



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

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President

Hays Kassen
Vice President

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Treasurer

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Student Government Association

Student Government Association Senate

Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2020

Open Forum

Barrett Ramsey:

- a. Belong with Barrett
- b. All students belong in the auburn family
 - i. Take care of ourselves
 - ii. Take care of our relationships
 - iii. Take care of our community

Madison Birkhead

- a. My platform is to raise awareness for Auburn Cares.
 - i. Auburn Cares is an office on campus that encourages students to reach their personal and academic goals.

Invocation

Kadin Christian

- a. *Take time to thank your loved ones and tell them you love them.*

Roll Call 7:39

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Executive Officer Reports
 - a) Ada Ruth Huntley — President
 - a. COVID-19 numbers continue to stay low campus wide even though cases continue to rise statewide and nationwide.
 - b. There is a Board of Trustees meeting on Friday
 - i. The student center will be named in honor of Harold Melton this Friday at 2:00 pm.
 - ii. There will be a limited number of attendees allowed at the naming, but it will be possible to livestream the event if you are interested in attending.
 - c. This February, SGA will be participating in Tiger Giving Day.
 - i. This year SGA is promoting MPHC legacy project with a goal of 1000 participants.
 - d. Miss Homecoming is this week, nominations close on Friday at 4:45.
 - i. Mary Cate Saville will serve as the nomination for Miss Auburn for SGA.
 - e. Decision to veto PSSB: 20-1109-03 (legislation to shorten campaign week).
 - i. This decision was made after speaking to my executive team, speaking with the director of elections, and the head of senate exec.

Concerns include:

- i. Social media is not the most equitable approach, and can leave numerous students out (grad students, veterinary students, pharmacy students, and international students)



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- ii. Limiting concourse interaction to prevent harassment is not the best option. Concourse interaction exists to educate students, and many students who rely on concourse interaction would be left out if this aspect of campaigning were to be shortened.
- iii. There are concerns about moving voting to Friday since many students do not have classes on Friday which may decrease student participation.
- iv. Shortening campaign week to not include the weekends presents challenges for candidates' mental health.
- v. There is also a concern that this legislation strips power from the director of elections.
- vi. The biggest concern is that we did not see a lot of student feedback to support this legislation.

Questions and Responses:

- i. Why does it matter that a lot of students rely on concourse interaction to get information since this interaction will not likely be possible with COVID-19.
This bill will not pertain to the spring. That is why it is concerning to decrease concourse days since we are hopeful that in the fall things will return to normal.
 - ii. Why are there concerns about having voting on Friday?
We feel that if voting is on Friday students will be less educated and less aware of voting. In addition, not having a weekend during campaign week would likely putting a lot of stress on campaign teams.
 - iii. Why did you only now decide to bring up these issues instead of when this was a current or future order?
These were discussions that I expected to happen on the senate floor. Unfortunately, in my opinion, these conversations did not happen.
- b) Caroline Willoughby — Treasurer
- a. Please RSVP for a Ring ceremony timeslot.
 - i. There are currently over 500 attendees.
 - b. The first financial literacy seminar date has been set for next semester.
 - c. As you vote tonight remember who you are representing.
- c) Sarah Jane Levine— EVP, Initiatives
- a. Priority 1 was on the concourse today passing things out to students about academic health from 10 am -2 pm.
 - b. Tomorrow Priority 1 will have programing for physical health.
 - i. There will be a free butts and guts class tomorrow from 5-6.
 - ii. There will also be a 6:30 pm sleep workshop
 - c. Priority 1 on Wednesday will be all about social media.
 - i. There will be posts made with encouraging videos.
 - d. There have been questions about what students should do if they cannot attend in person classes next semester due to health reasons.
 - ii. Currently, the best way to deal with this is to reach out to your advisors to see if there are classes that you can substitute.
 - e. The Chick-fil-A in the village will be closed at night this week, but the student center Chick-fil-A will be open at night this week.



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- f. There is still sentinel testing going on.
 - i. We are encouraging students to keep friends and family safe by offering COVID tests and antibody tests at the Med Clinic.
 - ii. At home tests are also being offered.
 - g. There is a new guideline effective immediately that on-campus events cannot exceed 50 people.
 - i. If you were previously approved for an event with 100 people that is still okay, but the new guideline takes effect immediately.
 - h. Shaker distribution is this Friday at 3 pm.
- d) Michael Bennett — EVP, Outreach
- a. Earlier today was Fall Feast.
 - b. Freshmen Mentorship forms are out to assess how mentorships have been going.
 - c. Thursday there will be an International Programs Seminar about International Students and Race Relations in the US as part of our Window To Your World Series.
 - d. There has already been a lot of discussion today about feedback collection—this is just a reminder that my team is always available.
 - i. Quantifiable feedback options (Auburn Answers Polls, Benchmarking other SGA, etc.)
- e) Landon McNellage— EVP of Communications
- a. The executive committee stands as a united front in support of Ada's decision to veto PSSB 20-1109-03.
 - b. This is a big week for SGA on social media (priority one, ring week, shaker distribution). Please reshare these materials.
3. College Reports
- a) At Large
 - a. Spoke with some members of the Honors College Congress and they all agreed that it would be nice but not necessary to have a seat in senate.
 - i. Enough representation with their senate liaison.
 - ii. Currently Honors Congress is only working on formal.
 - b) Agriculture
 - a. This week is Ag Round Up Week
 - i. There will be a silent auction on Facebook for student scholarships.
 - c) Harbert College of Business
 - a. We were able to pick our new ticket.
 - d) College of Architecture, Design & Construction
 - a. Two important meetings regarding our Spring Mental Health Initiative this coming week.
 - b. We have successfully implemented a series of business seminars to help students better navigate their respective industries within CADC.
 - e) College of Sciences and Mathematics
 - a. The dean of COSAM resigned and there is currently a task force being formed to find a new dean.
 - b. Attended the last Schools Council meeting to discuss the possibility of requiring Schools Council to attending senate twice a semester.



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- f) College of Education
 - a. Partnering with Big House Foundation.
 - i. Doing a toy drive until December 3rd
 - ii. Service hours will be given for participation in the toy drive.
 - iii. I will send out graphics that can be shared on social media.
 - g) Samuel Ginn College of Engineering
 - a. This Wednesday-Friday is Engineering Spirit Week.
 - i. Wednesday: pastries
 - ii. Thursday: popcorn
 - iii. Friday: tailgate
 - b. Encouraging other engineering organizations to form a ticket.
 - h) School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
 - a. No report.
 - i) Grad School
 - a. Paid part-time Grad School position available.
 - b. The Grad School Council is holding a toy drive.
 - c. Working on the Consistency and Accountability for Spring 2021 resolution.
 - j) College of Human Sciences
 - a. CHS National Quality of Life Awards will be held December 7th.
 - k) College of Liberal Arts
 - a. Last week we had an event with the associate dean to gather feedback.
 - i. Many students are nervous about going transitioning to in person classes in the Spring with rising COVID cases.
 - l) School of Nursing
 - a. Arranged a zoom meeting for anyone interested in running for SGA to help get nursing students involved.
 - b. Working on streamlining our feedback system.
 - c. Implementation of a collaborative office hour where everyone can hold an office hour together.
 - d. One of our associate clinical professors is running a clinical research survey right now about breastfeeding.
 - i. There is an opportunity to win a gift card if you participate.
 - m) Harrison School of Pharmacy
 - a. No report.
 - n) College of Veterinary Medicine
 - a. We have been getting our clubs registered as an official campus organizations.
 - i. This past week we were able to get a majority of our organizations on the path to being registered on the main campus.
4. Committee Reports
- a) Mary Cate Saville – Academic Affairs
 - a. The DEI classroom poll will be coming out over baseline this week.
 - i. May get to wear “ask me” shirts with and use iPads.
 - b. First draft of FLUNCH resolution has been drafted.
 - c. Continuing to work on GFP.



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- b) Rett Waggoner – Budget and Finance
 - a. Motion to move future order PSSB 20-1123-01 to a current order of business.
 - i. Motion carries
 - b. Five carry over request bills that have been drafted that will be brought to Senate Exec. this week.
 - i. May have to do a baseline survey to pass this legislation.
 - c. Two COVID transfer requests this week:
 - i. \$1000 Emerge
 - ii. \$18,867.49 UPC (multiple events)
- c) Molly Sullivan – Code of Laws and Rules
 - a. Last week we did code corrections.
 - i. This Wednesday finishing code corrections.
 - b. Meet with Katherine to make sure that we are on all on the same page about all the legislation that has been passed so far.
 - i. Presentation at minor candidate orientation about expectations.
 - c. Motion to call for a recess for 10 minutes to discuss the state of the current legislation.
 - i. Motion carries.
- d) Tyler Ward– Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - a. Working within SGA to make sure we are being equitable.
 - b. Presentations at campaign orientations
 - c. It's on us campaign
 - d. Going beyond respect campaign
- e) Stephen Sadie – Student Affairs
 - a. After meeting with Armark and dining we have decided that we need to conduct an assessment about where we currently are with student dining and where we want to go with dining in the future.
 - ii. Dining would like to pinpoint SGA events where Armark/Tiger Dining can provide food to help facilitate gathering student feedback.
 - iii. We need to pinpoint events where SGA could gather feedback.
 - iv. We need to create very specific questions.
 - v. May be sending out a survey for advice about which SGA events you think would work for food/feedback.
- f) Andrew Dismukes – Executive Committee
 - a. Reminder that office hours are due on Monday at 7:30.
 - b. Only one more Senate Exec. Meeting left this semester.
 - i. All senators who wish to attend will be asked to please attend on zoom.
 - c. Please send any absences/excuses that you have.



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5. Freshmen Committee:
 - a) Starling, Freshmen committee
 - a. In one of my classes, in response to the recent election results, a GroupMe was made to blast those who did not hold the same political beliefs as everyone else.
 - i. Need to exemplify what it means to *Go Beyond Respect*.
 - b. I sent out a google form about adding an honors college seat to senate to freshmen in the Honors College
 - i. There was a majority in favor of adding an honor college seat.
 - ii. There were some negative feedback that said that both the Honors College Congress and Senate need to fix internal problems before merging.
 6. Liaisons
 - a) BSU, Brandon Belser
 - a. No report
 - b) Honors College
 - a. A survey was sent out to the Honors College and different Honors College Organizations. The responses show interest in adding a senate seat for the Honors college.
 - c) Student Veterans
 - a. Would appreciate any donations for the upcoming Iron Ruck.
 - i. Disposable wipes, canned goods, towels, etc.
 - ii. Volunteers always needed
 - b. Toys for Tots drive—email if you want/need donation boxes.
 7. Current Orders
 - a) Veto of PSSB: 20-1109-03
- Debate:
- a. Senator Christian: “On Friday, I had a conversation about the horrors of campaign week with someone during my office hour. I know that I had conversations and I have heard conversations. I have full faith that we did not gloss over a piece of legislation like this. One of the points that was brought up was that there was a lack of feedback. I am conflicted about this because I have also been hearing about survey fatigue. During the recess I talked to a lot of y’all about the conversations you have been having with people. I think that these campaigns give SGA a bad name. Another point is that we are supposed to be educating during the concourse hours. We do a lot of studying on paper, but what is on paper is not necessarily reality. We are not looking at the reality of the concourse because how often are you really being educated on the concourse. The reality is that we are not educating people on the concourse. What I am trying to get at is that we have a whole lot of support from students that cannot be seen on paper. SGA elections are something that students dread. SGA is not supposed to serve SGA, SGA is supposed to serve the students. However, the people who I have spoken to are likely not going to fill out a survey. There are a lot of people with very strong opinions who are not going to fill out surveys.



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- b) Senator Dismukes: There has been some really good questions raised. With media being all week long instead of just during the formal campaign period, the bill that we passed would make media all week not just during formal campaign. The concourse is ideally meant for education, but we have to be honest that that does not really happen. Also, having voting on Friday would make run-offs a little easier and would allow campaign teams to rest. This legislation was meant to improve mental health. If a major candidate were to lose, the candidate would have the weekend to rest and recuperate. This was done for the students, not for SGA. There are three main concerns of Auburn students: dining, parking, and SGA elections. We have worked on the other two, and now for the first time we are working on SGA elections. There was no intent to strip power from Katherine. I think we can all attest to the fact that many people have been coming up to us and complaining about SGA elections.
- c) Senator Callahan: When I first heard this I was sort of against this because it was a major change to election week. But we can't stop election week and we can't stop concourse week. At the same time we need to address the fact that our current system is not in favor of the students walking on the concourse. It is said that we need concourse days because that is when the students become educated. We would all be naive to assume that students are being educated on the concourse and that nothing is happening on Saturday and Sunday during elections. Remember this was a unanimous decision by a group of people who were about to go through this process. I feel that our opinions are validated by that. Also I think there is a lot to be said about ending on Friday. I would like to make it very clear that I was very aware of constituents when I voted on this bill because I think that one week is a much more manageable time frame.
- d) Senator Locke: Can you clarify what the different voting means?
- e) VP Kassen: Voting yes upholds the veto. Voting no dismisses the veto.
- f) Senator Dorrill: I would like to clarify that this bill has nothing to do with this spring, correct?
- g) VP Kassen: Yes, we passed a bill a few weeks that threw out everything for this spring. This would go into effect in spring 2022.
- h) Senator Barrontine: Motion to adjourn.
- i) VP Kassen: Motion to adjourn does not carry.
- j) Senator Nobles: It never says that voting day has to be on Friday. Also, in reference to the COL it does not say anything about campaigning on the weekend. Could senator Dismukes or Senator Sullivan speak to this.
- k) Senator Dismukes: The director of elections could chose to have voting on Monday or any other day. It is understood that Friday would serve as the best day for elections. Senate would still have to approve the voting day.

Vote:

- a) The motion does not carry
i. bill is upheld



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- l) PSSR: 20-1116-01 Inclusion of Flunch Availability on Syllabi
 - a. Riley Locke, College of Engineering
 - b. Move to amend this bill
 - c. Amendment: Addition of Julie Huff, Assistant Vice President for Strategic initiatives and Communications to the CC line.
 - d. Vote on amendment.
 - i. Motion carries
 - e. Vote
 - i. Motion carries
- a) PSSB: 20-1116-02 Reserve Fund Request regarding Equipment Replacement for Eagle Eye TV, Student Media
 - a. Rett Waggoner, College of Business
 - b. Vote
 - i. Motion carries

8. Future Orders

- a) None

Announcements

- a) Hays Kassen, Vice President
 - a. Time yielded to President Huntley: *I respect your decision because you were elected to serve the students in your college, and I appreciated your discussion even though I am in strong opposition to your decision.*
 - b. We are going to move forward and create a special committee to look at senate expansion
 - i. Currently we have 13 people want to participate.
 - ii. If you did not answer the survey and want to participate please let me know (you are still more than welcome to participate).
 - iii. There will be a meeting after senate exec. on Thursday to lay out the goals for this committee.
 - iv. The meeting will likely be on zoom.
 - c. No senate next Monday, but I challenge you to make sure that your Monday night is productive.
 - d. Each committee should meet at least once over the break.
 - e. Very proud of y'all especially over the last month!
- b) Pearson Brown, Advisor
 - a. Baseline survey in the chat for tonight's advisors' three pointers.
- c) Brad Smith, Advisor
 - a. No report.
- d) Jamie Calvert, Graduate Student Advisor
 - a. No Report

Adjournment 9:32