



Student Government Association  
*St. Olaf College*

Student Senate Meeting Minutes

November 28th, 2017 – David E. Johnson Boardroom

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the minutes
- IV. Student Comments Section
  - A. Bergeland: We are going to switch the student comment section to before the presenters, so they can speak - I've cleared it with the presenters.
  - B. Julia Valero: A couple of us are here today because we want to raise the issue of Boe House again. There has been a lot of concern due to the lack of transparency and the state of extended limbo that Boe house seems to be in.
  - C. Kneser: The college asked Northfield Hospital and Allina to give us proposals. Northfield Hospital declined to participate. Allina gave us a financial proposal but gave us no details as to what level of service would be provided. We are waiting for them to give a more detailed picture to us. We're expecting another proposal to come shortly, and hopefully with more detail in it; when we receive that proposal we would like to bring students into the discussion as much as we can.
  - D. Emery Rankin-Utevsy: So there aren't answers and we're waiting. Students have a lot of concerns about cost, etc. At what point can those concerns be raised?
  - E. Eaton: We don't know right now, there is actually nothing to share beyond what we have shared at this point.
  - F. Kneser: We heard last year that students want more providers of color to be able to see our students. In order to meet the breadth of diversity there is at St Olaf, one provider wouldn't be enough. We want to know the availability of access to a network of providers so we can have Somali providers, Hmong providers, etc. The only way to get access to a network like that is to go outside of the model that we currently have. We would have greater access to psychiatrists, etc. Change in an area like this is very difficult - we've had connections with these people for a long time. We know students have relationships with providers that they want to keep as well. We want to know if they are poised to keep working with the providers that we

currently have. Early indications seem to say that they want to do that. We want to do that, but also allow students to have access to a broader network. How do we do that? What is the role of insurance? Is there a health fee needed? These are the same questions that we've had since we started the process. The questions haven't changed, we're just waiting for answers. One thing we do know is that there will be no change in services between now and the end of the academic year because that would be impossible to do without disrupting the community.

- G. Miller: You mentioned health fees? I was under the impression that students already pay that fee?
- H. Kneser: You pay a comprehensive fee. We've looked at how other colleges do it and a lot of them charge a health fee. Right now the Boe House, health services, academic support services, etc. are all covered in the comprehensive fee. This is part of a larger problem - healthcare is in a screwed up economic system right now in our country. This would give the college greater flexibility in the future.
- I. Miller: What I've heard from students is that it is important that that service remains free.
- J. Rankin-Utevsky: I appreciate your honesty Greg. How will students know when Allina has submitted something?
- K. Kneser: We're trying to keep Greater Than updated on it since they've been in this discussion with us for a long time. It is certainly nothing that we want to hide from folks. I want to remind you that nothing is free, you pay for this one way or another - if it's rolled into the comprehensive fee it competes with athletics, academics, etc. If it was a tacked on health fee, it wouldn't be up against a choice in a reducing resource environment where it's competing against everything else on campus. This doesn't make it free, it's just paid in a different way.
- L. Miller: My comments were just to speak for the group of students on campus that I represent. If there's an additional fee for the Boe house, St Olaf will be worse than it is today - it's important to students.
- V. Special Orders
- A. *TRIO-Student Support Services Board of Leaders (BOL)*
1. Saul Hernandez: We are Saul, Liz, and Khadijah and we are the board of leaders of the executive committee for TRIO - we're in charge of hosting the St Olaf Student Support Services (SSS) events. We are in charge of making sure that everything runs smoothly with those. Thanks to Heather Campbell for creating and editing this presentation.
  2. Liz Ramos: The program started as a part of Andrew Johnson's "war on poverty" in the 1960s. He declared that education was a civil right and we should invest in the youth. Upward Bound (UB), the first TRIO program, was created in the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964; it encourages high school students to go to college. Then there was the Higher Education Act in 1965. This extended the TRIO program into three parts:

the Educational Talent Search (ETS), SSS, and UB. It's basically a pipeline - UB encourages students to go to college, SSS helps them integrate, and ETS encourages them to continue on to graduate school. These programs give aid, such as Pell grants to students and must be reauthorized every 7 years. As of today, TRIO has been expanded into 8 programs.

3. Khadijah Gowdy: In order for a student to qualify for TRIO, they need to be a low income student, that is they come from a family whose income is below 150% of poverty. And first generation means that they are students whose parents have not obtained a degree. Some of the other programs previously mentioned are UB, ETS, SSS for students with disabilities, and McNair for underrepresented students. TRIO services are not a minority program - just for lower income, first generation students.

4. Ramos: This graph shows the income of two people with varying levels of education. The gap between families with two people with no high school degree and people with two doctorates is very large.

5. Hernandez: Here we have graduation rates from high school and college. We are trying to increase those graduation rates.

6. Gowdy: This graph is percentage of high school graduates who continue on to college based on family income quartile. Only 45% of student in the lower quartile will graduate. Of those 45% of student in college, only 21% will obtain their bachelor's degree. That's 9% overall. So we want continued support for TRIO services and programs so that we can provide support for students. Students in TRIO services at St Olaf get their degrees at a rate of 80% and higher, so it's a pretty good program.

7. Hernandez: We want to get these graduation rates higher for TRIO students and SSS is a model program at St Olaf - we're very well known. There are 8 TRIO programs in the US. These programs are a process - there is a seamless pipeline from K-18. We have 700 students for our ETS at St Olaf. These aren't necessarily students at St Olaf, but also students that we go around to or that come visit. We're supposed to only have 160 students in SSS at St Olaf, but we actually have 200; we try to get as many students as possible. We have 28 McNair scholars at St Olaf.

8. Ramos: This year, Trump's administration cut TRIO's funding by 193 billion. That affects us and the college a lot. TRIO benefits St Olaf by providing grant dollars that are spent at the bookstore, cafeteria, etc. It provides student work jobs. There's SSS students that contribute a different perspective. It directly benefits St Olaf.

9. Gowdy: What can SGA do? Please contact your elected officials so that they will continue/increase funding. Sign up to be on the TRIO supporter alias to receive updates. You can attend the TRIO Celebration week in the spring.

10. Kneser: Thanks for coming. The SSS program might be the thing that St Olaf is best at. We get a lot of press for other things, but the numbers that were in this presentation are really good - we do this better than almost every college in the country. The graduation rate you mentioned was 80%, I think it's actually higher than that; it's on par with the rest of the students at St Olaf. It's partially because of the college support, but also because there's great people in the program working really hard. This is a shining example of what this school does right.

11. Wake: Where is Trey - who was on the staff?

12. Kneser: He's at Carleton. We want to eventually get him back.

13. Liz: We are trying to plan events - we would love to connect with you for that.

14. Hernandez: We have meetings every Monday 3:15-4:15 in Tomson 200. Feel free to stop by or meet our advisors.

B. *VP Kneser* - Access to Student Alias

1. Kneser: One thing Dean Roz and I get to do is approve all of the [stolaf-students@stolaf.edu](mailto:stolaf-students@stolaf.edu) emails before they get sent out. One thing we hear is that people get too many of these emails. The college would like to rethink our broader communications strategy for how we communicate internally at St. Olaf. We're in a position to rethink what messages should go out to students, etc. I don't get much feedback from people saying they want more information that way, it just goes the other way. People say the emails go out and they don't read them. We'd like to reduce them so you get less and you actually read them. Things that would not be affected by this are Ole the Lion, the athletics one, the chapel schedule - we think the bundled ones are very effective. Would you like to do one on Monday that covers the week ahead? If we have a request to send an email for a smaller event, we could either redirect it to an SGA group that bundles it or direct it to St Olaf extra. The other way to go would be to reduce the number of programming emails, like specific speakers in specific departments - we could steer those to St Olaf extra. We would ideally like to reduce these to half or a third of what they are now. I need your feedback and I'm wondering if SGA could be a partner in bundling up the emails from student groups that don't necessitate an email to the whole student body?

2. Ahsan: We've already been thinking about doing this with SOC's orgs.

3. Kneser: Ole the Lion is really well done - we get lots of feedback from staff that they love getting that. I think doing something like that could increase the effectiveness of sending emails anyways.

4. May: We do try to include the week from Thursday to Thursday in the Ole the Lion emails.

5. Kneser: I realize that, but I think people usually read those to see what's happening on the weekend - I think having a Monday email too could keep people fresh for what's happening in the week.

6. Zaghoudi: Do we send out any other regular campus wide emails? I feel like whenever there is something, it's not regular.

7. Kneser: There's emails before dances, but I don't think that would be affected. If we have emails about co-curricular fair, or other big events those could still go out too. SGA has figured this out for the most part, it's mostly other groups that would be affected. Bundling would be more a vehicle for student orgs.

8. Khaleel: Tim and I try to limit the emails we send out to the student body too so they actually read them.

9. Dagher: You mentioned wanting to have students use St Olaf extra a little more?

10. Kneser: To me that's a short-term solution. Right now St Olaf extra is trying to do too many things. Marketing and communications is trying to figure out a way to do internal communications better - we would like to create some other kind of forum for this.

11. May: Are you currently receiving requests for emails that you could see in the Ole the Lion email? Because we have a form where students can submit things for the email.

12. Eaton: I didn't know that was an option - I will let students know that they can submit their events to that now.

13. Kneser: There's a significant number of emails where people are hitting reply all and we don't let those go through.

14. Abusharkh: Emails like the SO/AN survey that was recently sent, would that be included in the "happening this week" email?

15. Kneser: The campus climate survey sent from the administration would still come as a separate email. Emails sent from academic departments would have to be figured out. The exec committee can give me some advice as to how to proceed.

## VI. Reports and Announcements

A. Brunclik: ADC is having a stocking stuffer and candy-gram event this weekend. And the Pause dance is next week!

B. Khaleel: There's a Title IX event. It's a wellness swiped event about the hookup culture at St Olaf. There will be speakers and discussion

C. Wake: Last week was the first phase of the municipal ID at the city council meeting and we had some students there. On the 5th of december is the first phase of voting so PAC is working on that.

- D. Laird: We will be discussing the student's response to the [diveristy.edu](http://diveristy.edu) program.
- E. Grossman: Ytt is planning holiday party and making it inclusive.
- F. Casey: We're working on the first year reunion.
- G. Carlson: Working on plan B vending machine - hopefully I'll have more info next week.
- H. Aehl: International house wants to remind you to submit your entries for the children's lit contest in the next two days.
- I. Weaver: Movie this week is Elf. Next week we're having a small midweek programming event and going to Grand Slam.
- J. M. Johnson: Sustainability is meeting with Bon App tomorrow.
- K. Dagher: IHC is currently fixing up hall gifts. The task force met with Chris Chiappari and Jennifer Kwon Dobbs and we're meeting after Senate.
- L. Zaghoudi: BORSC is working on our schedule from now til the Board of Regents meeting. We're having a s'mores event in crossroads to decide on the topic we want to bring to the Regents in February. Feel free to stop by!
- M. Burt: We're figuring out the holiday party.
- N. Naikwad: Ell put up our Christmas tree and we're planning finals food.
- O. Karsell: We had a fun Thanksgiving party and decorated out lounge.
- P. Boldt: Rand put up our Christmas tree.
- Q. Miller: SAAB met with Raj last week and did a 2 hour learning circle session - it was successful.
- R. Anderson: MEC is talking to agents about interim and spring.
- S. Syal: Mohn is planning our holiday event
- T. Ahsan: We deactivated Hinduism on the hill and recognized a new hinduism organization. We funded ping pong club for \$300 and debate team for \$150. The Donate a Meal sign up phase concluded and they broke the record. There were 2029 entries, 1878 after removing the duplicates. Three Carleton students signed up and I asked Bon App about that.
- U. Abusharkh: I went to the campus night walk for safety but it was disappointing not to see any of your faces there.
- V. Wetzel: Next week we're meeting with Jon Mergens about access and
- W. McQuaig: I spoke to the safety committee and they were confused about the request for blue lights - we already have a light and phone outside of most of the buildings on campus and other locations like in the middle of Buntrock parking lot. They want to know what other locations you wanted them. Email me!
- X. Kneser: We follow blue lights a lot - they were invented for use before cell phones. Now they're used a lot to mask crime. There's a lot of debate about whether they're effective. They're hardly ever used on this campus. One way they are used now is that prospective students touring will look for them on campus because they give them the idea that the campus is safer.

Y. Bergeland: Everyone who's going to be gone in January needs to send me the name of their proxy by next meeting (Dec. 5th). We can announce who our proxies will be at the meeting next week too.

Z. Khaleel: Elections for next year are on March 6th. We're using ranked choice voting, so we don't need to have primaries.

AA. Kneser: The PLT had a meeting and this year we heard about how Senator Casey won a big award.

BB. Casey: I'm going to the super bowl! There's a NFL film crew coming to St Olaf to film it as well.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. *ADC Bylaws Change* - Senator Brunclik

1. Brunclik: This is basically just updating the bylaws to use titles that we currently use. We also updated it to say "the Stochella event" instead of the electric run, because we probably won't do that this year. And we took out positions that don't exist anymore.

2. Grossman: Is it true that you provide programming until 3am?

3. Brunclik: We don't usually but we can.

4. Kauffman: Friendly amendment to change WMC to WCM.

5. Anderson: Friendly amendment to make the font size all the same.

6. Proposal is tabled.

B. *ADC Policy Manual Change* - Senator Brunclik

1. Brunclik: This is the same thing, but in the policy manual.

2. Wake: Why is it being changed from agent to member?

3. Brunclik: It's more general to use member and we don't use that term anymore.

4. Dagher: Friendly amendment to change the font, etc. again.

5. Wake: Can we do a straw poll between member and agent of darkness?

6. Proposal is tabled.

IX. Hill Hype

A. Carlson: Christmasfest!

B. Buaben: Last week the debate team won.

C. P. Johnson: We might have an event coming up involving dogs.

D. Dagher: Ole Spring Relief applications are out.

- E. Anderson: Surprise MEC event on Friday at 7pm in the Lair - bands are terrible at responding to emails.
  - F. Al-Haddad: International Student Organization is having an open house tomorrow 7:30 to 8:30 in Tomson 212.
  - G. Wetzel: December 8th, my house is having an event called self-care and community - we're just going to have a bunch of food and hang out.
  - H. May: The St Olaf band is playing Sunday in chapel. Also a class I'm taking just opened an exhibit in Rolvaag.
  - I. Bergeland: December 12th we'll have a brief meeting and a Christmas party after!
  - J. Kneser: There was a city council meeting last Tuesday about the municipal ID thing. Some of the senators were there. I'm certain this will pass and we will be the first city in Minnesota to have a municipal ID.
  - K. Wake: Voting for the municipal ID is on the 5th and the 12th of December.
- X. Senator of the Week
- A. Senator Miller to \_\_\_\_\_?
    1. Syall!
- XI. Adjournment