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49th General Assembly
Autumn 2016, Session 4
August 31, 2016

I. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Attendance
 - i. Megan Ferguson.762 for Bennet
 - ii. Alex Livingston.186 for C. Dorony
 - iii. Rachel LaPointe.17 for K. Dorony
 - iv. Tristin Wright.1785 for Jampunath
 - v. Farhan Quadri.8 for Serfozo
- c. Swearing in of Alternates
- d. Approval of Minutes

II. Open Forum for Public

- a. No one from public came to speak.

III. Updates

- a. Workshop-*Danielle Di Scala*
 - i. Thank you to all who attended the workshop on Saturday. I hope the document was helpful. I will send out the final handbook and Mario's document. For those of you who didn't attend, please read the standing rules and bylaws and email me if you have questions.

IV. Executive Report

- a. *Gerard Basalla*: Welcome back. Thank you for your hard work and it's great to see the things you've accomplished so far. In the next weeks we will be rolling out our platform involving affordability and diversity and inclusion. We will be rolling out other events involving affordably. Some of the successes we've already had are the bus line to pick up football tickets and the Thompson Library same day reservations. I would like to remind everyone to take your own health and mental health very seriously. If you have any questions I'll be answering them in the coming weeks or you can visit me in my office.

V. Committee Report

- a. Allocations—*Derek Whiddon*
 - i. The allocations committee met Sunday and funded:
 - 1. \$1,500 to the Art of Living Club
 - 2. \$850 to Operations Smile



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- ii. Permanent USG *members* can contact Whiddon.1 to alternate at the allocations meeting on Sunday. Please remind student organizations to apply for funding. Next week, information about funding for constituency events will go out. Don't buy anything for your events.
 - a. *Bodey*: Earlier this year you said the event on the oval would count as a constituency event. Is that true?
 - b. *Di Scala*: This does count, but you are encouraged to also do events that apply to your constituency.

VI. Old Business

- a. No old business

VII. New Business

- a. 49-R-8 A Resolution to Approve Changes to the Organizational Bylaws
 - i. *Belfiglio*: Oversight met to discuss the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the General Assembly. It is the Oversight Committee's job to update these. The Organizational Bylaws must be approved by two-thirds of the members and the approval of Standing Rules must be by one-half of the members. Last year's General Assembly approved the updates, but this was recorded as a floor vote so we're not sure that it was passed by two-thirds of the body. These updates are good and they are helping USG to be more accessible and transparent. Senator Warnimont did a lot of work with this.
 - ii. ***Motion to call the Question.***
 - iii. ***Called the Question.***
 - iv. ***Motion to pass 49-R-8 with unanimous consent.***
 - v. **49-R-8 PASSED with unanimous consent.**
- b. 49-R-9 A Resolution to Approve Changes to the Standing Rules
 - i. *Belfiglio*: Senator Warnimont's changes are not highlighted but Oversight Committee worked on this. On page two, article 3, section 3, subsection A, the text has changed. This text is messed up. Robert's Rules are always 2/3 for the benefit of majorities, but the minority still has a right to talk and discuss and express their opinions. Limiting speaking always



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involves approval of 1/2 of the body, but it should be 2/3 of the body. General Assembly has been in violation of this because after the question is called we allow everyone to be moved to the Speaker's List. I move to strike this.

In Robert's Rules a call to question moves directly to debate. Our call to question is different, but there is a problem. Last session we had a General Assembly session that went until midnight, but if someone did not call the question then we could not vote. A filibuster was considered. There was a suspension of the rules and this was allowed, but it looked sketchy to the public. It looks weird when we try to call a vote 10 minutes before midnight. We decided to look at the rules and decided that a call to question should be approved by two-thirds. We encourage senators to use the motion of closing the speaking order and this new clause says that when someone closes the speaking order it allows everyone to be added to the list before it closes. This makes more sense and aligns with Robert's rules. Oversight agreed on this change.

- ii. Move to divide the question.**
- iii. Question is divided.**
- iv. *Warnimont:* Are there any other changes that aren't highlighted?
- v. *Belfiglio:* The changes are highlighted and everything else is the same as it was.
- vi. Motion to move into discussion.**
- vii. Moved to discussion.**
- viii. *Glass:* I love this resolution because I've seen the call to question used how it's not supposed to be used and it's a pain in normal situations. I'm glad to see this because if two-thirds say we don't need to talk about it, then we don't need to talk about it.
- ix. *Bodey:* Please don't suspend the rules to avoid using the new clause. That is not the point of this resolution. Please don't override this in the future because this is what we're voting on.



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- x. **Move to close the speaking order.**
- xi. **Speaking order closed.**
- xii. **Question has been called.**
- xiii. **PASSED with unanimous consent.**
- xiv. *Belfiglio*: The table in Section 18 is new and this is the biggest thing I ran for parliamentarian on. I said I wanted to create the table and I did this because it is helpful for current senators to better understand the procedure and it will help alternates not be lost. It will help new senators and it will help the public. The public is confused by the procedure and this is not the most open or clear model. This table is also in our Standing Rules and it supersedes Robert's Rules. Someone could suspend the rules to change something on the table, but it is based on Robert's Rules and is based on our Standing Rules. I tried to make it pretty and easy to use. If any part of the table is confusing, please ask. The article where I added new text is all true and it is just added for clarification. If the table conflicts with itself, the parliamentarian interprets what section is correct. I believe now that there are no conflicts. Oversight Committee is also required to go over a conflict if one is found. The parliamentarian is free to interpret, but 2/3 can overrule the speaker. It is a check on the Parliamentarian.
- xv. **Move to question.**
- xvi. *Glass*: I want to make sure this is not contradiction to the last part of the question we just passed.
- xvii. *Belfiglio*: I wrote in 2/3 in the resolution expecting this it to pass.
- xviii. *Frank*: Can we suggests edits?
- xix. *Belfiglio*: That is possible if they don't change the content.
- xx. **Move to discussion**
- xxi. *Frank*: Friendly amendments.
- xxii. *Warnimont*: Friendly amendments.
- xxiii. *Liu*: Friendly amendments.
- xxiv. *Clark*: I think this is a great table and we should pass it.
- xxv. **Motion to pass with unanimous consent.**



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xxvi. PASSED with unanimous consent.

xxvii. Motion to introduce new item.

xxviii. *Clark:* I yield my time to Sunder Sai.

xxix. *Sai:* I am a member of the SEI committee of University Senate. The committee would like to meet again next Wednesday. We are meeting before the next General Assembly meeting and we would like this approved resolution at the meeting.

xxx. *Clark:* This is vital for University Governance so I encourage you to hear this tonight.

xxxi. Move to question.

xxxii. *Bodey:* When did Sai know that he needed this?

xxxiii. I was made available this past Wednesday. I could not have produced this to Steering committee on Sunday and I wanted to make sure this was correct for today. This was worked on this last year so this is not new, but we wanted to make sure everything was correct.

xxxiv. Motion to move to discussion.

xxxv. **Moved to discussion.**

xxxvi. *Glass:* Personally I don't enjoy things being brought to the floor without first going to Steering committee. I wish more efforts were made to get it to Steering. I worked with this resolution last year and it should be heard, but let's stick to Steering after this.

xxxvii. *Belfiglio:* There have been problems in the past but this was done correctly and there were edits made.

xxxviii. *Bodey:* Four days is plenty of time to write a resolution, don't let it happen again.

xxxix. Called to question.

xl. Resolution brought to floor.

c. 49-R-10: A Resolution to Support the Increased Use and Accessibility of Student Evaluation of Instruction Assessments

i. *Clark:* This resolution outlines what the Undergraduate Student Government wants to see in terms of SEI transparency. A lot of findings of SEI are not published or made available to students and this is advocating to that. I yield my time to Sai.



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- ii. *Sunder Sai*: The SEI committee met once last year. Sarah Souders worked hard last year and I would like to talk about the resolution passed last year and what this is now. The way the SEI works: it has 10 items for students to fill out and only one has been published right now. SEIs are complicated and if there are more questions please direct them to me.
- iii. **Five-minute recess approved.**
- iv. *Frank*: I made some edits to this and that's all I did.
- v. **Move to Question.**
- vi. *Warnimount*: What is a TIU mentioned in the third clause?
- vii. *Belfiglio*: This is a committee that promotes, hires, and evaluates faculty for tenure.
- viii. *Merchant*: Can someone explain the differences between the number of people in the department and standardizing the SEI?
- ix. *Sai*: There are 9 items about course materials and only one about the teacher. Only one item on SEI is available on Buckeye Link about the instructor. This rating is compared to the reference group. A teacher of a medium class is compared to teacher of other medium classes. This reference group is an average of all reference groups. I can see that a teacher has a higher rating for that size of class. This tells me that a teacher is higher rated for a class of that size. We don't want to compare a large chemistry class to a class of a smaller size in a different department because these are different students in different departments.
- x. **Motion to move to discussion.**
- xi. **Moved to discussion.**
- xii. *Belfiglio*: It is unclear who started the SEI, I imagine it was probably the register and other groups. It would be too difficult to add to the resolution.
- xiii. *Bodey*: Friendly amendment.
- xiv. *Abusway*: The SEIs are the most researched topic in higher education nationally. There is a lot that goes into SEIs, this has been happening before it was online.
- xv. *Chang*: Friendly amendments.



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- xvi. *Warnimont*: Friendly amendments.
- xvii. *Moore*: Can Director Abusway give a source for his previous statement?
- xviii. *Abusway*: There is research done is upper education about what is the best way to teach bigger classrooms or advise a diverse group of students. The most published topic is on student evaluations.
- xix. *Yacoub*: Are the current SEIs accessible to students and how much can they see?
- xx. *Sai*: They can only see the average of the tenth question. We want all ten items to be available to student.
- xxi. *Chang*: Friendly amendment.
- xxii. *Sullivan*: Friendly amendment.
- xxiii. *Branum*: Friendly amendment.
- xxiv. *Glass*: I think this resolution is beneficial to students and increases transparency. I got to work with some of the changes in this last year and I'm glad to see this go to the floor. I what to reiterate that a lot of friendly amendments were proposed and I would encourage senators to go through steering to avoid this. I'm glad to see that this is being brought to the SEI meeting next Wednesday.
- xxv. Move to close speakers list.**
- xxvi. Speakers list closed.**
- xxvii. *Yacoub*: I agree with Senator Glass, but something I would like to see is the comments left by students in the SEIs, if this is possible.
- xxviii. *Warnimont*: in 48-R-35, we advocated for SEIs to be required and I don't see this in this resolution.
- xxix. *Belfiglio*: The university actually can't require students to do this and we can't release comments because it is a privacy thing.
- xxx. *Lui*: friendly amendment.
- xxxi. Question has been called.**
- xxxii. 49-R-8 PASSED.**



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VIII. Announcements

- a. *Di Scala*: Next Wednesday is our G.A. Meet and Greet on the South Oval. Please be in attendance. It's good to introduce yourself to new students. We also have club cards to hand out.
- b. *Buss*: Just a friendly reminder to come to Cabinet meetings. If you can't attend that's fine but please communicate that to your directors. Thanks.
- c. *Frank*: Just a friendly reminder that Steering needs legislation submitted by 9 am on Sunday.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned.