

Senate Meeting - 12 September 2012

Agenda

By Sven van Mourik (VP):

- 12:15 – Call to order
- 12:15 – Officer Report: Senate Chair (Sven van Mourik)
- 12:20 – Officer Report: USC President (Patrick McDermott) on representation and SGA
- 12:25 – Officer Report: GSC Vice President (David Bloom) on committees
- 12:30 – Committee Report: Chair of Club's Committee (Moe Bourji) on club's night and budgets
- 12:35 – Committee Report: Chair of Judiciary Committee (Pierre Bach) on pending amendments
- 12:45 – Introduction to new senate meetings
- 12:55 – Unfinished (old) business and new business
 - Announcements and Adjournment

Minutes

Taken by Stephanie Dissette (Communications Director)

Meeting Begins (12:12PM)

1. Sven (VP) introduces himself, Dave, and Stephanie
 - a. Invites all senators to introduce themselves in turn
 - b. All introduce, and give small list of goals
2. Sven discusses design of Senate Meetings
 - a. Changes this year:
 - i. Encourage better communication between Senators, Constituents, and Professors
 - ii. Senators are required to attend department meetings
3. Sven calls forward Pat (President USC SGA)
 - a. Congratulates Senators
 - b. Thanks them for desire to get involved
 - c. SGA is here to support Senators – not intimidate
 - d. Delegates listening to student body to Senators as a shared responsibility
 - e. (Interrupts neighboring classroom – note: no more mic)
 - f. Students unaware of who the Senators are and what their roles are – let's change that
4. Sven introduces Dave (GSC SGA VP)
 - a. Discusses committees
 - b. Promises to present and attend weekly

5. Sven introduces Moe (Clubs Committee Chair)
 - a. Discusses roles of Clubs Committee – supporting clubs
 - b. Introduces events:
 - i. Clubs Night – please attend as Senators
 - ii. Formulating Budgets (in Senate meetings)
 - c. Pierre (attending student) asks for details in Budget situation
 - i. Moe responds: better to discuss when all Senators are here; but Moe presents budget ideas, not club leaders
 - ii. Sven responds, no budget requests until 3rd Senate meeting or later
6. Sven introduces Pierre (Judiciary Committee head)
 - a. Pierre introduces himself – to be repeated when full Senate is in attendance
 - b. Judiciary Committee –
 - i. Revises and approves all changes to constitution and bi-laws for clubs
 - ii. Sit in on Senate meetings to speak up when Constitution is violated (or clear up confusion)
 - iii. Help with election taskforce
 - c. Goals this year:
 - i. Finish the revision process of last years' team (Content)
 - ii. Accomplish or near that by end of semester: broad discussion on format of Constitution (Format)
 1. Broad generalizations on student rules and Senate features
 2. Is it best for the Constitution to be one comprehensive document, or a broad elaboration of student rights with annexes (etc.); or what should be changed to make it more user friendly?
 - d. Discusses new participants: open to everyone, including audience and Senators; get in touch if you want to participate; to be repeated when whole Senate is present
 - e. First amendment to be put up to a vote:*
 - i. Last year went through long revision process: article IX (Clubs and Organizations) and XI (Pertaining to Finance and Budgets) never finished voting on
 - ii. Pierre explains what changes are being put to a vote; many changes pertain simply to wording; and asking for transparency
 - iii. Sven thanks Pierre – discussion to follow

Officer and Committee chair reports finished (12:35PM)

7. (12:38) Sven resumes meeting after allowing a moment to review Senate regulations
 - a. Sven reviews meeting etiquette – no tardiness or cellphones etc.

- b. Sven reviews voting process; and puts to Senators whether or not they are ready to vote on Pierre's presented changes to Constitution
8. Laura (ICP) moves to accept changes to Constitution
- a. Seconded by Max (Econ)
 - b. No objections
 - c. Laura (ICP): amendment makes sense, except for taking out bi-laws for clubs; not well organized if taken out
 - d. Bessie (Psych) responds: agrees, but the new wording is more understandable for new club leaders; the removed portions are like "red tape"
 - e. Stephanie (IBA): pointless to make clubs have bi-laws; something online explaining is sufficient
 - f. Laura (ICP) responds: some clubs may not need bi-laws, others do; larger clubs need some form of organization; club leaders can become dictators if not regulated (for example)
 - g. Dana (CS, M, Sc): agrees, some clubs need organization, others don't; however, adding a law won't help, might actually discourage
 - h. Bessie (Psych): not a lot of experience with clubs personally, so could an example be given of a larger club?
 - i. Laura (ICP): in my experience, having a club constitution helped facilitate better communication between club members and leader(s); bi-laws don't have to be long or specific, it's a general request, not negative;
 - j. Stephanie (IBA): feels a mission statement is enough; gives leader a goal
 - k. Sven adds: Laura (ICP) already voted in favor of this Constitutional change, she will have to vote positively
 - l. Bessie (Psych): mission statement is too loose; maybe add rules to that list?
9. Laura (ICP) changes position and moves to decline
- a. No objections
 - b. Max (Econ) asks a question about voting process – Sven clarifies
 - c. Laura (ICP) asks about typos in Constitution: is it still worth voting on, due to grammar mistakes?
 - d. Sven responds, keep in mind current motion, vote on this, move to a new motion if necessary
10. Stephanie (IBA) moves for the previous question: immediate vote
- a. Declining amendment: motion fails with one vote
11. Stephanie (IBA) moves to approve this Constitutional change, as long as grammar is fixed
- a. Seconded with multiple votes
 - b. Dana (CS, M, Sc) moves to approve this motion; puts matter to a vote
12. Vote: who is in favor with approving this amendment?
- a. Approved with majority vote
 - b. Sven suggests that Senators look over this matter later

13. Laura (ICP) asks: how are suggestions made to Judiciary Committee
 - a. Answer, informally, outside of meeting
14. Any other motions on the floor? No.

Closing statements (12:52)

15. Closing Statements, Sven (VP)
 - a. Concrete plans
 - b. 15 spots available on Senate – please promote filling those too

Meeting adjourned (12:53)

** Changes to the Constitution to be attached*