

ASUW Student Senate Steering  
May 20, 2005  
Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Senate Secretary Alex Kim

Call to order at 2:33

Roll Call

Aiko Akers – late  
Chris Barrows – unexcused absence  
Nick Dayton – proxy by Mike Leichner  
Mae Diligencia  
Alex Kim  
Kelsey Knowles – unexcused absence  
Steve Kushnir  
Jon Lee  
Mike Leichner  
Joel Murray – proxy by Alex Kercher  
Garrett Parks  
Rene Singleton  
Karl Smith  
Zach Tobin

Chair's Report

Chair **Zach Tobin** said he wanted to revisit the elections procedures considering the number of nominated candidates we had.

*Membership Coordinator **Jon Lee** moved to “peg” it at 2 minutes per candidate. Seconded.*

He said senators should be able to have the time to ask the questions that wanted to ask.

**Zach** said he was worried about having 7 vice-chair candidates resulting in a 14 minute discussion period.

***Steve Kushnir** moved to amend the motion to make it 2 minutes for each candidate for chair and vice-chair and 1 minute per for candidates for secretary and membership coordinator. Seconded.*

**Steve** said two minutes seemed a little excessive for all positions.

*The amendment failed.*

**Jon** said he'd prefer 2 minutes of questions for chair and vice-chair and 1.5 minutes for secretary and membership.

**Jon** moved to close debate. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

*The motion failed.*

**Zach** entertained a motion to make the chair discussion 8 minutes long and the vice-chair discussion 6 minutes long. **Zach** said that this way, we didn't overly encourage a very long Q&A session, but senators could ask for more time. *So moved, seconded.*

**Jon** said that the Senate tended to cut things short and this could prevent a more thorough examination.

**Steve Kushnir** said he liked Jon's original idea.

**Alex Kim** moved to close debate. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

*The motion failed.*

**Jon** moved to allow 2 minutes of questions per candidate for chair or vice-chair, and 1.5 minutes per candidate for secretary and membership. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

**Jon** said we should also limit the amount of time used to answer questions.

**Mike Leichner** said Zach had ability to limit discussion himself.

**Alex** disagreed, saying that it gave too much discretion to the chair.

**Mike** moved to limit questions to 20 seconds each. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

**Steve** moved to limit responses to 40 seconds per candidate. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

**Mike** moved to close debate. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

**Zach** reminded the committee that we would be thinking about Senate awards next week.

#### Officers' Reports

Vice Chair **Karl Smith** reported that he updated legislation this week. He added that the power struggle would be during the ASUW Volunteer BBQ.

**Alex Kim** had nothing to report.

**Jon Lee** said to expect his organic act soon.

Legislative Referral

OA-11-8: An Organic Act to change the name and purpose of the Off-Campus Affairs Committee

**Mae** presented her legislation.

**Mae** said that if we gave the committee more direction it could help.

***Alex** moved to amend the THAT clause such that “resident halls” would read “residence halls” and to strike “in any University Housing Arrangements.”  
Seconded.*

**Cammie** said that we already had in our rules what a “commuter” actually was.

***Alex** moved to amend the amendment such that the first sentence of the committee’s new description would read, “The Commuter Affairs Committee shall take up and consider issues that pertain to commuters as defined in the Senate Bylaw Article II, Section 10, Bylaw B.1.”  
Seconded.*

*The amendment to the amendment passed.*

**Mike** said that unless we were going to make a committee pertaining specifically to commuters in the absence of a commuter union, we should consider not having this committee at all.

**Mae** said that she left it up to her committee this year but no issues came up. She said she wasn’t sure what factors led to the committee’s ineffectiveness.

**Alex Kim** said this was a good step towards building a better committee with a tighter focus.

**Alex Kerchner** said that he was uncomfortable defining it by a living group.

**Aiko Akers** said we should consider leaving the committee in place as it is or striking it altogether.

***Jon** moved to close debate. Seconded. The motion passed.*

*The amendment passed.*

**Jon** said that we needed to think about having more committees rather than less committees.

**Karl Smith** said that it was a really nice thought, but we were also having this problem where committees had no legislation to consider.

**Cammie** said that first off, committees were reorganized last year. She said that we should give this committee a little more time before we disband it or alter it.

**Alex** said that the OA didn't really drastically change the committee, but it did provide a better focus.

**Mike** said he had a large committee and that it worked great.

**Alex Kerchner** said that more specific committees made it harder to include more students and issues.

**Aiko Akers** said that one solution was for Steering Committee to be more flexible in terms of who we referred legislation to.

**Jon Lee** said that he was an advocate for smaller committees just because they could also be spending time thinking about issues.

**Zach** reminded members that discussion should be centered on the organic act.

**Mike** moved close debate. Seconded. The motion failed.

*Alex moved to amend to add to the end of the THAT clause: "...and to consider neighborhood and community issues." Seconded.*

**Aiko** said that there were a lot of neighborhood issues that a lot of students didn't know about, for example, the parking garage at Café Allegro. She said that there's a lot of stuff going on and it'd be good to have a committee that considers these issues.

**Steve** said that he was concerned that we didn't define "neighborhood" more carefully.

**Cammie** said that wherever students were living, they could use this body to highlight issues in their neighborhoods. She said this wasn't a huge deal.

*Alex moved to close debate. Seconded. The motion passed.*

*The amendment passed.*

*Alex moved to pass the legislation with a favorable recommendation. Seconded. The motion passed. OA-11-8 was reported favorably to the floor.*

**Zach** said we needed to write pro and con statements.

**Alex** said he would write a pro statement, **Aiko** said she would write a con statement.

OA-11-9: An Organic Act to Update the Bylaws and Rules

**Mike** moved to close debate. Seconded. The motion failed.

**Alex Kerchner** suggested fixing THAT clauses.

OA-11-10: An Organic Act Changing the Publicity and Outreach Committee to a Special Committee

**Aiko** said that this was because it'd be better to have a "group" that met outside senate for these purposes.

R-11-47: A Resolution Commending Student Regent Alex Bolton

**Cammie** said this was a resolution commending Alex Bolton for his accessibility. She said she hoped future leaders would follow his example.

***Mike** moved to refer the resolution to the floor. Seconded. The motion passed.*

R-11-48: A Resolution in Support of a Late-night Coffee Shop in Odegaard

**Jon** said that Cullen's legislation was to advocate having a coffee shop in Odegaard.

**Alex** said that we should think about this again next year, and that he didn't believe passing it now so quickly could accomplish anything.

**Karl** said there were people who cared about this.

***Aiko** moved to refer to floor. Seconded. The motion passed.*

Approval of Agenda

**Zach** suggested, that, in dealing with all the legislation we needed to consider, we could consider time limits on items.

***Mike** moved to strike items 6-8 (Presidential Privilege, BOD Report, GPSS Report). Seconded. The motion passed.*

***Alex** moved to place R-11-40 at the top of New Business. Seconded.*

**Alex** said it was the most pertinent, time-sensitive legislation we needed to consider because it was the thing that carried Senate's strongest objection.

***Mike** moved to amend the amendment to instead place R-11-41, R-11-38, R-11-39 at the bottom of Old Business. Taken as friendly.*

**Mike** moved to close debate. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

*The amendment passed.*

**Cammie** moved to add an item under elections a new letter “B” just for the commending of Alex Bolton. *Seconded.*

She said it'd be unfortunate if we didn't get around to it.

**Karl** said there was more important legislation.

*The motion passed.*

**Alex Kerchner** moved to place R-11-39 directly after R-11-40. *Seconded.*

**Mike** said he thought it was fine as it was now.

**Jon** said that it was more important to highlight problems and shortcomings rather than pats on the back.

**Steve Kushnir** said he agreed that one was more important, but we wanted to show our support and it probably wouldn't be contentious.

*The motion failed.*

**Cammie** moved to put a seven-minute time limit on each piece of legislation. *Seconded.*

She said that this gives senators an idea of how we expected discussion to go this time, and that if we needed more time, we could move for it.

**Karl** said Senate has shown that it has decent time management skills. He said we shouldn't set the onus on Senate to extend time.

**Jon** said he didn't like the philosophy that we needed to push through all legislation.

**Steve** said that often, debate entered into circular logic and putting a cap on time makes sense.

**Alex Kim** moved to close debate. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

*The amendment passed.*

**Steve** moved to eliminate committee meetings. *Seconded. The motion passed.*

**Alex** moved to close debate. Seconded. The motion passed.

The agenda was approved.

It was moved to approve the minutes. Seconded. The motion passed.

**Jon** explained the process for balloting.

The meeting was adjourned.