

Senate Steering Minutes
February 16, 2007
3:30 PM – HUB 204n

Respectively submitted by Senate Secretary Alex Gwozda

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Hala called the meeting to order at 3:38 PM.

Hala Dillsi – present
Mikhail Smirnov – present
Charles Cadwallader – present
Alex Gwozda - present
Sam Al-Khoury – present
Erin Shields – present
Rene Singleton – present
Cullen White – proxy by Chris Paredes
Jessica Kang - present
Jono Hanks – present
Stephanie Adler – present
Melissa Aar – present
Selma Dillsi – absent excused
Jon Solomon – present

Erin asked if we would discuss senator feedback today.

Hala said that is still getting compiled.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Shawn Fisher entertained a motion to discuss if only senators can propose senate bills.

Erin said that board liaisons have previously submitted senate bills.

Hala said her understanding is that board liaisons are senators without vote, similar to the vice chair in the board meetings.

Sameer asked if we can do OA-13-9 before OA-13-7 because he wasn't sure if Rod would be coming.

Erin moved to put OA-13-9 ahead of OA-13-7 and add the discussion item proposed by **Shawn**. *Stephanie* seconded.

Jon moved to approve the agenda as amended. *Seconded. Without objection.*

III. Chair's Report

Hala said it was great to hear legislature. She said Senate got a \$100 dollar prize, which we can use for our last meeting for our highest group turnout.

Hala said officers will have planning meetings with an SAO officer to clarify goals for the remainder of the year and communication. She said the first meeting should be next week.

Mikhail said he submitted two board of directors bills, one for the legislative directive and one for the Medal of Honor Taskforce. He said we will have **CK** from the Resource Center for a public forum. He said they want to confirm with **Rob McKenna**'s office for him to come for the first week of spring quarter. He said he would appreciate any points to add to his email about what he can talk about. He said **Sheila Edward Lange**'s office replied to him and would like to talk. He said she offered the 27th of March, same as **Rob McKenna**, so **Mikhail** offered other dates.

Erin asked if **Mikhail** could send out an update about what's happening with the Medal of Honor Taskforce to senators.

Jon asked who **Rob McKenna** was.

Mikhail said the attorney general for Washington state.

Shawn Fisher said we cannot use any ASUW funds for Medal of Honor Taskforce.

Mikhail said that is right, and the money will be raised privately. He said we have the opportunity to fund-raise by selling Medal of Honor books. He said we can return unsold books.

Hala said we have a public forum next week with the EAC chair, **Tali**, and **Travis Grandy**, our judicial liaison to talk about the EPP and upcoming ASUW elections.

Hala said **Cullen** asked us to send out Husky Tee information.

Stephanie said it's been sent out to an all-campus email.

Sam said the ASUW Change did not go into the email.

Charles said we made money for St. Jude's, and that is great.

Hala asked **Charles** about communication to the committee chairs of which senators have been removed.

Charles said last week every committee chair got attendance sheets to update that, and otherwise he would email the committee chairs.

Charles said if anything is given to him during the Senate meeting, he cautions that it may likely be lost.

V. Legislative Referrals

OA-13-9: An Act to Create a Select Committee on Senate Reform

Shawn said he has significant amendments he is passing out. He explained the amendments.

Jon moved to table OA-13-7 until copies of amendments are made for OA-13-9 and OA-13-7 is completed. *Seconded. Objection.*

Jon withdrew his motion.

Shawn asked if we can recess.

Mikhail moved to recess until copies are done. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Alex encouraged anyone to look at minutes as needed.

Shawn apologized for the delay.

Jono moved to accept all amendments. *Jon seconded. Without objection.*

Jon moved to amend the second to last That clause to change "leadership" to "membership". *Melissa seconded. Jono objected.*

Jon said it makes sense that all members working on it should keep their places.

Jono moved to amend the amendment to say "leadership and membership".

Erin said if it was changed to a standing committee it may not work for people's schedules, and it may not be possible to keep the same membership.

Sameer said leadership is written there because if it's converted no-one is in crisis of everything changing for two weeks.

Stephanie said maybe it should say to keep leadership and membership in place but allowing for people giving up their seats and new people can be elected.

Jon moved to close discussion. *Mikhail* seconded. *Without objection.*

Amendment did not pass.

Mikhail moved in the 11th That clause to remove the allowances of "proxy" except for the ASUW presidency. *Seconded. Stephanie objected.*

Mikhail said the constitution said only the president can have proxy. He said Steering gets around it with Bylaws section 2.

Stephanie said she is concerned and thinks the vice chair being able to proxy for the senate chair.

Jono said he understands removing chair and BOD proxy, but he doesn't understand why senators cannot proxy votes, since they can do so in the main Senate. He asked about reinstating senator proxy.

Mikhail said he's thinking about that and he personally would like to keep it in accordance with the Constitution and he would look it up.

Erin said she asked how much of a priority it is for a people. She said if proxies are allowed, the membership would be different each week. She said the OGR reform taskforce did not allow proxies as far as she knows, and that gives it a bit more weight and level of commitment. She said there can be a minimum number of meeting attendance.

Rene said technically commuters cannot proxy to anyone, only to other senators. She said who can proxy is not clarified here.

Sameer said he doesn't care either way. He said the chair should emphasize how important it is.

Stephanie moved to amend the motion to read "2) ASUW Senate Chair, or Senate Vice Chair in the absence of the chair" . *Melissa* seconded. *Mikhail* objected.

Stephanie said that is her only concern as far as proxies, since the Senate chair may be busy. She said both are very knowledgeable, and it is good to have at least one.

Mikhail said he doesn't want proxies except for ASUW president, since only thing that's being proxied is the vote. He said he would ask **Charles** or **Hala** to go in his place and that wouldn't need a proxy. He said there is versatility although votes would not be allowed.

Jono moved to close debate and vote immediately on both the amendment to the motion and the motion. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Amendment to the amendment passes.

Amendment passes.

Melissa moved to make the "whom"s "who"s. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Jon moved to add a comma after "legitimacy". *Seconded. Without objection.*

Erin moved to amend the That clause that it should meet weekly, to add "and publicized within the Senate" and appropriate commas. *Jon seconded. Without objection.*

Sam asked why they chose to put two board members and Senate Chair on the committee of nine.

Shawn said the chair has the greatest influence on how Senate operates. He said that gives more involvement with Steering. He said the president is included because it could change a large chunk of the association. He said he wanted anyone on the board who is interested to come. He said nine was odd so the chair could break a tie.

Sam said he doesn't want to debate the legislation further now.

Melissa moved in the second to last That clause to strike "keeping its leadership in place...;" *Seconded. Objection.*

Melissa said it's redundant since the leadership would stay the same throughout the quarter. She said she doesn't want people to be forced to be on it again.

Jon said he wants to keep it in to clarify, since this is not a familiar type of committee.

Mikhail said he is worried that if it is converted to a standing committee, Senate would be constrained. He said an organic act can come later to change leadership and/or membership as we need.

Stephanie said it just clarifies it and we can create a new organic act to reform that statement.

Sameer said it's one of the three most important parts of the legislation. He said he didn't want it to be possible for Senate to convert to a standing committee with intent of removing the chair.

Shawn said there's no reason to stipulate what should happen after we change it.

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

Amendment passes.

Sam said we are making many amendments, and **Sameer** and **Shawn** brought up good amendments, and he is wary of making more ideological amendments to the legislation, which should be left to the Senate. He said we should limit our amendments.

Erin moved to amend the third to last That clause to strike "each Senate Session in which the Senate Reform Committee operates" and replace with "Session 13", and replace "were" with "was".

Jono moved to go to pro's and con's. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Pro's

- + It creates a forum to discuss changes to bylaws and rules prior to the summer of 2008
- + It involves people with great interest in bylaws and rules, and offers an opportunity for greater involvement
- + It is a more efficient way to debate and change rules and bylaws than a debate in the whole Senate
- + Allows a discussion to see if a permanent committee of this nature is needed

- + May make changes to rules and bylaws that increase accountability and fairness within Senate
- + The bylaws and rules of Senate may always be improved to govern Senate effectively

Con's

- May encourage excessive changes to bylaws and rules
- Because of the limited voting membership of the committee, the recommended changes may only reflect the interests of the voting members
- May be redundant because a comprehensive review of Senate rules and bylaws takes place every four years, including in the summer of 2008
- May be unnecessary because proposed changes to rules and bylaws can already be brought to the Steering committee as an organic act
- Could have excessive influence of the Board of Directors and Steering
- Could be redundant to duties of other committees

OA-13-7

Rod Palmquist entertained to insert at the end of Whereas clauses a Whereas clauses with the current language of Article III, Section 1. **Mikhail** moved. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Rod said past legislation and he tweaked legislation that Sean Kellogg had written, and it was appropriate to consider now, and allows flexibility and allows senators to see who the most committed people are.

Sam asked which legislation that was.

Charles said that was SB-8-13.

Erin moved to insert “may ensure” with the fourth Whereas clause.

Jon asked if anyone knows when the timing change between ASUW and Senate elections occurred, as Rene had mentioned.

Rod said he wasn’t sure if that was ever a possibility.

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

Erin moved to remove LD-13-2 and replace presidential privilege to its normal spot. *Seconded. Without objection.*

Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:30 PM.