

# SGA General Body Meeting Minutes

11/7/2024

Meeting Called to order 7:05

## Members in Attendance

- Rachael Michalski
- Ashlynn Cooper
- Hayden Crowe
- Meghan Farrar
- Kyle Ganson
- Emma Craddock
- Hailie Toro
- Cierra Cooper
- Tanasia Thomas
- Seth Wayland
- Nick Mullen
- Nakayla May
- Raegan Kelly
- Armenta Farmer
- Joyce Clark
- Sydnie Scribe
- Ana Lazano
- Zachary Johnston
- Tiara Halder
- Lilly Rakes
- Gracie Herron
- Nadeline Portillo
- Hailey Wildesen
- Akilah Johnson

## Members Absent

- Hailey Unger (Mental Health Day)
- Ava Rankin (Mental Health Day)
- Anita Rodriguez (Mental Health Day)

- Gregory Areford (Mental Health Day)
- Hannah Bortz (Mental Health Day)
- George Walls (Sick Day)
- Isadore Tabe (Excused)
- Jackson Sanders

Senators Sworn In:

- Akilah Johnson

Minutes are approved

Introduction of the Gallery

President
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- Thanksgiving Baskets
  - Event is November 25<sup>th</sup>
- Camus Visit Day
  - This Saturday for new potential students.
  - Looking for representation
- Food Recovery Network
  - Collect the surplus food from the dining center to Paws pantry and additional local food drives
  - Every Friday at 3 pm
  - Looking for new people to be involved in any available role within the org
- Safe Zone training
  - Required for students who were unable to make the first training optional for those who have attended
  - Thursday November 14 at 5 in EHS room 209

Vice President
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- Senator Information form must be filled out

Secretary
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- Attendance forms in office on desk for those with planned absences
- Office hours clock in/clock out forms are mandatory to fill out, not doing so will result in an incomplete office hour (s)

## Treasurer

- President in place of treasurer goes over current fiscal accounts

## Committee Reports

### Governance

- Extending a welcome to the new senator
- Will be working on new resolutions
  - Senator service hours, more details will come soon

### Senate Finance

- N/A

### Student Affairs

- Any student comments and concerns are encouraged to bring to the committees

### DEI

- Addressing comments on Yik Yak and the incident at Salisbury and explaining that that is not tolerated by SGA

### Public Relations

- posts are overdue, encourages senators to send pictures of themselves to introduce them to the Instagram page.

### Student Engagement

- Friendsgiving
  - Potluck, food poll will be delegated soon
  - Leftover food will be given to Union
  - Bowling following the dinner

## Old Business

### New Business

- Staff Senate: Chair Wilhelm, Dr. Cooper and Patrick.

- Thanks for the opportunity for being able to present
- Addressing the current situation and the current topics circulating the campus
  - Retrenchment plan has not been shared with Staff Senate; however, it will be sent out toward the end of the year near January
  - Faculty is 13 to 1 which is a reason
- Vote of No Confidence
  - An act of the faculty body; the Staff senate had no part in that
  - 463 were not eligible to participate in the vote of no confidence and was a selected few and percentage that took part of this
  - The Chancellor will most likely do nothing with the Vote of No Confidence
- Staff senate is made of staff who have confidential positions, HR department and NOT Faculty
- Encourages students to ask direct sources to stop the spread of misinformation. “If you hear or see things, go to the source. Use what's available to you.”

#### Open Dialogue

1. QUESTION: So, with the removal of faculty for the majors. So, for example, My major, wildlife fisheries. Our professors teach three to four classes for that major. So, if the professors in my major were to be removed, how would the students be able to come back from that? Because I don't think they'd be able to continue their major year with the removal of our professors in our department.
  - a. ANSWER: Because I wasn't involved in the retrenchment process and because it is a faculty led initiative, it's hard for me to say what would happen. What I can say is that part of my understanding is part of coming up with a retrenchment plan includes looking at how many students and how many faculty are in the department currently. So, it's department by department. So, for example, if wildlife, wildlife issue. If you have exactly the number of students that need the exact number of faculty in the department, that department should not be affected.

2. QUESTION: You said that the retrenchment plan would get sent out either at the end of the year, or in the middle of January. Would that be going to the students as well or is it just has to be staffed?

a. ANSWER: I believe the president's message will be sent to the campus community, so I'm assuming it will go to the students. At a minimum it would be able to come to SGA and to clarify, it will be more of the results of the plan. From what I understand, the retrenchment committee came up with the metrics of how they're going to measure which departments, you know, where the current situation is and then it will be discussed with the departments. But it would be more of the, you know, these are the areas that we affect. I don't know that we'll ever see the metrics that were created by them. Yeah, I do think that there has to be some sensitivity around who will be involved because it is a human resource issue.

3. QUESTION: With all the budget cuts that have been happening and the fact that staff has already been affected by the budget cuts for years now, has there been any indication that any more staff will be cut during this process?

a. ANSWER: You bring up a really good point. Over the last, I would say for 10 years the university has saved money. Whenever we run into budget crunches by not replacing staff or eliminating staff positions, were all to protect faculty positions. Where we're at right now is that the majority, if not all staff departments are pretty much as bare bones as we can get. So cutting faculty is now a necessity. We cannot sustain the number of faculty that we have given the number of students that we have.

4. QUESTION: Has there been any information that has been publicized to at least the staff that showed that the saving be realized any sooner, so that staff will start to see an update in staffing? Like I know residence halls with housekeepers are a bigger problem on campus.

a. ANSWER: I don't know if there's any indication of that. There has not been so far. But I do know again that the plan moving forward after the budget plan is realized is to be very strategic and thoughtful about how we replace or bring on new faculty and staff. Those of you who may or may not know we're in the middle of middle states reaccreditation and doing a self study and I was meeting today with our chair of the Middle States visit team. When we bring on a tenured faculty member or tenure track, we're essentially signing a 30 year contract. Once they get tenure, they're here until they retire, basically. And so, you know, there really needs to be a lot of thought put into, you know, the hiring of new faculty, bringing a lot of new programs. You know, is the program going to last the life of the faculty that are going to be teaching it? Sometimes we don't know. But those are the types of things that we really need to think about versus just somebody retires and we need to replace them.

b. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: A big part of the budget plan is the merging of Student and Academic affairs and also the merging of the Division of Regional Development, Engagement and Advancement. That's going to eliminate two vice president positions, which will be significant savings to the university.

5. QUESTION: Do any athletic departments look to make an impact on this planet?

a. ANSWER: Not at this time, no. I do happen to know that athletics already made significant cuts prior to the start of this academic year, the start of the fiscal year in July. You probably know that the model for traveling to away matches or events, games, they've changed that significantly. I think there's a lot more vans versus charter buses, things like that. So, I do know that athletics has already kind of on its own eliminated around \$800,000 just from the start of this fiscal year. But to my knowledge there aren't any cuts planned to the athletics departments. Again, I think that a lot of people on campus do

recognize the value of the athletic teams to the campus as well as other co curriculars, all of those things, the band, whatever it may be.

Students Comments and Concerns
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#### Announcements

- DEI Committe has refilled the Menstrual Products in the bathrooms
  - Will remain on top of that
- Safety Walk was a success
  - Accessibility Buttons, Darkness of Campus, Emergency Lights
- Mental Health Days are encouraged
- Patrick Thanks SGA for co-sponsoring the election night watch party

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07