

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

### MINUTES

Thursday, April 9, 2009

7:00 p.m. – Black & Gold Room

<u>Majority</u>	
Simple:	14
2/3:	18

### SGA General Election Results Press Conference will precede the Senate Meeting

Election results were announced.

See senate Bill 09/S/122 for ratification of results.

I. Call to Order

VP Engel calls to order at 7:15pm.

II. Roll Call

Admin. Asst. Shellnut calls roll.

III. Guest Speakers

IV. Executive Reports

a. President (Tyler Hughes)

Congratulations to all re-elected senators. Was out of the office Monday. Went to faculty senate meeting on Tuesday. Discussed mobile-computing in the classroom. Some of the teachers feel there are distractions in the classrooms caused by laptops and some feel fine banning them. It was stressed that students are not trying to dictate what the teacher can or cannot do in the classroom. We're not telling them to change their teaching methods. Made it clear that it was okay to police students' computers in the classroom if students are messing around. Nothing formal came out of the meeting. It was a healthy discussion between faculty, Pres. Hughes, Kent Steward, and Jeff Burnett. We had another discussion about mobile-computing and laptops in the classroom today, a summit. It was the ITPAC committee and some administrators that discussed changes to be made to the current policy for laptops on campus, in the classroom, how they're being used, if they're being used, and the student's opinion. The policy is being reviewed and no formal changes are currently being made. Once confirmation comes from higher powers, Pres. Hughes will inform students.

b. Vice President (Cole Engel)

Friday, VP Engel participated in Greek Week activities as a judge for the sponge ball tournament. Saturday participated in the Greek Week awards reception and dance later in the evening. Sunday, participated in the Outstanding Tigers ceremony which was held to recognize outstanding tigers for their volunteer work with Tigers in Service. Had a dean search committee meeting for the College of Business on Tuesday. Reference checks have been completed and will be inviting 3 candidates to campus soon. Participated in SGA elections on Wednesday and followed up with glitches that occurred. Participated in a panel discussion regarding the youth vote. SGA elections were held all day and the Elections committee meeting on Thursday. Attended the summit meeting with Pres. Hughes.

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- c. Executive Assistant (Luke Hachmeister)  
The week was dominated by SGA elections and the Navigator Award. Took photographs of most of the candidates. Sent out the final notice for the Navigator Award, if you are a senior, the deadline is Friday, 4/10.
- d. Treasurer (Robyn Sellard)  
Received receipts from organizations that were recently funded and have returned from their trips and began processing those with the business office. Delta Tau Alpha President, Mallory Saathoff sent an e-mail to SGA after their trip thanking SGA for funding for their national convention trip.
- e. Administrative Assistant (Ashley Shellnut)  
Updated the previous minutes, attended the Elections Committee meeting before the meeting, and served her office hours.
- f. Legislative Affairs Director (Corey Anglemyer)  
The Bookstore Contract Committee received all of their bids in and spent time going over the four documents, reviewing those, and will send questions and feedback to the companies. Will get feedback from the companies and make a final decision before the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Elections dominated a big part of his week, voted in the local elections on Tuesday and helped run the elections booth in the Memorial Union. Counsel of Preparation of Teachers and School Personnel meeting was cancelled due to conflicts with the leader of the committee but did vote to move more students in the teaching program. The Topeka lobbying date is Tuesday, April 28 thru Wednesday, April 29. Will leave at 5pm on Tuesday and return around 6pm on Wednesday. Need to know by Monday, 4/13 who would like to go on the trip. Bring a friend with you. All senators elect are encouraged to come.
- g. Webmaster/Historian (Doug Mercer)  
Updated legislation and served office hours.

### V. Committee Reports

- a. Appropriations (Sen. Stramel)  
Had one hearing from the National Broadcasting Society for a speaker/event and discussed the equipment audit progress.
- b. Senate Affairs (Sen. Winter)  
Planned the next senate social at Judges. Be prepared to sing karaoke.
- c. Student Affairs (Sen. Smriga)  
Had an interview with Carol Hackerott and reviewed possible conflicts with international students in residential life.
- d. Legislative & Political Action (Sen. Engel)  
Did not meet, the chair was part of the Elections Committee.

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### VI. Open Forum

Sen. Stegmaier: You mentioned the new bookstore; does that mean Barnes & Noble is leaving?

LD Anglemyer: If there is a new bookstore then July 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline. We have not made any decisions yet. Sorry if I mislead you.

Sen. Ladd: Why didn't we have write-in ability for the SGA election?

Pres. Hughes: This is something we discussed as a staff and with our advisors. There was no public write-in candidacy which would have warranted a write-in box. In the past, since we put the elections online, we have never had more than five votes for a single person, which would make a legitimate candidate. We also feel that as college students, we should be responsible enough that if we want to run for office and feel like we should be elected, we should turn in our intent-to-run form on time.

Sen. Winter: Is there was a reason we haven't taken that out of the constitution? In the constitution on page 22, it states that there is write-in availability.

Pres. Hughes: Some revisions need to be made to the elections part of the constitution. If you read it, it still talks about ballot booths in the Union that run from 8am - 4pm. We run from 10am - 2pm now with laptops. Even if we had allowed for write-in candidacies, this semester, I severely think that we would have had a person with either the 5 votes or enough for a legitimate campaign.

Sen. Stegmaier: If you're talking about legitimate tickets, isn't the basis of democracy to give everyone a voice? So by not having the write-ins you're taking away the student's voices away, if they want to vote for candidates that weren't on the ticket.

Pres. Hughes: Who would they have written in?

Sen. Stegmaier: I'm not saying they would have but shouldn't we have given them the option?

Pres. Hughes: I'm saying that if we would have had a public campaign, one that was in the lime-light, if someone was campaigning for a write-in candidacy, which is not unheard of, and then we would have had the ballots available. We did not have that. I guarantee that if people wanted to write in a candidate for fun, like Scrooge McDuck, you could have done that. It wouldn't be taken seriously and we wouldn't have had a candidate receive enough votes to even be considered a legitimate candidate for President.

Sen. Stegmaier: But don't you think you're taking the voice away of any student or just one student?

Pres. Hughes: They had a chance, six days before the election to turn in an intent-to-run form. As a college student, if you want to hold this office, and think you can legitimately hold

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this office, you should be responsible enough to turn it in less than a week before the actual election.

Sen. Stegmaier: On that argument alone, what about local, state, and federal elections? They're allowed to have write-ins as well.

Pres. Hughes: I use those as a no choice option and we didn't have any legitimate write-ins. When is the last time we had a write-in candidate win an election in the city of Hays?

Sen. Stegmaier: I'm not saying we have a legitimate candidate. We're here to represent every student at FHSU. I'm saying you take that one student and taking away their voice, if they did want to. I'm not saying they have a legitimate ticket or not but it is in our constitution and you are taking their voice away. That's the point I'm trying to make.

Pres. Hughes: It's about opportunity. Everybody had the opportunity to turn in their intent-to-run form. Their voice could be heard by turning in their intent to run form. It's not like there's a huge gap between the due date and the election itself. If you want to be taken seriously, turn in your intent-to-run form. I think that needs to be stricken from the constitution.

Sen. Stegmaier: So you're saying that just because as a staff you guys didn't feel like following the constitution that's okay?

Pres. Hughes: Given the context of the race and the fact that there are corrections that need to be made to the constitution that have not been made since it has been online, this staff, specifically VP Engel and I made the correct decision, in my opinion.

Sen. Leer: The basis for a write-in on a ballot is typically when the election is requiring you to get signatures or go through some other means to get your name on the ballot. I don't see where that is implacable with this because all you merely have to do is just sign your name to a piece of paper and turn it in. I think that I would have to agree with Pres. Hughes that we need to strike that because it's irrelevant with the type of elections we have.

Sen. Engel: I'm looking at this line in the constitution and maybe it does need to be removed or maybe not. I think this is silly that we are arguing about write-in candidates here when we can barely get 500 people to vote in our elections. Did anybody ask to write-in a candidate?

Sen. Ladd: I asked where do I write-in a candidate.

Sen. Engel: Who were you going write in?

Sen. Ladd: Does it matter who if it's available?

Sen. Engel: What are you trying to prove by writing in a candidate?

Sen. Ladd: I was going to write in somebody for a senate position, not for the presidency because I knew what that election was going to be.

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Sen. Engel: Is that your legitimate reason for sitting here and having a stink about not having a write-in box, only one vote for one person?

Sen. Ladd: All it takes is 5 votes. If we have open seats and all it takes is five people, just five of your friends to write in your name and make you a senator, why can't that be available?

Sen. Engel: If they wanted to be a senator why didn't they put their name in to run?

Sen. Ladd: Maybe they didn't realize it or maybe they actually have a life, work, and they're an online student.

Sen. Engel: If they want to be a senator, I would suggest that they turn in an application to run.

VP Engel: I'm going to continue the speaking order and ask the senators to remain respectful to each other as we finish out this discussion.

Sen. Hertel: Technically if it is in the constitution shouldn't we have a write-in on the ballot? If we don't want a write-in on the ballot shouldn't we take it out of the constitution before we put it into effect?

Pres. Hughes: Given the urgency with which we met this election and depending on how strictly you would like to interpret the constitution, I would say that it needs to be stricken. There just isn't a need. Technical changes to the constitution are made all of the time. There's no precedence for a write-in candidate and there's no context for a write-in candidacy. It was an unnecessary use of man power.

Sen. Winter: My whole thought and process behind all of this was that I understand that it may not be popular but the option should be available. If maybe we could add a type in link to our voting and allow somebody to write it in whether it comes out with five votes or they win the seat or not, I think someone should be allowed the opportunity to write in a vote. I understand the premise that they should turn in an intent-to-run form; I agree. If you are that dead set on being a senator then you should have your stuff together and turn in a form. There are also people who didn't understand what was going on or lost track of time and missed the deadline. Should they still have the opportunity to have write-in votes? If we could add that link to the voting, they would still have that opportunity and the voting would happen just like it has in the past. That was my thought behind it.

VP Engel: I will follow up with concern from a technical perspective. We have been working with the computing and telecommunications center for three years now updating and evaluating the online election's system. As of now, write-in candidacy is not technically possible on the CTC Elections Channel. There has been a lot of discussion with whether or not we could push the Elections Channel out to everybody's layout so they wouldn't have to go through the steps of adding the channel. Those two requests were made and at this time are not technically feasible for the CTC. If there was going to be a write-in candidacy it would have to be done via paper ballot.

My perspective on this, as the chairman of the senate, I would hope that if there was a concern to whether there was or was not a write-in option on this year's election that the

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concern would have been brought to me. I realize it was brought to an executive staff member. If there was a concern regarding that option, I would hope that either a member of the student body at large would have come to another member of the executive staff if they didn't get the satisfaction of the one they spoke to or the chair of the senate to figure out a way to resolve this. I worked the booth for a couple of hours but this is the first that I have heard about any student wanting to submit a write-in candidacy. If that concern would have been brought to us, if students at large would have come to us and said that the constitution allows me to do a write-in candidate, if we would have had that concern, then we would have addressed it instantly. To be honest with you, this is the first time this evening that I have heard that the write-in candidacy was a concern. It is water under the bridge, but in the future next year's Senate Affairs committee will address the constitutionality of it. If they plan on continuing the write-in candidacy then they need to do so and have procedures for it. The procedures that are in place no longer align with the way elections are currently being held electronically.

Sen. Purdy: I have a question for Pres. Hughes about the summit. What is your status? Are guys coming to a decision on what you're going to do? What have the discussions been like?

Pres. Hughes: The policy is currently under review. Changes may or may not occur in the future depending on what the campus administration decides. Larry Gould was there. He chaired the summit. Once we receive word from the top then we will have a clear picture of where it is headed. Right now I would like to give you an answer but it subject to change. So I don't want to say something that is going to change a week later.

### VII. New Business

### VIII. Old Business

- a. Second Reading of Bill 09/S/120: Rodeo Club Equipment Fund  
Sen. Purdy motions to discuss this bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sen. Stramel.

Travis Camac: I'm a member of the Rodeo Club. We are requesting equipment funds for box pads, horn wraps, a container for the horn wraps, and also some barrier string. Those are basic items that we use every day and they do eventually wear out. The ones that we did have are completely shot. The horn wraps are protective devices for the cattle. The ones we have are very worn out and pretty outdated. They don't give as much protection to the animals as we would like. We feel like it is something that needs to be replaced. The box pads are another protective device for the horses, when they are leaving the box so they don't bang their legs into the back of the box where it's hard metal. It could crack or break bones. The barrier string is used to tie the barrier. The barrier gives the animal a head start. It's just like basic string.

Sen. Purdy: Is this going to be used for the rest of this year?

Camac: The horn wraps and the box pads should last 5-7 years. The barrier strings, we probably won't use all of it this year but maybe by the end of next year. It's just a spool of string.

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Sen. Purdy: I thought for some reason we did that in allocations bill. Sorry.

Sen. Stegmaier moves to a direct vote.

Bill Passes.

Y=27 N=0 A=0

b. Second Reading of Bill 09/S/121: Marketing & Management Club Appropriations

Sen. Ladd motions to consider this bill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sen. Purdy.

Luke Haase: I'm the President of the Marketing & Management Club.

Jessica Tormey: Another student and I will be traveling to Anaheim, California to compete the in Delta Epsilon Kai International Career Development Conference. It's a conference with students from all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, and Germany. We will be competing in an advertising campaign that we developed for Thirsty's and we will also be participating Leadership Development classes. It's a really great opportunity for students who are hoping to bring back a lot of information to Hays.

Sen. Purdy: How many people are part of your club?

Tormey: We have approximately 12-15 members and two of us will be attending the conference.

Sen. Purdy: You said there was a competition, how did you guys decide who was going to go?

Tormey: Every student was able to go to the competition but due to conflicts and personal choice only two students actually decided to do a project and take it to the conference.

Sen. Purdy moves to a direct vote.

Bill Passes.

Y=24 N=0 A=3

### IX. Announcements

a. Navigator Award Nominations DUE Friday, 4/10

b. Student Organizations Awards Banquet – Wednesday, 4/29 @ 6 pm – Fort Hays Ballroom, MU

(tickets are on sale now in the Student Service Center until 4/22 – \$6.00, full meal served)

c. National Youth Service Day, Big Creek Cleanup – Saturday, 4/25 @ 3 pm – 6 pm, BBQ @ 6 pm

(SGA is sponsoring this event, please plan to attend if you can)

d. SGA Senate Social -- Friday, 5/1

e. Thanks to all participants and helpers of the Walk Away 5k Saturday, 4/04. There were 103 participants and over \$1,000 was raised for the Northwest Kansas Sexual Violence

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Services.

- X. Adjourn  
Sen. Purdy moves to adjourn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sen. Kohman at 7:45pm.