

Senate Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2007
4:30 PM – HUB 310

Respectfully submitted by Senate Secretary Alex Gwozda

I. Committee Meetings (4:30 PM)

Hala apologized that the projector is late due to coming from another committee.

II. Call to Order (5 PM)

Hala called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Hala said we have hard copies of agendas available.

Jon Solomon moved to approve the agenda. *Secinded. Objected by Jono Hanks.*

Jono said there is something about Board of Regents Election Committee appointments.

Hala said she talked with Cullen, and they wanted to get more information and inform senators.

Jono withdrew his objection.

Chris Paredes objected.

Chris Paredes said he had an addition.

Jon withdrew his motion.

Chris wanted to add welcoming of guest, limited to a minute, after call to order.

Maggie moved. *Secinded.*

Maggie yielded to **Chris**.

Chris said it was important to acknowledge people that come to Senate.

Without objection.

A senator moved to approve. *Secinded. Without objection.*

IV. Welcoming of Guests

No guests introduced today.

V. Public Forum: Travis Grandy, Judicial Liaison & Tali Gourarie, EAC Chair (20 min)

Travis gave a PowerPoint presentation. He said the procedures are important to make sure candidates do not get disqualified. The presentation summarizes the Election Policies and Procedures.

Erin Shields asked if Senate could endorse candidates.

Travis said that ASUW entities cannot endorse candidates or ballot measures.

Kim Chung asked if you can do write-ins.

Travis said you can do one.

Sameer asked about Senate versus ASUW elections.

Travis said Senate elections are completely separate.

Jono asked if EAC members or volunteers can be written in.

Travis said they are not eligible, and if they won they would be disqualified. He said you must drop EAC or Judicial Committee by the first day of spring quarter in order to run.

Austin Young asked a question about EAC.

Travis said that is more a question for **Tali**.

Tali introduced herself as the EAC chair.

Tali said she is looking at Senate as a resource as a place of democracy and getting people involved. She said there is the 3rd meeting this Thursday at 4 PM. She said the time commitment would be 1-2 hours per week this quarter, and next quarter anywhere between 2-7 hours per week. She said she wants to offer a wide variety of possibilities for people who can volunteer to different amounts.

Tali said there will be a candidate packet with all the policies to know if you would like to run. She said if you are wondering about the different positions, you can ask Tali and current holders of positions what they do now.

Tali said they would work to educate students about how to vote using the IRV system. She said if anyone saw any issues over past years, to come talk with her in HUB 304J. She thanked Senate.

Hala asked if she has an email address.

Tali said it is asuwvote@u.washington.edu .

VI. Chair's Report (5 min)

Hala thanked Senate for the very good discussion last week, and the best part was all the things that came up afterward about Senate. She said many senators came to Steering on Friday to discuss these issues. She welcomed people at any time to talk to her or a committee chair or other people they trust to communicate feelings and ideas about how legislation should be decided.

Hala said Steering decided not to have a discussion period with the whole body today. She encouraged conversation. She said we have about a quarter left in Senate. She said this is a liberated zone, and we should take things at face value and not as coming in with bad intentions. She said we should assume that what a person is saying is not an attack. She said the Senate agenda this week has time limits, not to stifle discussion, but to encourage people to yield if your comment has already been made. She said when the time ends she will warn a speaker and then when the speaker is done she will ask if anyone moves to extend discussion and otherwise move to a vote.

Travis Grandy asked what happens if we are on second readings.

Hala said a person can move to continue debate, or move to vote, or move to table.

Hala thanked Senate.

VII. Committee Chair Reports (7 min)

Selma said there are ASUW jackets and this year they are great, windbreaker style. She said there are black, olive, pink, and navy colors available. She said people can talk to **Andrew Omahen** for more information.

Hala said pre-orders end next Friday. **Hala** said the jackets celebrate 100 years of ASUW.

Melissa said off-campus affairs had no legislation. She said they discussed the weather closure policy.

Stephanie said campus affairs discussed R-13-19 and it was passed to the floor unfavorably.

Jono said FAA did not have legislation, but discussed events and legislation.

Selma said general affairs discussed SB-13-1 for the third week, now titled A Bill to Clarify the Processes for Amending the ASUW Constitution. She said they added a couple amendments, and sent a favorable recommendation to the floor.

Jessica said Academic Affairs amended the SO-13-1 and table it until the sponsor is ready with all the amendments, and said it is the third week. She said they discussed last week's meeting and acceptance of opinions, and talked about R-13-20 with **James Ypma**, which they will look at next week.

Jon said publicity and outreach did not have legislation, but discussed possible legislation including the ASUW power struggle. He said Senate T-shirts will be even better than ASUW jackets. He said technically today is the last day of payment, but he will accept payments through March 6th.

Charles said membership had no legislation. He said they discussed R-13-19 and R-13-20. He said they are going to the bank today to get a check to send to St. Jude's after the Senate Valentine's Day auction.

VII. Presidential Privilege (5 min)

Cullen White said for the record that **Sam Al-Khoury** makes a better looking woman than him, referring to the GBLTC Drag Show.

Cullen said MTV's "Made" crew will come to our campus to film presidential elections, and if a person is interested then email him.

Cullen said he had a meeting with WashPIRG and Representative Reichert, and discussed WashPIRG's 4-point plan for ending student debt. He said it was received extremely positively.

Cullen said **Bryce McKibben** said Higher Education Day could place a 3% cap on tuition biannually. He said it may hinder quality of education, although we want to

minimize tuition. He said they approved the budget for higher education as a whole, and right now it's a 5% cap. He said other details.

Cullen said Student Regents Election Committee appointments will begin next week, including a Senate representative nominations on the agenda next week. He said the deadline would be in mid-April. He said there would be candidate interviews. He said it's a pretty minimal time commitment.

Yutaka moved to add 2 minutes to **Cullen's** time. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Cullen encouraged spreading the word on the Husky Tee competition. He said they already have a couple submissions.

Cullen apologized sincerely for not being here to provide more context and information about the ECC/T and IC resolution. He said his intent was to provide support and not go too much into specifics, to know that they had an ally in the process for any appropriate renovations that may be made.

Salil Mathur asked when the competition is over.

Cullen said March 27th at 5 PM, and there is now a website up for it, which will change to its own domain name like huskytee.com or something similar next week.

IX. Board of Directors Report (5 min)

Erin Shields said they had a relatively short board meeting last week. She said they started off with a public forum with the manager of Rainy Dawg Radio. She said they discussed the ECC/T and IC renovations legislation. She said many things we referred to judicial committee, and they are discussing their job descriptions. She said they amended the legislative agenda to include the legislative directive. She said faculty senate is Thursday 2:30-4 PM in Gowen 301. She said the faculty council on educational technology just had an opening.

Hala asked what was sent to Judicial and about the Board Bills.

Erin said the board bill that **Laura** discussed has been tabled as well as the one that proposes the same thing as the current Senate Bill until Senate passes the Senate Bill.

X. GPSS Report (5 min)

Yutaka Jono said GPSS is hosting an event about leadership here at Thursday 4 PM. He said GPSS meets next Wednesday.

Yutaka said **GPSS President Kim**'s comments in the Daily should not be taken as fact.

Yutaka said he came to Steering for the first time and found he had a vote.

Melissa Aar said they can look online for the Daily comments.

XI. Orders of the Day

A. Old Business

a. 2nd Readings – R-13-14: A Resolution in Support of the UWPD Taser Policy

Ehsan Eleaziz summarized his legislation.

Stephanie said Campus Affairs passed it favorably and unanimously. She said they just made a typo correction.

Alex Jouravlev said his problem with this resolution is responding to something that has been media fodder. He said we would not have this resolution if the media did not bring it up, and we should not just be responding to media. He said if we want to thank the police, this is not the way to do it.

Ehsan said he agrees that this resolution wouldn't have happened were it not for media attention, but that doesn't detract from the resolution. He said he met with the chief and assistant chief and they both support the resolution and thought it was a good idea. He said it wasn't just a pat on the back, it's also establishing what we think about the use of tasers on this campus.

Sameer asked why it was written in support of UW policy in response to a misuse by another university. He said if it's establishing policies on taser use, it should be named accordingly.

Ehsan said he didn't want it just to be a backlash against the UCLA issue but to establish what we should do at UW.

Austin Young said just because the media brought it up doesn't mean we shouldn't address. He said the conduct code issue was also reactionary but important. He entertained a motion to close debate.

Selma said last year they commended a program for the Invisible Children campaign, and it is completely our space to commend groups and practices. She said this issue even directly affects students.

Holly Jones moved to close debate. *Seconded. Objection.*

40-21-10, debate closed.

R-13-14 passes.

B. New Business

a. R-13-13: A Resolution Calling for a Revised Weather Closure Policy, to Promote Safety

Chris Paredes read the legislation.

Jono Hanks said FAA made no recommendation.

Hala asked for a majority or minority report.

Shawn Fisher said there was just discussion about what kind of policy they wanted.

Tim Shigeta moved to send back to committee. *Seconded. Objection.*

Jono said there were extensive amendments to every whereas and that clause already.

Charles asked what committee.

Hala said FAA.

Hala called division.

30-29-14 it is sent back to FAA.

Nicole asked if it can go to a different committee.

Melissa Aar moved to reconsider a hasty action. *Seconded. Objection.*

Melissa said it should be sent to another committee, since FAA already made its amendments.

Ehsan asked if it's in order to ask why.

Melissa said her motion is just to repeal the last motion.

Nicole asked why it was sent to FAA.

Hala said Steering sent it there because it involves interaction with administration.

Doug moved to close debate. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Motion reconsidered.

Maggie amended the motion to send to Off-Campus Affairs. *Seconded. Without objection.*

R-13-13 sent to Off Campus Affairs.

1st Readings – R-13-17: A Resolution Supporting the Creation of an American Sign Language Program

Chris Paredes said **Cullen White** should be a cosponsor.

Chris gave first readings.

Jono said FAA referred it favorably and unanimously, just amending some grammatical points.

Jon Solomon moved to close debate. *Seconded. Objection.*

Did not receive 2/3rd, debate continued.

Bobby Stoumbos asked how many people want to take ASL the following year.

Chris said he did not have that number, but surveys about how many UW students take it (ASL) at Seattle Center community college have been done.

Sameer moved to suspend rules and place R-13-17 on second readings. *Seconded. Objection.*

Mikhail asked **Sameer** why it is time-sensitive.

Sameer said it is not time-sensitive. He said it was unanimously favorably recommended.

Did not receive 2/3rds.

Debate continues.

Andrew moved to close debate. *Seconded. Without objection.*

1st Readings – OA-13-6: An Act to Further Strengthen Senate Legitimacy

Sameer read his legislation in full.

Sameer said he worked with **Charles** on this, and it makes sure we have announcements in case we adjourn without quorum and that people would be removed from current membership count according to a three-strikes rule.

Tim Shigeta asked how many senators this would be affecting.

Hala said we have Pro's and Con's to read first, and can address that shortly.

Mikhail read the Pro's and Con's.

PRO's

- + The legislation allows for more efficient management of Senate membership through providing a more accurate list of voting members
- + It encourages more consistent attendance
- + Allows for a better conclusion to the meeting by clearly allowing announcements even after absence of quorum
- + Lessens restrictions on senators' abilities to proxy to another available member

CON's

- There could be inconsistencies because amending rules and bylaws require different voting percentages
- Turning in proxy forms to the membership coordinator throughout the meeting could be distracting or rude to the presenter.
- Can reduce numbers present in the room by potentially making proxying too easy

Austin Young said he was confused about absences.

Sameer said there is a per-quarter and per-year limit.

Jon asked to explain about how the voting works.

Mikhail said it requires 50% to amend rules and 2/3rd to amend bylaws.

Sameer said that could be resolved by more legislation.

Tim asked how many seats this would affect.

Charles said as of February 20th that would affect approximately 20 seats of 130.

Phyllis Ying asked when it would take effect.

Hala said immediately.

Bobby asked if there is a limit for how many proxies people can have.

Charles said no senator can only hold two proxies, but a constituent can hold two.

Bobby asked a question.

Hala said that is not a question for first readings.

Austin asked how it would affect people now.

Charles said the legislation does not clarify if it takes effect retroactively. He said he would interpret that it takes effect spring quarter.

Austin asked how many meetings are in a session.

Charles said approximately 30.

Nicolle Perisho asked if that means presence in committees or the meetings.

Sameer said unexcused absences are what matter here.

Charles said absences just mean someone did not show up at all in the meeting.

Tim Shigeta asked if they can elaborate why three was selected as opposed to five.

Sameer Kanal said it was 5 total absences previously, four unexcused in a quarter.

Charles said 3 absences in a quarter is 30% of all the meetings. He said if senators are representative they should be here. He said they can currently miss 9 meetings of about 30, which he would consider excessive.

Anna Zagelow asked if they have to turn in proxies to **Charles**.

Hala said they can turn it in to committee chairs to avoid disruption.

Charles said we use forms to make sure people vote if the proxied senator had the vote he wanted. He said without forms he cannot double-check votes. He said he is hired to make sure it is accurate.

Salil Mathur asked if a senator loses a seat, then the seat is open to another member.

Charles said yes, once the seat is given it cannot be removed, but the senator is removed. He said that is why it is called the Seat Renewal Form.

Hala said we are out of time on first readings.

Doug moved to table first readings until next week. Without second, motion dies.

Jon moved to exhaust speaker's list and extend time by 3 minutes. *Seconded. Without objection.*

A student asked about committee meetings versus absences again.

Charles said as long as a person checks in at any time they are not absent.

First readings closed.

1st Readings – OA-13-7: An Act to Reform Senate Officer Elections

Alex said **Rod** would not be able to make it today, but he gave permission for any Senate officer to read it. He suggested that **Hala**, **Mikhail** or himself go, probably **Mikhail** since he's next in line.

Hala said that would mean **Mikhail** had to be listed as cosponsor.

Mikhail agreed.

Vice Chair Mikhail gave first readings.

Mikhail gave a summary.

Alex Gwozda read Pro's and Con's.

Pro's

- + May allow senators and ASUW members to know who is running in both elections
- + May allow Senate to know which candidates prioritize Senate over the Board of Directors
- + May allow for an extended amount of time for officer training
- + If the Senate election is postponed the result may be the same as the current system

Con's

- May increase the possibility that a person who is selected for both a Senate position and another ASUW position resigns from the Senate position
- Willingness to run earlier may not reflect increased commitment to Senate
- People may be equally dedicated and qualified to more than one position
- If the Senate election is postponed the result may be the same as the current system

Kim Chung asked if two people are running for both positions how elections would proceed.

Mikhail said it said only if there are less than two would Senate elections be postponed.

David Kim asked the current policy.

Mikhail said we begin nominations right after ASUW general elections, with a week of nominations, and then the week after being nominations and elections.

Travis asked what is being considered the beginning of ASUW elections, the beginning of voting or beginning of candidacy. He said if it's voting, he asked how the second part of the elections of senate would interact with the Senate Board of Directors candidate forum, which is generally that week. He asked about people running for both Bod and Senate at the same time.

Mikhail said the elections for senate take place of the candidate forum.

Travis Grandy said traditionally senate forum for candidates takes the whole meeting.

Mikhail said imagines the senate forum would have to be a week earlier. He said they can be elected to both, and they would have to choose.

Sameer moved to table first readings until next week. *Seconded. Objection.*

Sameer said **Rod** is not here, and would like him be able to answer questions, although Mikhail is doing a very good job.

Alex Gwozda said the impression he got from Rod was that he encouraged us to go through first readings even though he could not be here.

Objection withdrawn.

Maggie McLaughlin objected.

First readings on OA-13-7 tabled.

Hala encouraged moving to adjourn with announcements.

A senator moved. *Seconded. Objection.*

37-18-8, motion passes.

XII. Announcements

Salil asked if someone from the UW bookstore can come talk.

Hala said an officer would take that up.

XIII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:55 PM.