

Minutes of the Hofstra Student Government Association
September 8, 2006
Student Government Office, Student Center Room 207

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CABINET MEETING #4

I. The meeting is called to order at 4:26 PM by President Peter DiSilvio; there is a quorum.

II. Role Call

A. Present

1. President Peter DiSilvio
2. Secretary Laura Giunta
3. Academic Affairs Chairperson Cristal Kayel
4. Appropriations Chairperson Angela Sanchez
5. Club Affairs Joshua Lanier
6. Public Relations Chairperson Stephanie Kaplan
7. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta
8. Spirit Chairperson Sammi Rozakis

B. Absent

1. Comptroller Joseph Napoli (Excused)

III. New Clubs

A. President Peter DiSilvio lets Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta run this portion of the meeting.

1. Hofstra's P.O.I.S.E. (Professional Organization in Speech Education)

a. Sid Nathan speaks on behalf of Hofstra's P.O.I.S.E.

- i. The club is for people interested in speech communication.
- ii. The biggest event planned is called Free Speech Day which will tentatively be held on October 11 and allow students to express their differing political and social views.
- iii. The focus will be more on the Hofstra community rather than specifically on members.
- iv. For members, the club will be used for a platform for internships and help them build career and internship résumés.
- v. In the Spring semester, the club will fund a well-known author to come to Hofstra with the assistance of the provost.
- vi. There are twelve members thus far.

b. Spirit Chairperson Sammi Rozakis points out that the executive board terms are for two years rather than the traditional one; she asks if there was a reason for this change.

- i. Sid Nathan explains that the two year term was chosen so members could have the first year to become accustomed to the position.
- ii. It is decided that the terms will be kept for two years and then will make an amendment if the club members decide they'd rather have a one-year term.

c. Sid Nathan asks Appropriations Chairperson Angela Sanchez about the budget in regard to their Spring Event which will be held in late February or early March.

- i. Appropriations Chairperson Angela Sanchez states that although the Appropriations committee only gives out funding for one semester at a time, they will make an exception if the event is held early in the following semester and adds to come to Appropriations during the last month of the Fall Semester to receive additional funding.

d. Club Representative Sid Nathan leaves the room; the cabinet has a vote by a show of hands.

- e. Hofstra's P.O.I.S.E. is passed unanimously.
- 2. The Hofstra University Business Law Bar Association
 - a. President Peter DiSilvio notes that the club plans to bring speakers onto campus.
 - b. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta notes that Hofstra already has a few business clubs on campus.
 - c. Spirit Chairperson Sammi Rozakis states that it may be better to have club representative Matt Bisanz explain the club's purpose more fully.
 - d. The Cabinet decides to table the passing of The Hofstra University Business Law Bar Association as well as The Society of the Advancement of Computing until the next Cabinet meeting which will be held on Monday, September 11, 2006 at 8:00 PM so that a club representative can be present for each club.

IV. Reports of the Cabinet

A. President Peter DiSilvio

1. On Friday, September 15, 2006 the Student Government Cabinet will be attending a weekend conference in Washington D.C.
 - a. The Cabinet will meet in the Student Center at 10:00 A.M and will all be on the same flight.
 - b. Cabinet members may only bring one carry-on luggage, but may also bring luggage to check. However, no liquids of any kind may be allowed on the carry-on luggage; they must be placed in the checked luggage only.
2. President Peter DiSilvio notes the modifications that have been made to the Student Government Office.
 - a. No Student Government Funding was spent on modifications to the office other than the new copy machine; President Peter DiSilvio donated his own money to modify the office.
3. Budgets have received their final approved by the Department of Campus Life and Comptroller Joe Napoli will be contacting clubs about their budgets soon. They should be accessible to clubs starting Monday, September 11, 2006.
 - a. The Student Government did not get an increase of \$150,000; rather, there was an increase to each student's activity fee of nine dollars. Therefore, the increase depends on how many students are enrolled.
 - i. The Student Government will receive approximately \$70,000 in October when the final consensus comes in on how many students have enrolled.
 - ii. Approximately \$70,000 will also be credited to the Student Government Budget, although the actual will not be received until March when the student activity fee for the Spring Semester is paid and a consensus on how many students are enrolled can be officially made.
 - iii. Therefore, the Student Government cannot allocate the additional increase from the raise in the Student Activities Fee until October as opposed to during Budget Weekend.
4. Student Services Chair
 - a. Lindsey Ross has resigned the position of Student Services Chairperson
 - b. During the General Senate Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, the Student Service chair will be voted on under Special Business.
5. Plans for the Year
 - a. Would like to have presidential meetings with all the clubs' leaders in order to inform clubs about different changes made in Student Activities and at Hofstra in general.
 - b. Would like for the Student Government to do more fundraising.
 - c. Would like to plan for a Hofstra Carnival to be held during the Spring Semester.

- d. Would like to work with Card Services and the community surround Hofstra to allow Dutch Debits to work at off-campus eateries.
- e. There will be a Town Meeting held in September with the Office of Student Activities; would like to televise the meeting so more students will become aware of it and therefore, more students may come to the town meeting held in November with the Board of Trustees.
- f. As the Student Government has made a lot of cuts to their budget this year and still find themselves needing more funding, asks cabinet if they could lobby for another raise of the student activities fee. Following the original proposal, President Peter DiSilvio proposes a twenty-seven dollar increase as opposed to the nine dollar increase made in order to give the Student Government approximately one million dollars to allocate to clubs and events.
 - i. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta worries that such a large increase won't go over well; suggests they aim for a smaller, additional increase.
 - ii. President Peter DiSilvio notes that many students not involved in clubs will view the increase negatively; at the same time, he points out that some clubs are using the money properly and have done some great programming.
 - iii. Academic Affairs Chairperson Cristal Kayel suggests that the Student Government observes what clubs are doing with their current funding as well see what they're doing to fundraise; if clubs need more funding despite fundraising, then the Student Government should provide it.
 - iv. President Peter Disilvio states that the research is there, such as with Hofstra Concerts, H.O.L.A., Entertainment Unlimited, and A.P.O., all which have both great programming and fundraising. However, the Student Government is forced to cut their budgets; should be rewarding them, but are unable to because other clubs are then negatively and undeservedly affected.
 - v. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta states that one problem lies with Sports Clubs that need a large amount of funding to function, but don't serve a large amount of students. The original idea was that the reason for the smaller Student Activities fee raise was because the Student Government would no longer have to fund the Sports Clubs. However, the Dean of Students now states that the Student Activities increase was in order to help fund the Sports Club.
- g. Would like for Cabinet to work together instead of against each other; would like to have Cabinet set up a united vision of the Student Government, even if they don't always agree.
- h. President Peter DiSilvio asks the Cabinet for their own ideas for the year.
 - i. Rules Chairperson Lisa mentions the problem of parking. Because of the additional building to the residential side, parking has become even more sparse. However, having discussed the issue with Senator Kathleen Hunker, there is a possibility that a parking garage can be built on the residential side.
 - ii. Club Affairs Chairperson Joshua Lanier believes that a parking garage is a good idea, but that some students may have an aesthetic concern. Suggests that the Student Government have the students vote on it via the Hofstra Portal website by the middle of October as well as allow them to vote on other controversial topics such as the proposal for a raise in the Student Activities fee as mentioned above. Moreover, the Student Government can have the students vote on what clubs they would like to receive more money.

- iii. President Peter DiSilvio believes that Club Affairs Joshua Lanier's suggestion is good, but the Student Government would have to make sure that the questions are presented without bias.
- iv. Appropriations Chairperson Angela Sanchez notes that many students come to Hofstra from very far away and still have to move everything out of their dormitories during the summer. Would like to find some way of assisting them.
- v. President Peter DiSilvio suggest that the Student Government can maybe make a deal with U.W.O.L. so Hofstra students can store there items nearby at a discount price.
- vi. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta asks about last years referendums. Has discussed the referendum on the game room briefly with Director of Student Activities Anita Ellis during the summer. Also believes that the statue is in progress, but the person chosen for the statue depends on who is donating. Suggests the Student Government talks to President Rabinowitz as well as to possible donators.
- vii. In regard to the tuition referendum, Academic Affairs Chairperson Cristal Kayel has been working on it. President Rabinowitz may have the final decision, but that the Student Government may have to talk to Hofstra's financial director.
- viii. Club Affairs Joshua Lanier has been working on the referendum about students having the ability to bring charges against Public Safety. Will try and work with administration; although they may not want to make it possible to bring charges against themselves, they should be willing to allow charges be brought up against Public Safety such as verbal abuse and overt and unnecessary aggressiveness. Will talk with President Rabinowitz and Dean Crance about it.
- ix. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta notes that Public Safety seems to treat minority groups on campus differently than other clubs and organizations, specifically having a large amount of Public Safety Officers at events put on by minority groups, such as Imani, and no officers at events put on by other clubs.
- x. Club Affairs Chairperson Joshua Lanier and Public Relations Chairperson Stephanie Kaplan would like to work with President Peter DiSilvio in order to have a more fair treatment of clubs of all ethnicities on campus. Can maybe use the Hofstra Chronicle as a vehicle to let the university know about the discrimination. Can also get data by going to different clubs' parties or events at Hofstra U.S.A. and seeing how many public safety officers are there as well as noting if there are any transgressions at these parties or events that warrant Public Safety's presence.
- xi. President Peter DiSilvio states that this year the ticket policy will be strictly enforced and that Cabinet will do the first party dates in order to set an example. Then the party dates will be given out by Club Affairs Chairperson Joshua Lanier to the rest of Senate.

B. Academic Affairs Chairperson Cristal Kayel

- 1. Working on a Library-Book Exchange
- 2. Working on an Academic Code of Conduct with Hofstra's University Senate
- 3. President Peter DiSilvio asks Academic Affairs Chairperson Cristal Kayel about the Textbook-Library agreement.
 - a. Presently, the Student Government has offered five thousand dollars to give to funding the Text-book Library; however, administration might be willing to help pay for some of the costs. Will discuss it with Dean Crance.

C. Appropriations Chairperson Angela Sanchez

1. Comptroller Joseph Napoli and Appropriations Chairperson Angela Sanchez have been working with Student Government's Bookkeeper Pamela Orfice to come up with a system that monitors if clubs are misusing their funding.
- D. Club Affairs Chairperson Joshua Lanier
1. Would like to improve how the Student Government interacts with clubs in terms of pleasantness and efficiency.
 2. Would like to work on the paperwork process in order to make the system run quicker and better for clubs.
 3. Will also be working on the Blood Drive, the ticket policy, and seeing if there is any open office space available to clubs
 - a. Will see if the Student Government owns Student Center Room 218 and 219; can use room 218 as a Student Government Conference Room while making 219 an office space for Hofstra student publications such as Urban Renaissance and Pulse.
- E. Public Relations Chairperson Stephanie Kaplan
1. Will send flyers to clubs about the new Student Government website, as well as put in Hofstra's Chronicle.
 2. Will write a press release for Hofstra's Chronicle in regard to Former Vice President Simon Duncanson's resignation from the Vice Presidential position.
 3. Will not be able to attend General Senate meetings due to a mandatory class conflicting with the time Senate meets.
 - a. Will have either Cabinet relay the Public Relations' reports or make a committee of one to two people who can assist the Public Relations Chairperson and speak during Senate on her behalf.
 4. Will make an announcement about the Atrium sign during the General Senate Meeting on September 12, 2006.
- F. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta
1. Ethics and Conduct Chair
 - a. In regard to those who expressed concern over the new Ethics and Conduct Chair, Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta and President Peter DiSilvio explain that delegate Amanda Stevens served as a senator of the Student Government last year and has all of her signatures; now she only has to attend the proper meetings.
 - b. It is decided that the Student Government Constitution is superior to Robert's Rules and therefore, according to the Constitution, it is up to the Rules Chair to appoint the Ethics and Conduct Chair. Moreover, although the person appointed must be on the Rules Committee, it does not state that the person must be a senator; the person can be a delegate.
 - c. If the Senate feels very strongly about the issue, it can be discussed at the next General Meeting on September 12, 2006.
 2. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta and President Peter DiSilvio talked to Card Services about installing a card swipe that also record how long senators are in the office as a way of recording office hours as well as see who is in the office when damage is done.
 - a. However, if a senator fails to swipe out, his or her card will not work anywhere on campus as the Student Government does not have the funding to purchase a second card swipe to prevent this problem.
 - b. The majority of Cabinet prefers the office hours continue to be recorded on paper.
 3. Has already notified clubs about their paperwork deadlines.
 - a. Will backup club paperwork and keep the backups in President Peter DiSilvio's office or in one of the lockers in order to ensure they do not get lost or have to be redone.
 4. Would like for clubs to register for their own elections online
 5. Will discuss the Election Commission at a later date.
- G. Spirit Chairperson Sammi Rozakis

1. Will be working with Delta Chi Delta Sorority during Homecoming this year
 - a. Would like to get Homecoming sweatshirts for Hofstra students.
2. For the four Hofstra Home footballs games, will be working with the Greeks and Athletics to have a Greek Party.
 - a. Have already ordered five hundred T-Shirts and five hundred Chomp-and-Cheers to hand out to Hofstra students during the football games.
3. Will be promoting a men and women's joint basketball game in February
4. Will try to promote other Hofstra sports, such as softball, baseball, and soccer, besides basketball and football.

H. Secretary Laura Giunta

1. The Student Government supplies have been received; however, a couple items did not come or the correct amount of the item did not come. However, will discuss it with Student Government bookkeeper Pamela Orfice in order to correct this.
2. If anyone on Cabinet needs any specific supplies, please leave a note in Secretary Laura Giunta's mailbox with the list of supplies needed and they will be ordered.

V. Special Business

A. Vice Presidential Position

1. President Peter DiSilvio goes over the different way the Student Government could approach the resignation of Former Vice President Simon Duncanson
 - a. No Vice President can be elected or appointed
 - b. The Senate can choose to have a new Vice President
 - i. Can be made by either a presidential appointment, a senate appointment, or a full election.
 - c. The decision will not be an executive decision, but will be made by Cabinet
2. Spirit Chairperson Sammi Rozakis motions to disregard the full election option; the motion is seconded.
 - a. The Cabinet votes to not have a full election.
 - i. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta abstains.
 - ii. Club Affairs Chairperson Joshua Lanier disagrees, but concedes.
 - iii. The rest of Cabinet votes in favor of not having a full election.
3. It is decided that the Constitution states that there must be an election of some kind, not a ratification, and therefore the Cabinet cannot appoint the Vice President.
4. The Cabinet decides that a senate appointment is the best course of action.
 - a. The Vice President must be chosen by a majority of the Senate; therefore, there will be a run-off until a Vice President can be elected by a majority of the Senate.
 - b. As there is no Parliamentarian presently appointed, will have either JoAnna Sieben or Tom Kopec, two students who know the rules of the Student Government, chair the portion of the meeting that regards the senate appointment and election of Vice President.
 - c. The veto power of the President will be discarded in regard to the election of the Vice President.
5. The proposal laid out in V.A.4 in the minutes for Cabinet Meeting #4 is voted on by the Cabinet.
 - a. The proposal is passed unanimously by Cabinet
 - ii. Rules Chairperson Lisa Giunta abstains.

VI. Future Meetings

- A. The next Cabinet meeting will be held on Monday, September 11 at 8:00 PM.
- B. The next General Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 PM.

VII. The Cabinet adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Laura Giunta
Recording Secretary for the Hofstra Student Government Association