I. Call to Order/Roll-Call/Quorum
   The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Swearing in of Senators
    One proxy was sworn in.

III. Singing of the OSU Alma Mater
    Senator Vandever: I move to forgo singing the Alma Mater.
    Senator Diabat: Second
    A voice vote was taken. The motion passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, February 7, 2012
    Senator Cushing: I move to approve the motion.
    Senator Redman: Second
    A voice vote was taken to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

V. Standing Committee Reports
    Senator Vandever: So Crystal wanted the members of the student government committee to fill out the doodle poll that she sent out.
    Senator Cushing: I didn’t get one.
    Senator Vandever: Fill out the doodle poll I’ll tell Crystal.
    President Pro Tempore: I’ll pull that up.
    Senator Cushing: Did you call me?
    President Pro Tempore: No.
    Senator Cushing: Ok that’s fine I’ll be on Oversight and Ethics.
    President Pro Tempore: You can only be on two committees.

VI. Joint Committee Reports
Joint Committee of Congressional Correspondence

Senator Vandever: I was at the house meeting. They went through first reading of the office hour bill. They went through lobby training that was the big thing.

Vice President Eath: It took a while.

President Pro Tempore: Was it a long meeting?

Senator Vandever: Yeah well it got started a little late so we were there pretty late.

VII. Delegate Reports
None

VIII. Special Orders

JR-71.02 Getting Out to Vote with the ASOSU Congress

Clerk Wolff:

WHEREAS The ASOSU Executive Branch, primarily through the Office of the Government Affairs Team, focuses on campaigns to outreach to the student body to register to vote and to actively engage in voting

WHEREAS The Government Affairs Team coordinates voter education regarding different issues on the ballot that effect students and their education

WHEREAS Historically, these campaigns have been carried out by Executive Staffers and ASOSU Interns

WHEREAS The ASOSU Congress, as the voice of the student body, must outreach and educate students regarding issues that are widely felt and deeply felt by students from the various measures, ballot initiatives and candidates and their platforms

WHEREAS The ASOSU Congress, as the Student Legislature, should have the opportunity to become involved and participate in actual legislative process by connecting as constituent of their local representatives and senators in the Oregon State Assembly and the United States Congress

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE 71st ASOSU CONGRESS:

The ASOSU stands by the coalition of Universities and Communities in their efforts through organizations, like the Oregon Student Association, in advocating voter registration and education.

That by participating in these efforts, we stand united as students striving towards bettering our future, the state and the nation.

President Pro Tempore: This is first reading we would like this for lobbying correct? I’ll entertain a motion to forgo second readings.
Senator Vandever: Do we have to suspend rules?
President Pro Tempore: You would move to forgo first reading.
Senator Hinrichs: I move to go into second reading.
Senator Redman: Second
A voice vote was taken to enter into second reading. The motion passed.
Senator Vandever: It’s a little thing I personally would like to change it that education comes before registration because that’s a more important issue. Reading the Barometer asking students about the elections saying I’d ok and I don’t really care. Education should be the focal point of this. So it would be advocating for voter education and registration.
Vice President Eath: Primarily it’s written like that because of the timelines. ASOSU prioritizes getting people registered to vote. So we only register people up to April. The election is then made and in that our efforts go from.
Senator Vandever: Withdrawn.
Senator Cushing: Cool cool.
Senator Alipour: Is there any financial obligation?
Vice President Eath: No it’s a part of the coalition we are not a part of because we’re apart of OSA. It’s a way to show we stand in solidarity with the other students in the state. And the state legislators know that we do know the issues and we have a voice. We did like to point out that voter registration is really important and by increasing our numbers we have a higher power in lobbying just the fact that we have a large constituency that will up a larger pressure on our congressmen. These are students registered to vote and sway an election. Elections between candidates have 5-9 percent difference of winning and the total amount of votes at OSU will count for 16 percent. It giving the students that they have the power to make a difference in our state legislator.
President Pro Tempore: Or 18 votes as in the primaries.
Senator Redman: Oh yeah it can come down to 5 votes.
A roll call vote was taken on JR-71.02. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business

SB-71.03 “Jacob Vandever and Dan Cushing Legislator Accountability Act”
President Pro Tempore: So this was passed and it went to house and there were amendments in house and the conference committee met and approved some of the amendments so we have to reapprove this. Correct me if I’m wrong but the biggest changes are in the very last be it hereby enacted? So for the final be it hereby enacted “BE IT HEREBY ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS THAT: ““Office hours'
shall be defined as time spent in the ASOSU office, distinct from time spent in committee meetings or other business of the ASOSU. It shall be time during which members of the ASOSU may meet with legislators to discuss ASOSU-related issues. Exceptions to this rule shall be made for Graduate Students that wish to hold ‘Office Hours’ in the Graduate Student Union or their respective offices. Senators or Representatives that wish to hold ‘Office Hours’ at a location other than the ASOSU office shall be at the discretion of the respective Chair.” ENACTED BY THE ASOSU Congress.

A roll call vote was taken on SB-71.03. The motion passed unanimously.

X. New Business & First Readings

JB-71.04 “Congressional Sustainability Bill”

Clerk Wolff:

Whereas: Town Hall meetings are not addressed in the ASOSU statues or constitution. There is currently no mandate for Congress to hold town hall meetings with students.
Whereas: Communication between the ASOSU and Oregon State University students is sorely lacking.
Whereas: The annual Gripe Fest is an important event but has been seen to be inadequate to express students’ concerns about life on campus in a timely manner.
Whereas: Student town hall meetings are a favorable forum for all students to communicate directly with ASOSU Representatives and Senators in an informal manner that does not require parliamentary procedure.
Whereas: Students have requested the ASOSU to hold more town hall meetings.

Be it here by enacted by ASOSU
Title II Section 13 of the ASOSU Statutes shall be created to read:
“Section 13: Student Town Hall Meetings
A. Congress shall hold two (2) town hall meeting per term each academic year, excluding the summer term. These Town Hall meetings are to take place during week three and week eight of each term. The date of the Town Hall meetings must be decided two (2) weeks in advance.
B. All Town Hall meetings shall be held in the Memorial Union, shall be open to the OSU Community, and those attending shall be asked to sign in with their name and state all group affiliations.
C. The purpose of the Town Hall meetings shall be to gather student input during week three (3) and evaluate the ASOSU progress during week eight (8).
D. All Town Hall meetings must be advertised one week prior to the event.
E. The Town Hall meetings shall be facilitated by a neutral party.
F. The Town Hall meetings shall be organized by the Student Government Committee.

Senator Vandever: First of all I’d like to be a sponsor of the bill and second can we make it in the first hereby enacted part A to week 3 and week 8 to a suggested time?

Senator Redman: I figured we would make an amendment to the week 3 and 8 policy but I think we should keep it at two meetings. My timing was that week 3 students are coming back and give them time to think about their issues again and week 8 gives us time in between to act on what they’ve done.

Senator Vandever: I think those weeks are good but maybe not lock down if anything comes up.

Senator Redman: I think the solidarity is a good thing that students can count on if something comes up they know when the town hall will be same reason it will be in the MU. It’s that tradition they can rely on.

Senator Hinrichs: It’s almost the same point but week 3 that’s when we had our snow week. We should probably have it if week 3 is snowed out we can’t have thing after 5 pm on OSU campus. It’s saying we don’t have to have town hall meeting anymore. Much to his point Senator Vandever we should make it so they have the discretion to move it along if its week 3 it’s not going to happen.

Senator Redman: We wouldn’t have a meeting but that’s why it would go to the academics committee to revise a date with that.

Senator Cushing: They have that authority.

Senator Redman: It wouldn’t be bogged down.

President Pro Tempore: Maybe say no later than week 4?

Senator Redman: How about the second meeting no later than week 8?

Senator Hinrichs: I would say no earlier than week 7 we could have it on dead week but as long as it’s before the term is over.

Senator Redman: So by week 4 and before the end of the term?

Senator Cushing: I think its fine.

Senator Khan: My midterms are typically on week 3 and week 8. It’s going to increase attendance if they don’t have them those weeks.
Senator Vandever: I don’t see the problem with giving the committee discretion to set the date.

Senator Redman: In section F it says it will. They have discretion to set the date it just also needs to be scheduled in advance for the Barometer to get the message out to students.

Senator Alipour: What if the congress failed to do that?

Senator Redman: We want to keep the bill giving us as much flexibility as possible so we don’t want to choke ourselves with more restrictions like Senator Hinrichs brought up unpredictable circumstances.

Senator Alipour: I’m skeptical about the effect of this bill. We pass a bill and we don’t have any means to enforce it or implement it.

Senator Cushing: Most of our legislation isn’t binding us.

President Pro Tempore: More or less it would be the reliability of the chair. The ethics can look at that.

Senator Redman: I’m not one to pass a bill that doesn’t make anyone accountable either. But it’s more about sustainability and bridging those connections with student organizations. This bill is a direct response to what the students request us to do.

Senator Diabat: If there’s need why is this meeting empty?

Senator Cushing: That’s what we say.

Senator Redman: We need to meet in the middle.

President Pro Tempore: The attempt is to make availability for students to communicate. The setting here and the parli pro really doesn’t make it inclusive. This allows a neutral party to come in and everyone speak out.

Senator Vandever: Attendance actually has been good at the meetings this year. We love our gallery.

Senator Alipour: How many members do we have in house?

President Pro Tempore: 25.

Senator Alipour: How you want to hold a town hall between 5 people?

President Pro Tempore: The town hall would be under senate. If house members wish to attend they are more than willing but there’s not stipulation on them.

Senator Redman: just to feed off what Brett was saying students voiced that the atmosphere here makes them feel alienated. We want it to be comfortable and more personal conversation between representatives and students so their point gets across. That way as you can see there every cultural center has sponsored
this bill and those were the ones that showed up to them and feel this is satisfying what they asked for.

President Pro Tempore: You bring up a great point though. We have office hours and phone numbers and office hours but this idea was brought up so we said lets open this up and see what students want and need.

Senator Diabat: Who decides who a neutral party is? Would that be the chair?

President Pro Tempore: Correct. Team liberation ran the last meeting. More or less that will be the group that runs it every time.

Senator Vandever: Team liberation did it last time and did a really good job on it.

XI. President’s Announcements

Vice President Eath: ASOSU gripe fest is this February 29 from 10-2p.m. in the MU lounge. It’s one of the biggest forums we have available. It’s put on by the executive branch. We’ll have an open mic for you to sit there and type what students understand what’s going on. If you don’t know what it is, students come and speak to an open mic about the issues on campus. We have 24/5 library, online evaluations, campus maps and signs, tangible ways to come together to talk about issues. We send out the gripe fest report at the very end to the people who have influenced on our students here. Come and attend.

XII. Senator Comments

Senator Vandever: Along with that I’ve been spending my office hours reading the gripe fest. Also happy Valentine’s Day.

Vice President Eath: Oh and the website was updated. You’ll see contact information on the banner everything about congress.

President Pro Tempore: Did any senators attend student events?

Senator Vandever: European Union team went up to Seattle to compete.

Senator Hinrichs: I attended Sig Eps dodge ball philanthropy.

Senator Cushing: I attended the philosophy club’s meeting on Sunday. We talked about the ethics of using violence towards people in social movements such as occupy. We also drank beer.

President Pro Tempore: You’re going the old Greek style with that one.

Senator Cushing: I’m also going to Greece next year.

Senator Redman: So legislative conference is coming up and that is a free trip sponsored by ASOSU to D.C. It’s a leadership workshop, great opportunity to lobby really well and collaborate with the vote campaign if you’re interested in applying pick up applications in Snell 149.

Senator Cushing: Woo party.
XIII. Gallery Comments

Emily Colving: I’m part of the executive side of ASOSU. I work closely with the government relations team and we went up to Salem. Next Tuesday is lobby day. Since you all voted to stay in OSA see if there is a time you want to go on Tuesday that you have a break in classes. There are buses and cars to lobby and meet representatives in the state of Oregon. If you need excuses in any of your classes or if you need more information email me.

Nick Rosoff: I would like to speak about the comment if people want more town hall meetings why are they not here? I’m new to this campus and I would like to get more involved and I’m sure there are more students in the same position. It’s a stroke of luck that I was able to find it myself. With a lot of issues going on it has to do with awareness and more people would be here if they knew about it.

President Pro Tempore: I totally understand that and how that comes in. That was a great point. That’s something to look into about the positions more available especially the open positions.

XIV. Adjournment

Senator Vandever: I move to adjourn.

Senator Cushing: Second

Acclamation occurred and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.