Members in attendance: Andrew Struthers, Megan Silvey (by proxy, Torey Fletcher), Brian Moran, Adam Olfson, Dustin Cheney, Desiree Segura, Andrew Struthers, Ashley Barnes, Nolan Nichols, Matt Baumgartner

I. Call to Order/Roll-Call/Quorum
The meeting began at 7:00pm. Quorum was reached with 9 senators.

II. Swearing in of Senators
Senator Silvey’s proxy, Torey Fletcher, was sworn in.

III. Singing of the OSU Alma Mater

IV. Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, September 29th, 2009
Senator Struthers: Any discussion or a motion to approve the minutes?
Senator Moran: I move to approve.
Senator Nichols: I second.
A vote was taken to approve the meeting minutes from September 29, 2009.
Vote: 9-0 Pass

V. Standing Committee Reports
Oversight and Ethics Committee
Senator Barnes: We had our first meeting and approved our committee bylaws and guidelines and will be approving conduct codes for OSU.

Student Government Committee
Senator Struthers: I will be in contact with the Vice President of this committee
VI. Special Committee Reports
Standing Rules Committee
There was nothing to report.

VII. Delegate Reports
There were no delegate reports.

VIII. Messages
There were no special messages.

IX. Special Orders
There were no special orders.

X. New Business- First Readings
Student/Incidental Fees Committee Policies and Procedures
Senator Struthers: Over the summer, we looked at the SIFC policies and procedures and will now revisit this before approval.
Chairman Matt Pennington: Everyone has a copy? Great. SIFC is the committee that oversees the student fee process and approves the budgets that guide our business. I was here in the summer, but we didn’t have quorum. We made some additional changes, nothing too large except the change on page 13, which previously stated that the ASOSU Senate chair could petition for contingency fund requests to be sent to this body [SIFC]. Either house can petition, but there is a time period, an urgency, so this process is not stuck in a loop.
Senator Barnes: I have a suggestion for the first page, under “Purpose,” Student Involvement is actually Student Leadership and Involvement now.
Chairman Pennington: I’ll make sure that is changed.
Senator Segura: I don’t think everyone was here in the summer to discuss this issue. Previously, recommendations were to go through congress for the budget. With this final compromise, what is SIFC going to do with congressional recommendations? Do they mean anything?
Chairman Pennington: It’s up to the SIFC. I can’t guarantee what they will do, but it wouldn’t be binding.
Senator Segura: Are we in discussion?
Chairman Pennington: Yes
Senator Olfsen: How was it done before?
Chairman Pennington: Previously, it was up to the chairs, the Senate would vote, and it would be binding.
Senator Segura: I have a question for you [Senator Struthers]. In light of what this means, is it possible for us to have a closed official meeting?
Senator Struthers: Do you want an executive session?
Congressional Parliamentarian Donald Lite: It would be by majority vote.
Senator Segura: In light of the consequences, I want to make sure we all have an opportunity to be on the same page. I would like to discuss this further with just the senators before we make a decision. I move to go into executive session.
Senator Barnes: I second.

Executive session commenced at 7:10pm and adjourned at 8:13pm

Senator Struthers: I apologize for how long the executive session took. We denied the SIFC policies and procedures for two reasons. Firstly, Section 6G states, “If 25% of the voting membership of either house of the ASOSU Congress petitions to the SIFC to review a contingency request, then the request will be referred to the ASOSU Congress for recommendations and resubmitted to the SIFC with those recommendations for further review. Recommendations must be submitted within three weeks of the petition being submitted to SIFC.” We had a problem with this, as well as with the conflict between what is stated in the revised SIFC policies and procedures documents and the ASOSU Statutes [Title 7, Section 2a-e].
Chairman Pennington: In executive session, no votes are binding. It has to be re-voted in open session.
President of the Senate Schock: He’s right. No authoritative decisions can be made in executive sessions.
Chairman Pennington: It’s called the Public Meeting Law. So you’re saying that all contingency fund recommendations have to go through Congress? And you would want to vote on those?
Senator Barnes: It starts in the houses.
Chairman Pennington: That is fundamentally different from before.
Senator Struthers: I cannot tell you anything that happened in the closed session, that is up to the senators to decide. If any member is ok with explaining what we talked about,
I am leaving it to a motion, but it was a closed meeting and I am not at liberty to talk about the details.

Chairman Pennington: Understandable, but it is hard to tell SIFC what Senate recommends without the reasoning behind it. I don’t know what happened, so we can’t move forward. This has to be passed on ASAP and it was on the assumption that it would pass. We have to move forward, we have a firm deadline.

Senator Segura: I want to answer the request to elaborate.

Senator Struthers: It has to be a motion. Is there any objection?

There was no objection from any of the senators.

Senator Segura: Before, the Senate had the ability to request review sessions from the SIFC. Nothing has changed except now the request is mandatory. It has to go through Congress, since we have a House and Senate now, and we want to expand the policies and procedures to make sure this is a dual relationship, complete with checks and balances.

Senator Struthers: We would go into mediation if we denied.

Chairman Pennington: It’s not an ASOSU committee.

Senator Struthers: We have to approve or vote on denying SIFC bylaws, we can’t vote on recommendations since they are not binding.

Chairman Pennington: You can’t vote for denial.

Senator Struthers: But we can vote on the bylaws.

President Schock: You can vote to approve the bylaws.

Senator Silvey [proxy]: I move to approve the bylaws.

Senator Ofson: I move to amend the SIFC bylaws.

Chairman Pennington: It’s not bylaws, it’s policies and procedures.

Senator Ofson: I move to approve the SIFC policies and procedures.

Senator Silvey [proxy]: I second.

Senator Struthers: There is already a motion on the floor for approving the policies and procedures, we have to remove it from the floor first.

Senator Segura: The originator has to remove the motion.

Senator Silvey [proxy]: I strike the motion.

Senator Struthers: The original motion was struck, there is a new motion to approve the SIFC policies and procedures.

Senator Silvey [proxy]: I second
There was no discussion and a vote was held.
Vote: 0-9; fails.

Senator Struthers: We will forward you the recommendations, do you understand them well enough to explain them to the committee?
Chairman Pennington: No. I’ll do the best I can, but I don’t understand.
Senator Struthers: President Schock can go to help you.
President Schock: According to the policy as it stands now, since it failed, I don’t exist.
Senator Struthers: If you want, we can send him.
Chairman Pennington: Yes, I think Kevin can handle it.

XI. Other New Business
There was no new business.

XII. President’s Announcements
Office Hours
Senator Struthers: Please get your times. Email them to either me, President Schock, or the Congressional Secretary. There’s a sign-in sheet outside the Congress office area.

Committee Meeting Times
Senator Struthers: Make sure you’re meeting and there are no conflicts with room reservations.

Parliamentarian Change
Senator Struthers: There’s been a change in Congressional Parliamentarian. Our new Congressional Parliamentarian is Donald Lite. Welcome, Donald.

Jacket Ordering – Due Friday (10/9/09)
Senator Struthers: Jacket orders are due by Friday, you should have received an email about this.

State of the Students Address
Senator Struthers: The State of the Students Address is October 14th and attendance is required for all ASOSU congressional members. It takes place during the House session and it is formal dress code. So men, please wear a shirt and tie. I don’t know what women wear.
Senator Segura: Who do I talk to about a time conflict?
Senator Struthers: Me or Kevin.
Senator Segura: Can I send a proxy?
Senator Struthers: Technically, you could.
President Schock: The Faculty Senate meeting is at 5pm tomorrow [10/07/2009].
Thursday is the Black Cultural Center open house, I open the floor to Miranda, representing the Women’s Center.
Miranda: The open house is from 5:00-8:00pm.
Senator Segura: Where is the Faculty Senate meeting?
Chairman Pennington: It is in Withycombe at 3:00pm.

XIII. Senator Comments
Senator Barnes: There is an Oversight and Ethics Committee meeting after this.
Senator Segura: I just wanted to thank you all for your consideration and effort tonight. I hope we can continue like this for the rest of the year.

XIV. Gallery Comments
Speaker of the House Paul Aljets: The quality of the Wall Street Journal has gone down since Rupert Murdoch bought it.
Chairman Pennington: But it comes on a stick. How can you not like that?
President Schock: It is convenient.

XV. Adjournment
Senator Struthers: Is there a motion to adjourn?
Senator Segura: I motion to adjourn.
Senator Cheney: I second.
The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.