

Senate Steering Minutes
February 2, 2007
3:30 PM – HUB 204n

*Respectfully submitted by Senate Secretary Alex Gwozda, and after 5 PM acting
Secretary Stephanie Adler*

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Hala called the meeting to order at 3:41 PM.

Hala Dillsi – present

Mikhail Smirnov – present

Charles Cadwallader – present

Alex Gwozda – present until 5pm excused

Sam Al-Khoury – present

Erin Shields – present

Rene Singleton – present

Cullen White – absent

Jessica Kang – present

Jono Hanks – present

Stephanie Adler – present

Melissa Aar – late excused, present at 5:45

Selma Dillsi – present, later proxy by Doug McManaway

Jon Solomon – present

II. Approval of the Agenda

Stephanie moved to place OA-13-5, OA-13-6, R-13-18, SO-13-1 under legislative referrals. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Charles moved to place committee appointments after officer's reports.

Charles said they'll take five minutes, and wants to make sure that gets done in case organic acts do not finish. He said he also might need to leave early.

Stephanie seconded. Without objection.

Erin moved to place under general discussion after approving the Senate agenda to discuss the vote of confidence. *Stephanie seconded. Melissa objected.*

Erin said we need to discuss technicalities to make sure we are clear.

Melissa said we can discuss it while approving the Senate agenda.

Erin called division.

5-3-2, passes.

Mikhail moved to place Approval of Senate Agenda after general discussion of how to handle vote of confidence, and renumber.

Erin seconded. Without objection.

Erin moved to approve the agenda as amended. *Stephanie seconded. Without objection.*

III. Chair's Report

Hala said she thought the roundtable in Steering last week went very well. She said two things rang clear, 1) that we have communication problems between officers, Steering, and Senate, and 2) that we should present some sort of unity before Senate. She said that doesn't mean not questioning issue, but that disagreements are handled respectfully and civilly and not hostile. She said officers discussed this, and she said she is stressing how we communicate. She said we are not done by any means, but that conversation is starting and continuing. She said one thing that we can do is go behind the microphone and talk as officers, and then present differing opinions before Senate if necessary after that step. She said feedback from Steering and other Senators will be very helpful throughout the process. She said we're working on what is coming up with the vote of confidence. She said there is a videocast report that The Daily interviewed people and why they did the vote of confidence. She said she consulted with our advisor and others about her presenting before a Daily video camera, and wanted everyone to know that would be up. She said handbooks are out.

Tyler Dockins said he put out a letter to editor, and it was not meant to be a slight to Senate. He said he tried to counteract negatively, and wanted to represent all kinds of entities. He said he should have included that are missteps in every part of the ASUW. He encouraged anyone to email. He said he went around to anyone who was in the HUB Thursday afternoon, and that is why those names are used.

Hala thanked **Tyler** for letting us know.

Selma asked committee chairs to initial minutes.

Mikhail said those were the tabled minutes.

Hala said we lost the amendments.

IV. Officer Reports

Mikhail said the most important issue has been the Constitutional Amendment process for Senate. He said many people had their input. He said the process, which is still being discussed, and it clarifies very specifically that Senate has the power to override the Board of Directors with 3/4ths. He said it changes how the Judicial committee operates and expands the purview to be able to give rulings and recommendations to any entity and not only the Board of Directors. He said he talked with Karl Smith, and they came up with some potential amendments to make the process smoother. He said we should have a final version at the BOD meeting next week, hopefully, and then send it to Judicial.

Shawn Fisher asked what bill he was talking about.

Mikhail said he was talking about Erin's board of directors' bill. He said the other is a by-law amendment, and Erin's is a proposal of the constitutional amendment to the voters.

Shawn asked if **Laura's** bill was amended.

Mikhail said it was tabled this week, so that as 1.04 is figured out, it could be compatible completely with Erin's.

Jon said it's a very important process since we are trying. He suggested caution in introducing this to Senate, since a lot of them are very new. He said a lot of discussion with **Laura's** bill went over his head, so he must not be the only one that feels that way.

Mikhail said he thinks part of that will be solved by the introduction of Erin's Senate Bill to Senate, SB-13-1, which is the same thing that the Board of Directors is looking at.

Erin said they're basically the same with a few minor changes. She said it can be made very clear what exactly is being changed. She said she does not want to see Senate lose what was gained last year. She said **Laura's** bill is modifying by-laws, and her bill could amend the constitution. She said both will be discussed next week at the Board. She said it would take a month before any decision is made at the board level, and that will be a good amount of time to educate.

Alex thanked people for website feedback, and said website updates are behind because of being gone all weekend.

Mikhail said if they have committee amendments and amendments to the floor so they can have updated legislation.

Mikhail said he had Selma's from the other day.

Charles said the senator list was fixed online. He said he wanted to ask if we will be able to have an auction on the 13th, due to Senate sentiments.

Jon said yes, because it's for charity and it's something to lighten the mood.
Shawn Fisher said yes, because we need to pick up the spirit.

Sam said yes, definitely.

Sameer said we could put it off a little bit for logistical and time reasons.

Maggie McLaughlin asked what it was.

Charles said **Travis Grandy** started it last year, a Senate leadership auction. He said the money is donated to charity. He said it was overshadowed at the last meeting, and he did not mention it. He asked if one week is enough time to advertise.

Melissa said she thinks we should still do it, after the week, and she thinks there will probably be plenty of attendance. She said he should just make a decision and do it.

Jon Evans asked if we have any legislation supporting charitable organization besides Up 'til Dawn.

Melissa said it's the day before Valentine's Day, so pushing it back a week would not be exciting.

Hala called a straw poll for having it the 13th; steering was highly in favor, no one opposed.

Jon wanted to say they now have a preliminary design, and he'd be happy to show individuals or put it on the forum.

V. Committee Referrals

Joseph Aeucipe – Off-campus

Clayton Olney – AA

Yecelica Validivia - Campus

Maggie McLaughlin – Off-Campus

Sam moved. *Selma* seconded. *Without objection.*

VI. Legislative Referrals

SB-13-1

Stephanie asked the process of dealing with Senate Bills and Senate Orders.

Mikhail said our by-laws do not say. He said the default is for resolution. He said he interprets that we send it to a committee.

Shawn Fisher said his Senate Order has a vague process, and suggested Steering or General. He said General doesn't have experience to deal with this, since it requires more expertise. He said next week we could address Erin's and his.

Mikhail said Steering meetings are public, so they must be advertised three days in advance.

Sam said he was thinking of sending them directly to the floor, and they're such huge large issues, and encouraged having that valuable conversation during the floor. He wasn't sure there would be additional benefit going through the same discussions as before.

Jono said **Sam** said what he wanted to say.

Erin said she disagreed, since Steering has not discussed OA's very well. She said debate at Steering is not great, and we could benefit from having some committees involved with the discussion. She said she's hesitant to refer directly to the floor without smaller conversation first. She said unlike the conduct code, we should take smaller steps to make sure everyone's on the same page.

Melissa said she disagreed with sending it to the floor, since there would be too many voices all at once. She said we are quick to discount committees, when it should be people talking to people, including committees. She said sponsors should be talking with as many people as possible, and that committees look closely at details. She said anyone who is interested in them should go to those committees. She said we should not have steering only look at it, since we need more voices. She said newer senators would may not be too unqualified.

Jon moved to refer this dually to both General Affairs and Campus Affairs.

Doug asked if it is in order.

Hala said another committee can look at it informally, since they can't also make amendments and one committee recommendation.

Jon said he was thinking that more people need to know about what's going on, and hoping that referring to two committees allows creation of more knowledge about what's going on.

Mikhail said it's most likely not the final version of the bill, and there will probably be many changes. He said he's worried about sending it to the floor, then the next week there would be heavy amendments at the board level. He said until we have something that is semi-final, we should not send it out, especially not to the floor.

Sam said after submission it would still be revised. He asked why didn't they wait to submit.

Erin said they could talk about it at another time, because revisions had not been brought to her attention.

Mikhail said many people worked on the board bill and senate bill together, and some of them who worked on it felt that it should be changed, after submittal. He would wait for the board to accept changes before presenting it to other senators.

Hala asked if he sees amendments made in committee Tuesday being brought to the board on Thursday.

Mikhail was thinking that the Board would make amendments first, and those amendments could come to Senate, which doesn't understand the issue fully. He suggested sending it to Steering for a week, and we can send it to committee or Senate afterward.

Sam asked if we can table something within Steering.

Hala said we think we can table.

Doug McManaway is now proxying for Selma.

Jon said it's allowed to refer to Steering then refer to a committee.

Mikhail said he believes it's in order to table for a week.

Hala asked if Steering can amend it and then send it to committee.

Mikhail said that would apply if we table it for a week.

Rene said we can table it for a week. She asked if we have a timeline, and decide from there.

Travis said we have a lot of time to do this, if we consider **Laura's** Board Bill that has not yet been referred to Judicial.

Erin said it's probably not appropriate to refer to Steering and then to a committee. She said it could be appropriate for committee to consider it for two weeks.

Stephanie said she likes the idea of treating it as an Organic Act, and developing pro's and con's, and also having every committee talking about it. She said people can still come to Steering if they want to. She said it sets up a great setting for having open discussion by the time it gets to the Senate floor.

Mikhail said he was thinking about would not work, because Steering cannot table legislation. He said it's rules II section 5.

Hala said Steering cannot suspend rules, and steering can refer to steering and table it for another week. She said it cannot be referred to another committee.

Jon Evans said General Affairs has newer members, and he would challenge Steering to challenge senators who have put a lot of time into Senate, who want to participate, and he said above all places committees are the places they will feel most comfortable. He said ultimately senators should have that conversation.

Shawn said he still doesn't understand what he wrote after working on it for a week.

Doug moved to refer SB-13-1 to General Affairs. *Seconded. Mikhail objected.*

Doug said it should be a conversation, and people need to understand it and be exposed to it.

Mikhail said he thinks before it goes to general affairs, he thinks everyone in Steering needs to understand what it does. He said we need to discuss it now.

Hala said it's in order to move this discussion below general discussion.

Melissa said all the bills are all very procedural. She said there are six committees without legislation. She encouraged everyone to go home and do research, and send it to General Affairs now, and then keep it there for two weeks or more. She said we should get it out to senators.

Jessica moved to close debate.

Seconded. Objection.

Debate closed.

SB-13-1 referred to General Affairs.

OA-13-5

Jon asked how Organic Acts work.

Mikhail said they are only different from other legislation if they amend by-laws or rules. These do not, so they are sent to committee then the floor.

Stephanie asked why it's called an OA.

Ehsan said it's an internal matter.

Ehsan said he wants greater discussion, and censuring is a more moderate act and he does not believe quorum failure should result in removal from office. He said this is an official reprimand from Senate. He said he will try his best to have it moved above the vote of confidence, and that is difficult because the by-laws said the vote of confidence should be placed first in the agenda. He said he interprets that to mean it is "placed" there, but the agenda can still be amended from that. He said we can discuss three options, including taking no action, censuring, or removing officers.

Shawn asked if can verify it's possible to have it moved above the vote of confidence.

Hala said that's part of what we should look at for our agenda, and it's a gray area.

Shawn said we cannot change the by-laws. He said he doesn't see a middle perspective.

Mikhail said he advised our chair to make a decision. He said many disagree with his interpretation, that Senate and Sturgis and any body should be allowed to do as much as possible. He said unless the rules state the body cannot do something, then it should be allowed to do so. He said many say that something has to be listed to be able to do it, whereas he believes

Erin asked the exact lines from the by-laws.

Mikhail read Section 8. of the Senate by-laws. He said Senate as a parliamentary body can decide how to do something, so he does not think it would be out of order to move items of the agenda or call for a discussion period before the vote. He said others that have stood in his position as parliamentarian would disagree with him.

Hala said he wants Steering completely on the same page, and we need to discuss it.

Hala said we can discuss it when we decide the agenda.

Erin asked if we can talk about it during the discussion for vote of confidence issues.

Jon Solomon moved to refer OA-13-5 to Publicity and Outreach. *Melissa seconded.*
Sam objected.

Jon said since **Ehsan's** intention is to get it onto the floor, and he said one of the duties of Publicity and Outreach is to maintain camaraderie in Senate.

Sam said it should go directly to the floor, to minimize people talking about it outside the main body of the Senate. He said he wants to minimize saying anything not relevant to the real issue at hand, and it needs to be contained wholly in Senate and not in Steering or committees, and only talk about it for the three minutes each speaker allotted in the by-laws.

Doug asked if **Sam** wants discussion limited to what's on by-laws.

Sam said yes, essentially.

Ehsan said he agrees with **Sam**, and he said the purpose is to give senate a third option.

Stephanie as note-taker.

Shawn said it shouldn't go to Publicity, should go to Membership because it is involving student involvement with Senate.

Jon said this was from the website.

Charles asked where.

Melissa said shouldn't send it to floor, should discuss under Agenda discussion. We should send the act to a committee, not necessarily Membership.

Doug moved to close debate. *Seconded. No objection.*

Motion fails.

Erin moved to refer to Membership.

Second by Melissa. Objected by Sam.

Erin said she feels that it needs to be reviewed by committee. Senators would benefit from understanding what **Ehsan** means by the act and would help discussion on floor.

Sam said the discussion should not be secluded in committee. This is a unique situation and should not go to committee.

Rene asked if this goes to committee and comes back if Steering would be comfortable with discussing this again.

Ehsan said the act wouldn't be relevant if the officers don't make the vote of confidence. If it is moved to later he will just table it indefinitely.

Sameer said he agrees with Sam but the idea that we can without people from discussing Senate issues is not sensible. It should go to the floor.

Jessica moved to close debate. *Seconded. No objection.*

Division: tied.

Charles says a roll call vote could be in order.

Rene says the chair cannot make a decision when the vote involves her. Says **Charles** has a good idea.

Mikhail says we could let **Cullen** change his vote, or we can do a roll call vote, or we can let **Hala** make a decision.

Melissa asks if she can move to reconsider. No.

Hala abstains from the vote.

Motion fails.

Mikhail moves to send OA-13-5 directly to floor. *Seconded. Objection.*

Mikhail says rules say that time-sensitive items should be sent directly to floor. We should deal with this as we deal with any time-sensitive issue and send directly to floor. No committee should be able to decide to kill it.

Melissa does not speak to her objection.

Move to vote.

Motion passes.

OA-13-6, an Act to Further Strengthen Senate Legitimacy.

Mikhail point of order: this OA has something to do with amendments, but not with our amendments.

Doug asked what the procedure is when OA's refer to our bylaws.

Hala said we discuss it and see if there is any merit to it. If we decide that it does, we talk about it next week and decide on pros and cons.

Sameer said that we had a good discussion about quorum issues and emails, and that people asked how do we ensure that we don't need to call quorum? People brought up idea that people don't need to wait half a quarter before they're removed. This would give incentive for people to come to Senate by reducing misses to 4. It would also allow Senators to proxy easier, and ensure that our senator count does not drop. It would also allow us to end when quorum is called and still make announcements. It would make it easier for Senate to function and encourage use of the Senate Forum.

Doug said the act confronts a lot of issues discussed and problems from Senate. It has merit and we should not discuss this long.

Mikhail moves to considered in Steering next week. Second, no objection.

Hala said to make sure we look over the act closely.

Erin asked if amendments are in order.

Hala said yes, and we should come to Steering with amendments and pros and cons.

Hala asked where are we on minutes.

R-13-18, A Resolution Promoting Senate Efficiency and Legitimacy.

Sameer said this is talking about more issues from last week's discussion and that we use a lot of our time for non-legislation priorities. Sometimes we don't get to spend our time on the purpose of why Senate exists – to create legislation. He wants to make sure that we put things on the agenda in the order of which they were received. If we set a cap on non-legislative issues in meetings then we could actually talk about legislation priorities. The Student Conduct Code discussion felt rushed. If we made sure not to go over half an hour of reports we could actually discuss the legislation. This is also a policy statement that if a sponsor doesn't support their legislation anymore, then we shouldn't have to discuss it. He also wanted a policy statement to commend our leadership on what they have been doing well. Finally, use motions for what they should be used for, like quorum

calls, and that a committee should be created to notice certain issues within Senate and make them aware.

Melissa moves to send to off-campus. *Second by Mikhail. Object by Jono.*

Melissa says **Sameer** is in her committee and it would make it easy to hear his point of view. We should move on. She has a lot of good discussions in her committee.

Jono says this would fit better in Membership as it is meant to focus on Senate.

Jon moves to close discussion. *Second. No objection.*

Debate closed. Tie. Hala abstains. Motion fails.

Erin moves to refer to Membership. *Second by Melissa. No objection.*

R-13-18 referred to Membership.

Sameer says that Membership doesn't really deal with internal affairs of Senate.

Hala says we review our bylaws every 4 years.

Shawn asks if we can do it before.

Hala says yes.

Doug says we should move on and asks what the process is for Senate Orders.

Charles asks if someone else could do Senate Orientation because he has legislation now.

Jono asks if his vice-chair could.

Charles said his vice-chair could do orientation.

Hala asks if **Mikhail** could.

Mikhail says he could.

Hala asks where the minutes are.

SO-13-1, An Order to Propose a Constitutional Amendment regarding Senate's Power to order Constitutional Amendments.

Hala said that **Mikhail** said that the procedure is unclear for how to deal with this.

Mikhail says the only thing we can do is to treat this as a regular act.

Charles asks if the sponsor could speak first.

Shawn says that he created this because we decide this issue internally without Board approval or input in any way. This is what we were granted last year. If this is decided on $\frac{3}{4}$ of the body this is passed, goes to Judicial and has no Board input at all. In that case judicial would then place it on the ballot.

Mikhail says that he sees the problem that Judicial recommends something to BOD and that we will still have the BOD deciding whether this should go to the ballot or not. We could support this as a Senate bill and save ourselves trying to figure out the process.

Shawn says overturning a Judicial decision takes $\frac{2}{3}$ of the directors. If we send this as a Senate Bill, the BOD can veto by 50%. As an Order, this has a stronger force as it takes more people to object on the BOD.

Doug yields.

Mikhail says that after talking to **Laura Baird** that he is not sure how this is different. Any recommendation needs $\frac{2}{3}$ of the BOD to return the act to Judicial.

Rene says that we should either consider referring this to ourselves or referring this to someone else because it will have to go to judicial anyways.

Doug moves to refer to FAA. *Second by Jon. Objection by Mikhail.*

Doug says he agrees with Rene. We should send it somewhere to consider and that this is appropriate for FAA. We shouldn't argue about Senate orders versus senate Bills.

Mikhail says if we can't figure out what to do with this how can we expect our Senators to?

Jono says he agrees with **Mikhail**. He doesn't know the process and wouldn't feel comfortable leading a discussion. He wants to refer this to Steering.

Sam says that we shouldn't say our Senators aren't capable. We should challenge people.

Shawn says Steering or FAA is ok. This is similar to a Senate Bill.

Doug moves to close debate. *Second.*

5-3-1. SO-13-1 goes to FAA.

Hala reminds **Jono** to ask for more time after 2 weeks.

Hala asks where the minutes are.

Hala says that we move on to General Discussion and Vote of Confidence procedure.

Rene says that she would like us to think about the emotions that will go on. She doesn't know if we'll be able to get through other business after the vote. We should move to announcements after the vote. We have no idea how many people will be at the meeting. This could change the tone of the meetings. If issues are played up in the press, other things can occur. Also, part of the agenda involves some of the people in the room and that hopefully some people can talk on the part of others in an objective way in this part of the meeting.

Jon says that in the bylaws it says the vote of confidence should be the first order of business. He asks why this is not under orders of the Day.

Hala says that orders of the day is the legislation we look at and that this is business.

Jono says he wants Steering's opinion as to creating an item of general discussion period before the votes of confidence. This would allow discussion and for everyone to understand what is happening. What do other people think?

Sam said he disagrees. We're talking about two people; the by-laws are clear and cannot be suspended, and the procedure is set out clearly. This procedure as its laid out is in order and he does not think there should be general discussion. We do not need that emotional trauma.

Jono says he agrees that emotions should be protected, but it does not serve senate to have a very limited debate. It would better serve senate to allow more people to speak. He says that what the by-laws don't forbid, they allow.

Shawn says that he disagrees on the by-laws. Our reaction is to always debate things, but we don't need to. The discussion will be talking about what people don't like. It will be biased to make people chose sides. The more constructive decision would be to have the vote and then the discussion. Can **Gary** or **Chris** yield to anyone else?

Hala says no.

Stephanie asks if that is clearly set out in the bylaws.

Rene says that portion of the by-laws should be written out and handed out at senate. Also, OA-13-5 brings up other issues.

Mikhail says he's reading for **Melissa**. She says it does not say that the membership coordinator should call a roll-call vote immediately following presentations. There could be a period of discussion after the officer in question and the requestor present their arguments. There should be a discussion period during the vote of confidence. Senators deserve to share their opinions. We should not discuss these issues during the OA. **Mikhail** says that he thinks we should have a discussion as to if steering feels we should have a discussion. If we do, then we can figure out a way to have a discussion.

Erin says that the officers could note that there is the OA. Senators do have other options and we don't need to have a huge discussion as a body. It is an emotional issue and these are your friends and peers. She doesn't always trust what comes out of discussions like these. We should make it clear that Senate has other options.

Jono yields.

Doug moves to approve the agenda. *Out of order.*

Jon says **Shawn** brought up good points. He doesn't want to see a discussion degenerate to an offensive level. In senate a lot of the same people talk and if we have general discussion the same people will talk. New senators will not speak because of the environment is intimidating, moreso than ever before. There should be discussion afterwards. The solution is not pinning blame on the leadership, but what can all of senate do together to progress positively.

Ana says she opposes a discussion. It is not the appropriate procedure and that this already seems very personal. As a newer senator, she feels that this will be n=more authentic if there is the vote after people speak.

Charles moves to close debate. *Second by Doug.*

Clarification of motion—

Shawn says we could decide right now on whether to have a discussion or not.

Hala says there was a decision to discuss whether to have a discussion before the vote of confidence.

Erin says her concern is who is taking votes and running the meeting. We need to discuss these details.

Mikhail asks what we are closing debate on.

Hala says closing debate on having a discussion.

Shawn says he thinks we should vote right now on the discussion and then discuss the details **Erin** was talking about.

Doug withdraws his second.

Hala said **Alex** will call the meeting to order, keep time, and conduct the roll call vote. Charles will manage the roll call and the committee chairs.

Rene said **Alex** has to chair the entire meeting, not just a portion of it.

Mikhail said he didn't understand why **Alex** had to run the meeting the entire way through, but that he did understand why **Alex** would have to do so for the first part of the meeting regarding votes of confidence. He said **Alex** isn't the chair and he isn't sure that **Alex** should run the meeting.

Charles says that any available officer would take chair. Which vote of confidence is taken first? Then **Mikhail** should chair that portion of the meeting. Could any of the committee chairs help out? Not the ones that stood for either vote.

Hala says if not the Board liaisons could help out. If there is a discussion period, she and **Mikhail** will not chair that portion. Later, if they are still in office then they will continue with business.

Rene says she emphasizes that this will not be a normal meeting and that there should be a segue into the rest of the meeting.

Mikhail says that if a high-ranking officer takes over as soon as they are available, then who chairs the vote of confidence on him if **Hala** is still in office.

Rene says that someone else has to chair the meeting.

Jono says **Alex** should start out as chair, then have the votes of confidence, then a brief discussion period, then a recess, then resume. **Hala** would chair the rest of the meeting if she is still in office, if not then **Mikhail**, if not then **Alex**.

Shawn says **Hala** should do the approval of the agenda. She can chair the vote of **Mikhail**. As soon as the conflict of interests is over, it is over.

Sam says its dicey. He says that he would feel comfortable with **Alex** running most of the meeting. A recess is a good idea. We should dispense with all the orders of the day and reports, and this is the center of the meetings. After the votes, we should break up

into committees and discuss what happened. We should ask senators to write down their thoughts and opinions on a piece of paper. He suggested that he and **Erin** would collect those and write a report or something to avoid as much public discussion as possible.

Jon yields to **Mikhail**.

Mikhail says that he thinks **Shawn** is right: there shouldn't be steering removing the officers, it should be the officers stepping aside whenever they feel there is a conflict of interests. He does not feel that he should preside over the vote of confidence on **Hala**. She can decide whether she will chair on the vote on **Mikhail** or delegate to **Alex**.

Charles says that Article 6, Section 3, Point 2. The highest officer shall chair the meeting. In the event that **Hala** is confirmed then the by-laws places her at the chair of the meeting. If the chair feels there is a conflict then she should hand the gavel over or, if not, continue.

Mikhail says that if the highest officer does not feel comfortable then they should step down. It is not fair to say that **Hala** should chair the meeting if she does not want to. She has the option not to. We should leave it to the highest officer to decide if they want to chair the meeting or not.

Erin says it makes sense for **Alex** to chair for **Hala**. For recording votes, it should be the Membership Coordinator and a committee chair who did not stand for either vote of confidence. **Sam's** suggestion is reasonable and perhaps we'll have a deeper discussion next week. The questionnaire is not a bad idea either.

Jon yields.

Rene asks about the agenda. Who calls the meeting to order?

Hala says it could be her.

Rene says the chair represents the whole body. If there is a conflict of interests and some people already have bad feelings. Steering needs to step up if people are arguing.

Hala says there is no conflict of interest in her chairing the vote on **Mikhail**, but will senators be comfortable.

Jon says that **Hala** should not chair the meeting.

Hala says she did not see herself chairing the meeting. She wanted to make sure senators felt comfortable. **Alex** should chair any discussion to do with the votes of confidence.

Jon motions to allow Alex to chair the meeting until after both votes of confidence are completed, and then continue after as the by-laws say.

*Second by **Stephanie**. No objection.*

Passed.

Jono moves to end discussion and move on to approval of the agenda.

***Jon** seconds, **Mikhail** objects.*

Jono says they have exhausted the discussion and that people need to leave.

Mikhail says that we forgot that someone might try to move the OA ahead of the discussion.

Jono commented.

Hala says that she will send out the email stating that steering decided that moving the OA ahead of the votes is not in order.

Mikhail says that we need to decide whether or not to allow them.

Sam says the by-laws prevent it.

Jon says that the OA was created for discussion and we decided we don't want discussion.

Jono says that the body might want discussion.

Rene says we need to come to a decision.

Hala says that if we agree that this is the interpretation of the by-laws then we need to make this clear. The by-laws cannot be suspended.

Mikhail says that he does not agree with **Jono** and that someone could move to table the vote of confidence for a week. He feels that it is not appropriate for steering to decide that discussion is out of order just because we want it to be out of order. We should not interpret the by-laws to what we want or not.

Rene says we'd have to make a good argument as to why we shouldn't have discussion. We have to think about people feeling suppressed already feeling more suppressed.

Erin says this is the chair's decision, and the meeting's chair is not here. He can decide whatever he wants. We can present him with our arguments. It's up to **Alex**.

Hala says she thinks this is up to **Alex**. If people agree, they can appeal the decision about the discussion. We should agree to support **Alex** in his decision. We should speak up for the people who are not going to.

Amy says that this sounds like we are making someone else making a decision for us.

Erin says that we cannot make the decision.

Hala says that **Alex** will be chairing the meeting and he is not here.

Rene says that some people won't know any of the rules as non-active members will come.

Hala says the point is that we support **Alex** and his decisions.

Approval of the Agenda for 02-06-2007

Jon asks if OA was moved to the floor. He moves to move OA-13-5 to item e under New Business. *Second by Jono. Passed.*

Jono moves to insert a 10 min recess after the vote of confidence after **Mikhail**. *Jon seconds. Mikhail objects.*

Jono says a 10 min recess would allow people to relax after the tension.

Mikhail says that he does not like putting motions on the agenda by Steering. He does not like limiting debate and Steering should not decide this for Senate.

Hala says this is Steering's job.

Sam says we put time limits on most things and that this is perfectly in order.

Doug moves to close debate. Jon seconds.

Motion passes on 10-minute recess.

Erin moves to approve. *Second. Object.*

Sam says he wants to strike all of the reports and orders of business at the meeting to make the votes the only focus of the meeting.

Motion fails.

Sam moves to strike item 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 from the agenda. 8 is presidential privilege that cannot be removed unless by **Cullen**.

Jon seconds.

Mikhail asks about recess.

Sam says he will add something.

No objection. Motion passes.

Sam moves to add before announcements "Secondary Committee Meetings" after presidential privilege and recess.

Jono seconds. No objection.

Mikhail asks if putting Orders of the Day back on would be dilatory. We put OA-13-5 on the agenda because it was time-sensitive. We shouldn't decide not to consider at all.

Jono moves to put new Item 7 after Secondary Committee Meetings of Orders of the Day, OA-13-5. He says it will be moved from the floor anyways, and we said we would put it on the agenda.

Sam says he wants to kill the OA because it was meant to have discussion.

Mikhail says that we shouldn't decide what's best for Senate and we should give Senate an option. It is not up to us to decide to kill OAs.

Erin says that we have a lot of legislation and would be wrong for us to put only one piece on.

Jono says this meeting should be to deal with votes of confidence.

Cullen says that it is not up to Senate solely to decide how meetings are run - that is the purpose of Steering. Also, there is no reason for the OA to exist. We shouldn't put the OA back on the agenda.

Jono says the OA has a third option for Senate.

Cullen says the timeliness is the problem.

Mikhail moves to close debate. *Doug seconds.*

Motion to add OA-13-5 fails.

Jon moves to approve the agenda. *Second by Sam.*

Agenda approved.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Mikhail moves to table minutes for 1 week. *Second. Without objection.*

VIII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:15 PM.