**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**March 20, 2012**

1. **ROLL CALL**

President Landreneau called the meeting of March 20, 2012 to order at 8:45pm. Board members Armstrong, Genus, Hallinan, Louderback, McGrath, Murdoch, Rothenberger, and Samudzi were present. Chair members Stavrakos, Mallampalli, Crawford, Beecher Held, Meyer, and Nites were all present. Elections Chair Brown was absent and Tricia Dougherty sat in on behalf of Transportation Chair White.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of February 28, 2012 were approved.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Landreneau commented on *Pitt Day in Harrisburg*. He thought it was an overall successful turn out; close to the numbers they had last year. Governmental Relations Chair Beecher will discuss it further in the meeting. He also mentioned the SGB liaison system is now in place. Every single group from here on out will receive an email from their Board liaison. E-mails will be sent out by Board members to the respective groups they are in charge of with a justification of the decision of the Board on a request and where they can pick up their request money if approved. Budget appeals are going to start this Sunday at 8 a.m. Time slots are available until 11:00 a.m., but will be extended if a lot of groups appeal their budget.

1. **SUBMITTED AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Submitted Agenda Items.

1. **BOARD REPORTS**
2. **Olivia Armstrong**

Board member Armstrong reported that the handout for the freshman orientation packet about the shuttle systems that she has been working on that explain how to use the south Oakland shuttles is being finalized right now. She also stated that you should just keep checking the SGB Twitter for the #polloftheweek, which they will be doing to poll students to get their feedback.

1. **Halim Genus**

Board member Genus had no report.

1. **Julie Hallinan**

Board member Hallinan reported that there was a readership kickoff event. She stated that they tabled in Towers Lobby from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The liaisons from *The New York Times* and the *USA Today* came out for the event and they had lots of help handing out information to students informing them that the readership program is back. The papers have been back since last week, but we do not yet have the swipe boxes. She stated that there was some delay with the paperwork and that the swipe boxes should be delivered the first week of April. She will be getting together a focus group in a couple of weeks to start discussing some events for the program in the fall. She stated that if you would like to sit in on those meetings and be on that committee please let her know.

She also reported that she met with Dr. Earle in Housing on Friday to continue talks about the meal plans and what they can do. She stated that their biggest discussions were on the pricing of meal plans. If you noticed, the prices have continued to rise without changing the quantity or quality of what you receive. She said if you take the total cost and subtract the dining dollars and then divide by the number of meal passes, you will see that the cost of the meal passes have gotten really expensive; some of them being over $12 per swipe. Dr. Earle did agree that the prices have gotten a little out of control. He said that it is too late to do anything about meal plans in the fall, but over the summer he will be opening discussion and keeping her in the loop about re-pricing the meal plans and assessing whether the price is accurate for the values of the meal. She is hoping to see some changes in the pricing or the way the meal plans are structured.

Board member Hallinan also reported that there is an article on the front of *The Pitt News* today on the transgender policies here on campus, or lack thereof. She stated that they have an operating procedure where a transgender student can use whatever private bathroom with which they identify. They were told this morning in the Anti-Discriminatory Policy meeting that that piece of information is not correct. They were told that students must use the gender specified facility as they are identified on their birth certificate, so it is their natal sex. She stated that they will be continuing discussions to try to see what they can do to make changes to any transgender policies here on campus and to try to make sure they are doing what they can to be accommodating to these students. She stated that Tricia and she met with Representative Frankel two days ago to talk to him to see what they can do to increase transgender equality here on campus and what steps he can take to help us with this to really push it through the administration. She stated that he and his staff will be doing some research and getting back to us. She is really optimistic that Representative Frankel can really help us out in this fight for transgender equality here on campus. She also stated that on Thursday, Rainbow Alliance will be having a letter writing event in Dining Room A. It will also be a program about LGTB policies on campus. She encouraged everyone who was interested in this to come.

1. **Gordon Louderback**

Board member Louderback reported that the President of RSA and he have been working on the wireless issue in residence halls. They are still doing their research on the topic and they are making plans to meet with the Director – in the next few weeks regarding that and to get her final thoughts about it before they head into the summer.

He also reported that they had a Food Committee meeting last Friday. He stated that they are now starting a late night food event every Thursday night in Market Central. For the next four weeks, there will be a nacho bar next Thursday, a chicken nugget bar the following Thursday, a perogie bar the Thursday after that, and another bar on the fourth Thursday. He also stated that Oreos 100th Birthday is coming up next Thursday and they will be having a birthday bash for Oreos at the Perch.

Board member Louderback also reported that there are some exciting environmental news that is forthcoming and that there is a lot of things happening with the Green Fund Advisory Board.

1. **Megan McGrath**

Board member McGrath reported that the Traditions Committee has officially confirmed the meeting with Athletics. It will be held this Friday. Board member Louderback and she are very excited to see this come in full circle. They hope to have some really positive conversations with them and to keep that going throughout the year and through the summer. They hope to see some of their ideas come into motion in the fall.

She also reported that she met with the Environmental Committee to talk about how they would want to work on improving recycling for off-campus students.

1. **Alex Murdoch**

Board member Murdoch reported that he and President Landreneau have been working with Panther Wrestling on trying to get them a better location here on campus. They met with their president last week to discuss those issues.

He also reported that he is working with Greek Life to try to get a strategic plan of action for the next 5-10 years. He stated that he and the coordinator for Greek Life met with Kenyon Bonner last week. He thinks it is a good idea and, in his opinion, it is something that hasn’t been done as of late. He hopes to make Greek Life move on it in the next couple of years.

He also reported that the swipe-in systems being tested in Towers and the other residence halls has hit a bit of a snag. He stated that he was informed by Dr. Earle that the company came and the school does not agree with the driver’s license portion of it. They do not like how much information is being taken off of a driver’s license. He stated that they are currently reworking it and they are trying to get a new swiper. He said that the goal is get the swiper in place by the end of summer. He stated that Dr. Earle still feels very confident that the system will be in place by next fall.

Board member Murdoch also reported that he is reviewing all of the applications that had been turned in for the O’Hara Student Center office spaces. He stated that he along with a few other people will have the 10 winners of the spaces selected and announced at the end of Blue Stars Red Carpet event next month.

1. **Natalie Rothenberger**

Board member Rothenberger reported that the Student Technology Advisory Committee that she worked with, along with Kit Ayers and CSSD, will be having their first meeting next Thursday. The students selected to be on that committee who applied through *my.pitt.edu* will be meeting next Thursday to get feedback from all of the technology-from the Campus Connect to the my.pitt.edu websites. She is hoping to see new student changes.

She also reported that Board member McGrath and she have still been pushing the advertising options for student events. She stated that they were informed that there has been a spike in the events that have been put onto the student events calendar, which means that they are one step closer to having it be on *my.pitt.edu*

She also reported that Food Club met today and they were lucky enough to have the University dietitian come and speak to them about healthier diets. She stated that Market Central is working to make the campus healthier and they will be featuring the healthiest meal in Market Central each day once they have all the nutritional facts out there.

Board member Rothenberger also reported that she will be meeting with Deborah Fyock about text book reservation. She will also be meeting with the Senate Bylaws and Procedures Committee tomorrow to discuss the procedures that they want to change for the University. That will also be the method by which she will develop the Text Book policy.

1. **Zoé Samudzi**

Board member Samudzi reported that she would like everyone to read the story about a boy named Trayvon Martin, who was an important victim of racial profiling last month when he was shot by a member of the neighborhood watch.

She also reported about the newspaper article regarding transgender policy. She stated that it is highlighting a very important issue and she would like to give her commendation to Board member Hallinan and Tricia Dougherty about the work they are doing with the Anti-Discriminatory Policy Committee.

She also reported that this morning she was on a podcast along with Global Solutions on EarthLink’s Talking Earth Things. They spoke about conflict minerals, the Congo, etc. It will be on the WPTS website in the morning. She stated that her intern has compiled a lot of information for the resource manual, so they will begin a cost assessment to figure out how much it is going to cost to print.

Board member Samudzi also reported that on Friday she will be meeting with Dr. Blair, who is the chair of Academic Calendar Committee, to talk about Reading Days.

She will also be talking with a former Environmental Chair, Becky Schroeder, to see how the environmental network is set up to see if they can transfer similar format to the humanitarian network she plans to set up.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **ALLOCATIONS**

Chair Nites had no report.

1. **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Chair Stavrakos reported that they are still working on getting the AP English Literature exam to count towards a general education requirement. They will be meeting with the English Department’s chair to discuss this matter. They also finalized the survey about library hours, and will be publicizing this to students over the next few weeks. They have looked into getting the classrooms in the Cathedral of Learning to be open for longer periods of time, and they are in the process of contacting Facilities Management to look into that process. He then stated that they are beginning to work on a project that will give students access to syllabuses and course decisions when they are registering. He asked that if anyone had any other pertinent project ideas, he encouraged them to talk with him.

President Landreneau stated that Elections Chair Brown came in late, and her report was accepted now.

1. **ELECTIONS**

Chair Brown had no report.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Chair Meyer reported her committee is still working on a sample Sustainable Pittsburgh Handbook and the Eco Reps program. The committee and Board member Louderback had a meeting with Dean Humphrey to talk about sustainability, and she is very excited about what they are doing. She then discussed Recycle Mania, which ends at the end of March. Thus far, we have recycled 84,000 pounds of paper, 144,000 pounds of cardboard, and 17,000 pounds of bottles and cans. She encouraged everyone to continue recycling.

1. **GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Chair Beecher first thanked everyone who attended *Pitt Day in Harrisburg.* He reported that this year there was a lot more positive responses coming from the students who attended. They also had more contact with the legislature this year. He particularly thanked all the members of the Board and his committee, and all the student leaders who stepped up to be group leaders. The State House was in extended session over the Voter ID bill for an extended period of time, and the group leaders showed extreme flexibility and professionalism in adapting to those circumstances. They had a lot of good interactions with the state representatives and state senators. He said that all together it was a success, and though it will take some time to see results, he is still very optimistic. He also thanked everyone for attending Governor Corbett’s event on Friday, March 16th, and participating actively and intellectually during the event. He then explained that he and his committee will be working with Chair Mallampalli and the Community Outreach committee on a service event with Senator Bob Casey. He also discussed the passing of the Voter ID Bill, and the new requirements for students who are voting. He recommended that students stop by the SGB office to learn more about the new requirements in place. After that, he talked about the Student Voter Coalition. He said that if anyone or any student group present is interested in getting involved, then they should talk to him and he will contact them. Along with that, he and Board member Genus will be working on installing a voting location in the William Pitt Union for the 2012 election cycle. They are getting data over the weekend and have contacted a couple of people on the county level today, so they should have a draft letter prepared by next week.

1. **JUDICIAL**

Chair Crawford had no report.

1. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Chair Held and her committee are starting a newsletter that will, hopefully, print out every month. They are getting all the Board members and chairs involved with this, and it should be out by April 1st.

1. **TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY**

Trisha, reading off Chair White’s report, asked the Board to join him in expressing his condolences to the family of University alumnus Michael Schaab who was wounded on March 8th at the Western Psychiatric Institute Clinic. He was loved by family and friends, and will be missed. He also asked the Board to join in condemning the recent bomb threats to the Cathedral of Learning. He sent an apology to President Landreneau for his absence this evening, and explained how Trisha, the President of Rainbow Alliance and Transportation and Safety Committee Special Honorary Vice Chair Pro-Temp, agreed to offer this report in his absence. His committee continues to work diligently on many projects. Their meeting will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, March 21st, at 6:00 p.m. in the SGB office. The Bike-Fix-It station will be installed in the Schenley Quad in the coming weeks. Earlier this week, he had meetings with Board members, his committee members, University administrators, and others, and he will continue to have such meetings later in the week.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **Allocations Recommendations:**

**#7095 NORML - $3,800.00**

Allocations recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7101 Outdoors Club- $1,063.16**

Allocations recommendation was to approve $1,033.16 and to deny $30.00.

The motion was seconded.

The motion did not carry.

The Board recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7107 Men’s Ultimate Frisbee – $3,160.36**

Allocations recommendation was to approve $1,088.44 and to deny $2,071.92.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

1. **Other New Business**

There is no Other New Business.

1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There is no Unfinished Business.

1. **OPEN FLOOR**

Tricia encouraged everyone to attend Rainbow Alliance’s event this Thursday, March 22nd, which Board Hallinan mentioned. In light of the clarification of the University’s policy for transgendered students, they will be revamping their event from a few weeks ago Know Your Rights/Pitt’s Non-discriminatory Policy &You. This Thursday they will be talking about what the University’s Anti-Discrimination Policy covers and the event will be at 8:45 p.m. in Dining Room A.

Board member Samudzi invited everyone to the Wazobia Extravaganza event at 7:00 p.m. in Bellefield Auditorium on Friday, March 23rd.

Board member Louderback informed everyone that PALS will be having a free leadership workshop a week from this Thursday, on March 29th in the Union, which will be from 5:00- 8:00 p.m. There will be five speakers and two interactive activities. Anyone who is interested in attending can talk to him about it, and can also register at *palsleadership.eventbright.com*.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

President Landreneau wished everyone a great week.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

cc: Student Government Board Members, Student Government Board Committee Chairs, K. Bonner, K. Humphrey, T. Milani