



Student Government Association
St. Olaf College
Student Senate Meeting Agenda

February 21, 2017– Gold Ballroom

Senator Meet and Greet 6:00 pm

Call to Order 6:30 pm

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the minutes
 - A. Patel: there was a spelling mistake, it said Thomas instead instead of Tomson in last week's minutes
3. Special Orders
 - A. GE Task force discussion - Sen. Freyermuth & Khaled Almousa -Student Members of GE Taskforce Reports and Announcements
 - i. Khaled: Hello, we meet about once a week with administration and faculty as part of the task force to see if we need to revise our current GE system
 - ii. Sarah: The task force first met in 11/2016 and our original plan was to present in march 2017 but that was may too much so that in March we will just talk about the desire and amount of change we want. The new presentation will be in September in 2017 where we can present 2 other options to the current curriculum.
 - iii. Khaled: Currently the faculty members are researching other liberal arts schools with GE systems that work well for them. They are trying to see how that could be incorporated here at St. Olaf and to see what models have been successful. There are three types of change possible: no change (really won't happen), moderate change by looking at individual courses or maybe adding/dropping a few requirements, or complete overhaul would be to start from scratch.
 - iv. Sarah: The reason you are sitting like that is so we can have small group discussions. We got 300 responses to our survey and about 100 post-it notes so we have a good idea of what campus wants. But we would love to hear what you guys are thinking – anything is on the table and we want you to be create in your tables and come up with some different things.
 - v. *Small group discussion... share out from each table:*
 1. Awad: one of the main things we talked about was the GE's should be more intentional – by being more uniformed (example with FYW varying amount of workload), clearly stating why a given class fulfills a GE on the syllabus, and another thing we mentioned was an overhaul of the system where there is a set list/amount of GE's with

- a number of extra GE's that you have to take. So people get more choices and can choose classes that they are more interested in.
2. Lind: We talked a lot about how some GE's could be expanded or could be fulfilled in other areas of studies. We also talked about a seminar class and another idea was having, like at Colorado College...
 - a. Swani: Their last block class is a senior seminar and you have to take something that doesn't have anything to do with your major. So some big topic and it goes across majors so that you meet new people from other majors. For me there was a lot of community in 100 days march and that sense of community could also come from a senior course – instead of a freshman seminar course.
 3. Laruen: We also talked about developing a petition system where if you think that you deserved a GE credit and other people also thought that you could apply and petition to get that.
 4. Gonnerman: we talked a lot about how repetitive some of the GE's can be. For some classes in some majors the same GE's can pop up which can become redundant. We also talked about having 2 SPM credits and how that might be hard with some athletes – where it might seem like they are doing 3 SPM. We talked about dehousing GE's from departments so that you have more cross-interaction between GE's and majors. Finally, we talked about at some other schools there is a class with a 1/4 credit taken freshman year all about living on campus, that is at Loyola in Chicago.
 5. Tahir: The main issue a lot of us saw with fulfilling our GE's was that some of these classes are very limiting. So you are taking a class you are interested in but just to get a GE out of the way. We talked about adding a GE with something to do with the environment and also possibly something with community involvement. For example as a first year some of my friends talked about feeling isolated in a small community – so creating that community might be helpful.
 6. Vishwa: we thought it was really important that students take a course in gender and sexuality or/and race and ethnic studies. We also thought about changing up the religion GE's with more studies of other religions, more comparative. With the WRI GE it is really hard for science majors and they have to go out of their way to get those classes. Finally, natural sciences can be 'throw-away classes' where if you are a humanities major you just take those to get rid of that requirement but to be a natural science major there really aren't any 'throw-away' classes.
 - a. Hanle: And to define a 'throw-away' class it was more about going out of your way to take a class for a GE. We just think that it should be balanced
 - b. Poure: We also talked about the GE filling the class more than the class fulfilling the course. Some courses it feels, gateways math, like a throw-away class. Same with the Chemistry for non-majors. That is very unfortunate in our

opinion.

7. Benning: some big takeaways – we think most students and faculty need more training on race or inter-sectionality issues. We do want those issues to be talked about more across all subjects. The size is good now. Some complaints about writing and ORC about how it is really not very consistent. We also feel that there aren't as many options for WRI credits in science majors.
 8. Khaled: We talked with the religion requirements how we are a more global campus so moving away from the Christian study and having more religions as options to study. More inter-sectionality between department and some more WRI's in the sciences. SPM moving towards a holistic health that could be applied later on.
 - vi. Sarah: Thank you all so much! Seeing how much the students care about this and how much the faculty really want to hear about students opinions has been great. We also wanted to show you a bit about the survey responses from the students.
 - vii. Khaled: what we do well: encourage broad learning, wide variety of subject matter, well rounded students, improved writing skills, and within certain departments having inter-disciplinary courses.
 - viii. Sarah: The list of what people want is pretty big so I will give that to Sarah to send out. A lot of this was already explained by you guys. One thing that wasn't mentioned but a class geared towards respected debate since it came up that St. Olaf students might not know how to disagree or have a tough conversation. Less western focused classes. Also less checking off the list which I think a lot of us feel like we are doing.
 - ix. Khaled: thank you so much for talking with us! Please let us know if you have any other comments or thoughts, we really want to hear what you are thinking.
 - x. Bresnahan: Thank you all for a great discussion! We will be sending out their information so please don't hesitate to contact them if you have any more information.
4. Reports and Announcement:
- A. Linden: Working on elections marketing
 - B. Kolling: Mohn has their event from 7-9 on Friday.
 - C. Melugin: Carleton has 2 more senate meetings before their end of the trimester and new elections.
 - D. Haug: Greater Than has an awesome speaker, Josh Rivedal, coming next week! Sadly it is during senate time but he will be here next Tuesday at 7:00 in TOH 280 so tell all your friends.
 - E. Awad: last year BORSC worked with the mission statement committee and they are now working on the attached document, this Thursday during community time they invited BORSC and Senate to come by and talk about that attached document which I will send to you.
 - F. Knutson: Ellingson has their event, a beach party, this month from 7-9 on Friday
 - G. Spanjers: Hoyme had their event last Friday with a great turnout
 - H. Palermo: Kildahl event will be this Friday from 8-10 and we basically just went and bought a lot of chocolate
 - I. Zaghdoudi: we had a multi-cultural executive community meeting and we talked a lot

- about enhancing the General Education requirements.
- J. Zielske: Its On Us had a really engaging event, Jo Beld sent out a survey to the whole student body so please fill that out, honor house apps due soon, Tanner will lead a meeting this week Thursday 4-5 BC 251 on what we can do to make Pause safer
 - K. Kaldjian: We finally finalized everything with our spring concert and will be coming out with a date soon.
 - L. Faure: PAC spring speaker is next Thursday 5:30pm and you will find out who's coming tomorrow!
 - M. Benning: We started to review sunset clauses for IOU, GT and G&S senator which you be hearing more about in the next couple of weeks
 - N. Casey: we have our event this Sunday but Yitt is also having a big issue with fire alarms and we don't really have funding for fire alarms so we need to get some funding for that. Partnering with capital improvements on March 2nd event during community time we will be tabling
 - O. Freyermuth: Casino Night is March 4 and it will be James Bond theme but also British Theme and it will be in the ballrooms
 - P. Basset: pause dance went well – no vomiting and no ambulances. Met with safety committee the defibrillators have been added to campus maps. There was an emergency response guide that was sent out to faculty and administrators and will be posted. We are working on adding addresses to 911 operators because right now if you say a building operators don't know where they are so that will make it easier.
 - Q. Pori: student life committee met Thursday and it was very productive we talked about putting on an event in the spring to address the climate on race. With chapel talks and more informal events. We are looking for any and all forms of suggestions. We also talked about a more refined bias report system that would include a team to respond to those incidents.
 - R. Patel: Pause dance went really well, 1,000 people attended, and everyone was safe. This week on Friday in BC 143 we have a carnival with mask making and donuts
 - S. Rajan: Rand Hall is doing an event this week so feel free to go to the front desk and count candy and possibly win some candy!
 - T. Ahsni: SOC recognized an organization and funded a few others.
 - U. Barile: Melby had their event last night, it went ok. People liked the popcorn but didn't seem to be a huge fan of the karaoke. I am also looking at seeing how res life can be better at reaching out to students in the dorm.
 - V. Gonnerman: Thorson will be having an Oscar viewing party this Sunday
 - W. Bang: Hill-Kitt's event was this Saturday and we were taking advantage of the weather by spending a lot of time outside.
 - X. Vojack: There is a house which will have an event from 7-8pm on Feb 23 in Viking with a speaker coming in to discuss his book, funding opportunities for any interested in environment in Asia, the student naturalists are still doing their phrenology walks almost every Friday, and we are in the middle of climate action week (no waste challenge) and lots of events at Carleton.
 - Y. Webster: capital improvements is writing about some projects we've done over the course of the year. And someone submitted something to us which is really exciting
 - Z. Mettler: over interim we passed a proposal to make bylaws and the proposal gender inclusive and that has all been changed
 - AA. Lussenhop: Pres. Ball has started to meet and they are tossing around the idea of succulents. Movie this weekend is moonlight. Saturday we have a carriage coming –

come down to the pup house and 5-7 carriage rides. And on Sunday we will have a raging Oscar party with pizza and cookies from 5-11.

BB. Pullen: we have moved out hall council meeting to Thursday at 9pm

CC. Lind: I attended the autism spectrum support workshop and I can forward those notes. Our video marketing director, Jack, has worked on an election video and we are excited to share that soon and last week exec had a retreat and we are now discussing how to best support all students on campus especially in light of the immigration and travel ban and welcome all feedback

DD. Bresnahan: elections are now underway so keep talking about them and encouraging people to run. You are able to endorse people, only not those running for your position. Shover is the commissioner so ask him questions. I would like to thank some senators – especially hall senators – since they have a hard job reaching out to constituents so thank you for bringing up student issues. This is the appropriate place to hear about those concerns so we are depending on you all to be our ears to the ground. We love to hear about those events but also keep up the student voice part.

5. Consent Agenda

6. Old Business

7. New Business

A. Constitution Review Proposal - Sen. Gonnerman, Bylaws Committee

i. Gonnerman: the amendment would grant senate the ability to make minor changes to the constitution. Right now the system is set-up that even if we make or fix a typo we have to go to the whole student body. This would propose that those changes could be made with a 2/3 vote from senate. If it passed tonight it would also allow the referendum to happen on March 9 which is the day of general elections.

1. Benning: I would like to propose a friendly amendment to add 'student' before 'senate'.

2. Awad: do we still have the original constitution? Just wondering...

a. Bresnahan: not to my knowledge. But the one we have no does feel like the same one.

3. Zaghoudi: I have to say that I don't know a lot about the constitution but it seems like with the consent agenda and with this we are trying to stream line which is good but also like we are taking some power from the whole process. Just a thought we really should consider.

a. Verdoorn: I would like to reply by saying that the student senate has already given similar power to the Bylaws. I agree with the authors of this, that the constitution is wrought with errors. I think this proposal just reduces the barrier to fixing typos.

b. Lind: I agree with the previous senator as it could be seen as taking away the power and that was my initial concern but the proposal that we are seeing later this evening are things that students will thinking 'why am I seeing this?' so for these easy changes it would be nice to do it here within the senate.

4. Gonnerman: the changes that would be made are non-substantive and they are voted on by a body of those elected so it would still

reflect the wishes of the students. But substantive changes would still be decided on by the students

5. Lussenhop: I understand that fear but I also worry about if people are constantly asked to vote on periods and other small changes it might seem trivial. So when we really need them to vote they might just pass it by.
6. Webster: I would like to echo the sentiments of the previous senator. When we try to interact with the student body we use our privilege and position and that isn't something to be used lightly and using that position for something as flippant as a period is a reductive exercise. The fact that we have to ask that is unbecoming of a deliberate body.
7. Kadjian: what is the method of differentiating between substantive and non-substantive
 - a. Benning: Senate would be the judge of that
 - b. Kadjian: I do see a problem with that, if there isn't a mechanism in place already that is fair
 - c. Gonnerman: the student senate already determines what issues are trivial or substantive and the fact that it is a 2/3 vote means that you won't be able to ram through controversial issues. With a body this big it is hard to get that 2/3 vote
8. Webster: there is a check on that power, I would maybe change it even to $\frac{3}{4}$ instead of $\frac{2}{3}$? I hope there is never a time when more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of this body are going to pull a fast one on the students.
9. Casey: could you just take that non-substantive out? Would that eliminate the leeway?
10. Khaleel: I wanted to ask the same question, it seems like a lot of what we are talking about is the grammatical issues. Or else if it was clearly defined in this proposal.
 - a. Gonnerman: non-substantive changes would be made to reflect what currently goes on in senate. For example, gender and sexuality senator isn't in the constitutions but there are positions in senate and approved by bylaws that are not acknowledged by the constitution. That is what we mean by non-substantive. I think that word should be in there to make it absolutely clear that we wouldn't be making changes that alter but just better reflect who we actually are.
11. Benning: just to clarify this doesn't allow us to add positions and I think that non-substantive does make it a little broader. So if you just want to rename the title of your article that might not be grammatical but could be changed in senate.
12. Webster: Could I ask the authors where we might need to make a change besides grammar that would fall under that non-substantive language? Could you provide an example?
 - a. Gonnerman: one example is Elijah doesn't exist in the constitution so making sure that the constitution better reflects what is actually happening.
 - b. Benning: Actually we couldn't put something in constitution

- that is already in bylaws or change the names of titles
- c. Gonnerman: but if someone's position is named inappropriately in the constitution and we use a new name in senate it would be appropriate for senate to change that name.
 - d. Webster: but what about an example that isn't a name change?
 - e. Gonnerman: I think an amendment could be added to make it more clear, we could add 'other' before nonsubstantive - might clarify some confusion.
 - f. Verdoorn: one issue that I might see is for example we were to want to change amendments to additions. But a question; would the authors clarify if adding a role to the constitution to better align with current practice is substantive or nonsubstantive?
 - g. Benign: it is nonsubstantive
13. Zaghoudi: an example that some previous senators mentioned was changing the title of a senator. For example, with the word multi-cultural senator and a change like that is substantive and does change the role of the senator.
 14. Faure: I think that even in this short conversation there have been a lot of discrepancies with what nonsubstantive mean and I think getting that defined is really important. I think that getting that definition is worth the time it would take.
 15. Zaghoudi: In light of this I move to amend by crossing nonsubstantive out.
 - a. Webster: second
 - b. Freyermuth: One thing that I am confused about how position titles can change the meeting I don't think that crossing out this word really changes that
 - c. Benning: I would like to caution us not to table this, as we need to pass this today if we want it by elections. I am fine if that is removed even though personally I like it.
 - d. Verdoorn: I did notice a lot of constitutional proposals with a lot of position titles and I know some of them don't really change the title i.e. financial officer to chief financial officer. So maybe changing it to add nonsubstantive position titles.
 - e. Gonnerman: I have no objection to removing the phrase. I recognize that it is a vague term. I think that removing this phrase would be beneficial.
 - f. Webster: I move to PQ
 - i. Benning: second
 - ii. *Vote taken. Amendment passed.*
 16. Vojack: I still think that there might be incidents where there might be nonsubstantive changes so I think we should still include that but also include a definition. Because there might be changes so that have it clearly defined so there won't be abuse of that phrase.
 17. Lind: I move to amend so that it says 'non-substantive position titles'

as there are positions with names that have importance, like DCC and multi-cultural

- a. Webster: second
- b. Zaghoudi: I would just like to support this amendment.
- c. Cha: I move to vote on the amendment.
 - i. Patel: second
 - ii. *Vote taken. Amendment passed*

18. Spanjers: I would go back to a previous senator's point to have the nonsubstantive in there. I would advocate to pass this now and to have a definition of nonsubstantive changes as they appear.

19. Awad: I am not sure if we need to define nonsubstantive, since you are just going to say what it is anyways. And if anyone doesn't know what it is you can look it up.

20. Mettler: Move to advance the question

- a. Benning: second
- b. *Vote taken. Amendment passed.*

B. Constitutional Amendment MCD - Sen. Linden, Sen. Benning

i. Linden: this is our constitutional amendment, my position in the constitution is titled as public relations officer but I am actually known as marketing and communities director. Public relation does seem to cover a lot of different avenues that other roles may have so I didn't feel comfortable having that as my title. This would also stay consistent with the bylaws.

1. Webster: I move to PQ
 - a. Hanle: Second
 - b. *Vote taken. Amendment passed.*

C. Constitutional Amendment Financial Officer - Sen. Benning, Bylaws Committee

i. Benning: a similar thing we are changing the title to chief financial officer since there are many other financial officers in SGA.

1. Benning: Move to PQ
 - a. Webster: second
 - b. *Vote taken. Amendment passed.*

D. Constitutional Amendment CTO - Sen. Verdoorn, Sen. Benning

i. Verdoorn: as mentioned previously technically the position that I am currently filling doesn't exist. I personally think that this position really is useful and adds a lot to SGA. I do think that though the title webmaster is not the best title – it is biased towards male and has fallen out of common use in the tech industry. It is now more commonly known as chief technology officer. I also think it provides symmetry with the chief financial officer.

1. Webster: my impression based on the previous conversation was that this was not allowed with the other amendment but is this something that would be added?
 - a. Bresnahan: no, the student body would have to vote on this. Student body will vote on all the referendums passed on this meeting.
2. Cha: I move to PQ
 - a. Linden; second

b. *Vote taken. Amendment passed.*

E. Public Relations Proposal - Sen. Linden, Sen. Patel, Bylaws Committee (2 weeks)

i. Linden: this was updating these bylaws to stay consistent with other bylaws. I got rid of a lot of these bullet points and condensed them – it seems like a lot of words to say ‘I make posters’. We don’t call it the communications team so changed that. With the video marketing director we changed some things, he doesn’t have office hours but does have monthly check ins with me. With photographers we changed the number of events they were required to shoot since that fluctuates depending on when they are requested. We also added the director of social media position.

1. Pullen: I am curious, is there an outline on the process of obtaining an SGA photographer in bylaws?

a. Linden: there is not but that would be a good thing to have in there.

2. Linden: I move to amend to include a line that explains how to obtain a SGA photographer.

a. Webster: second

b. Pullen: I just brought up this point so that everyone is sure.

c. Benning: I would actually be a fan to vote down this amendment and coming next week with something that fits better with the grammar.

d. Zaghoudi: I move to table the whole amendment.

i. *Vote taken. proposal tabled.*

F. Executive Assistant Bylaws Proposal - Sen. Haug, Bylaws Committee (2 weeks)

i. Haug: The only change on here is to make it so that minutes have to be made public within 48 hours post-meeting. Right now I try and do that in 24 hours which is doable and I think these changes would just better reflect what I do now.

1. Pori: I move to PQ

a. Patel: second

b. *Vote taken. Proposal tabled.*

G. Executive Assistant Policy Manual Proposal - Sen. Haug (2 weeks)

i. Haug: Again this is just making minor changes to reflect current practice. The only change here is making it so the minutes get published on Oleville.com which is what currently happens.

1. Verdoorn: I move to table

a. Zaghoudi: Second

b. *Vote taken. Proposal tabled.*

8. Hill Hype

A. Patel: the blood drive is going on! Tomorrows the last day

B. Barile: I am on a club called To Write Love On Her Arm to get people to think about what their biggest fear is and what their biggest dreams are. So come to fill out a poster! I was also on the planning committee for the ADC event Friday and it should be a lot of fun

C. Pori: 9-1am this Saturday is the Bad and Bougee dance from the Caribou club and you do have to RSVP and it is a ball but it will be really fun.

D. Benning: It warms my heart to see such passion about details so thank you

- E. Freyermuth: there is a national eating disorder walk at the mall of America. I will be driving if you do need a ride. A lot of people are coming to talk and it will be great.
 - F. Awad: please come to the mission statement discussion.
 - G. Lussenhop: please come to the SAC Oscar party instead of the thoron viewing party.
9. Senator of the Week
- A. Senator Spanjers to _____?
 - i. Spanjers: I added a friendship bracelet on his wrist and coming in as a freshman I always thought that education was important but friends really are more important. The senator I want to give this to has been doing a lot of wonderful things on the It's On Us subcommittee and she is very deserving.
10. Good Times
11. Adjournment