



Senate Meeting

March 25th, 2019

University Union, 1965 Room

5:15pm

- I. Call to Order:
- II. Roll Call:
- III. Approval of Agenda Moved by: Grace, Seconded by: Sierra
- IV. Old Business
 - a) IDC – Student Nominated Teaching Award
 - Sierra: Students think that it's a good idea, but many students don't understand the workload since they aren't in Student Government
 - Sara B: This is a big commitment, if student's are passionate about nomination and recognition, they can use other avenues
 - Grace: We don't have the manpower/time commitment to take this on
 - Amelia: A lot of students seemed indifferent on whether or not we took this up
 - Grace: Does anyone feel super passionate about taking up?
 - Call the Question
 - Student Government voted to not take on the Student Nominated Teaching Award
- V. New Business
 - a) Guest Speaker – Cofrin Center for Biodiversity
 - Bob Howe: What is the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity? Originated when MAC Hall was built as a gift from the Cofrin Association. Responsibility of overseeing the two museums on campus. 5 natural areas that they manage, including the arboretum. Students are involved for research and internships involving the natural areas. Dr. Howe is a faculty member that is appointed to the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity



- Faculty and Staff Advisory Committee – meets every month to discuss issues, proud that students are speaking up about concerns. Maybe appoint a liaison to the Biodiversity Center?
- The objective is to preserve nature and offer education. Obligation to take care of the natural areas, both on and off campus. Mandated off-campus, but a little different on campus due to recreation and land ownership
- Campus Planning Committee – Dr. Howe serves as a sustainability liaison. Talk about plans for whole university, like new buildings. This is where the signage initiative came up. Big sign that goes along Highway 54/57. Visibility of campus was brought up, but just a comment. Not completely compatible with arboretum plans. Up Circle Dr. to Bay Settlement, off to the right near pond and open fields – this was an area that was wanted to be kept open. Used to be abandoned farmland. We will never cut woods along Bayshore.
- Open areas have grown into shrubby habitats, which was initially good, but now they have disappeared because of the changes in habitat.
- If there is any place where there are changes to how the campus is viewed, it would be there.
- We planted trees along that opening to block noise and traffic from the highway. These are the trees that *might* be cut, if anything. It is all conversation as of right now, but Dr. Howe doesn't know how far that conversation has gone, because the signage is all administrative.
- Debatable to whether or not the trees right along the highway are part of the arboretum.
- Faculty / Staff Advisory committee decided this would be a process – want to solicit input from everyone in order to come to consensus. This isn't happening anytime soon, process is just starting – not even a formal proposal yet.



- Bobby: Thank you for inviting us to have dialogue, we appreciate being able to come in and talk about the issue. Don't know how valuable it would be to cut down trees by HWY 54/57
- Q&A
 1. Grace: Could we get a map up to look at the grounds of GB, to reference where we are talking about?
 - a. Dr. Howe pulled up Google Maps and showed us where the arboretum is, and where the sign would go
 2. Sara: Do you think the Biodiversity Center will be included in this conversation in the future?
 - a. They meet regularly with Paul Pinkston, so there is some communication.
 3. Abbie: Any decisions would be run through the Biodiversity Center?
 - a. Any decisions about the arboretum would be run through Dr. Howe
 4. Montana: Where on the map is the pond referenced?
 5. Will: Would they be cutting down a large portion of trees, if they did?
 - a. Hasn't really been talked about, but if it was, it would be minimal. The area right near Bay Settlement and HWY 54/57 is not mature trees. They were just planted there manually within the last decade. Used to all be savannah, open grassland, barely any trees.
 6. Sara: Would this affect noise pollution if we cleared some out? Would we get a lot of highway noise?
 - a. If we decided as a campus to cut some evergreen trees off of Hwy 54/57, we might get a good portion of highway noise
 7. Extension to Q&A, Moved by Grace, 2nd by Alex.
 8. Grace: Does facilities have any jurisdiction over the arboretum?
 - a. There is no statutory "authority". Technically owned by the Board of Regents, so they have final say. However, we would fight it valiantly



9. Alex: The arboretum was donated by Cofrin family?
 - a. No, given to us by the City of GB, but the Cofrin family gives us the money to manage the arboretum
10. Sara: Is there any other student voices about this issue?
 - a. Abbie: Point of clarification, there is no student liaison on this decision
11. Sierra motioned to end Q&A, seconded by Amelia

b) Senator Confirmation

- Lincoln Panich – wants to be a senator to expand horizons. Current Secretary for Sexuality and Gender Alliance. Wants to be on Health & Safety, as well as Rec & Athletics. Plenty of time to dedicate to organization
- Motion to End Q&A by Ryan, Nawal seconded
- Discussion
 1. Linnea – Don't end discussion until I reference something
 2. Sara – I appreciate that Lincoln answered questions that we were going to ask in his statement
 3. Sarah Bock – I am glad he explained which committees he wanted to be on, and why he wanted to be on them
 4. Sierra – Yield to redundancy to Sarah Bock
 5. Nawal – lots of dedication, even though he just had his wisdom teeth out
 6. Linnea – Made sure Lincoln was eligible, even after election
- Move to end discussion by Grace, Seconded by Alex
- Lincoln is approved as a Senator, 10-0-1

VI. Reports

- a) President:
- b) Vice President
 - Sent out a Google Doc for E&D Meeting
 - Got the Election Banner hung up
- c) Speaker of the Senate:



- 1:1s are this week, Senators sign up
 - Senators, get office hours and pictures
- d) RHAA:
- NACURH applications closed over Spring Break, if you applied, keep an eye out for your email response
 - Next meeting on Wednesday, going over large piece of legislation
 - We will also be going over some feedback from booth a few weeks ago, as well
 - Bumpin' Bingo this Sat. 7pm – Phoenix Rooms
 - ResFest – May 10th, 3-6pm – Goat Yoga
- e) Student Court:
- Election Season! In the process of certifying candidates
 - Campaigning starts today! Keep an eye on the election rules
 - RHAA Ballot not entirely confirmed
 - Debate – Apr. 15th, right after the Exec Meeting in the 1965 meeting
- f) Standing Committees:
- Academics and Governance:
 1. Constitution Review – “Gonna be dope”
 2. Please read the Constitution
 3. Working on the edits
 4. Next Tuesday – Spring Election
 5. COVO – Booth in the Union on Apr. 2nd
 - Environmental Affairs
 1. Facebook post about the Arboretum, it definitely got a lot of Student Feedback and Community Feedback
 2. Getting answers about the Arboretum
 3. Meeting with Dr. Arneson about miscommunication issues, and how to better include students in discussions
 4. Mai Lo Lee reached out to collab to host an environmental artist on campus
 - Equity and Diversity
 - Health and Safety
 1. RFP Listening Session – Considering outsourcing Health & Counseling to an outside third party. Apr 2nd & Apr 8th listening sessions. Posters and social media to come out
 2. Apr 25th, 4-6pm – Health & Counseling Center Open House, free healthy snacks provided
 - Recreation and Athletics
 1. Meeting with Senators this week Wednesday, then Advisor meeting right after
 2. Working on a budget for some of the events planned for this semester
 3. Setting date / time for some of the events



- Resources and Outreach
- SUFAC
 1. Meeting tomorrow, hearing 3 reallocation requests.
 2. Still working on Allocation emails to student organizations
- Union and Dining
 1. Committee meeting this week
 2. Reaching out to Jeff Krueger to set up meeting
 3. Got Instagram up and running

g) Advisor

- Really great Guest Speaker – love to see more like this out of SGA, good to spread knowledge out to Student Body
- This summer, there is a project going on. The UWSystem purchased Navigate – early alert. Want students as a part of a marketing team for the summer.
- Student Life sent out a Campus Life email, check it out!

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment:

- a) Moved by Grace, Seconded by Ryan. Adjourned at 6:25pm