



Senate Minutes

January 31, 2024

Absent Senators: Kelsie Alonso, Clarissa Alberto Rosario

A. WELCOME - Dain Ochoa

B. WORSHIP - Bridgette Oh

- a. Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

C. Introduction of New Senators

- a. Brianna Pubien
- b. Caroline Bridges

D. Student Voice Committee- Kristen Sihotang

- a. Assist Southern Smiths
- b. More student opinions to help with next year’s Senate
- c. Encourage dorms to use their budget
- d. Complete previous tasks

E. Social Committee - Amanda Leitao

- a. THIS FRIDAY - Senate Surprise Day: Valentines-themed
- b. Senators: please sign up!

F. Community Service Committee - Herve Kazembe

- a. Interest in working more closely with Christian Service to find more opportunities
- b. Last week, they were able to meet with two coordinators, and they were able to brief us on where they stand.
- c. Due to the cancellation of MLK, they reached out to see if there were opportunities that still needed help

- d. First-option: “large-scaled event,” 200-400 students participating in community service
- e. Second-option: “normal community service” ~25 people participating – more reasonable

G. Finance Committee - Chidi Onyeije

- a. Working on appropriations
- b. Received feedback on what they can do better
- c. Improve process and communication
- d. Include presidents AND treasurers in the conversation
- e. Include explanations to the club on why they chose the amount
- f. Talking about what else the finance committee can do besides club appropriations

H. Scholarship Committee - Minha Yang

- a. International Scholarship Vote: Maria Hernandez and Ashlen Rojas (see last Senate Minutes for further detail) // Maria Hernandez: **Vote: 22/0** Ashlen Rojas: **Vote: 22/0 BOTH APPROVED**

I. PR Committee - Matthew Taylor

- a. Two new posts
- b. Chair introductions and Valentines Senate Surprise
- c. We have almost all the individual ones
- d. Senate Surprise and giveaway – post it on THEIR account to bring more followers
- e. NFL giveaway as well
- f. Giving away: gift cards, maybe something thematic for football

J. Elections Committee - Samuel Mora

- a. Last year edited the elections manual, therefore they will not be updating it
- b. Elections for Student Association are coming up
- c. Mention this in your email so constituents can be aware that these are positions that they can run for
- d. **Convocation: Feb. 15 SA Elections committee**
- e. **Feb. 22 will be the elections – online (SurveyMonkey)**

K. Safety Committee - Lauren Gerath

- a. Brainstorm to get feedback from the Students on campus
- b. Sending out a survey about ways we can improve the safety of campus
- c. Whoever puts in a response will be put in a raffle, and can win something safety related

L. SA Spiritual Vice President

- a. Charlynneth Dizon
- b. Class standing: Junior
- c. Major: Psychology
- d. **Vote: 20/2 APPROVED**

M. Wage Increase - Zach Kirstein

- a. Current rate: \$8.25/hr
- b. Many of these positions have people that report to them
- c. Tier payment for cabinet
- d. President: \$12/hr // Cabinet VPs, Comm. Dir: \$11/hr // The rest: \$10/hr
- e. We working many hours to do what we do on SA
- f. Current Impact: \$50k to pay for everyone's wages
- g. Future Impact: \$60k to pay for everyone's wages
- h. Impact on next year's budget: \$10,000
- i. Adjustments to hours
- j. Increased accent editor hours: 22 hours
- k. Strawberry Fest: switch 1st Semester to 8 hours and 2nd Semester to 15 hours
- l. Memories: switch Memories from 15 hours first Semester to 8 hours second semester
- m. Financial VP: 12 hours per week
- n. Where does the \$10k come from? Not completely sure yet, but it will be built into the budget

- o. Is there anything else you are basing this off of? Yes, it's the type of work. The influence, the effort, and the effect we have on campus, it deserves a higher pay rate
- p. Many jobs that have exceptions. SA is required to be at all other SA events as well. A lot of it is being paid to be present as well.
- q. Dr. Negrón and Alexis support this proposal because your SA officers are not just office workers. They are budget managers (Finance VP), President has to attend faculty senate meetings, board of trustee meetings. There are certain expectations that go further than those on campus. There is a lot more weight on their shoulders. The responsibilities we place on this body deserve a higher pay.
- r. Bonus plan idea? It was rejected

N. Cultural Liaison Position

- a. During these past three years, something that we have noticed with this position, is that in the description, there is only one event: International Food Fest.
- b. The person who is in this position has to look for more work . The current liaison has looked for more SA work.
- c. We need to revisit the necessity of this position
- d. This position has only been open for three years. At the beginning, we had limited hours for this position because we were not entirely sure what they would do. Originally, it was to bridge the gap between the cultural clubs and SA.
- e. Little work due to the fact that the clubs can communicate to Mrs. Grentz or Dr. Negrón
- f. Controversy: no need for cultural liaison for one of the most diverse campuses in the South
- g. Does the cultural liaison work with the diversity committee? At least not this year, due to his work with OMM. They only meet as necessary. The thought was for him to meet with them. A Senator can be a part of the committee.

- h. Will the international food fest still happen? Yes. If this is approved, they will work out which SA cabinet member can take on this event
- i. Concern: no longer a bridge between the cultural clubs and SA. Solution: Mrs. Grentz oversees all the clubs, and is able to help the clubs as well. They are helped by Mrs. Grentz, so they may not need an additional student to work with. From this year's experience, they did not express a big need for the liaison.
- j. Vote next Senate meeting.

O. Announcements

- a. Senate Surprise - THIS FRIDAY!! 11:50-12:50 p.m.