

Student Government Association

Hughes/Engel

MINUTES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Black & Gold Room

Majority

Simple: 15

2/3: 20

I. Call to Order

VP Engel calls to order, 7:03p.m.

II. Roll Call

Adm. Asst. Shellnut

III. Guest Speakers

IV. Executive Reports

a. President (Tyler Hughes)

Pres. Hughes had the 2nd meeting of the election night in the library. We're taking the smart study rooms from 8-12 to get people political games. I'm asking senators and staff to volunteer time. Mon., Tues, Wed, the ADP is holding...They would like the SGA to help man the voting booths from 8a.m. – 1p.m. and it will count as office hours.

b. Vice President (Cole Engel)

VP Engel was out of the office for a graduate teaching symposium most of the week. SGA did present a budgetary seminar on Tuesday 09/30. The 2nd Budgetary Seminar will be the last Tuesday of October. The Memorial Union has changed its hours and will close at 10p.m. every night of the week. FHSU will now be able to hold events in the Union after hours with no charge. The 50th anniversary will be celebrated on Friday Oct. 17.

c. Executive Assistant (Luke Hachmeister)

Executive Assistant Hachmeister had a uneventful week serving office hours and updating previous minutes.

d. Treasurer (Robyn Sellard)

Treasurer Sellard served her office hours and sent reminder e-mails to groups for meetings. She reconciled the treasurer's report. There was one major expense for the annual copy room expense.

e. Administrative Assistant (Ashley Shellnut)

This past week Administrative Assistant Shellnut attended a National Society of Collegiate Scholars induction ceremony, updated previous minutes, and served her office hours.

f. Legislative Affairs Director (Corey Anglemyer)

LD Anglemyer served his hours and continued to contact candidates for the Public Forums.

g. Webmaster/Historian (Doug Mercer)

Webmaster Mercer served his office hours and continued updating the website.

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V. Committee Reports

a. Appropriations (Sen. Stramel)

We have the 2nd reading for Block & Bridle equipment fund tonight and we heard request from Tiger Claws and the Finance Club in committee; watch for meeting times for next week.

b. Senate Affairs (Sen. Winter)

Senate Affairs will continue ideas and discussion on the senate social.

c. Student Affairs (Sen. Smriga)

Student Affairs was wrapping up discussion on the Wellness Center. They had an open discussion for the things to address for the semester and upcoming year.

d. Legislative & Political Action (Sen. Engel)

Pres. Hammond came and talked to LPAC about the athletic fee increase proposal and they will meet at 6:30pm next week.

VI. Open Forum

Pres. Hughes: How effective do you think the votes are for you for evaluating teachers? Do you think it is an effective way to evaluate a professor in the classroom?

Sen. Ladd: Do the comments do anything?

Pres. Hughes: Those comments stay with the professor. They sometimes go to the dean and the chairs but as far as I'm aware, they stay with the teacher. The current plan is to keep them with the professor and then they have the option to give the comments to the chair or dean.

LD Anglemyer: The 1st semester it's hard to remember to sit down and do the teacher evaluations right then and there. Anytime someone finishes the teacher evaluation the names of the students are sent to the professor and sometimes with smaller classes the names of the students grading the professor are not as anonymous.

Sen. Leer: Is the checklist sent on to the chair?

Pres. Hughes: The comments the chair or the dean see are negative if few people answer the teacher evaluations. If one comment then it is hard to evaluate. There will be stats sent on such as mean, etc.

Sen. Smriga: I've never taken the same class with the same teacher. It also reflects on the teacher on how willing they are to make changes. I have a real hard time caring about the general questions of the evaluation. People get bored and don't want to do the evaluation.

Sen. Miller: If the students write something in the comment area then they want someone to hear the comments. If there are only 1 or 2 comments then that's okay. But if there are a lot of comments then the comments should be sent to the chair.

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Pres. Hughes: I agree. The idea is that it will come through in the statistical part of the evaluation. The questions are a little more direct and a little easier to answer. One option not all students are aware of is there is that one professor who isn't a good experience for a lot of students. If you're taking a course and have a problem with the professor then go to the chair.

Sen. Purdy: Students don't like to go to the chair. It would be nice if the comments go to the chair directly. It is worth their time if they have a complaint.

Sen. Smriga: Some schools have sites that grade their teachers. In the evaluation process, the students don't get to see the results.

Sen. Leyerzapf: The professor might be too modest to go to a chair. Without having info passed onto a chair the opportunity may not be addressed.

Sen. Ladd: Do the comments go on past the chair?

Jeff Burnett: As an HHP professor and a member sitting on committees, I can answer some of your questions. All the comments go on to the dean. All comments are there for students to see. It's a tremendous discussion. We've been thinking about putting the evaluation at midterm. Even though you've had bad experiences, the professor would like to know what they are doing wrong. A majority of the faculty know that we are here to serve you, the students.

Pres. Hughes: I don't think modesty is an issue. If you hold back then you would probably miss out on pay increases. If you submit one comment then you should submit all comments. I didn't understand why the negative comments didn't get sent to the chair. It comes back to merits. The fact that the concern of not send comments on, the professor misses out on the merit points. We just want the best educational experience we can get. We need those comments to help. They do want to enhance their own educational experience. That's something we're working with and will bring up with faculty senate.

Sen. Leyerzapf: If money is a factor in comments being made, how much of an issue is it? Do professors start holding comments back because they won't get a pay increase?

Pres. Hughes: That's not the only basis. Part of it is statistics. Depending on the amount of students participating in the comments that section counts too. It's a three part evaluation.

Sen. Smriga: I think a 10 point scale might be better than a 5 point scale.

Pres. Hughes: From a statistical point of view, a 10 point scale is too much. That's the point of having more than one schedule. The questions have a range of academic good and bad points.

Sen. Purdy: Dr Burnett, you said all the comments are on file? Are there any situations where you do look at previous comments?

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Burnett: I don't know that for sure. But I do know that it is there for you to look at. It is taken very seriously for merits and 10 year. Every comment and every statistical analysis is looked over one by one and if there is an issue of being adequate or inadequate then that is taken care of. The faculty will be dismissed with 10 year or not. If you write something positive or negative, it does make a difference. Maybe after time but it does take time. The comments are open for everyone to see though.

Sen. Thompson: Could we do a 5 point scale for the more specific questions and have one 10 point scale for an overall opinion? How do they, in specific areas of teaching, evaluate on a 5 point scale and then a 10 point scale as an average?

Pres. Hughes: Departments and classes have average point scales. I don't know how effective that would be. I personally don't see how the 10 point scale would work.

Sen. Thompson: Is there anyway to make them accessible online?

Sen. Hertel: If the teachers would keep the bad comments and give out the good comments. How would the teachers be able to keep only some of the evaluations?

Pres. Hughes: The new teacher evaluation would be online. The process is larger than I make it sound. It is a very expensive process. Also, each individual department does everything different.

Exec. Asst. Hachmeister: Is there any concern that the results might be more negative than the old system. The new one has people go online and fill it out. We've all have one bad experience and they might be more likely to go online if they had a bad experience.

Pres. Hughes: Students like going online after class with time for comments, instead of filling it out in class and being in a hurry to leave. That's how long the pilot comments go.

LD Anglemyer: The only problem with online is that the teacher evaluations are done at the end of the semester and it is very hard to get online and find the time during finals.

Pres. Hughes: I don't know if they just want a sample of 15% or 100%. I think it would be a more want of a 100% of students taking the evaluation.

Sen. Sexson: There is a fairly low turnout on the evaluations.

Pres. Hughes: The electronic surveys are low because of people not having time and I would hate that to affect the turnout on teacher evaluations too.

Sen. Stegmaier: How is the senate social going?

Sen. Winter: I don't have enough feedback to efficiently talk about it.

Sen. Zervas: If we're doing put-put then we might want to...I think we should come up with something and vote on it.

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Sen. Miller: I like karaoke a lot.

Sen. Kohman: I like karaoke and sometimes it's good to try something new.

Pres. Hughes: You don't have to sing and if you're at a bar with karaoke. You don't have to but you can.

Sen. Purdy: Smriga, what are some topics being talked about in Student Affairs?

Sen. Smriga: We're looking at crosswalks and issues beyond the annual safety walk. Some others include the grading scale, having a dead week before finals, American/Chinese students mingling in class, and looking at alcohol policies on campus. We're gabbing about ideas. We had the Wellness Center speaker last week.

Sen. Hansen: The Public Service Academy is something SGA could look into. I have a book for it. We're going to hopefully start talking about it. We're looking at options on what we can do with the Wellness Center as well.

Sen. Ladd: Have you looked on the bailout on how it's going to affect students?

LD Anglemyer: We have not looked at how it will affect students.

Sen. Leyerzapf: The smoking policy is being discussed in Student Affairs. They wanted to know about the 50 ft radius from doors and why it's not being enforced.

Sen. Miller: What are the policies on athletes in the Wellness Center?

Burnett: This is an issue that is becoming less and less. It can be a complaint. I explained it to SGA. The athletes can use the Wellness Center unless they are using it to complete an athletic workout or wearing athletic gear. What we've had happen is where athletes are making up a workout or doing a workout and they are immediately asked to leave the premise. I go to their coach and their athletic director to inform them. It does happen but it is immediately taken care of.

Sen. Miller: Would it be if one of our kids does go to workout but to workout on their own. Can they go in there without their athletic gear?

Burnett: They can't represent their team when they go into the Wellness Center or go in with a partner. It's for the students first. Athletics have been very supportive of this.

Treasurer Sellard: Are all coaches aware of this?

Burnett: They should be aware of it. The ones that are not aware of this, I directly take care of it. Let me know and I will take care of it personally.

Sen. Smriga: If you didn't know, there is a packet in the office with questions and answers for the Wellness Center.

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Pres. Hughes: It's supposed to be 30ft from a state building.

Sen. Leyerzapf:

Pres. Hughes: We're sending mixed signals with the ashtrays by the doors. Once we get the ashtrays taken away then we need to make the disposals away from the door so they're not throwing the butts by the door.

Sen. Attig: There would have to be an ashtray in the quad to get that enforced.

Pres. Hughes: It might be difficult but it can be enforced.

Sen. Thompson: When I walk by the door I choke. We do need to look into that.

Sen. Hertel: At McMIndes, there are signs with 30ft restrictions. Can we get more signs around campus?

VP Engel: We were informed the policy had no smoking entrances. The policy is supposed to be enforced by UPD. The signage has been ordered and will be here. We can't move the ashtrays if there are not signs posted. It's up to UPD to make sure its enforced.

Sen. Stegmaier: What discussions are in LPAC about the athletic fee proposal?

Sen. Engel: LPAC discussed what it is for. We made clear that it is not for soccer but mainly increasing transportation costs and sports medicine.

Sen. Winter: Can you give me the reason we put the Facebook link on our senate profiles?

VP Engel: If the senate apposes it then it can be removed. Do you have anything on your profile that they don't want them to see? It's for constituents that would like to see what you do outside of SGA.

Sen. Zervas: I have mixed feelings about it. I don't know them well but my Facebook page is between me and my friends. I don't want it to be shown to other people.

Pres. Hughes: The link is an easy way to do a search. It doesn't grant them access to your full profile if a constituent does a search of you. All of your constituency has the option to do that. It will perform a Facebook lockdown on you. It does make it easier and have a quicker link to you. It doesn't provide that if you didn't open that security feature.

Sen. Leer: I would suggest that all senators open up their profile to the constituency. This is an avenue for them to see who we are. It's very valuable and important for them to see that.

Sen. Purdy: I thought about it and you can take the picture off that so they can't see you. They can send a message directly instead of contacting SGA.

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Sen. Hansen: I think it's a good idea since Facebook is a big way to communicate to other college students. I just was surprised that it was there. It bothers me that I was not informed but I think it's a good idea.

Pres. Hughes: I think you check your Facebook 10 times more than you do your e-mail a day. The underline thing is that there is no right to privacy on Facebook. My entire faculty is on Facebook. Administrators, lawyers, and everyone is on Facebook. Regardless if we put the link on there the constituents could go see it anyways. We could have been made it more vocal though.

Sen. Hansen: They can just go to Facebook and look me up but I think that if I'm associated with an organization then I have the right to know the link is there. My student faculty and all of my friends are on my profile but I just want to know the link is there. I do understand that they can go and easily go look at that. It's nice to know. I appreciate being vocal about it now.

Sen. Purdy: I don't know if you have tried looking at your Facebook account. If you look at the fine print, they keep everything on your profile; you can always get it back even after you delete it. I don't know their privacy issues completely.

Sen. Smriga: UAB is talking about Facebook/Myspace next Sunday for one of their workshops.

Sen. Sexson: You can write it in a request that you can delete the profile.

Pres. Hughes: If you want to have it removed then come to myself or Webmaster Mercer and they can have it removed.

VII. New Business

VIII. Old Business

a. Second Reading of Bill 08/F/103: Student/Faculty Court Ratification

Emily Graf: I'm a political science major and I want to have a say what goes on at FHSU.

Lee Witt: I'm a senior majoring in graphic design. I like having an impact on SGA and being in involved on campus.

Randy Flowers is a sophomore and a Pre-Med major. He would like to be more involved with student events on campus and thinks this would be a great way to represent the better interests of the students.

Amy Piper is a sophomore and a Political Science major. She wants to become more familiar with the appeal's process and thinks it's a great way to become more involved with campus happenings.

Sen. Purdy: Could you go over what student faculty does?

Pres. Hughes: It is an appeals court. If you have appeals academically, you seem them.

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Sen. Leer moves to pass by unanimous consent 2nd by Sen. Smriga. There is 1 objection for unanimous consent and we are back on discussion of the bill.

Sen. Ladd: Is there any concern with having two of them promoting the same department?

Sen. Purdy: I don't think it is a problem.

Sen. Purdy moves to pass the bill, there are no objections, and the bill passes.

b. Second Reading of Bill 08/F/104: Executive Review Committee Ratification

Sen. Ladd moves for a direct vote 2nd by Sen. . We are now on direct vote of this bill, no objections, and the bill passes.

c. Second Reading of Bill 08/F/105: Block & Bridle Equipment Fund

Bridge Brown: I am the treasurer of Block & Bridle. We need better equip to better our club that will also benefit the members by having good equipment.

Sen. Purdy: Can you tell us a little more of what activities and community service your club participates in?

Bridge Brown: We put on the Little International Livestock Show annually, this year it is Saturday November 1. You can show animals even if you don't have any prior experience. We do an agriculture awareness program for elementary and middle schools that create awareness of a farm. We also host various contests for FFA.

Sen. Leyerzapf: I used to be a member of Block & Bridle and I know the equipment wares out and needs to be replaced every year.

Sen. Engel moves for a direct vote, there are no objections, and the bill passes.

d. Second Reading of Resolution 08/F/100: Support for United Way of Ellis County

Sen. Leer moves to pass the bill by unanimous consent 2nd by Sen. Zerfas.

Sen. Leer makes a motion to re-vote on Bill 08/F/104

VP Engel: If we want to re-vote we can. It's been moved by Sen. Leer to reconsider the bill 2nd by Sen. Purdy. Is there any discussion? There is 1 objection.

Sen. Stegmaier: What is your reasoning for re-voting on the bill?

Sen. Leer: Senators that are directly benefiting from this bill should abstain from voting on the bill, as stated in the constitution. If the bill is directly benefiting them the senators should abstain from the vote. With these senators being appointed to it, serving on the senate, procedurally they need to abstain.

Sen. Dechant: I agree that they are voting themselves into office and they need to abstain.

VP Engel: On revote of this bill, all in favor raise your right hand, all those apposed, one noted, and the motion for a re-vote fails.

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IX. Announcements

- a. Town Hall Meeting regarding Hays Sports Complex, Tuesday 10/7 @ 7:00 p.m. in Gross Memorial Coliseum (Press Release will be sent via e-mail)
- b. Jim Slattery, candidate for U.S. Senate, will be in the SGA Office Thursday 10/9 @ 10:00 a.m. for an hour to visit with FHSU students – all students are welcome
- c. Damn Yankees, Tony Award Winning Musical, presented by FHSU Theatre, Felten-Start Theatre (Malloy Hall) 10/10 & 10/11 @ 7:30 p.m.; 10/12 @ 2:30 p.m.
- d. The Golden Dragon Acrobats will be performing in the Beach/Schmidt Hall Monday 10/06 @7:30p.m., as part of the Encore Series.
- e. The closing reception of the Iron Tribe 2008 Exhibition is Friday 10/3 @ 7-9p.m. in RH 102.
- f. Sat. at 6pm will close off the street for
- g. Blood Drive on Wednesday and Thursday 10/8 and 10/9 in the Memorial Union Ballroom.
- h. Tiger Volleyball 10/2 & 10/3 all day FHSU v. Washburn and Tiger Football 10/3 FHSU v. Missouri Western.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Sen. Purdy and 2nd by Sen. Munson.