

Penn State University, Berks Campus

Student Government Association

Minutes October 5, 2016

Call to Order

-12:17p.m.

President/ VP Address

Joey: Hello, everyone! Let's begin with the attendance.

(Anna takes the attendance.)

-Joey: Welcome back! I hope everyone's advising meetings are going well. Please meet with your advisors and be on top of with your classes, since registration dates are coming up. I don't have the specific dates with me yet, but I'll definitely get them for you next week. Just a few things before we begin. First off, when you come in, please turn your signs around; so we know who is here and who isn't. It'll also help Anna with attendance. Second, if you miss three meetings, your club will become inactive. For the club to become active again, you need to meet with Habida in Campus Life; so we can begin the process of getting your club back. Lastly, if you can in ten minutes after the meeting begins, you will still be marked absence; as it is stated in the constitution. We want to follow that and make sure that everyone is on the same page.

Approval of the Minutes

- Troy (Chamber Choir): approve the minutes

- Kyle (Honors): second

No discussion/ opposed/ abstentions

Approval of the Agenda

- Troy (Chamber Choir): approve the agenda

- Dylan (Ag Club): second

No discussions/ opposed/ abstentions

Old Business

Joey: For old business, we have budget allocations. To recap, at the last meeting (September 21st), we showed you guys the suggested allocations from Ryan. And today, Ryan is going to present to you guys the allocation again; so that you guys can vote on it.

Ryan (Financial Manager): On the screen, we have the budget allocation. There were a few changes made since the last meeting. For instance, Hotel and Restaurant Society got zero funding; but I was able to meet with them to sort things out. I know everyone is still getting use to the process, so we are very understanding. But next semester, we are going to go strictly by

the books. So please sort your documents out and make sure you submit all necessary work. Also, Berks Democrat had submitted their documents a week ago. The reason is because new clubs do have two weeks to hand in their budget, starting on the day they were active. So you can see Berks Democrat got all their budget request approved.

-Troy (Chamber Choir): Does it say Berks Democrat got theirs approved?

Ryan (Financial Manager): Yes, it is on the next page. New clubs have two weeks to submit their budget, so they are considered a separate entity from the rest of the clubs.

Marcquese (VIP): Just to clarify, the money we got approved for this semester carries over. So we can't request money for next semester?

Ryan (Financial Manager): No. The reason both are listed on the allocation is because there was no specific date for the budgets. Listing both keeps everything in line and presents formality. But next semester, on the Wednesday of the 11th week, your club will need to submit a new budget request.

Joey: I'll have that specific date for you in the next coming weeks.

Marcquese (VIP): Can we use the money we got approved for anything?

Ryan: No. You can only spend the money on the things that you requested for on the budget request form. You can't use the money on things that were not mentioned.

Joey: One quick thing, for the sake of next semester. On the SGA website, under the budget tab, you can find the handbook and documents of what you can spend on and what you can't? So please refer to those if you need any help.

Ryan: Also for this semester and next semester, I'll be performing an audit on your club's budget request. This means that I'll be checking to make sure that your club is truly spending on the things that you guys listed. That way everything is kept in track and that the funds are used properly. .

Marcquese (VIP): Can you increase the budget amount or can we request for more?

Ryan: Okay, so in the budget handbook; there is a section that tells you your budget options. You can either have limited of funds or depletion of funds for the next semester. In the next few weeks, I will be setting up a workshop for all club Presidents. The meeting will cover the guidelines in the handbook and how to submit budget requests.

Marcquese (VIP): Can you use the funds as transportation for other organizations?

Ryan: If you didn't specifically asked to use the funds for secondary transportation, you can't do that. But for example DECA wants to merge with another organization to set up an event. How you would make that request is to redistribute/ reallocate the funds for that event.

Chaz (THON): Make a motion for Kinesiology to join the assembly

Kyle (honors): Second.

Joey: Okay. We'll move onto voting on the budget allocation.

Mahibbur (DECA): approve the documentation

Alysia (Cheerleading): second.

No discussions/ opposed/ abstentions

Joey: Going back to what Ryan had mentioned about the budget request from Berks Democrat, here is the form. We'll be tabling it until the next meeting.

New Business

-Joey: For new business, we will be discussing about CCSG.

-Patrick: CCSG is the Council Commonwealth Student Government; which is where all the SGA staff from all campuses go up to University Park to discuss about concerns and to create legislations for the student body. The first thing that we discussed about was the smoking policy again. President Barron has made the comment that this has to happen within the next 5 years; to either go smoke free or tobacco free. Another topic that was discussed was voting. Ryan got to sit in that session, so if you need any information please go to him after the meeting. For academic affairs, we discussed about FYS classes. Some campuses don't have an FYS system or has a poor FYS system, so the University is trying to adopt our FYS style and make it a universal system. Lastly, we talked about adding another fee, alongside of student activity and student service.

-Duffy (Kinesiology): Would the smoking policy include vapors?

-Patrick: We don't have all the information of whether the University wants to do smoking free or tobacco free. But we would like to start a poll for students to fill out. That way I can bring that to the next CCSG to show them what we want for our campus.

Zach (Men's Rugby): Will there be penalties involved? What about the destination spots?

Patrick: They're trying to start the policy within the next few years to come, so the penalties won't affect you guys as much. But as the years go on, the penalties will become strictly. Right now, we have smoking destination polls set around campus. They are 35 feet away from building doors, which is supposed to prevent smoke from contacting others as stated by law.

Joey: The issue with smoking polls now is that they can be moved. I know by Gaige, we have a smoking poll and students would move them closer to the buildings when it rains or snows.

Marcquese (VIP): In regards to fees, will they be placed on our Bursar bill or our student activities fee?

Partick: It would be fees on your Bursar bill.

Zach (Men's Rugby): You said the University is looking into imposing on a new activity fee?

Patrick: So we have two fees right now: the student activity and student services. We are looking to put a 3rd fee called the student initiative. This fee would ultimately be used when sticky situations come, so it is mainly for other services that are not listed under the two fees already.

-Kale (ASME): Going back to the smoking policy poll, a suggestion is to reach out to Professors and use relevant information since it is a touchy subject.

Kyle (honors): One concern I have with doing a campus poll is that only a majority of students will share their opinions. So it is very bias.

-Kale (ASME): Right, so asking Professors and making sure you get a wide range of students to participate can diminish that bias.

Joey: Thank you so much for the input. I hear you 110% and will make sure that the polls will be sent out to everyone on campus, not just to a specific student body.

Teri: Just as a comment. I know Joey and Patrick is going to do an amazing job with this. But as representatives, go back to your club meetings and let your members know about this. The more you inform the students on campus, the more accurate the results will be. Smoking has always been a touchy subject, so making it relevant to everyone is important and you all have that power to do so.

Mike (IT): Are the Student Services fee for technology too?

Patrick: Technology is a different fee, that is by itself on the Bursar bill.

Open forum:

-Duffy (Kinesiology): Just as a concern, the Meningitis Immunization that all residential students have to complete has been an issue because of how late we were informed.

-Teri: There are two immunization notifications sent out. One is solely for FYS students as a requirement. And the one Duffy is talking about is the Meningitis Immunization that only residential students have to fill out. It is very serious because it is a state law that students living on campus need to have their immunization done prior to living on campus. Right now, that should not affect your course registration, but later on it will. I know it has been seen as a threat for students as they are just seeing this now. But it is very important and won't impact you as much now; since they know the timing has been awful. We have emailed University Park about the situation and so what residents need to do is to just provide the necessary documents.

-Chaz (THON): I heard from a lot of students that the Berks Democrats have been strongly encouraging students to sign up for voting. Some students told me that they didn't even know which party they signed up for. I feel like that is an issue to cover.

-Habida: Did they come up to you personally? Because they aren't allowed to do that. I'll talk to them.

-Alexandra (Rainbow Alliance): The lights along the Luerssen hill is very dim.

Joey: Thank you. I'll make sure to address that. And also, police services can escort you to your dorm if needed.

Club Announcements:

-Chris (Men's Volleyball): We have open Volleyball, Monday and Thursday; 9-11:30 in BCC.

-Zach (Men's Rugby): On Saturday at 1:00pm, we'll be at Albright. So come and support!

-Matt (World Affairs): We have a study abroad panel coming up soon and will be in Gaige. A representative will be coming in to speak and answer any questions.

-Sarah (Bowling Club): Sunday 9-11 is free glow bowling!

-Kaishla (CAB): Berks movie night at IMAX this Thursday!

-Yajas (INK): On Friday, we have the Chinese mooncake festival!

-Rachel (Yams): We have our first gathering today at 4-5pm!

-Chaz (THON): Chick fi-la Fundrasing, next Tuesday. And then Canvasing starting on October 15th; and Canning week on October 28th – 30th. If you're interested, please contact Mike. Lastly, on November 2nd, we have a drawing contest.

Staff Reports:

No staff reports.

Campus Life Reports:

-Teri: I sent out an email last week, that you may or may not have read. Dr. Barron is kicking off an initiative event called "All In" on Thursday. Please come and participate because it is an important event for diversity and inclusion on our campus. It starts at 7:15pm in Luerssen Room 005.

Adjournment

-Marcquese (THON): Motion to adjourn.

-Ian (Outdoors Club): Second.