



# WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE

Student Government Association Senate  
Westminster Choir College of Rider University

April 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes

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I. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Buckely, Thomas Present  
Fildes, Elizabeth Present  
Friars, Anna Present  
Garrick, Daniel Present  
Giovetsis, Joellyn Present  
Goff, Derrick Present  
Halbstein, Daniel Present  
Koblentz, Lilli Present  
Kohler, Kristian, Present  
Lakeland, Jonathan Present  
Layton, Catherine Present  
Reed, Shannon Present  
Sterling, James Present  
Sloan, Steven Tardy  
Stebich, Jordan Present  
Zubert, Michael Present  
Callahan, Danielle Present  
Lanseur, Mimi Present

3. Approval of Agenda:

Speaker Friars moved to strike the Speaker of the Senate report.

Seconded, Motion Carried.

Senator Lakeland moved to strike the Facilities Review Report.

Seconded, Motion Carried.

Senator Callahan moved to strike the President's report.

Seconded, Motion Carried.

Senator Giovetsis moved to amend the date to read April 13, 2010

Seconded, Motion Carried

Senator Garrick moved to Approve the Agenda.

Seconded, Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Senator Garrick moved to Approve the Minutes

Seconded, Motion Carried.

5. Reports:

Please consult Secretary for any/all reports.

6. Guest Speaker: Vice President Jamie O'Hara

Knows a fair amount of the students at Westminster.

Letters will be mailed to the home address which will make students aware of the tuition increase. This is a 4.9% tuition increase. This equates to a \$1,400 tuition increase. Identical increase to last year. It is always a challenge to determine tuition increase because the biggest challenge is providing the best academic environment and support services they



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need while still keeping the lights on and maintaining a safe environment. The challenge this year is what is happening at the state level. Rider University stands to lose \$2 million from operational funds. Governor Christie has proposed cuts to all private universities in New Jersey. That is pieces which are spent to ensure our \$178 million operating budget needs are met. There are some cuts which will happen to the TAG program. Those cuts will not impact the people in the room, but merely new candidates. It is more of a challenge for building future financial aid budgets on both campuses in the future. The TAG award can be very dramatic. The Award caps at \$11,800 for students, and the cap would be lowered to \$6,500 under the Governor's proposal. This challenge went into the University trying to address tuition increase. The University wanted to keep the increase as close to last year as possible. Vice President O'Hara has been in state meetings where colleagues are hoping for 6.5% or 7% tuition increases to continue operating. Everyone wants to make education as affordable as possible. The overall increase is 4.75%. \$41670. Financial Aid Budget was increased by 1.8 million dollars for this year.

Senator Garrick asked if there would be faculty cuts and Vice President O'Hara said no.

Senator Lansuer asked why classes were being cancelled, and Vice President O'Hara agreed for follow up. Vice President O'Hara reiterated that there are fears of scholarships being cut, and Vice President O'Hara assured students that the merit scholarships are not being cut.

Vice President O'Hara said that ADA compliance and summer improvements previously mentioned to the Princeton Senate by Vice President Karnz will still proceed. Vice President O'Hara assured the University's commitment to the Parking Lot and those funds are in the budget for this year. The Signage for the Campus will start to brand Westminster Choir College on it's perimeters. The Signage will be done in two phases, and will run about \$300,000. The first sign, a bench sign in front of Williamson (about \$120,000) will be like a sculpture, and what that means is we might not have to go to a planning board, and that might be able to move quicker. Vice President O'Hara expressed the desire to show the value of the two different brands for Westminster Choir College and Rider. The Bench Sign will be paid for out of Enrollment Management funds from Next Year. The Other signs (a Main Sign, a wayfinding sign at the main entrance, and a second sign in front of Seabrook), we have discussed next steps but no firm date has been set.

Senator Goff asked what a Bench Sign. Vice President O'Hara explained that it was a 30-40 inch.. Senator Goff asked for a discussion the difference between part-time and full-time aid. Vice President O'Hara explained that full time gets full aid, federal aid is at 6 credits, any less than that is no aid.

Speaker Friars asked about a fifth year, are there scholarships for students in the fifth year. Vice-President O'Hara said that goes through a process. It is something determined case-by-case with Elizabeth Sandy way before you embark.

The \$485 overload fee for Princeton credits instead of \$910 will remain in the continuing years.



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Vice President O'Hara spoke that the first online-exclusive degree will be offered soon. He assured students the dedication to personal education will continue. Out of state rate for Princeton is 60% and Lawrenceville's is 30%.

There is a \$200 per session rate to live on campus during the summer sessions.

The goal for an incoming freshmen class is 85. The goal is 80 freshmen and 5 transfers. Graduate we are concerned about due to being hit by the economy. There is a goal of 50, but there will be perhaps 45.

7. For the Good of the Order:

Senator Garrick asked for resolution to the parking problem.

Senator Stell spoke about a new oven being placed in Seabrook.

Senator Buckley asked for a new motorcycle being placed in D-Lot.

Senator Mattison gave a special comment on making the school's future as bright as you can possibly make it.

Senator Friars moved to adjourn.

Seconded, Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

WESTMINSTER  
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS



RIDER  
UNIVERSITY