

34th Meeting of the Sixteenth Undergraduate Senate
April 21, 2015 in Nitory 209 at 7:00PM

7:00 PM — Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Previous Minutes, Acceptance of the Orders of the Day and Action Calendar

7:05 PM — Reports

1. ASSU Executives: Elizabeth Woodson and Logan Richard
 - a. Thanks to all senators for their time and effort
 - b. Sent out final report to the student body
 - c. Nanci Howe: The Vice Provost of Student Affairs will be interviewing all candidates to determine how to improve the election process in the future
2. Update from the Financial Manager: Frederik Groce
 - a. Cardinal Fund class fully funded and executing trades
 - b. Senate will vote next week on ASSU's overhead budget for next year
3. Update from the Chair: Ana Ordoñez
 - a. Congratulations to new senate elect; transition will be this Sunday 1-4pm in Huang
 - b. Transition meeting will include presentations from current senators/FMs about the ASSU constitution, senate committees, and a financial workshop
 - c. Reaching out to students to find out what restaurant they would like in the Engineering Quad
4. Update from the Deputy Chair: Rachel Samuels
 - a. Thanks to Elizabeth and Logan for all their work this year, and to the new senators who showed up at the meeting
 - b. Sponsors of Board of Judicial Affairs Honor Code amendments want senate approval for a future town hall meeting
 - i. AO: Make sure it specifies the 16th UGS
 - ii. Vote passed
5. Senate Committees
 - a. Academic Affairs Committee Chair: Amartya Das
 - i. Following up with Prof. Elam on intro class TA training next week; will speak to next senate's Academic Affairs chair about continuing this
 - b. Administration and Rules Committee Chair: John-Lancaster Finley
 - c. Advocacy Committee Chair: Rachel Samuels
 - d. Appropriations Committee Chair: Jackson Beard
 - i. Email her if you have any comments on how she ran Approps this year; feedback will be incorporated into the transition meeting
 - e. Communications Committee Chair: Luka Fatuesi

- i. Bill currently in the works
 - f. Student Life Committee Chair: Kenneth Tea
 - i. Senate elect should reach out to KT if interested in student issues (mental health, etc)
 - ii. DW: New printing system trial has started; students can still join trial and get \$50 free printing for the remainder of the quarter
- 6. Individual Senator Reports
 - a. Victoria Kalumbi: Pulled resolution off agenda after email thread from Etchemendy
 - b. Malcolm Lizzappi: Disappointed in the timing of Provost Etchemendy's statement; Also disappointed in the response of the student body on email threads and on YikYak, where several students (potentially including a fellow senator) have made hurtful comments.
 - i. He has once had to publicly apologize to the senate, but this was because he spoke in a way that did not represent his constituents' views.
 - ii. JLF: Encourages current & new senators to read email thread on productive dialogue with Provost Etchemendy.

7:30 PM — Funding Bills

- 1. Vote on funding bills as recommended by Approps passed

7:45 PM — Open Forum

- 1. Stanford Speakers Bureau/Stanford Club Sports
 - a. Groups applied for sizable annual grants and did not receive them; senate should figure out how to fund them, if they should be funded
 - b. Fred: Speakers Bureau budget had the wrong value on the ballot, because this value included a recent reserve transfer (a clerical error on SSE's part)
 - c. These groups can no longer be funded the same way (through annual grants), but senate could approve the budget in smaller standard grants for specific speakers, for example
 - d. Since group applied for joint special fees and is heavily attended by grad students, GSC should contribute some funding
 - e. Ballot error displayed 26% budget increase rather than 16%, and the group believes their budget would have been approved if it had been displayed correctly
 - f. A majority of the student body voted "yes," just not 15% of both student populations
 - g. Group considering applying for a standard grant for a four-speaker series
 - h. Matt: GSC should fund this from their reserves; would like to see specific

amounts

- i. JLF: If this was a mistake on SSE's part, it could be paid for now through the buffer fund, but since it was expected to pass there is room for it in the standard grant pool
 - j. Fred: No action should be taken until after the end of the financial year, when SSE/Senate can tell how much money is available/how much money will be freed up by taxed reserves
 - k. Fred: There could be a Constitutional Council case filed against the Senate/ASSU, if the group doesn't get the appropriate funding, and if the Council decided in their favor the funding would come from (and likely drain) the Buffer Fund
 - l. Group has considered a special election, but feels that alone on the ballot, they couldn't get the required 15% of the student body to vote
 - m. BH: If group applies for a standard grant and the next senate chooses to meet to approve funding over the summer, the group could receive funding as early as July
 - n. Group has major event on May 26, which they may need to cancel
 - o. Matt: Suggests group rely largely on co-sponsorships to get their full amount of funding
 - i. JLF: Senate can't fund the exact same request in standard grant form, but historically a request is considered different if it's \$0.01 less
 - p. Group requires a certain amount of funding flexibility to acquire important speakers, so it will be up to the next senate and their specific funding policies to approve events
 - q. Motion to end discussion passed
2. Eric Wilson: Appeal of Fred's decision to place Stanford NAACP on probation
- a. Fred: Does UGS-S2015-3 now represent Disciplinary Action, since a formal request has been made to the senate?
 - b. Eric: If UGS-S2015-3 does not require that an appeal be made, he will rescind the appeal
 - c. JLF: The bill and the appeal are separate actions doing the same thing, except the appeal comes from students where the bill comes from the UGS, so the appeal can be voted on tonight where the bill must be voted on next week
 - i. LF: UGS-S2015-3 doesn't involve any disciplinary action or sanctions against Fred, so it isn't subject to the 72 hours notice rule
 - ii. Fred: Any limiting of the Financial Manager's power constitutes disciplinary action
 - iii. LF: UGS-S2015-3 is asking for a stay of Fred's decision rather than overturning it
 - iv. Olivia Moore: The SOCC groups have clearly violated the constitution, so

the Financial Office has taken appropriate action

- d. Eric: Stanford NAACP's formal appeal
 - i. It is the opinion of the NAACP that the action of the Financial Manager is taken in response to what he considers a breach of the constitution. As of yet, it is not officially clear whether or not there has been a breach, so Stanford NAACP is asking the Undergraduate Senate to overturn the Financial Manager's disciplinary action until the Constitutional Council reaches a decision.
 - ii. AASA, MECHa, BSU, MSAN, SAIO make the same appeal.
- e. Fred: Every branch of the ASSU interprets the constitution as they see fit until the Constitutional Council says they can't. This hasn't happened yet on this issue.
- f. Fred: SOCC groups currently cannot access mygroups, which means they must submit their requests in person at the SSE office. No events or funding is being blocked
- g. BH: Motion to extend Open Forum until there is a motion to close it passed
- h. Fred: Reached out to community centers and representatives of SOCC groups before making his decision (which he is not required to do); said he would not take any action if they expressed intent to release their documents in compliance with the constitution, but they refused.
- i. JLF: Rule of order #12 states that senators with a strong conflict of interest must abstain
- j. ML: Will abstain from voting on the appeal he made, but not the others, as he is not a member of the other VSOs.
- k. Eric: There is currently not a Constitutional Council case against the FM for his actions, because the groups are trying to address the situation here, on the senate floor
- l. LF: The Constitutional Council exists to resolve differences of opinion on constitutional interpretation, so until they have made their decision, no action should be made on the assumption that there had been a constitutional violation
- m. Fred: Decision was made as the FM, knowing and explicitly stating that the decision may change with the results of the Constitutional Council case
- n. BH: This action is, by the FM's admission, disciplinary, and it is creating a separate type of group to be funded.
- o. Justine Moore: All SOCC-endorsed senators should abstain from these votes, since they signed contracts agreeing to represent SOCC's interests in all motions and votes
- p. JLF: Motion to suspend Rule of Order #12 (dealing with conflicts of interest)
 - i. VK: This rule of order exists for a good reason and suspending it explicitly to get something passed is problematic

- ii. Fred: This rule exists to make sure the UGS makes fair and unbiased decisions; suspending it sets a very dangerous precedent
- iii. JLF: The senate regularly suspends the Rules of Order to get things done for the benefit of the student body in a timely manner; introduced the motion to have a discussion on how to interpret this rule as it applies to the current situation
- iv. DW: A majority of senators are SOCC-endorsed, so without them quorum may not be met
- v. LF: SOCC-endorsed senators are not core members or leadership of SOCC, so there is no conflict of interest
- vi. JLF: Senate suspends the Rules of Order on a regular basis, whether or not they should, and this is not a different situation; the Rules of Order have always been malleable and frequently bent
- vii. Peter(reading statement from AA): Suspending this Rule of Order is horrifying and is different from suspending the rules of order to expedite a vote
- viii. AO: Reminder that appeals are from groups individually, not SOCC as a whole, and SOCC-endorsed senators have been regularly voting on SOCC group funding requests
- ix. ML: Ethical voting is up to the senate and its individual senators more than the ASSU documents
- x. AG: Unsurprisingly, SOCC-endorsed senators are pushing back against the idea that they shouldn't vote on an issue. Senate is more than half filled with SOCC-endorsed senators, so without them senate wouldn't get quorum, which probably isn't a bad thing.
- xi. Elizabeth: Being a member of a SOCC constituent group isn't the same as being a leading member of SOCC, and since these appeals are from individual groups, senators should abstain from votes on appeals by groups that they are a part of.
- xii. JLF: Motion withdrawn
- q. Peter(on behalf of AA): Supports Fred's decision and feels probation should only be lifted when they have complied with the constitution
- r. KT: Signing a contract with SOCC doesn't necessarily affect a senator's vote
 - i. BH: For example, several senators voted against divestment despite being SOCC-endorsed
- s. Matt: Even if senate overturns Fred's decision on this, he could still take a similar action against the groups in question
- t. Peter(on behalf of AA): Would senators ever vote against transparency in any other setting/when they didn't benefit from it?

- i. LF: The UGS is more transparent than the financial branch
 - ii. Fred: The financial branch is very transparent and complies with Freedom of Information Act requests
- u. Eric: Transparency of ASSU/student government is not the same as transparency of VSOs
- v. Fred: VSOs that make up SOCC take actions on its behalf every day and are considered agents of the ASSU
- w. Elizabeth: Intent to share documents is very important in this case, and if groups state intent to follow the Constitutional Council's decision, could Fred's decision be changed? (Fred: Yes, this would be sufficient)
- x. BH: All of the discussion happening tonight will also take place in front of the Constitutional Council; the financial branch has acted on their interpretation of the constitution before the Council has made a decision and the senate is within their rights to do the same
- y. Motion to end discussion
 - i. LF: In special circumstances like this one, the senate should get involved
 - ii. Motion to take a 5 min recess passed
 - iii. Motion to extend the recess for 5 min passed
- z. Elizabeth: Senators should consider the precedent they are setting; considering vetoing UGS-S2015-3, should it pass
- aa. Conflict of interests to be determined by individual senators
- bb. Vote on appeals:
 - i. AA: No to all
 - ii. JHB: Abstain on all
 - iii. AD: No to all
 - iv. ME: Yes to all
 - v. LF: Yes to all
 - vi. JLF: Yes (former core member of BSU)
 - vii. AG: Abstain to all
 - viii. VK: Abstain to all
 - ix. ML: Yes on all except MSAN, abstain on MSAN
 - x. AO: Yes to all
 - xi. RS: Yes to all
 - xii. KT: Yes to all except MSAN, abstain on MSAN
 - xiii. ET: Abstain to all
 - xiv. DW: Yes to MSAN, abstain on others
 - xv. BH: Yes to all
- cc. All appeals pass
- dd. Motion to end Open Forum passed

8:00 PM — Action Items / Old Business

1. UGS-W2014-2: Bill on Creation of a By-Law Appendix
 - a. VK: Bill records on-going projects for future senates to help them finish projects and work with the administration
 - b. ML: Motion to move previous question passed
2. UGS-S2015-1: Bill to Appropriate Buffer Funds to Exec for Permanent Recording Booth
 - a. JLF: Has been postponed to figure out precise numbers, now that this is done, would like to pass tonight so the GSC can vote on it tomorrow
 - b. Motion to move previous question passed
 - c. Vote on UGS-S2015-1 passed

8:30 PM — Previous Items / New Business

1. UGS-S2015-3: Bill to Order Financial Manager Frederik Groce to Reinstate SOCC Constituent Groups' Online Banking Privileges
 - a. LF: Leaving bill on previous notice in case the Financial Manager doesn't lift the sanctions
 - b. Motion to end discussion passed

9:00 PM — Final Comments

1. AO: Thanks to members of the senate elect who attended the meeting
2. Fred: Thanks to senators for their service and for being an especially active and productive senate
3. JLF: Honored to have served as a senator, excited to work with next year's senate as President next year

9:10 PM — Adjournment

1. Adjourned