

**65th Undergraduate Senate Meeting
Tuesday, April 11th, 2006**

I. Call to order/roll call/quorum

Chairman Ellyn Canfield called the first Undergraduate Senate Meeting of the spring term to order at 8:01pm. The Martin Luther King III special had a huge turnout. The following Senators were present:

Business

Scott Cowgill
Jonathan Schmierer
Robert Wolfer
Tom Cutsforth

Liberal Arts

Mike Moss
Christopher Beyer
Niklas Warren
Erik Hagen
Jeremy Da Rosa

Science

JC Sanders
Sean Murray
Robert Weston
Chelsea Mayo - tardy
Julien Deveraux III

Engineering

Allison Jenness
Chris Beaman – tardy
Paul Trout

HHS

Philip Menagh
Kathleen Bonner
Jodi Herbert

Ag. Science

Mike Folin
Russell Deboodt

Forestry

Matt Bliss

At Large

Johnny Collins

ASOSU VP

Kyla Johnson*

Panhellanic

Kayla Johnson

IFC

Mike Powers

Parliamentarian

Mike Folin

* Proxy for ASOSU VP Kyla Johnson: Dan McCarthy

II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The approval of the agenda was passed via acclamation.

III. Committee Reports

Senator JC Sanders spoke on behalf of the Student Government committee. There are 2 takes on this: first being, “oh my gosh, there’s only three members left”, and second, it’s easier to schedule meetings. The committee has been reduced badly in size and they just lost their Vice-Chair last term. Right now, they’re trying to get the statutes and constitution available for review for Senate and approval by Senate. There have been a few requests by Senator Julien Deveraux, for a review of some bill. We are meeting tonight after this meeting in MU room 207.

Senator Sean Murray spoke on behalf of the Student Academics and Activities committee. On March 16th was the first meeting with students. They are going to meet again tonight to discuss that. They are going to discuss the college council in MU room 110 after tonight’s Senate meeting.

Senator Allison Jenness spoke on behalf of the Appropriations and Budgets committee. They are meeting tonight after Senate to discuss the fee process and what happened and what needs to happen. Also, they will be discussing what should happen next year to transition.

Tom Cutsforth spoke on behalf of the Elections committee. Due to some confusion, there will be another candidate informational meeting on Thursday at 6pm. Here are some important dates to remember: 4/12 is when the candidate statements are due, 4/21 is when the financial reports are in and 4/24 is the candidate debate. April 26th and 27th will be mail elections. There was some confusion with online campaigning and balloting.

Senator Paul Trout spoke on behalf of the Educational Activities committee. Their first meeting will be sometime later this week, but they still haven't figured that out yet. Hopefully the meeting will be on Wednesday.

IV. Executive Reports

Dan McCarthy spoke on behalf of the Executive Reports. The ASOSU Executive committee will be meeting next Monday at 8:00am. They are currently working with Casey Schauffler and Ellyn Canfield on a formation of a new accountability – Raising Reser. They also will be discussing the formation of new committees that have to go to the ASOSU Executive committee.

V. New Business

Senator Julien Deveraux III read the bill, UGS-65-B-07, out loud. The following questions were asked.

Senator Christopher Beyer: Whose responsibility is it to notify the next in line Senator's and who is going to be keeping the list?

Senator Julien Deveraux III: The voting records were made public immediately and I don't know who holds that. Is it possibly the Senate Chair?

Senator Jonathan Schmierer: What brought this on?

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I was reading it through and it seemed weird that that was going on. This is more maintenance so that it actually follows an election ideal. Since they are supposed to be elected, it just seems fair.

Senator Jonathan Schmierer: What is the current process?

Senator Julien Deveraux III: If a Senator chair is vacated, then they appoint somebody. We should look at who tried to become a Senator.

Senator Allison Jenness motioned to approve this bill. Senator Chelsea Mayo seconded that motion. The following discussion took place.

Senator JC Sanders: I would like to propose a friendly amendment. There is a typo in "Be it hereby enacted by". I am also not seeing a sponsor listing on the bill. I would like to propose an amendment saying that it is sponsored by "Julien Deveraux III".

Dan McCarthy: I don't see anywhere on here about who would be responsible for engaging this. It needs to be on the document and it's only implied. It needs to be specified.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: Is that a friendly amendment?

Dan McCarthy: Yes.

Senator Christopher Beyer: Where it says, "fill within three weeks..." and "shall have 48 hours to accept..." I would like to make a friendly amendment.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I accept that.

Senator Robert Wolfer: Maybe something should be headed by the elections committee, if it's more appropriate.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I don't know. I think we should be able to amend things through the constitution. I don't mind looking at them.

Senator Robert Wolfer: Instead of having the Senate Chair appointing it, maybe the elections committee should instead.

Chairman Ellyn Canfield: The difficulty is that that committee is really dealing with ASOSU and the MU elections as a whole. This is more of a Senate house matter. With the time of year that this happens, it would probably be difficult for the elections committee to deal with it. This process isn't clear at all and I've been following this by appointing people.

Senator Christopher Beyer: One of the first people that will know will be the Senate Chair.

Senator Allison Jenness: I'm not sure if somebody just has one vote for themselves, if whether it is appropriate. Some people just write their names in on the ballot. How would you go about it and choose somebody?

Senator Scott Cowgill: I like the idea of offering people who lost the vacated position. Maybe we should hold an election for that seat instead. Maybe hold an appointment with those that are on that list.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: Are you offering a substitute or strike it?

Senator Scott Cowgill: I would like to strike the last sentence "representative body..."

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I accept that and I will replace that with "shall..."

Senator Mike Folin motioned to refer this matter to the Student Government committee. Senator Russell Deboodt seconded that motion.

Senator Mike Folin: There have been three friendly amendments to this issue. The council duties are to appoint an individual to a vacated seat. We need a College council for this and vote and determine how they want to select a replacement. They are updating the constitution and statutes right now. This is how I imagine the Senate to work out. I would like to refer this to the Student Government committee and for them to deal with any issues with that. I would then like to see this back here in a more discussed format.

Senator JC Sanders: If we're willing to look it over. The problem is that it's maybe some time before we get to it because of where we are and how few our numbers are. We'll do our best to look it over. It may not be back until towards the end of the term. Also, it seems to be an amendment of the constitution and I think that that needs to go before

the students but either way, if we were to pass this bill, the only way to get this to go into effect is to go in front of the student body.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: Is this a referendum?

Chairman Ellyn Canfield: It needs to be voted on.

Senator Mike Folin: If we make a change to the constitution,
Folin: if we make a change to the constitution, unless it's a significant change;

Senator JC Sanders: Point of information. This seems like it's a significant change. We wouldn't be able to do a provisional constitution on this and we would actually have to take it before the students.

Senator Robert Weston: A referendum sounds like something in reverse of what is being said.

Chairman Ellyn Canfield: There is too much misinformation about this issue. We should probably come together for an additional meeting on the side.

Senator Jonathan Schmierer: Could you talk about in the Senate class?

Senator JC Sanders: I could submit this if we want to get this done now and I'm fine with making this the agenda item for tonight. Our agenda is flexible and then we'll get together and deal with this right after this meeting. Senator Deveraux, you are welcome to come.

Senator Scott Cowgill called the previous question. Senator Tom Cutsforth seconded that motion.

A vote was taken and all were in favor with 1 abstention.

A vote was taken to refer this to the Student Government committee with all in favor, 1 opposition and 2 abstentions.

a. Discussion of mediation

Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield: There were a lot of things that went wrong with the Mediation process. Mediation took place last Wednesday at 8:00am. A lot of people thought that it was on Friday. The only representatives for Senate, both Undergraduate and Graduate, were myself and Senator Christopher Beyer. The process went by pretty quick. The proper thing I should have done was to table the issue because of the lack of representatives from Senate. The fee levels of the budgets that were rejected by Senate are set at the SIFC recommendation. There are plenty of opinions about what should have happened.

Senator Christopher Beyer: When I showed up to the Mediation meeting and saw what happened, I was flustered and upset. I did bring a statement tonight that I wrote. Before this meeting took place, the meeting was moved around. This was ten plus weeks of

work by the Appropriations and Budgets committee that was for nothing. The student fees have been raised without their consent.

Senator Robert Weston: I was not at the SIFC meeting, but I don't think that that was out of a lack of desire to be there. I am committed to this process. I have been an active member of the Appropriations and Budgets committee and I have been to every meeting. There was no planned motive in moving things around. There was a disregard of the Senate voice at this meeting and moving that meeting was worrisome. If the majority of the Senate wants me to step down, I will do that.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I wanted to start out by saying that I respect SIFC and all those hours they spend doing that work. My resolution is not personal. Ed Ray has not signed off on the budget on Thursday at 10:00am. I urge anyone to come with me to meet with him. I don't know if we have the power to make changes.

Senator Mike Folin: When I returned from Asia, I got a crash course about the SIFC issue. This is basic. The Senate has the final initial say. I'm going to support this bill, mainly for next year. We have first say on the guidelines meaning that the SIFC guidelines are under us. Hopefully, next year they will remember this issue and that Mediation will have to be resolved. Next year, there needs to be a thorough read-through of the bylaws.

Dan McCarthy: I'm the Mediation chair and there were several e-mails sent out over a period of time. What it came down to was that the list administrator released all the e-mails at the same time. The e-mails were sent out in a different sequence than what I sent them out. I initially sent out that the meeting was set for Wednesday the 7th, yet that doesn't exist, only Friday the 7th exists. I did everything I could to communicate the importance of the Senate being there. There is talk that the voice of the Senate is not being heard. I can say that we're doing our hardest to get an equal voice here. Right now, our government is supposed to be equal authority here. Students fighting other students won't solve anything. This is it, it's inevitable every year. When we get into the resolution, I'll talk more about some positive things that will come out of here. I'm open to any suggestions or questions. Elly cannot be taken responsible here; I need to be taken responsible.

Senator Sean Murray: I would like to express my apologies for not being there at the Mediation meeting. What I plan or hope to do is to find out what happened there and straighten out the relationship between the Senate and SIFC.

Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield: I would just like to mention that both Senator Robert Weston and Senator Sean Murray called me right after to find out what happened with this situation.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I hear what everybody is saying here. Approving something is not the answer though. If there were not enough people there, you can't just approve it and apologize. That's not acceptable. We really expressed our problems with the budgets and then if our voice is not heard, what's the point of being on Senate if we can't exercise it. I think we need to get this settled for next year. I don't want to hear that it happens every year. We have a duty to fix this problem. I am willing to dedicate my time and be on whatever committee so that it does not happen again. If the Senate is 45

people strong and if they don't agree and then a six member team can override our decision, that is not fair.

Senator JC Sanders: I think we need to go about restructuring how Mediation works. To me, the constitution and statutes say that the Senate has final say on the budgets. The President signs off on the budgets anyway at the end of the day. I think that the process we have right now needs to be changed. We have this mediation committee that ends up having the final say on the budget. It doesn't come back to the student population as a whole. We as representatives should be able to see the final copy of what goes to Ed Ray. If Ed Ray decides that he's not happy with it, then he won't sign off on it. It's only fair to us as representatives of the students.

Dan McCarthy: Elly, myself and Casey Schaufler met and discussed the need for significant reform from all aspects. What is a student representative? You're all elected by your respective college so we all came to consensus that there needs to be some sort of very extensive discussion, not from the Student Government committee, but from a committee that tries to capture the representation of the student body. This is in light of what happened with mediation. We're still talking about a mediation thing here. From our perspective, we thought those that missed the meeting were sleeping in. We never had to deal with a problem like this before. In regards to what we did, we didn't have the 100% of the information we have now.

Senator JC Sanders: Point of information. Dan McCarthy, you mentioned that you don't want this discussed in Student Government committee? My committee is swamped now, but I intend to find a time to meet together.

Senator Christopher Beyer: I think that in reference with the power struggle that we're trying we're trying to avoid here, it's not something we want to deal with. To fix this Mediation process, I have a draft of something that we can work on tonight, not to be passed. If you want to see it, see me after tonight's meeting. We're going off topic right now though.

Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield: Obviously, Mediation has brought up a lot of problems. I do think that it will not be changed by one piece of legislation. It's greater than that. Maybe bringing in a third party would help solve the situation. This isn't meant to be a power struggle. We need to figure out a way to make the process more efficient. I pledge that I will be working with Dan and Casey and we will be inviting all of you too. We welcome your input.

Senator Robert Weston: I would like to take Dan up on his offer and ask a question. The meeting was set up on Friday?

Dan McCarthy: The date was set up on Wednesday.

Senator Robert Weston: It looked to me that it was set up on Friday then pushed to Wednesday.

Senator/Parliamentarian Mike Folin moved to approve this. Senator Russell Deboodt seconded that motion.

Senator Mike Folin: Earlier this year, the Senate passed bylaws. This should be more housekeeping and maintenance. This is an issue that will be fixed for next year not this year. Our power lies in bills and resolutions. This will set up for next year's Senate.

They revoked the bylaws and we need to take a deep look at the SIFC situation. Maybe nothing needs to be changed. This is not something that can be solved this year.

Senator JC Sanders: Who is our parliamentarian now?

Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield: Mike Folin still is.

b. UGS-65-R-06

Senator Julien Deveraux III read this resolution, UGS-65-R-06, out loud. The following discussion took place.

Dan McCarthy: A few years ago, our Senate had little activity. Two years ago, there was tension between the Executive and the Senate which spurred from a Pride Center allocation. There was significant debate over the Pride Center funding. After that significant debate, it spurred an entire year of “war” or “personal attacks”. There was a movement of impeachment. Last year we had better strides with not too much tension. We made growth over the years. This resolution sets precedence to do away with that now. There is wording in here that does not set the right tone to serve the students. This is discussion about going through a macro approach. I encourage the Senate to be prudent and work together on this instead of a resolution of “this is what needs to happen”. This resolution is directed at another group. I urge you not to vote for this resolution. This will not set a good tone for next year’s elected leaders.

Senator Christopher Beyer: There is one main point, since the bylaws that we passed are not in line with the constitution and statutes. We should have known the issues. Since it was so early, we didn’t know what was going on until budget time. The language and bolding and italicizing means that we need to fix something that was wrong. I really would hate to wait until next year because there will be a whole new batch of Senators who won’t know what’s going on. We need to do whatever we can to fix this now.

Senator Erik Hagen: I have a question. What is the option of holding another meeting with everybody present?

Dan McCarthy: We talked about that. We voted on something that wasn’t in violation other than the 24 hour notification. That’s something we can bring up. Whose voice do we want to bring up? What about the folks that were there and voted that day?

Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield: We had a quorum at the meeting. To re-do something is a symbolic gesture for a governmental process. Even if every new member was there, nothing would change.

Senator Mike Folin: This is something regarded as “institutional knowledge” in which there are individuals who continue on through the government with knowledge of when things passed or when things met. For issues to be worked on this year, we would need a piece of legislation passed through.

Senator Robert Weston: I think that all of this talk of “institutional knowledge” is necessary. In the Senate class, we’ve been talking about issues for the new Senators next year. I think it’s needed and it’s important. Unfortunately, we were not able to do

that in the beginning of the year. What exactly is the wording you would like to see removed?

Dan McCarthy: The whole Whereas. This is more, "This is our power and let's go back and do something to another decision maker". When did our bodies get together, what's the great concern of power here? Should we reflect that language to folks in the future?

Senator Robert Weston: What Mike said about this being an issue. This issue will be transcended and will need to be dealt with with next year's Senators. I would like to give this a shot and change these issues. I just don't see that happening and I would like to see this one on the books.

Senator Chelsea Mayo: Point of information. I would like to remove my name from the sponsorship.

Senator Allison Jenness: There are valid points made on both sides of the argument and I would like to move to previous question. Senator Jonathan Schmierer seconded that motion.

Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield: This is emergency legislation.

Senator Christopher Beyer motioned to vote on this tonight. Senator JC Sanders seconded that motion.

Senator Christopher Beyer motioned to approve this resolution. Senator JC Sanders seconded that motion.

Senator Allison Jenness motioned for previous question and Senator Jonathan Schmierer seconded that motion.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: The first two whereas' are quoted straight from the constitution. Whether or not it was the intention to not hear the Senate voice, that is ultimately what happened. That is why I felt compelled to respond that that. How what happened is not allowing us to do our job.

A vote was taken to approve UGS-65-R-06, with 21 for, 5 in opposition and 0 abstentions.

Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield: This will show that we are serious. I will be keeping you posted about this. This year, we're recognizing it so it doesn't happen next year and so that the students can be represented.

c. Vice-chair elections

The following nominations took place.

Senator Mike Folin nominated Senator Julien Deveraux III.

Senator Jonathan Schmierer nominated Senator Allison Jenness.

Senator Scott Cowgill nominated Senator Mike Folin. Senator Folin declined.

Senator Allison Jenness nominated Jonathan Schmierer. Senator Schmierer declined.

Senator Julien Deveraux III nominated Senator Kathleen Bonner.

Senator Kathleen Bonner nominated Senator Robert Weston. Senator Weston declined.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I think I would help Elly out and work out on communication.

Senator Allison Jenness: If I were you, I would vote for Julien. He's a much more dedicated Senator.

Senator Kathleen Bonner: I think it would be a great learning center. People learn a lot when pressure is on them.

The following discussion took place.

Senator Christopher Beyer: Julien's dedication has been apparent. He takes his job very seriously.

Senator Sean Murray: I am in support of Kathleen because she would be supportive of you (Chairwoman Ellyn Canfield).

Senator Jonathan Schmierer: I nominated Allison primarily because she was the Vice-Chair of the Appropriations and Budgets committee. It's a tough pick though and I think that all three candidates are great.

Senator Niklas Warren: NO one has stood out more than Julien has as an Undergraduate Senator. It's obvious to anyone in the Senate or in the Gallery. I will vote for Julien.

Senator Paul Trout: Julien has been tirelessly looking at the guidelines and the constitution and I think we'll be well informed if you were to step out for some reason.

A vote was taken to elect a Vice Chair with 15 votes for Julien, 2 votes for Allison and 5 votes for Kathleen. Senator Julien Deveraux III will be the new Vice Chair.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. Announcements

The following announcements were made.

- The last day to add the Senate class is the 14th. We will be working on fun stuff.
- This week is Peace Week. A lot of events are going on right now so I encourage everyone to make it a personal goal to attend an event.

Dan McCarthy: I would go to the dialog sessions because that is where the community members talk about our community here. They're very broad about what needs to

happen with our future. It's at 3pm tomorrow in MU 206 and Thursday a luncheon dialog session will be taking place from 11:00am to 1:30pm.

- For the Senator Office hours, we will be having an office hour checklist in the office. Just sign off the checklist when you do your office hour every week.
- Since Senator Anna Ellingson is gone, if anybody wants to join SHAB to fulfill your committee requirement, the meetings are on Friday's at 3:00pm. If you are interested, please talk to Elly.

VIII. Gallery Comments

There were no Gallery comments.

IX. Senator Comments

Senator Jonathan Schmierer: I would like to say good job to the new vice chair for the letter to the editor. It addressed the concerns of the former President Downy. It was very different and mildly funny.

Senator Christopher Beyer: I do have a piece of legislation with me that I drafted to work with this Mediation issue. I am looking for supporters or if anyone is interested. I would forgo the power struggle and take advantage of what is in the SIFC guidelines. Yes, those guidelines rescinded our approval so we can still work out of them.

Senator Robert Weston: I am also looking into some kind of grant writing for Student Involvement to alleviate the burden of student fees. If anyone is interested, let me know. I am also going with Senator Deveraux to talk to Ed Ray and I welcome others to come too.

Senator Julien Deveraux III: I am with Senator Beyer on addressing the issues this year. I am more than willing to cook and get together with SIFC and Senate so that this doesn't happen again. We should meet and it should take place outside of here so that everyone is relaxed.

Senator Scott Cowgill: Is there a 24 hour notification for rescheduled meetings?

Senator Mike Folin: It's not in the statutes.

Senator Christopher Beyer: There is in the guidelines in subsection 2, subsection k. There is a 24 hour notification for the press.

Senator Scott Cowgill: Is mediation considered a SIFC meeting?

Senator Christopher Beyer: It's not listed as an emergency meeting.

X. Adjourn

Senator Jonathan Schmierer motioned the adjournment of tonight's meeting. Senator Tom Cutsforth seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

