ideas and market the selection and not do what been done before.

Mikac: any other questions?
Dugginenni: In a controversial situation where a slate had done a wrong doing how would you handle that and would you feel pressured being a first year?
Jimmy: this election has bylaws and if anyone violates them I would hand them the bylaws and said did you violate this why or why not.
Fitzpatrick: I know we asked this in P&G but as far as you know do you have any connections with potential campaign teams?
Jimmy: none
Edwards: If there were a bylaw that you saw yourself in conflict with what would you do?
Jimmy: if it's within the period that the senate can change it I will ask them to make the change.
Edwards: what if it’s during the election?
Jimmy: I can’t change the bylaws if its something not written and I have a say in it I can make the decision then.
Mikac: any other questions? Seeing none we will now move into discussion.

43-B-20 (Messenger) A Bill to Support the “Digging Deep Cultivating the Seeds of Leadership” Conference

Messenger: Supports the Conference that is going to be here in a couple of weeks the costs of bringing speakers here and it will help lead workshops.
MSA: the conference is basically open to everyone and we are trying to get funding because we are pretty short.
Messenger: Its open to all and I know in committee that the event is a cost to students but will be higher if we don’t fund them. I’m excited for this and I would encourage you to pass it is going to be solid.
Fitzpatrick: I have two the first one have you gotten any more funding since submitting this?
Ahmad: 300 from Muslims of Columbus
Fitzpatrick: its open to non-Ohio state students as well?
Ahmad: yes
Fitzpatrick: will there be more then 100 Ohio State Students?
Ahmad: yes
Mikac: Any more questions? Seeing none we will be in discussion now
Ferguson: I call to question.
Voting
All in favor say aye, nay, abstentions?

New Business:
Farinacci: Motion to move into a committee as a whole.
Not seconded
43-R-60 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Amend the Elections Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government
43-R-61 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Amend the Elections Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government
43-R-62 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Amend the Elections Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government
43-R-63 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Amend the Elections Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government for Reapportionment
43-R-64 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Amend the Elections Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government
43-R-65 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Amend the Elections Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government
43-R-66 (Fitzpatrick) A Resolution to Amend the Elections Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Government
43-R-67 (Antani) A Resolution to Amend the Undergraduate Student Governments Organizational Bylaws
43-R-68 (Antani) A Resolution to Amend the Undergraduate Student Governments Organizational Bylaws
43-R-69 (Antani) A Resolution to Amend the Undergraduate Student Governments Organizational Bylaws
43-B-23 (Liles) A Bill to Support the Members of the Model African Union
43-B-24 (Duggineni) A Bill to Support the World Dance Showcase
43-B-25 (Messenger) A Bill to Support BuckeyeThon
43-A-1 (Fitzpatrick) A Proposed Amendment to Undergraduate Student Government Constitution
43-A-2 (Fitzpatrick) A Proposed Amendment to Undergraduate Student Government Constitution
43-A-3 (Fitzpatrick) A Proposed Amendment to Undergraduate Student Government Constitution
43-A-4 (Fitzpatrick) A Proposed Amendment to Undergraduate Student Government Constitution

**Announcements:**
Mikac: UC retreat this weekend don’t forget about our other vacancies as well. atmikac@gmail.com

Messenger: P&G 4 o’clock on Sunday messenger.37@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Flis: AA at 2 o’clock on Monday if you can’t attend send an alternate we are going to be sending back the SEI legislation. Flis.4@osu.edu

DeFrance: WeReceived the input from the survey I’ll be passing on the information as I receive it. Jamesdefrance@gmail.com

Fitzpatrick: P&G stuff I know they call came from but the election deadline is coming up. IF you’re a sophomore you should apply to bucket and dipper. And don’t forget about DC trip is going to be March 1st to the 3rd and applications should be online and you will be excused from classes. It’s a good time and was successful last year. Email kellams.3@osu.edu or wong.361@osu.edu
McFarland: B&F will meet at 3 on Sunday mcfarland.338@osu.edu

Reu: If anyone is free Monday at 2 I need an alternate for the AA meeting

Pandey: Break Dance club is having a party right now in multi purpose room 1

Antani: OSU beat Iowa

Poole: I encourage them to get their free lease reviews its about time to sign leases and this is a great opportunity and I encourage you all to check it out. Poole.

Mikac: Senator of the week they have done a great job of stepping up and making their opinion known and making it in a clear way and having passed her first piece of legislation tonight Kedia.

Adjournment

New Business
Announcements
Adjournment