



Student Association Board of Finance

Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2019 – 1 PM

The HUB Conference Room

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Daquial – Motion to Approve
2. Simon - Second

III. Chairs' Report

1. Samuel Salazar, Chairman of the Board of Finance
 - i. I updated the liaison assignments because some were out of wack, so look it over and let me know what you think. I made a list below of New & Unfunded groups.
 - ii. SORC Email List – Let me know if something isn't going through
 - iii. This is our last meeting hopefully before our December 2 budget meeting
 - iv. Please send me pictures of yourself for the PowerPoint if you'd like to be included
 - v. Since we tabled the contract, we will hear it when we get back in January. Ivan has difficulty with Sunday so we can move it to Thursdays 8 PM – 12 AM
 1. Daquial - I can move rules meeting
 - vi. Salazar – Then we can meet on Sundays. You will need to be here when we go over your assigned groups
 - vii. We have our budget template revamped, and it looks much cleaner.

- viii. When we do our meetings, we will have to go through all of the student groups
- ix. Last meeting of the Senate is December 4
- x. Daquial- Do we have student groups finishing two semesters of appropriations funding?
 - 1. Salazar - I will talk to Ray about it as well as Comptroller Kelley and Acting Appropriations Chair Sabra Simon. I know two groups that will be new and unfunded but needs to get their 250 for next semester too.
- 2. Molly Donelan, Vice-Chairwoman of the Board of Finance
 - i. I was told that there is a member of Fuerza Latina who is not a student at the University. They were a student here during their freshman year and is allegedly participating in their dance team. From what I have gathered, this is common knowledge among members of the group as well as the faculty.
 - ii. Daquial- What is the next step?
 - 1. Salazar – I don't think the board should take action, the Comptroller should. They can freeze their budget but as of right now it is hearsay.
 - iii. Zhang yields time to Goudiaby – Why is this a matter for the BOF and comptroller's office? Is it because the person holds a position?
 - 1. Salazar - If they are a member or e-board, they need to be a student activity fee paying member. This could cause problems because they are using activity fee money
 - iv. Goudiaby- I get the e-board thing. Theoretically, if the person was not a student, could they still be a guest choreographer?
 - 1. Salazar – I've heard of people getting outside help for training and speaking.
 - v. Donelan – One thing I didn't mention initially is that the member in question has performed at Block Party and other SA funded events
 - vi. Daquial – I am concerned about competition registration, clothing orders, etc. If none of that took place, I'm not sure any action is needed. But if they were purchasing things, that is another conversation.
 - vii. Salazar – As of right now we are not taking any action, just a discussion

IV. New Business

- 1. Consideration of a Student Activity Fee Amendment

- i. Salazar – The board is going to determine whether we recommend this bill; It will come to the Senate on December 4. I will be chairing, and Molly will be next to me reading the recommendation. On November 30, 2016, there was a fee increase. It was very contentious. The fee amendment passed. The final vote was 26-13-14, which was a supermajority, but it only needed a simple majority. You cannot implement a change over winter break, so the Spring 2017 clause was thrown out by the university. The SUNY Cap is \$250 per year. We are not allowed to go over this, and it applies to all campuses. Right now, we have 86 funded groups, other campuses have much larger budgets (such as Buffalo). This bill would be a 13.64 percent increase in the Student Activity Fee resulting in an addition of \$372,650.50.
- ii. Goudiaby – The last time we raised the Student Activity Fee was in 2016; the year is now 2019 and this would not turn into effect until 2020, so this would be a 4-year gap since the last increase. We have more and more student groups and they are asking for increases in their funding. We have lack of funding internally in terms of our office. We have been supporting initiatives like Purple Pantry, the Affordable Testing Act, The Period Product Accessibility Act etc. With everything that we've been asking for, the current budget is not sufficient for our needs.
- iii. Daquial- This is not about the bill, but will there have to be a time where we put a cap on how many groups we are funding?
 - 1. Salazar – No. That would violate Viewpoint Neutrality. We can't say how many groups we will provide to, just the dollar amount.
- iv. Goudiaby – We can still increase above the SUNY cap, but it would not be mandatory, they could opt out
 - 1. Salazar- I would have to consult with a lawyer because I don't want SA to get sued. There is nowhere in SUNY that explicitly states that, that is why the SUNY cap is a safer option
- v. Donelan- The bill states that other SUNYs have much higher budgets. Can the sponsor provide some insight on that? What are their fees and how big are their budgets?
 - 1. Goudiaby – They have a larger budget but also more students. I don't know if they have a higher fee. I will

- definitely reach out and try to find it for senate
2. Zhang – I'm in the SUNY SA Presidents Group chat; from there I've gathered the fees as Potsdam - \$25 per semester. Delhi - \$125. SUNY Buffalo is \$109 per semester. Buffalo State is \$200 per year. New Paltz is \$210 per year. Cobleskill is \$95 per semester. Suffolk Community College is \$210 a year. SUNY Buffalo \$218 per year. Upstate Medical University is \$180 per year. Purchase is \$250 per year. SUNY Sullivan is \$156 per semester, which is \$320 per year but it is called a general activities fee.
- vi. Daquial – I think we've heard enough. Can we go over the bill?
 1. Daquial - Motion to move into debate
 2. Zhang - Second
 - vii. Debate:
 - viii. Daquial- I get why this bill is necessary right now. My only concern is that the last time we did this, it almost didn't pass. I definitely think if this passes there should be a really strong presence of advertising explaining why we did this. The notion that other SUNY schools have bigger budgets is a bit misleading.
 - ix. Zhang - inquiry – I don't think there is, but is there a cap on how much one group can receive from SA?
 1. Salazar – I don't think so because it would violate Viewpoint Neutrality.
 2. Zhang - I ask because other people can argue that it will benefit groups with larger budgets. Is pouring more money in going to solve the problem?
 3. Goudiaby – That is the situation we are in now. Larger orgs take more money. We have supplemental funding which is on a first come first serve basis. We can't reserve money just because someone else is getting it. The fee raise will contribute to student groups but it also has to be for supplemental as we have cut it so much.
 - x. Daquial - Point of information – how much do we have in the supplemental line?
 1. Salazar - \$72,746.02. It was cut by 39.38% from the previous year
 - xi. Daquial - Where did they get this arbitrary number? How did they decide on the cut?

1. Simon – It came from what was left after distributing to student groups and different directors
 2. Goudiaby – Last year it was an afterthought. During all of the chaos of moving things around nobody was thinking of supplemental funding. It is always left to the end and is based on whatever is left.
- xii. Salazar – last year a lot of changes happened during the budget meeting that we don't remember. A lot of positions were created in the personnel line. Positions were created, the Affordable Testing Act and the Period Product Accessibility Act got a line. You guys increased the external budget a bit too
1. Daquial – we also took out the Surplus line and moved some of it
- xiii. Donelan – I'm not for this because we can formulate our budget in such a way that we do not have a lack of funding. We have current lines in our budget that are not being used. For instance, we have \$8,000 in our Feminine Hygiene Product Line, which is a program that still has not been implemented
1. Zhang – It did pass, and people are working extremely hard to make it a reality. It is a crucial issue that we should take a beat on because it affects most of our population.
 2. Daquial – I was a sponsor of the bill and fought really hard for it, personally I don't see it being renewed next year because of how slow the discussion is. I have been in meetings w Chief of Staff Zhang, VP Nunez, Todd Foreman and Clarence McNeil. The main issue is that they are afraid people will be stealing the products.
- xiv. Simon – This is a great bill and I see where Goudiaby is coming from when it comes to the executive board. I am concerned about students and whether they can financially handle this
- xv. Zhang - It will benefit internal and external but some students will not see the benefits. It was a hard sell for students to keep the fee mandatory
1. Goudiaby – I understand that, I feel like it will always be a hard sell. It is the same way people say SA doesn't do anything year after year. You don't see the breakdown or logistics unless you actively seek out the information. They think it is done by the school but it is done by us. There is a problem with the affordability of the school

and I understand that but to be frank, if it were to pass it would be incorporated in the 20k plus people pay per year. I don't believe in using that sentiment towards SA, I don't think people will not go to our school anymore because of this increase. The framing of that should be towards the administration. There will be a rally on the ninth about higher education

- xvi. Zhang – When you compare it, for some students that \$15 makes a huge difference. We all face burdens but for some it goes even deeper than that
- xvii. Daquial – I can see why \$15 can be detrimental to someone, but I see this bill as a precaution before we meet the carrying capacity of our fee.
- xviii. Zhang – Students don't know what SA departments do and don't realize how they benefit (ex: movie tickets) These resources are here and they don't know about it
 - 1. Goudiaby – I agree but I think that goes to transparency and marketing. Some aspects of what we do becomes much more publicized than others, like Parkfest. Even if people aren't crazy about the idea, let's say it didn't pass, everything that students benefit from and associate with UA culture they would realize that there is something missing. A lot of what we provide sustains students. Personally, I wouldn't attend if I did not have all these organizations and SA to be involved in. Our student organizations are the selling point for UA. The school is trying to do the optimization plan, they are suggesting pushing juniors and seniors off campus so they can fit more freshman. We are going to have many more students and we need to accommodate this.
- xix. Sen. Ozley – Does the university have data and information on the income of students? I know a lot of scholarships are based on income
 - 1. Salazar - I don't know off the top of my head or if they are willing to release it to the public.
- xx. Sen. Ozley – Raising the fee would be hurtful to some students, if we are going to raise the fee perhaps, we could make some students exempt by income
- xxi. Daquial – I don't think we have the current student population, but we have it of recent graduates, which is right around the

poverty line.

2. Goudiaby – Do you want to strike the part about other SUNY schools?
 - i. Daquial – It really is misleading based on the stats we have today, so I recommend striking that clause
 - ii. Daquial - Motion to strike out the fourth whereas
 1. Zhang - Second
3. Goudiaby – In the 2016 fee increase bill, do we have the same numbers they use in their language?
 - i. Salazar – I'd have to go back to check the 18-19 budget. A really important thing is that there are club sports, treated like their own package.
 1. Simon- Club sports and Five Quad take up big portion
 2. Daquial - Middle Earth too
 3. Zhang -Motion to recess
 4. Simon - Second
 - ii. Goudiaby – Did we ever get the number of groups from last year
 1. Salazar - No
 - iii. Salazar – There are two lenses through which to look at this situation – fiduciary. People think it would be good because it is increasing our revenue. The Student View lens – there are people struggling to make ends meet. Ultimately, we only make a recommendation. One thing I'd like to see is that we ensure we communicate to student groups and publish where the money is going. We need to be more transparent with this. Moving forward- student groups should know we are doing this for the right reasons
 - iv. Salazar - Motion to vote
 1. Vote: 2-3-0. The Board of Finance votes NOT to recommend the passage of S.1920-BBB

V. Closing Roll and Adjournment

1. Daquial – Motion to adjourn
2. Simon - Second