**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**September 4, 2012**

1. **ROLL CALL**

President Landreneau called the meeting of September 4, 2012 to order at 8:45 pm. Board members Genus, Hallinan, Louderback, McGrath, Murdoch, Rothenberger, and Samudzi were present. Chair members Stavrakos, Mallampalli, Brown, Crawford, Beecher, Held, Meyer, White, and Nites were all present. Board member Armstrong was late.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of April 17, 2012 were approved.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Landreneau first explained that the meetings are conducted with Roberts Rules. Then, he pointed out that the best way to get involved in SGB is to join one of the many committees they have or to talk to the Board members who are looking for interns. He reiterated that there will always be a spot available for anyone who is looking to get involved in SGB. He invited any student who is interested in getting involved to come up to the office on the 8th floor of the William Pitt Union. For clubs returning, the liaison system for the Board is up and running now. Each Board member has approximately 40-45 groups. Following public meeting, any group who makes a request that is over $500 will get an e-mail from a Board member explaining the rationale behind the Board’s decision. If they have any questions for the Board, then their liaison is their best contact to direct those questions. Last, he thanked everyone again for coming out, and reminds everyone to be on the lookout for the town hall meetings, which will no longer be in Nordy’s Place. He is looking to hold the meetings across campus to get more people involved.

1. **SUBMITTED AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Submitted Agenda Items.

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

Board member Armstrong apologized for arriving late to the meeting due to her Tuesday night class. She reminded everyone that SGB has a twitter account and encouraged students to follow the account for updates. She also reminded students that they should utilize the 30C Pitt shuttle when travelling through South Oakland, and that they should only contact Safe Rider if it is an emergency. She also reminded everyone that all Allocations requests will soon be done electronically.

1. **Halim Genus**

Board member Genus stated that he is currently working on two main projects. His first project involves getting the Pitt shuttle stops marked, and he is working with Transportation and Safety Chair White to get into contact with the University’s transportation department. Last semester, he met with Director Sheehy and his associate Scott Artis, where he received tentative deadlines from them. They expressed their intent on making these changes happen, and so Board member Genus and Chair White will be in touch with them to check on their progress. He also received an email from an executive board member who is interested in the project as well, and would like to see how he and his organization can help.

He is working to get the polling locations in Litchfield Towers and Schenley Quad centralized in the William Pitt Union, so that they can make this a rally for the upcoming national election. Governmental Relations Chair Beecher and Board member Hallinan are very passionate about this project, as they hope to get more students to come out for this election. He ended his report encouraging any freshmen interested in his projects to talk to him after the meeting.

1. **Julie Hallinan**

Board member Hallinan thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. She then brought everyone’s attention to the new rack outside of Nordy’s Place, which holds undergraduate publications; it is a project she has been working on since last spring. For anyone who belongs to a SORC- verified publication, she asks that they contact her, as they are working to get these two distribution units full with undergraduate publications so that they can be showcased year-round. She then thanked Tom Bisco from PPR and Academic Affairs Chair Stavrakos for all their help with getting the project done.

She also has been working with Matt Schaff and Student Payment to have some financial literacy sessions conducted throughout the semester.

She reported that she has been working with Governmental Relations Chair Beecher on planning for the election. They are working on getting voter registration drop boxes in the residence halls.

She stated that next week she will meet with President Landreneau and the President of the Graduate Student Government about the readership program. They have a lot planned for the program this fall. All the drop boxes have newspapers in from Monday- Friday, and students can also sign up for the E-edition online. Lastly, she is on a planning committee to organize a 5K race called the ZooZilla Race, which will be held at the Pittsburgh Zoo on November 3rd. There will be Pitt shuttle buses to take people to the zoo.

1. **Gordon Louderback**

Board member Louderback’s first update was in regards to the new EMS reservation system. As of right now, R-25 will be used until September 8th. The reservation system will then shut down until September 23rd. He encouraged all student organizations to get their room reservations in before the end of this week. Training for the new EMS software will begin on September 17th, and the system will go live on September 24th. Groups will be able to start making requests for the spring semester on October 8th.

Next, he explained that he and Board member Rothenberger will be starting up the Food Committee soon. He reminded everyone that they will be having a Rock the Vote event in Market Central on Wednesday, September 26th from 4:00- 8:00 pm. Students will be able to enjoy American food, register to vote, and get more information on the upcoming election.

He also spoke about the Traditions Committee, which he has been working on since last semester with Board member McGrath. The committee held meetings over the summer and was able to accomplish a lot, such as branding the Panther Pitt as the new student section for the football games.

Finally, he mentioned that the Environmental Committee will be having a meeting on Wednesday, September 5th. If anyone is interested in attending this meeting they can get more information from Environmental Relations Chair Meyer.

1. **Megan McGrath**

Board member McGrath reported on the Traditions Committee, which Board member Louderback and she started. She stated that the Panther Pitt, which was a result of the Traditions Committee, will be hosting a watch party for the Pitt vs. Cincinnati football game. The watch party will be held on September 7th at 7:00pm on the Peterson Event Center lawn. She also reported that for future football games they were able to have buses at more locations in order to take students back to campus. If anyone is interested in being put on the Panther Pitt mailing list in order to receive direct updates you can email thepantherpitt@gmail.com.

Board member McGrath also reported on her project to enact a bike rental system in the William Pitt Union. She hopes to have a meeting with intramurals this semester to find ways to improve and promote the program.

She also reported herself and Board member Rothenberger have been working on an initiative to create alternative forms of advertising. She stated that Board member Rothenberger would discuss this initiative in more detail.

1. **Alex Murdoch**

Board member Murdoch echoed the message President Landreneau spread earlier and encouraged all students to continue to attend these meetings every week and to talk to the Board about getting involved with SGB. He spoke about his projects for this semester, starting with his dorm swipe in project, which allows students to swipe in other Pitt students who do not live in residence halls instead of having to sign them in. The system is now live in all of the residence halls, and by the end of the semester all residence halls should be able to swipe in family members or guests with drivers’ license who do not attend the University of Pittsburgh. He also reported that he will be having a meeting in the coming week to discuss his plan to get Panther Funds to be used at a higher speed at off- campus restaurants. They are looking to create an incentive program so that companies update to high- speed internet to work more efficiently than they have in the past. He then discussed the new storage system in the O’Hara Student Center, which will be available in the next week for student organizations to apply for use. There will be smaller lockers coming out, which student groups can rent along with the larger storage spaces for the entire year at no cost. He is currently waiting for an approval e-mail before the applications go out. Board member Murdoch also acknowledged Tom Visco from WPTS for holding interviews with some of the Board members over this past week. He encouraged students to check out WPTS and their website to learn more about the Board and the projects they are working on.

**\*President Landreneau stated at this time that Board member Armstrong was now present at the meeting.**

1. **Natalie Rothenberger**

Board member Rothenberger encouraged any freshmen in attendance to come and talk to any of the Board members after the meeting about getting involved with SGB. She brought attention to the Students Events Calendar link that is now available on the my.pitt.edu portal, which was one of the initiatives that went through last spring.

She also reported that she and Board member McGrath are going to continue to look into new areas on campus for alternative advertising. They are currently looking at both the inside and outside of Posvar Hall. They plan to host a meeting and advertising group for this. She encouraged any students who are interested in coming and sharing their ideas to attend the meeting. They will hold it on Wednesday, September 12th at 8:45 pm in the SGB office, room 848 of the William Pitt Union.

She reported that she also hopes to work with the Transportation and Safety Committee to redevelop the Safe Walker program, which will be an initiative to increase the safety options and paths in South Oakland.

Board member Rothenberger also reported that there is now self- service printing in the William Pitt Union, which was accomplished by the Student Technology Feedback Committee. The committee will be holding their next meeting on September 21st, so she encouraged anyone with concerns or ideas about technology on campus to let her know so she can convey those thoughts to the committee or to CSSD.

She also reiterated that the Food Committee will be having their first meeting next Friday, September 14th at 1:00 pm. (The location is yet to be determined)

1. **Zoe Samudzi**

Board member Samudzi welcomed everyone back to Pitt and mentioned that she is working on reestablishing relationships from last semester. She reported that she and Academic Affairs chair Stavrakos will be meeting with the Academic Calendar committee next week to propose installing academic reading days before finals week. She also reported that she will be communicating with humanitarian advocacy groups in order to create a networking group. She also encouraged anyone who is interested in joining a committee to join the Academic Affairs committee.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **ALLOCATIONS**

Committee chair Mike Nites introduced Kate Malekoff as the new Allocations committee member. He also added that before the Allocations process goes online he will be submitting new Allocations forms, which include the new Allocations policy, in order to make the process clearer. He also stated that there will be an Allocations 101 meeting at the end of September.

1. **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Academic Affair chair Stavrakos welcomed everyone back and explained what this committee is trying to accomplish this semester. He stated that they will be working on extending hours at Hillman Library, getting syllabi’s attached to course descriptions online for students to look over before choosing their classes, and activating a study group program online where students can search for peers to study with.

1. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Community Outreach chair Mallampalli welcomed the students back to Pitt. She explained the responsibilities of the Community Outreach committee. The first responsibility is to work with Oakland Planning and Development to address the problems that students who live off campus have with the residents in South Oakland in order to create more of a community environment. The second responsibility is that they are in charge of organizing *Pitt Make a Difference Day*, or PMADD. She encouraged anyone interested in joining her committee or who wishes to help organize PMADD to talk to her after the meeting.

1. **ELECTIONS**

Elections chair Brown reported that they hosted SGBingo during Freshmen Orientation and that they had a turnout of over four hundred students. She also reported they spent the summer revising the elections code. She is also looking for people to fill a few positions on the Elections committee and anyone who is interested should talk to her after meeting or email her at sgb.elections@gmail.com.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Committee chair Meyer reminded the group that the Environmental committee meetings will be held on Wednesday’s at 6:00 p.m. in the SGB conference room. If anyone is interested in joining the committee and cannot make it to the meetings they can email her at sgbenvironment@gmail.com. She also reported that the Green Fund Advisory board, which is subcommittee of the Environmental committee, is having information sessions on Wednesday, September 5th at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 8th at 4:00 p.m. The subcommittee is a group of students that takes ideas for sustainable projects from students and has money allocated to them to make their ideas come to fruition.

1. **GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Committee chair Beecher welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the Governmental Relations committee works to bridge the gap between elected officials and the students at Pitt. He explained that during the spring semester they work at Pitt Day in Harrisburg to help inform elected officials about the value of education at our University, and during the fall they bring the electoral process to students to increase voter registration and voter turnout. The committee meets every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in room 848 of the William Pitt Union. If anyone is interested in joining this committee please see him after the meeting.

1. **JUDICIAL**

Committee chair Crawford reiterated what Elections chair Brown said concerning SGBingo that was held during Freshmen Orientation. She has been gathering information for a referendum that was not passed last year, but that she hopes will be passed this year. The referendum will change the SGB Elections Code so that will be able to vote for eight Board members instead of the current five.

1. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Committee chair Held encouraged students to join her committee, and that meetings are every Monday at 9:00 p.m.

1. **TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY**

Committee chair White thanked Donna Mahlick for serving the board faithfully for many years. He reminded students that the Transportation and Safety committee deals with issues relating to both transportation and safety. He also discussed the budget cuts to Port Authority. The 35% cut that they were expected to receive has been delayed another year, at the same time Pitt has also renewed their contract with the Port Authority for everyone with a valid Pitt ID.

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

**#7172 Club Tennis Team - $1,021.36**

Allocations recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7173 Engineers for a Sustainable World - $2,694.80**

Allocations recommendation was to approve $1,965.60 and to deny $729.20.

The motion was seconded.

The motion did not carry.

The Board recommendation was to approve $2,153.60 and to deny $541.20.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7178 Club Tennis Team - $656.94**

Allocations recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion did not carry.

The Board recommendation was to approve $600.00 and to deny $56.94.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7179 Pitt Rowing - $7,425.00**

Allocations recommendation was to approve $2,970.00 and to deny $4,455.00.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7181 Parliamentary Debate - $518.00**

Allocations recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7182 Parliamentary Debate - $752.86**

Allocations recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7184 Parliamentary Debate - $518.00**

Allocations recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7185 Parliamentary Debate - $548.36**

Allocations recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7190 Biomedical Engineering Society - $2,136.60**

Allocations recommendation was to approve $1,968.90 and to deny $167.70.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

1. **Other New Business**

A motion was made to approve Kate Malekoff as allocations committee member.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was carried.

Elections code changes were discussed see the attachment for details.

1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

1. **OPEN FLOOR**

Community Outreach Chair Mallampalli encouraged everyone to sign up for PMADD.

Trisha, the president of Rainbow Alliance, invited everyone to their meeting this week where they will be discussing stereotypes. It will be held in room 548 William Pitt Union, Thursday, September 13th at 8:45 p.m.

Board Member Murdoch, who is co-chair for Pitt Dance Marathon, stated that there will be an information session held on Wednesday September 12 at 9:00 p.m. in room 120 of David Lawrence.

Kate Malekoff informed everyone that this year is the University’s 225 anniversary and that the 225 Committee, which she serves on, is trying to raise $10,000 to donate a gift to the University from the student body. If anyone is interested in donating please see Kate or Academic Affairs chair Stavrakos.

Governmental Relations chair Beecher reminded everyone to register to vote if the haven’t already so they can go out and vote in the upcoming election. He also encouraged any student interested in Greek Life to look into it.

Tom, of WPST and editor-in-chief of the Pitt Political Review, thanked all of the board members for participating in interviews. He stated that they will be available online at the WPTS website and he encouraged SGB to use them in any way they may help. He also encouraged anyone interested in joining the Pitt Political Review to contact him.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

President Landreneau wished everyone a great week.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

 The motion was seconded.

 The motion carried.

 The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

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