Executive Session commenced at 7:10pm.

Senator Segura: I have a concern this year. It started with power struggles last year and this year is no better. Before, over the summer, we all talked about what it said in the original bylaws. It went through SIFC, then Senate, and it was binding; that was final. It was a good process because the checks and balances were there. Now we have to petition to even talk, and that is BS. That is not the way it should be set up. Before, the system worked to integrate our students into the student fee process. Now, either house needs 25% support for an issue to be brought up. Why are we to petition the SIFC? They are not autonomous and that requirement is pretentious. There is no way we, the final voice, as recognized by the state, should have to petition to be heard. The recommendations we make are not binding, so we could talk and talk, but they make the final decision. And we don't get to see the final decision until it's signed by President Ray. He has a history of working for the students, but I don't want my decision left up to the SIFC. The biggest improvement is efficiency, and he [Pennington] will argue that.

Senator Struthers: Matt Vogt, someone that I know on SIFC, talked to me about this. It was the members of the SIFC that came up with this compromise [to keep the clause] rather than eliminating it entirely. But I agree that having our recommendations as non-binding isn't good.

Senator Olfson: Why change it at all?

Senator Struthers: There is a separation of OSU and SIFC so we're not arguing. I guess putting the clause back in says they will hear us out, but that they will have the final say.

Senator Segura: I would like to give some historical background, if I may.

Senator Struthers: Yes, go ahead.
Senator Segura: There's been a lot of paperwork lost over the years regarding where SIFC belongs. It was originally written that dually the student government and the government control fees. This leads to confusion over where SIFC belongs. Technically, SIFC is under OSU.

Senator Struthers: To my knowledge, OUS gives the President [of the university] to delegate and we make recommendations to SIFC as a committee. Title 7, Section 2, Student Incidental Fees Committee reads, "The SIFC shall provide recommendations to the House of Representatives and the Senate on fees and one-time fee packages. The SIFC shall advise Congress in the event a Conference Committee is necessary in Congress to address mediation of a rejected fee recommendation." That means they give the recommendations to us.

Senator Segura: That's how it's always been. Separation of powers is ludicrous. We've fought for the betterment of student fees; it's about making recommendations to them and then it comes back to the senate for the final say. We need to be sure one body doesn't have all the power.

Senator Moran: They make recommendations to the House or Senate? If this were to pass, then would it come to both?

Senator Struthers: This is for contingency funds, one-time packages. It's a one-time payment. Right now, they would circumvent us.

Senator Moran: So if we didn't allow this to pass, could they get approval from the House and not us?

Senator Struthers: They need approval from Congress, so that means both houses have to approve.

Senator Moran: So if it didn't pass in either, it couldn't pass.

Senator Struthers: Anything that starts in the Senate ends in the House and anything that starts in the House ends in the Senate.

Senator Olfson: He [Pennington] takes the checks and balances out of the process. The contingency fund is out of our student fees. How many people are even in SIFC?

Senator Struthers: There are 7 voting members and 2 non-voting members.

Senator Olfson: We're putting all that in the hands of 7 people and then not letting Senate have more say? We have weekly meetings, that would certainly speed up the efficiency of this process and I really don't think it's going to be a problem.

Senator Barnes: When you get fees, CAPS is part of that as well as SHS, so our fees are close to $350.
**Senator Struthers:** They are closer to $385.

**Senator Barnes:** They come to us with recommendations to Congress and we can pass it or reject. If it’s rejected, it goes to mediation. If we don’t reject it, that’s just how they are and they move on.

**Senator Struthers:** I don’t think anything else major was changed. The major changes were in the section we’ve been discussing, so that is the thing for us to talk about.

**Senator Segura:** I think this discussion is important. It’s completely inefficient. This is about contingency funds which are made in hast. To have to a petitioning requirement is a complete waste of time. I think if the SIFC is going to review anything, it is just to weed out the jargon so it’s friendly for the House and Senate to read through and make decisions on, that was something that was delegated to the President [of the university] by the government.

**Senator Olfson:** Efficiency has improved by having more meetings, so there will be quick turnover now. Technically, we could do something on Tuesday and the House could do the same thing on Wednesday and it would be done in a week?

**Senator Struthers:** We can’t take more than 3 weeks to pass recommendations on to them.

**Senator Olfson:** Could they have given away the money by then?

**Senator Struthers:** Technically, yes. Our time to make recommendations is before the President signs, and we may not even know about it.

**Senator Segura:** This eliminates a lot of oversight.

**Senator Olfson:** I want to get rid of that. Any contingency fund should go through Congress, but putting a final decision in the hands of 7 people? I don’t like that.

**Senator Struthers:** I am open to hear what people have to say about changes.

**Senator Olfson:** Any contingency fund should go through Congress or mediation, just like regular student fees.

**Senator Baumgartner:** If it went through Congress and it was binding, then it goes straight to the President?

**Senator Struthers:** The contingency funds come to Congress and we either approve or reject, and then it goes to SIFC.

**Senator Barnes:** In the bylaws, it says that mediation is made up of 7 people. Who are those 7 people?
Senators Struthers and Segura: Where does it say that?

Senator Barnes: Section 3F

Senator Struthers: Mediation from Congress, in the statutes Title 2, Section 5D reads, "Mediation Committees on a proposed Student Incidental Fee or One-Time Fee package shall be considered Conference Committees and shall follow all the provisions outlined under Conference Committee except as otherwise stated in these statutes. Decisions passed in a Mediation Committee are final and are not to be sent to the houses of Congress for final approval. Membership of Mediation Committees shall include three members of the House of Representatives, including the Appropriations and Budget Chairperson; three members of the Senate; the Speaker of the House, acting as Vice-Chair; and all voting members of the Student Incidental Fees Committee. The President of the Senate shall serve as Chair of Mediation Committees." I believe that is 3 people from the House, 3 from the Senate, and the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate are chairs.

Senator Segura: Is the Vice-Chair a voting member?

Senator Struthers: I'm not sure, the Speaker of the House is the Vice-Chair.

Senator Segura: Is that a voting member?

Senator Struthers: I would say yes.

Senator Moran: How are they appointed?

Senator Segura: Probably within houses.

Senator Struthers: I will assume at this point they are appointed by the chairs, meaning, the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House. The new constitution defines who appoints people to committees. Is there a motion to suspend all standing rules, including Robert’s Rules?

Senator Barnes: I move to suspend all standing rules, including Robert’s Rules.

Senator Segura: I second.

Senator Segura: I liked what we were doing before with SIFC, working with them to pick things apart and having us be the binding decision makers. There’s a lot we can do in our own houses to come up to a conclusion. There is no mediation committee in the United States Congress, and if we’re trying to emulate that system, we should stay with what we’ve been doing. We should re-put what was there.

Senator Olfson: Do the current bylaws say that the Senate chair would have to bring recommendations to the Senate to vote on?
Senator Struthers: Let’s find the current bylaws.

Senator Segura: He [Pennington] took that out. What it said is that recommendations would go to SIFC for approval or denial. He has now left any modifications to SIFC.

Senator Olfson: Any contingency funds have to go through Congress and then to mediation and then SIFC can send back recommendations. With student fees they argue back and forth and we should have that opportunity.

Senator Segura: I want to ensure that a system of checks and balances is in place. They shouldn’t be autonomous. That restriction on us is going to take away our ability to have a say. I know how these meetings work; they are cut throat.

Senator Struthers: What page is this on?


Senator Struthers: What it currently reads is, “Upon request of the ASOSU Senate Chair, an approved contingency fund allocation may be forwarded to the senates as a recommendation for review. The ASOSU Senate may then vote to approve or deny contingency allocation recommendations according to established SIFC and ASOSU policies.” That means it is a binding policy after it comes to us.

Senator Segura: I’d like to keep that.

Senator Barnes: We just need to change the wording.

Senator Struthers: Would it start in the House or Senate?

Senator Barnes: House.

Senator Segura: And then the Senate. Whoever is at the head has to request and then what we say is binding. Then it is sent to President Ed Ray. They can still make recommendations and send it off, but if we want a review we can have one.


Senator Segura: I want to go.

Senator Struthers: Kevin would decide on that. SIFC meetings are open to the public and the locations change. All the information for the meeting times and places are online.

Senator Segura: I would highly recommend going to meetings so we know what’s going on with student fees and we can talk to representatives and lobby them. It is our job to be informed for
those who are paying the fees. We know what’s going on and we have the ability to stop bad or make good. I want what was there before.

**Senator Struthers:** Do we recommend we keep what was there but change it to Congress?

**Senator Moran:** All they’ve changed was that and then threw this [Title 6, Section G] in.

**Senator Segura:** No, he [Pennington] removed the section entirely and then replaced it with modifications.

**Senator Struthers:** Letter G was H and it was all removed. Jerred Taylor caught that before we passed it. This is off-topic, but should be mentioned: We discussed physical presence for meeting quorum. President Van Drimmelen signed off on the change that physical presence is scratched out, which allows for teleconferences like we had over the summer.

**Senator Segura:** Where is that? I don’t trust that.

**Senator Barnes:** Would you like me to email the SIFC bylaws?

**Senators:** Yes

**Senator Segura:** Is the voting sheet at these meetings public record?

**Senator Struthers:** I’m not sure, but the minutes should be.

**Senator Segura:** What about the attendance record?

**Senator Struthers:** I’m not sure.

**Senator Segura:** We want to make sure that it is.

**Senator Struthers:** Are there any motions? We have to make recommendations on why we aren’t approving tonight. Do we want to go back to Robert’s Rules for that?

**Senator Moran:** When we go back to the original bylaws, they bring suggestions to congress, we approve or deny, and then they bring us a new version?

**Senator Struthers:** Read what letter G says right now.

Senator Barnes reads

**Senator Struthers:** Now we have to go to them, say we want to hear what they are doing, they don’t come to us; it has to be requested. From there, we either approve or it goes to mediation.
**Senator Segura:** And the final decision from that goes forth to the President [of the university].

**Senator Moran:** So it’s 7 SIFC members and 7 members of Congress in mediation and then it goes through? That sounds better.

**Senator Olfson:** It should go to Congress no matter what. Remove the requirement to request, any use of contingency funds should go to Congress.

**Senator Struthers:** I don’t mean to focus on this side of the room, is there any input from Senators Nichols and Silvey?

**Senator Silvey (proxy):** Why was the request put in there?

**Senator Segura:** Historically, SIFC has been acting as an autonomous body. So for that reason they say we should request; it’s not a partnership, but this is not as originally intended.

**Senator Moran:** Let’s take out the request part and have it as it was.

**Senator Baumgartner:** Does it say anywhere that SIFC has to be separate from OSU?

**Senator Struthers:** I can’t say. They are an advisory committee. They give recommendations to us. If you read on Independent Committees, Title 8, Section 4 in our statutes, it reads, “All Independent Committees shall comply with summons of either House of Congress and the summons of the Judicial Branch.” That means we have authority over them, but their bylaws don’t say they have to. We need to recommend a change in the bylaws to comply with our statutes for summons.

**Senator Olfson:** This is good to go through.

**Senator Struthers:** How do we enforce and remove these portions of the SIFC bylaws? If you have any bills or legislation, please write them up so we can have business to do. Let’s get this going now. We have experience members and should be able to accomplish a lot this year. Is there any more discussion on Title 7, Section 2a-e or Title 8, Section 1 and 4?

**Senator Segura:** I vote for food at the meetings.

**Senator Barnes:** I second.

**Senator Struthers:** It’s approaching 8:00pm. Kevin will arrive and he is a member, so he can enter the room. So is SIFC an independent committee?

**Senator Barnes:** So are they an independent committee? Their bylaws don’t say they are, but our constitution says they are.
Senator Struthers: I can’t give any legal interpretation. We’d have to go to the Judicial Council for that and they side with SIFC. But they also don’t have quorum, so they can’t do it anyway.

Senator Segura: May I give an anecdote? It’s interesting that SIFC is trying to push for autonomy when they tried to be under ASOSU all last year. This year, Ryan [Mann] and Matt [Pennington] are now in SIFC. Interesting.

Senator Struthers: I want to thank Torey for being a proxy for this executive session. Also, Senator Ottman has informed me that he’s gone, so there is an opening in the Senate.

Senator Moran: Are there any plans for a replacement?

Senator Struthers: Do you have any recommendations?

Senator Moran: I told the sophomores to email you or Kevin.

Senator Struthers: This is off topic, but in the ASOSU Constitution, a vacancy committee is comprised of the President, Speaker of the House, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, and JC Chair; they decide who fills the vacancy, but I’m taking requests from the Senate. Back on topic now, I can’t believe we’re in executive session.

President of the Senate Kevin Schock arrives at 8:00pm

President Schock: I’d like to remind you that there is a gallery of people waiting and they all have agendas and other things to attend to tonight. Please stay on topic.

Senator Segura: But we’re the Senate.

Senator Struthers: We were discussing how SIFC needs to comply with summons.

Senator Moran: Under Title 8.

Senator Segura: No, in their bylaws, not our constitution.

Senator Struthers: We’re recommending to have compliance with Congressional summons in their bylaws as well as recommending changing Section 6G back to what it said before. The lettering is up to them.

Senator Segura: So we’re recommending it says “upon summons...?”

Senator Moran: Summons or what? Suggests we have to request still.

Senator Struthers: We’re talking about complying with summons now, not about contingency funds.
**Senator Segura:** What about the language? “SIFC must” what?

**Senators Olfson and Moran:** “Must go to Congress.”

**President Schock:** You are recommending to review what Matt is submitting? So you’re just discussing whether approval is subject to the changes you’re making now?

**Senator Segura:** We’re not just talking for the hell of it, this is about changing 6G. We’re working on the wording.

**President Schock:** The recommendation is going to influence acceptance of the bylaws.

**Senator Segura:** Why is there a conflict with Title 8, Section 4 in our statutes?

**Senator Struthers:** It has to do with the definition of independent committees.

**Senator Olfson:** How are we changing the wording on contingency funds?

**Senator Segura:** "An approved contingency allocation must be forwarded to the Houses of Congress as a recommendation for review. The ASOSU Senate will then vote to approve or deny contingency allocation recommendations according to established SIFC and ASOSU policies."

**Senator Olfson:** Is the consensus that we are not passing unless this wording is in there?

**Senator Struthers:** I’m assuming yes.

**Senator Segura:** We will outright deny.

**President Schock:** It would be conditional approval.

**Senator Olfson:** We can deny it and then they can make changes for us to compare.

**President Schock:** We’d be denying with recommendations.

**Senator Olfson:** And then they could bring it back so we can see if there’s anything else.

**Senator Struthers:** Is there any more discussion or concerns. We’re going back to Robert’s Rules and standing rules. The floor is open to motions.

**Senator Segura:** I move to change G to state, "An approved contingency allocation must be forwarded to the Houses of Congress as a recommendation for review. The ASOSU Senate will then vote to approve or deny contingency allocation recommendations according to established SIFC and ASOSU policies."
Senator Struthers: I move to make a friendly amendment to make G section 6g.

Senator Segura: I second.

A vote was taken: 9-0 pass.

Senator Struthers: I move that we recommend to SIFC that approval of contingency funds has to go through Congress for review.

Senator Cheney: I second.

A vote was taken: 9-0 pass.

Senator Segura: I move to recommend to SIFC that their bylaws state somewhere, "The SIFC must report to the Houses of Congress upon summons."

Senator Barnes: I second.

A vote was taken: 9-0 pass.

Senator Struthers: Do we want to vote on the current bylaws presented? Do we want to deny or table them? Or do we want to wait until Matt returns to the room?

President Schock: Or do you want to vote to approve?

Senator Moran: Can we approve with conditions or do we have to deny?

Senator Struthers: It can include conditions.

Senator Moran: So we can approve with recommendations?

President Schock: Yes, we can approve with recommendations or deny until recommendations are reflected or none of the above.

Senator Olfson: I move to deny with recommendations.

Senator Moran: I second.

Senator Struthers: Any discussion?

Senator Segura: Yes.

Senator Struthers: Yes?

Senator Segura: Just saying yes.
Senator Struthers: Any actual discussion?

There was no further discussion. A vote was taken on denying SIFC Policies and Procedures with recommendations: 9-0 pass.

Senator Struthers: We’ve completed our business and will move out of executive session. Any objections?

There were no objections.

Senator Struthers: Please inform the gallery they may return, Senator Baumgartner.

Executive session ended at 8:13pm.