

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
THIRD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2006  
1:00 PM - PAC G**

**I. Roll Call**

**Present:** BOT S. Doyle, President S. Drews, Vice President B. Hudkins, Secretary U. Singh, Treasurer H. Fowler, Sgt. at Arms R. Skorczewski, Senator V. Ojha (PAA), Senator R. Brewbaker (EHS).

**Audience Members:** Cynthia Thompson, Scott McFarland, Renee Rathjen, Steven Black, Ed Wojcicki, John Ringle, Steve Chrans, Ashish Tetali, Abhishek Chaturvedi, Emani Srividya and Yadvinder Singh Bhullar.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

- Pledge of allegiance taken by all SGA committee members.

**III. Officer Reports**

- President - S. Drews:

Leadership luncheon to happen on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. RSVP to the e-mail or registration via the home-coming week website required in order to attend it. Urged to do so as soon as possible.

- Vice President - B. Hudkins & Sgt. at Arms - R. Skorczewski:

Met with the tuition fee committee. They are looking forward to work more with the students in order to keep them more informed about tuition fee allocation for next year.

- Secretary - U. Singh:

Received the SGA photographs from the Journal office to be used for the website. Will look further into making the teleconferencing facility available without problems.

- Treasurer - H. Fowler:

Suraj loaded the main page of the SGA website. He had a talk with Sherry Hudson who told him that they need to work on our website to match the skeleton of the other departments' websites. Concern raised that if Webservices going to look over website then SGA would not need to hire a new webmaster. Sherry also said that they will have to approve the content of the website which was a concern

in the SGA since others like Sangamon Auditorium do not need to do so. Samantha and Holly to talk to Sherry in this regard. Also proposed to hold an official meeting with Sherry in the presence of other board members as well.

➤ BOT - S. Doyle:

None

#### **IV. Reports**

➤ Campus Senate:

Samantha to sit on the board for the Global Campus. The first meeting to be on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Global campus will affect our university so all should be aware of the issues. Samantha to send out the information about in the next few days. It is big step that they are making SGA part of their decision making and discussing how the global campus is going to affect UIS.

➤ Executive Board Meeting:

Discussed about the Student fee FY08 so that could have an organized meeting today. Accepted the resignation of the two senators - Senator for Liberal Arts and Sciences and Senator for Business and Management. Had a second reading of ICCB bylaws and were approved. Extended the deadline for the applications for the new senator's positions to Friday Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM and sent an e-mail that these positions are not subject to the elections. Appointments are to be recommended to the board in the meeting on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and will be made by the President but are subject to the board's approval.

#### **V. Old Business**

➤ Truck Stop Safety Issue:

First reading of resolution for the truck stop. Some changes suggested and clarifications given to audience members about the role SGA plays in the issue. Second reading to happen in the next meeting.

➤ TV Station – Channel 97:

Samantha met with campus electronic media services to discuss about the prospect of showing SGA meetings live on Channel 97. It was suggested that the meetings take place in the studio due to video and voice quality. It would also help the archiving of the meetings. Studio will have enough space for the audience members as well. Channel 97 also opened their offer to other campus clubs and committees to have their events covered by them.

➤ Cum Laude Resolution – B. Skorczewski:

Second reading of the Cum Laude Resolution. It was made clear that these only apply to Undergraduate students. The resolution will be passed on to the Undergraduate Council. The resolution was approved.

## **VI. New Business**

➤ Student Fees FY08:

Dr. Miller introduced the proposal and it's rational and informed that a lot of thought goes into it. Increased participation in Student life due to Cap Scholar Program, Freshmen Class and the increasing number of students and staff had grown the need for more finances. UIS now also offers more academic and programs and activities. An increase of 4.5% was requested. It was mentioned that the Recreation center fees was decided three years ago. President Samantha said that an increase of 5% or less can be justified. A more elaborate explanation and division of funds between the various campus activities and athletic fee was requested because there are some teams that get more funds than the other whereas they do not make any effort towards fundraising. Dr. Miller understood the concern but said that the fee increase is more due to the athletic equipment, adding new activities, cost of travel and officials etc. The need to fundraise for all teams equally to be included in the SGA resolution.

Discussed about the New Recreation Center Fee and Vice President Brie raised the point that fee increase should not be justified on the basis of other Illinois campuses, as they get more facilities and our campus is much smaller then them. It was clarified that other Illinois campuses does not mean just U of I campuses but other universities in the state of Illinois as well. It was requested that they reword the rationale to clearly state the distinction between U of I and other campuses in Illinois. The recreation fee is to appear as two separate items (recreation facility and new recreation center fee) till the year 2019.

Concern raised that Health services ask for a raise year but no significant difference in their services is seen. Dr. Miller pointed out the raise is due to administrative fee like the doctors who are hired on a contract basis since we don't have our own. Special concern rose about the availability of nurses, doctors and appropriate services when they are needed even after the increase in the walk in hours since they do not always fit in well with the classes of students. It was also pointed out that they do not provide clear information about the insurance and should have up to date information regarding that. Some senators appreciated the effort put in by Health Services but overall concern about the availability of help in the case of emergency still remained. Question rose as to when we can see the availability of actual human resources like nurse practitioners and doctors being available all the time on our campus. Dr. Miller suggested having a meeting between Health Services and SGA to discuss the concerns and possible solutions.

Housing piece was the most important piece because of a very large increase demanded. Mr. Ringle pointed out that the occupancy of the housing is about 95% - 98% for the Spring and Fall semesters and 35% for Summer. He also pointed out that Housing is supported by student fees only. Each area of housing should be able to pay for themselves in order to cover the debt loan. He raised the concern of having high bills of electricity in certain housing areas. The raise he said is due to the increase in the utility costs like water, electricity, cable TV, technology costs also since the students pay for all these to housing. Secretary Ultra also raised some important points in regards to the size of rooms in Clover Court being considerably different but still being charged the same fee. Some rooms don't even have enough space to put furniture or walk around and students are forced to put one bed on top of another which could be a major safety concern. Mr. Ringle pointed that it is not possible to have a square feet analysis of the apartments in order to charge the fee. Senator Vishal also pointed out that the hot water facility in Clover court is also not to par compared to other courts. A major concern about the internet connection was also raised since it is a major problem for the international students as they are mostly all masters and computer science students who cannot do without a proper internet connection. It was pointed out that there are two ports in each room but only one works, routers are not allowed and there is no wireless connectivity. It was also emphasized that students had to run between ITS and housing to get the problem fixed with housing doing nothing about it regardless of the fact that housing is paid for that service. Mr. Ringle suggested that it might incur extra costs to have the second port activated and said that he would look into the wireless connectivity. Vice President Brie also mentioned that removing the price of these services from the housing package would not be a good marketing strategy for the university as parents and prospective students find it more convenient to pay for the whole housing package at one time. It was requested though that the breakdown of the housing fee be given to see how much is paid for each of the services as well as the actual apartment fee. She also suggested having an incentive for the housing residents to use the services like electricity judiciously. Mr. Ringle said that they sent out a mail during Summer '06 notifying residents about the average usage and the usage of their apartment but this was not continued. Treasurer Holly suggested that this be continued. Concern was also raised about the housing scholarships that are given to students. President Samantha pointed that the current process was not totally appropriate as it is based on who entered into the raffle. She said that the scholarships should be given to students who really need it depending on their financial need.

## **VII. Audience Participation**

- Library: Suggested that library hours be extended especially in the weekends as well. Suggested that students are also ready to do volunteer work to help them open for longer hours.

- UIS Website: Concern rose again that UIS website is not up to standard and pictures on the home page not representing UIS campus life but personal pictures. Concern also rose regarding the SGA website not being up. It was explained that this was due to some concerns from web services. A meeting to be organized between SGA members and office of web services.

### **VIII. Adjourn**

- Next Meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>.