

**Student Government Association General Meeting**

Meeting Minutes November 29th, 2017

**Call to Order (12:15PM)**

Duffy takes attendance.

**President/Vice President Address**

Ryan: Welcome back I hope you had a fantastic break with friend and family. Also this will me the last meeting do the semester, congratulations on a successful meeting of the semester. I hope to continue this attendance and keep it up.

Alex: Good luck on finals and keep your stress under control and have a nice holidays.

**Approval of minutes**

Matthew (Card club): So moves

Taylor (Honors): So seconds

No abstentions/discussions/objections

**Approval of agenda**

Taylor (Honors): So moves

Olivia (HRS): So seconds

No abstentions/discussions/objections

**Old Business**

* **Launch Box Presentation**

Ryan: Solange came to talk to us about the launch box presentation and I hope you all got interested in that project. Its great and I hope you look into it.

* **Budget Vote**

Ryan: Budgets are also approved and hope you are all happy with that. Teri will give a small presentation now.

**New Business**

* **Res Hall Improvements and Homelessness Issues**

Teri: Taylor got me thinking from the last meeting about homeless students. I want to give an update for when we find out they are homeless or hungry or in need. I hope that if you know anyone that you can let us and them know to help them. You may have seen that food pantries are a big thing on college campuses now. These pantries are run differently on different campuses, on our campus we have a food pantry which was funded by last year’s senior class gift. It is a very small pantry located in my (Teri) office since we don’t have space on the campus as well as it is being used as an intervention tool. If a student needs food and comes to a faculty or staff member or even another student they need to see me or someone in admissions first, that why it is where it is. Because to us the food is a problem but here is also a bigger problem for this student. We also have a student emergency fund on this campus. The fund is not huge and we can’t help with everything but we can help with food, coats, eye glasses, damaged materials. We do use this fund as well. Yesterday was giving Tuesday on the internet that drive helps to fund that emergency fund for us. If people are interested in giving they are more than welcome. The key to all; of this is that if you know someone in need of basic necessities, somewhere to live, food, please have them speak to someone in student affairs. We want to help them change their circumstance not just aid to sustain them. We also want to make sure the services are not abused or taken advantage of. I will say I know of about 2 or 3 homeless students that we are helping as much as we can, but it would not shock me if there were more. Please let someone in Student Affairs know, myself, Joe Webb, Saundra, Mrs. O, it is all confidential and we will work with people behind the scenes. Our food pantry is also not used that much we have only had 3 students come through, I see that as a good things seeing as hopefully many students do not need to use that resource.

LUC: Where is your office?

Teri: I am in Perkins room 14 (admissions office). Another thing we have funded through emergency funds are bus passes and cab fairs to aid students get home, there is a review process for that but you just need to let us know.

Ryan: Thank you for that Teri, especially for pointing out those resources which are a big help.

* **Mentor class**

Alex: If you are going to be on campus after the spring semester (next year) please look into joining the mentor class to be a mentor to students on campus. If you or anyone you know of please register for the CNED 304 class to become a mentor, this includes first year seminar mentor, aspire mentor, and intercultural mentor, If you have any question please contact Saundra (SJR3@psu.edu). Also orientation leader application have come out and will be due in February.

* **Cat food**

Cam: As of 10am this morning we had a meeting with strategic communications and they were on board with it and cleared us to produce the show as we see fit. Here are some promos about the show. CATFOOD is coming. We will begin filming in January and you can expect to see it next semester.

* **Community service event today!**

Ryan: Next is the community service today they are doing it today many of our staff is there helping out. It will be going until 3pm today and the last opportunity is Friday for community service, also if a club does not reach 24 hours per semester the club becomes inactive and does not received the funding they budgeted for. There are different stations to help out. Also some people have brought the brown bags in for the hours Anh will be in the auditorium so you can give them to her then.

**Open Forum**

Ryan: Anyone have anything for open forum.

Robby: I know for the semester there was a petition going around for getting a re-imbursement since the library was closed for most of the semester. The website is change.org and the search Austin Pepper, then you will see the petition.

Ryan: If you feel that you were ripped off feel free to check it out.

Chris (SVA): What are you expecting to happen?

Robby: If there are enough signatures we can present this information to an educational board.

Chris (SVA): Is there any facts with this or any numbers to back it up, or any hard evidence.

Ryan: I have heard about this and it looks like they are trying to receive money from SAF or technologies fee.

Teri: This is how the University has been addressing concerns. Dr. Hilkirk and I receive these concerns every day and we address them. This is a sticky situation since some of the points are valid while others are not. The services of the library were only shut down for 1 to 2 days, these resources were relocated to Franco and Gaige. We did make sure to offer the services, as for the space our library is used as a student union, a place for students to hangout. It is the most used building on campus and we have worked out an arrangement with john shank that the building can be used like that. And with that we have changed the space many times. All these things happened because we understand the library is used other than just a library. Once the library was under construction we had other spaces in Gaige and Franco. But rooms were opened on campus as for the computers I know the computers were available because I was a part of fixing that situation. I immediately talked with it to open the rooms that had computers so they would be accessible to students, and signs were posted as to the times available for the room. John shank sent out emails in regards to the library as to what was happening. Those emails discussed what the issue was, were the resources were going, and what was happening. I do not know how far this petition will go based on these facts. Also over everything else we care about your safety, therefore once we found out there was a safety issue we shut it down. I understand these points but safety was the biggest issue.

BSU: I understand about the resources but it was still an inconvenience the resources were still hard to use. I feel like we need a re-imbursement.

Teri: We only sent emails for things we knew what were happening we didn’t give possible times it may re-open only what was happening and when it was open. As for convenience it was an inconvenience but that is because we currently do not have a student union on campus and the library is filing that role.

Olivia (RHS): The book issue was a problem, but when it was in Gaige the books were gone for hours on end but there were always options. It not like there was never anything that wasn’t there. Even meeting spaces we used other spaces like the lion’s den and classrooms. Also for commuters it was a bit harder but still workable.

Teri: Yes and we did lift the penalty for hold books longer because we didn’t want to further inconvenience students.

SWET: I know a lot of people were not aware of all the room and different spaces. Since that information was not included in the emails.

Teri: I believe we assumed that everyone knew of that so that is also our fault of the miscommunication end.

World affairs: I think it was actually better since there was more quiet spaces and more computers open.

Teri: You are welcome to continue to petition but I would speculate that it would not happen. This was one of the unforeseen incidents and we did what we could to contain it and we did the best we could.

Ryan: If people do truly want to take action on this event, this would be the stage to do it, we (SGA) are the people to make something out of this. But for the sake of time we are going to move on.

**Staff Reports**

Jenn: For the 60th anniversary, we are talking about new stuff such as re-paving the commuter lots and painting a mural on Franco and are looking for people to help with that they are looking to show growth, community, diversity. They want clubs to come help out with that mural. The women who runs the art gallery will be heading that so you can go talk to her. The 60th anniversary celebration will also happen in January.

Nicolette: The IT chairs have been working on the website and we would love for clubs to post photos on the link presented on the website for the ease of Duffy. This way at the SGA banquet there will be a slide show to showcase all the clubs. Also if you have any suggestions for the website let me or Joe know.

**Club Events**

Ski and Snowboard: Tomorrow from 4-9pm we are having our final fundraiser of the year. If you live on campus and are stuck on campus they do deliver to campus all you have to do is mention that you are with ski and snowboard club while you place your order.

College Republicans: tomorrow 5-7pm we are having our state rep and county commissar to speak to everyone on doing your own research and there will also be food and drinks

Bowling Club: We have our last glow bowling of the semester this Sunday December 3rd from 9-11pm and again we will have the free food and small fountain drink. I hope it will be a great way to de-stress for the semester.

Berks Cares: On Friday we are doing deck the halls at country meadows from 12:15-3pm this has changed from the cab calendar so be aware of that.

Dance Team: On Monday the dance team is having a chipotle fundraiser from 8-11 and just make sure to mentioned the dance team.

World affairs: We are having our last luncheon on the 13th at the inn at reading. The speaker is Dr. Esquaeda.

**Campus Life Report**

Felicia: Spring club rush, Angie should have sent an email out to club presidents about signing up for a table. It will be the first week of spring classes in Gaige. Sing up no later than December 13th to get a table. If your president did not get an email please see me or Angie afterward. For cab there are still a few Broadway tickets left, Monday is the last lol.

**Closing Statement/Adjournment**

Ryan: this is our last meeting so don’t come next week.

Step team: So moves.

Olivia (SHA): So seconds.

No abstentions/discussions/objections