

7th Meeting of the 46th Administration of the Student Government Organization, June 10, 2009

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- Wednesday, June 10, 2009

1: Call to Order by the presiding officer

- **Speaker Alexander Obregon**
- **7:32 p.m.**

2: Opening call of the roll

- **7:32 p.m.**

3: Reading and approval of the senate journal from the previous meeting

- **Motion to approve minutes**
- ✓ **Approved**

4: Students wishing to address the senate

- No Students wishing the address the Senate

5: Two-minute speeches by the Members

- No Speeches by members

6: Report of the President

- **President Fomunung**: Thanks for being here. Great that we have quorum. Items to address: Thanks those who came to the retreat. It was a decent turn out, but we decided that we'll have another in the fall, since not everyone can make it. We'll be doing that again; you are more than welcome to submit ideas for it. I do have the agenda for the retreat available to pick up after the meeting.
- Update: advertising in the *Transitions* magazine. The last administration did it. It goes to all of the freshmen and transfer students: a big audience.
- Last meeting we talked about the students savings program; after a lot of discussion, the consensus is that we should explore the possibility of doing it ourselves. I know quite a few individuals were willing to champion that cause. I want to create a task force possible, and have senator **Kornahrens** and **Director Reyes** head that committee. I want it to be a 6-8 man committee or something of that nature. I'll follow up on that later.
- You must have seen my email about the Blue Ribbon Task Force. Essentially what I'm doing is asking for ideas and seeing what's reasonable. I'm compiling them into a document. We need to tackle this issue aggressively, and I need your input too.
- Today we'll be going over a few bills from last time. Part of the expansion/transparency package in SGA: the Department of Student Affairs and Assistant Director of Media Relations.
- **Motion to include Senator Price in the meeting**
 - ✓ **Approved**

7: Report of the Vice President

- **Vice President Wilson**: Thanks for being here and thanks to those who came to the summer retreat. Summer senate is a good time to

fix insufficient areas of SGA. **Senator Price** and I met with Armarck today and some of you know the issues that came up. I inquired about stats. If you have any questions feel free to email me and I'll share any info I receive.

- I'm working on committees, so if you feel you know anyone who would serve well, let me know. Also, join the university committees. I sent an email to all of you about the freshmen orientation dates. There's one tomorrow, it's going to be from 7 – 10:30. This way we can have 1 on 1 time with new students.
- Organizations fair from 5-6:15, it's a great opportunity to meet new students and welcome them. If you can make it, talk to **(Director Zambrano) Andi**. Thank you for being here and have a great night.

8: Report of the Director of External Affairs

- No report.

9: Report of the Director of Public Relations

- No report.

10: Report of the Director of Finance

- No report

11: Report of the Speaker

- **Speaker Obregon:** Glad to be back, senate improvement task force has been started. Each member of this task force will pick two SGAs and there will be a collective total of 16 different ones that they will look at. Basically they'll see what works and what does, not and report it back to the Senate. Hopefully we can integrate the good ideas and make our senate better.
- There are some bills on the table that I would like to talk about, namely the DSA bill: It needs more clarity before we vote on that.
- Media Relations: it's a matter of "is this a good time, or is this necessary?"

12: Reports of the Standing Committees

- Academic affairs: No report.
- Internal Affairs:
 - **Senator Ruiz:** we made some minor changes the associate dir of media relations, the idea is solid, but is it necessary right now is the only concern. We feel as if the DSA bill needs to be taken off the table and re-worked. If anyone has any questions, you can ask during the debate.
- Student life: No Report
- Administration and finance: No report

13: Introduction and first reading of new legislation

SGAB46004—Executive Attendance Bill

- **Motion to discharge from committee**
 - ✓ **Approved**
- **Motion To table**
 - ✓ **Approved**
 - **SGAB45004– tabled**

SGAB46005—Bill Establishing the Department of Student Affairs

- **Motion to table**
- **No second**
- Debate:
 - **President Fomunung:** has been something I've thought of for quite a while, Prince and I have discussed this. I've come to realize that SGA has grown significantly as far as function and reverence of SGA across campus.
 - **Speaker Obregon:** I would like to extend the debate to 5 minutes from 2 minutes.
 - **President Fomunung:** It is really go accommodate the functions of SGA. If you look at Finance it really deals with budget. There's not much that the students will grasp from that. External affairs also doesn't really identify with the student body. Public Relations is the most relevant thing to students; however, it is between SGA and the faculty. Press releases, news letters, it has to do with SGAs image. Because of my focuses and my style, I want to be really grassroots. There will be times where we have to engage our student body for some kind of input, to know what our audience wants. Trying to recruit students and other things will be really crucial to our organization, and as far as a direct relationship with the student body, I feel as though we'll be more effective if we have an entire department handing the internship program, rather than one person. There are students that come to the office with problems and case by case issues. Sometimes my desk is flooded; there's more demand there, and sometimes these scenarios will get lost. I don't want to be in a position that **(1 min)** I don't forget about a constituent. You need not to ask if there's overlap, there is always going to be overlap. **(15 secs)**. It's so that we can be involved in student life.
 - **Speaker Obregon:** Perhaps with those case by case issues, you relegate those duties to the appropriate senator. I wanted to point out some overlaps. The executive branch implements the policy. That is usually just the job of the president. I don't have a problem with the idea, but I think we need to work on some of these overlaps, like giving things to senators, and introducing these students with issues to their relative senator.
 - **Senator Ramirez:** Clause 1 is very general, clause 2 is also the same, essentially what everyone does, clause three is the same way. I guess clause 8 is the only thing that could work, but where do you have a body for it ?
 - **Vice President Wilson:** What we are trying to do is expand SGA. If you look at SGA, it's expanded so much, I don't want just the Chief of Staff to take care of this. COS coordinates branches and essentially helps the president. What we are doing is trying to expand. These are the things that

departments do, but we can take some of those COS duties and relegate them to the DSA.

- **Senator Price:** I like where you're going, but the senators should be more entitled to deal with their relative colleges. I think that if we change it so it's more of an oversight body to make sure that student's problems get addressed, it would work much better.
- **Speaker Obregon:** Instead of adding another department, why don't we expand and maximize the roles that the executive has, why don't we maximize what we already have in SGA. We haven't fully worked out the kinks in our current established SGA.
- **Senator Ruiz:** We do like the idea of the department, I think in the future, this could be really beneficial. The timing is off. Is this really necessary right now? Do we really need to expand when we need to work out problems from within?
- **Senator Rivera:** I really do like the idea, but my issue is that I'm kind of bored as a senator, because people don't know me as a Bauer senator. I'm sure a student wouldn't mind someone else answering their concerns as long as someone responded.
- **Senator Rodriguez:** I just wanted to add, if you can't send anything to **Senator Rivera** send it to me.
- **President Fomunung:** I don't want to make anyone think I'm complaining about my job duties. The fact of the matter is that we got into office around finals, and then vacation. I have tried to work with who I have because that's what we have available. I like that you like the idea and I know these things are hard to embrace. I recognize that there are some vague clauses here. I know that we also need to make the senate more effective. When I look at how things have been so far, I've formed an opinion that the senate... I'm all for the empowerment of the senate. I really admire the dress code and visibility. Ideally, if we had a senate chamber, that would be wonderful **(30 secs)**, if we should have to amend, it would be fine, but I think the idea is sound and relevant.
 - **Motion to let the advisor speak.**
 - **✓ Approved.**
- **Marcella:** Have we considered a title for the department besides "student affairs" what I don't want to have happen is some kind of confusion because there is a department like that at the university.
- Specific questions: article 1 section 7: the name of this organization, the university is going to think that you're trying to create another department. Section 2 clause 2: are you wanting to work with the university's department of student affairs, if you're referring to Dr Lee's office it can be the division of student affairs or the office of the vice president of

student affairs. Final question: as you draft this, have you been thinking about individual student outreach? The university has organizations that have an agenda that they want heard. As this bill moves forward, what happens if an organization shows up? How will it be handled?

- **Speaker Obregon**: **POI** what type of student concerns do this cover?
- **President Fomunung**: More student life concerns. I was thinking as far as town-halls go. PR is supposed to put these things out there. I looked at DSA bringing individuals to the town halls. Mobilizing, etc.
- **Speaker Obregon**: Add 7 minutes to the debate.
- **Senator Killroy**: Thank you guys for discussing this, **Senator Price** brought up a good point that I never thought of. One thing we should do, is include these jobs within the office of Public relations, because I think you should be the one trying to relate with the public. I think that this needs more time to simmer

- **Friendly amendment: make it *the department of student concerns* Senator Killroy**
 - **Senator Rivera**: We have to remember that PR is only one person, we all need to bring in the people we know, and the people in our classes so that we can reach a more broad audience.
 - Another thing: students don't know who to go to when something happens, they always want to go to the top guy, we need to communicate to the students the way they need to contact us.
 - **Director Reyes**: It takes time getting your name out there and letting them know who you are. I feel like these are the roles that the senators should have. I really do feel that it's something senators should take care of, not those in new positions. It just needs to be more specific, it just should be about getting more power to senators.
 - **Motion to table: needs more review**
 - ✓ **Motion to table approved.**
 - **SGAB46005 – tabled**

SGAB46003 – Bill Amending Title One of the code

- **Motion to discharge.**
- ✓ **Approved.**
 - **Senators Ruiz, Price and Speaker Obregon** sponsor bill.

- **Senator Killroy**: If you look through the code, there are simple mistakes. It just makes sure we have a decent code that has no misspellings and tells what we do.
- Clause 1: Changing Administrative secretary to Clerk—putting responsibility where it happens to fall. Page three, deleted the A

and B there, it's fairly intuitive. At the end of clause 2 same thing. Page 4 nothing page 5 spelling. Nothing mind blowing.

- **Motion to call question**
- ✓ **Approved.**
 - **SGAB46003 Passes**

Bill to Establish the Director Of Media Relations

- **Motion to discharge**
- ✓ **Approved.**
- **President Fomunung:** This one is more clear than the DSA, I would hope. This is modeled after the department of External Affairs. A department only consists of one individual and it's sort of limiting. We have various media entities, like *SVN* and the *Daily Cougar*, obviously we have a person assigned for the SGA beat and up until this point, I've been doing interviews. We have aid with relevance to our constituents. When the semester was at its end, I met with the new Editor In Chief; transparency is a major deal and this will give us a push in the right direction; Communications is key. As for as communications goes, it would be someone who would be a contact person for all media.
- **POI by Speaker Obregon:** Traditionally PR would serve as PR for senators, is this limited to just expanding the executive administration?
- **President Fomunung:** It would be for town halls as well, not limited to just the Executive Branch.
- **Senator Ruiz:** We are in support of the idea behind the bill, but is it necessary for now? Is it a pressing need? Does PR need an extra person.
- **Senator Killroy:** @ Director Zambrano: Do you feel the need for an associate director?
- **Director Zambrano:** When I came here, I knew what I was in for, I think the bill should probably be tabled.
- **POInq from Senator Ramirez:** was this only intended for Media Relations or just an assistant to PR
- **President Fomunung:** I think that those same questions would have been relevant in other departments. If you have a department that has duties outlined in our bylaws, and the principle purpose would be for them to serve as a contact person. As we get more done and things are more put together, then obviously she'll have to work with the senate on that. We're also thinking about expanding the opportunities in public relations. Is this necessary? There have been things that are of significant, need. Consider that when we're going to have other efforts, we may want to invite local outlets, I don't see why it would hurt.
- **POI by Speaker Obregon:** section 3, shall be appointed by the president with advice and consent of the director. Change to advice of director and confirmed by the senate. 2/3

- **Senator Price**: I think creating this position will be sort of redundant. Could it be tabled until the director feels it's necessary
- Formal motion
 - ✓ **Approved**

14: Closing call of the roll

8:33 p.m.

15: Comments and announcements

- **Senator Price**: thanks Taylor for cleaning up the senate code, it makes us look a lot more polished.
- **Senator Killroy**: We have a senate improvement task force opened to everyone here
- **Senator Kornahrens**: I emailed Kenneth and I'm pushing for us to do it ourselves, it's a perk.
- **Marcella**: is anyone here going to be at coogs night out tomorrow? At 7, 8, and 9. I'll need to know by three. Let me know. There will be a meeting for Kenneth and prince about coogs night out.
- **Presiden Fomunung**: thanks **Senator Killroy** for going over the bylaw; the more clarity, the better. **Senator Kornahrens**, I'm glad you brought that up. It has triggered a debate. It's definitely something we should explore, being fee funded, we should give back. So, I plan on creating that committee. Please just let me know if you're interested in serving on this committees. First we have to identify the businesses that offer these serves. Then it would be seeking discounts. I want it to be a fairly big committee. So that we can hit the road and explore those possibilities. It's something that can be executed soon.
- Good meeting tonight, if anything, I think things should be listened to. I think no idea is ridiculous. It's easier to play the blame game, rather than amend things and make them right. Make it something we can explore. Don't feel like I'm holding on to every initiative. We need to have more discussions and synchronize our business.
- As far as Media Relations, some people wonder if it's necessary or timing is right, but I think it's something we should explore. Consider the legislative session has concluded, but don't think of it as something that is temporary think about continuity and the future. The point is that we will grow and we have. WE need to think about things for this year and the next and the next. Media relations is the same as external affairs. I don't know what's wrong with help.
- **Speaker Obregon**: We have to work collaboratively. When I became speaker, I didn't know what to do, so, I forced people to get involved. Send out constant emails, ask senators for help. There are two types of people, those that will be engaged and those that wont. All we have to do is tap into the resources of the empty chairs around you. You have to send emails to fellow senators and ask them for help. No one will tell you no. and if they do, you let me know.

21: Adjournment

- 8:44 p.m.