



Student Senate meeting minutes for March 31st, 2008

Sara Duginske
President

Joe Tyrrell
Student Speaker

Nick Cibula
Vice President

The regular bi-weekly meeting of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Student Senate was called to order at 5:05 P.M. in MAC-204 with Student Speaker Joe Tyrrell leading the meeting.

Roll Call – *See Final Page*

The Pledge of Allegiance

Reports

Presidential Report
Sara Duginske

Reminder that there are elections this week. We went with 7 students to D.C. to lobby. There was a lot of networking as well as the United Council was there. It was a good learning experience and I encourage the next administration to go. In the next couple of weeks there will be more senate meetings. Tonight we will go over amendments and we will just talk about them tonight. That's it.

Vice Presidential Report
Nick Cibula

No report.

Senate Speaker Report
Joe Tyrrell

We do have five returning senators. Those that are not returning, please do. That is all.

Good Times Programming Report

We have some upcoming programs. Saturday there is a basketball game of UWGB students vs. the Packers. Tickets are \$2 at the UTIC. April 10th there will be a spoken word poet in the Phoenix Club. April 12th there is a rafting and ropes course.

RHAA Report

No report.

Academic Affairs Report

Steven Schultz

No report.

Environmental Affairs Report

Crystal Osman

The green books are being worked on as well as the UPASS. Sara said she is working with St Norbert as well as TC. There will be a number soon so keep an eye out.

Health and Safety Report

Joel Diny

Last Wednesday there was a smoking ban passed through committee. The ban is addressing the survey with 1248 responses as well as 64% saying they wanted to see a ban on it. The current policy doesn't cover all academic areas. It's recommended that the ban include the inner loop. The only place to smoke would be parking lots, residence halls and trails. It will go to the Faculty Senate to be passed and then it will go to the Chancellor. Sara added that it will be going to two other committees. Ricky added that there was a petition going around where if a majority of senators signed it then a senator could bring it up and have it be talked about today.

SUFAC Report

Brad Zuleger

Friday a formal letter to the Chancellor was sent out.

University Governance Report

Ricky Staley

Vote for SGA Elections as well as a general election at the holy cross parochial school.

Athletics

Kervin Blanke

We are working on the advisory committee for the Kress center.

Union and Dining Report

Crystal Jushka

We are going over Hours of Operation to create some survey questions. We took into consideration for the room naming that was brought to Senate.

Equality and Diversity Report

Andrei Varney

No report.

New Business

a. **Constitutional**

Amendments- Andy made a motion to amend the agenda to review the smoking policy. Lynsy seconded. Ricky called the question. Joel said he wants to know what questions people might have. Motion passed 13-3-1. Agenda is amended. Sara said Nick, Joe and I were working with the newer constitution and it was went through of. Sara said everyone was trying to decide

what should be changed. Sara said she wants everyone to work together. Sara said this will be put on paper and the next meeting it will be voted on. Joe said this is important so do ask questions. Joe said for those unfamiliar with the constitution just email them. Sara said subsection 1: The Legislative Branch would be amended to add the Diversity and Equality branch. Sara said most of the other schools had someone that represented the multicultural element and this expresses that. Sara said she created the committee and sits on a lot of committees. Sara said she wants it to be added as a permanent committee. Sara said when creating the budget she did put in place a stipend for this position already. Sara asked if she felt everyone thought it worked out. Dan said it is a great idea and does lots of good for the student body. Ed said with the growth agenda it is necessary. Josh said he agreed. Sara said for now she assumes everyone is ok with this. Sara said voting will be done at the next meeting. Sara said another proposed change for Article 4: Membership Proposed Change: addition of Subsection 9. Sara said it addresses at-large members for committees. Sara said those at-large members need to be checked. Sara said all the members should come before

Senate. Sara said the students should be reminded that the interests of the whole should be looked into. Sara said she wants to change it so it doesn't just say SUFAC but all the other committees. Sara said this would aid regular students to help out in committees. Sara said currently, At-large members are not held to the same standards. Sara said a 2.0 should be had with so many credits. Sara said the At-large members should be held at the same standards. Josh asked if the proposed wording would include any committees. Sara said yes. Sara said she would also like to add something about the requirements for GPA. Ed said it's a really good idea. Tania asked if it defeats the purpose of at-large members because what if the Senate doesn't approve them then we would be turning away students. Sara said a senator has never been voted down. Sara said its symbolic. Tania said no matter how many different administration changes it cannot be guaranteed. Tania said the constitution is for protecting at-large member rights. Joel said as a legislative body, the major task of the senators is to confirm nominations. Joel said there should be a check for not letting un qualified individuals join. Nick said it should be voted through senate. Chris said sometimes senate

meetings aren't completely on the time table and how does that work where someone is approved and there is no senate meeting. Sara said the person would be able to sit on the committee but not vote until the Senate meeting. Dan said if there is a check on that committee member it prevents packing the committee with biased votes. Crystal said there are some people who don't vote, such as a building manager, maybe senate should encourage committees to create by-laws to address these issues. Joel said he wants a constitutional amendment for senators who are present at meetings. Joel said he cannot get quorum for meetings. Brad said right now an At-large member comes it gets approved by SUFAC so would that still be done. Sara said SUFAC's by-laws would get amended. Lynsy said there should be a penalty for senators who don't complete their duties. Joe said there is nothing for attending committees but it does state 1 hour should be completed each week. Joe said three excused and one unexcused absences are the max. Joe said if Senate went by the book it would only have 10 or so people. Joe said unless a major occurrence happened, it was generally looked the other way. Joe said if Senate was like Milwaukee, it would be

enforced but its not. Sara said she wants to move on. Ryan said the language should be any standing committee of Student Senate as to exclude RHAA. Sara said besides this issue, should the at-large members be held at the same standard. Josh said yes. Ed asked if non-students be an at-large member currently. Joe said yes. Ed said if this was passed would non-students come and be exempt from school requirements. Sara said probably. Joe asked if everyone liked it as is. Tania wanted it clarified. Joe said regarding the at-large member. Sara said she wants Senate to talk about the requirements. The board agreed by a majority vote. Sara said the next one for SUFAC is for changing no members or employees not having a vote. Joel asked what is the no member or employee. Sara said it would be in addition and there is a paragraph on what membership is. Brad said it was good to have someone on the board like that to have different inputs from different voices and sides. Sara said she is worried about voting because an employee with their own agenda could vote. Tania said is there a way to define employee. Lynsy yielded the floor to Matt. Matt said he agreed with the idea of not getting a vote but it probably something that should be regulated in the

future. Matt said he came before SUFAC at the beginning and it was brought up. Matt said the committee should have some insight because it seems like a waste of Senate time when senators are the ones who approve. Dan said if that chair or member of SUFAC is grilled at the beginning of meetings because of the Orgnet chair being a representative, it deserves a vote. Dan said Orgnet represents all student orgs. Dan said he thinks Sara is wrong. Sara said unfortunately the same line of questioning may not be followed in the future. Andy said Matt abstained a lot maybe have conflict of interests should be abstained from. Sara said who would determine that. Andy said the Chair could decide. Joel said this is something that was in Senate for 05-06. Joel said before executives could vote on legislation the president would always get their way. Joel said this is different to allow chairs to vote or allowing some members not to vote. Tania said the wording should be more specific. Tania said special interests would include senators voting on SGA items in SUFAC. Tania said it should be defined so it doesn't apply to senators as well. Chris said SUFAC already has a conflict of interest policy. Chris said Orgnet couldn't push an

agenda more than a Senator could for Habitat for Humanity. Ed said in regard to conflict of interest, it should be brought forward and vote whether someone is allowed to vote. Chris said that could be used for ill to block votes. Ed said it is just in regard to the Orgnet Chair. Dan said it is a good idea because it gives power to SUFAC. Joe asked if everyone heard Chris's counterargument. Andy said it seems like a good idea. Tania said it would be character questions and participation will become limited because of it. Tania said votes will have to be redone and a little mock trial on the vote so its definitely a bad idea. Joel said it cannot be prevented and tell people not to vote. Josh said it could create a hostile environment unintentionally. Josh said it sounds abrasive. Josh said just make the position a non-voting member. Crystal agreed with Josh that the conflict is there. Chris said SUFAC is a large board and the other committees are small and the majority is quite smaller. Mike said within committee by-laws it can be defined particular ways. Mike said ex-officio non-voting member could be applied instead. Ed said it was a possible idea. Lynsy said this is something that should be addressed in the SUFAC by-laws and not the Senates.

Lynsy said the SUF rate is what is done so ultimately it will come back to Senate. Lynsy said this is something SUFAC should decide. Joe said e-mails should be sent to him and he will check them and see what the majority is. Joe said it could be narrowed down now as well. Tania said there could be an option a, b, or c that members could vote for. Tania said in the future. Sara said she can hammer something out with Joe. Joel asked if these are all the changes. Joel said he has one that he wants to make as well. Joe said an e-mail will be sent and a reply be gotten via email as well. Joe said he has a few things to bring up. Joe said a few are on behalf of RHAA. Joe said RHAA is more distant than usual but are still under RHAA. Joe said the Senate representative has a vote to the RHAA board. Joe said Ellen wanted to know if a member of RHAA should have a vote on Senate. Joel said the Senate member shouldn't even be on RHAA. Joel said he had a voting power when he was the representative and it did ruin the senate relationship. Ricky said there should be more communication and work between RHAA and SGA. Ricky said they are two separate governing bodies. Ricky said there needs to be a standard in the interest of fairness. Joe said if RHAA doesn't get a vote here then

Senate's will be eliminated. Tania said it should be defined what the position is of the voting member, whether or not it can be from chairs or vice chairs. Joe asked what everyone thought of that. Joe said as of right now, Ellen coming isn't in the by-laws. Joe said senate should have some idea what RHAA is doing. Joel said if it is allowed then an off campus student shouldn't be allowed to represent Senate in RHAA. Joel said nothing is stopping RHAA members joining or Senate joining RHAA. Joe said he lives off campus but he is involved enough to follow the meetings. Dan said it works really well not having a voting member. Dan said it works out just as well for Senators to not vote. Ryan said that the RHAA by-laws that the chair can represent Senate and if it passed, the responsibilities would fall to the Chair to fulfill or give proxy. Josh said presence in both is very helpful. Ed said he agrees with Josh. Kervin said RHAA holds their members to the same qualifications as Senate. Joe said there will be a quick straw pull vote to see if senators agree with both having a vote at each meeting. The majority agreed. Sara said when the consitution was set up it was set up to mimic the government. Sara wanted it to be changed to committee head

or chair person. Sara said it has a connotation that everyone perceives. Joe said instead of secretary it is now Chair. Joel suggested Minister. Joe said RHAA wants to then be called President and Vice President. Joe said the last thing for RHAA is that RHAA can attend exec meetings but its not in our by-laws. Crystal said that should be in the Executive by-laws. Joel said it should be in the constitution to make it legal. Crystal said membership usually goes under by-laws. Mike said the exec meetings are open meetings so it shouldn't be redundant in the constitution. Mike said a member should be defined. Mike said Article 4 should be paid attention to in regard to defining member. Sara said there are requirements in this section as well. Mike said the constitution is silent about at-large members so that should be brought up in that same section. Joe wanted a straw pull. Joe said results can be sent via email. Tania said under Article 4: No student should serve under more than one branch as a voting member, doesn't that nullify RHAA's ability to vote in Senate. Joe said that was going to be brought up. Lynsy said it doesn't allow senators to vote in SUFAC. Joe said that is interpretation. Tania said if it is a committee it isn't separate

like RHAA. Joel said this was done because before that Secretaries had a right to vote. Joel said this alleviates voting by those Secretaries. Sara said it should be explicitly state that Secretaries don't have a vote in Senate. Joe said it could be added with an exemption for RHAA. Joel said but if exceptions are made can RHAA join committees. Joe said it will be dealt with. Ryan said on that concern the by-law state it could be given to a building representative to vote. Ryan said as long as Chair doesn't vote it shouldn't be a concern. Nick said RHAA should not be allowed to vote in committees. Joe said the last thing he wanted to talk about was a resignation. Joe said from the constitution and by-laws, it doesn't say how to resign. Joe said something should be added with instructions on how to resign. Joe said if you are a lawyer it could be argued that Mike is still President. Joe said when talking about the resignation of the President, Vice President, Speaker or Chief Justice, who could they tell. Joe said if the Speaker were to resign, two of the other three options would have to be notified. Joe said a member of each branch should be aware as an official resignation. Joe said it could be added that a resignation could be done in front of a full senate. Joel said

a clear line of succession should be in the by-laws. Joe said it is in there. Joel said it is not. Ricky said there should be a definition to what happens after a resignation. Ricky said it should be amended that written notification should be given to all three branches as well as a presentation to the Senate. Ricky said a letter is written and presented to Senate, even if by a third party in Senate. Rachel said it is stated in Article 2 the succession. Joe said it doesn't say who else goes where if both resign. Ryan said RHAA should be chosen after VP or President because it is an elected body. Joe asked if RHAA would be screwed up as well because of activity in SGA. Ryan said should RHAA president and vice president should all resign perhaps a special election could be held. Dan said he likes the idea of RHAA to stand in until a special election. Tania said an amendment should be had that would give an outline as to who should resign, and perhaps we should do another option a, b or c. Ryan said with the Speaker being 3rd in succession there are influences there over Senate. Joel said he doesn't want to see 5 hour meetings because of the constitution changes. Joe said he wants to make sure that everyone checks their emails every day. Joe said even

though there aren't senators here today, make sure it is gone through. Lynsy made a motion to table the discussion till next Monday. Joe asked if he could finish his spiel. Joe said it will be sent out in an email. Andy seconded. Ryan called the question. Lynsy said it is important to move onto the other new business. Joel said a point of the constitution is very important dealing with unanimous consent under Article 1 subsection 11. Joel said it says a committee can pass via the committee and by-pass senate by a 51% majority. Joel said 5 people that get to vote on something to define where a bill goes is irresponsible and it should be written out. Joel said the unanimous consent part should be deleted and any bill coming should be voted via Senate. Dan said that is how it works in our government and that individual committees shouldn't pass legislation and 5 members cannot do that job. Andy said he agreed. Ricky said this should be added to the list of things to discuss next time. The Senate wanted it to be e-mailed and tabled. Lynsy called acclamation. The issue is tabled until the next meeting.

- b. **Smoking Policy- Joel presented what was voted on in the committee and per the constitution it should be presented. Joel said it**

was the smoking policy that was passed via committee. Dan made a motion to enter Committee of the Whole. Lynsy seconded. Chris called the question. Tania called acclamation. Dan said 5 people representing the campus is a bad idea and this shouldn't go through. Joe said no rules were broken. Chris said the problem is because overwhelmingly, 64% is not applicable. Joel said when 64%, that is a little under 2/3rd majority and is a large number. Joel said 1248 responses is more than presidential elections. Joel said the guidelines of the survey were followed. Sheila said she wanted everyone to know that it wasn't blocked and Sheila voted twice. Sheila said the results were skewed. Dan said 64% of 1200 people is not a lot. Dan said he has had so many emails from smokers because of the forums and the majority of the people who showed up were smokers and expressed their concern. Dan asked how can this pass when most who showed up were against the ban. Joel said the responses via the survey were not in favor of smoking. Joel said his hands were tied because it couldn't become a referendum so instead he

tried a survey. Dan asked if the majority of the senate doesn't want this to pass what is done. Joe said it would die. Nick said that a smoking ban is a little much considering only 64%, and a full ban probably wasn't anticipated. Nick said voting would change if the language was used. Sara said a lot of people wanted it banned. Nick said what percentage of the votes. Sara said 600 comments suggested bans. Chris said so it is being said that the complete ban had 600 comments and only a portion voted for it. Chris said it seems kind of off. Joel said 900 or 1,000 votes is a good survey population. Chris said going along with that that is still only 25-30% of all survey respondents. Sara said this survey was over 1,200 people. Sara said it depends on how people represent. Sara said she was impressed with the results. Ed said it was tried to become a referendum and it was shot down. Ed said this survey is the result of the students directly. Joel said this is not the final journey of this bill. Joel said it is possible that Faculty Senate will look at it and edit it. Rachel said that the emphasis of how many votes were voted it shouldn't be if voting could

be done twice. Ricky said the issue we are getting away from is that the question on the survey was not on the bill tonight. Joe said in the constitution a majority of senate will determine how to proceed. Andy said when Sara said how many students are talked to, the vast majority were against the smoking ban. Nick said a huge number of people voted on, the senate should take it into account however there are no hard numbers that show the majority are for a ban. Nick said in order to be accepted it should have been written in. Dan said cumulatively had talked to about 500 and none said they wanted a smoking ban. Chris said the survey is a tool but it should be used as a tool to move forward. Jamie said the position wasn't known of everyone who voted so a decision shouldn't be reached. Joe said there are three options. Joe said we can either table this, vote on it or not vote on it. Sara said if it is tabled she will get the real numbers. Andy made a motion to table it. Kelly seconded. Ryan called the question. Motion passed 15-0-0.

Announcements

There is an Exec meeting after the meeting tonight. Everybody please check your emails.

Adjournment

The Senate meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M. by Senate Speaker Joe Tyrrell.

These fabulous minutes were submitted by

Joy Hanneman