

Student Government Association

Westminster Choir College of Rider University

Senate

29 January 2009

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m.

- II. Roll Call
 - a. Anthony Baron
 - b. Alex Benestelli
 - c. Mike Fili
 - d. Shani Foster – excused absent
 - e. Anna Friars – Chad Keilman proxy
 - f. Derrick Goff
 - g. Kristin Hagan
 - h. Dan Halbstein
 - i. Jim Hopkins
 - j. Shane Magargal
 - k. Samantha Scully
 - l. Julianne Zervopoulos
 - m. Dena Sweeney
 - n. Ted Bickish

- III. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Senator Baron moved to make the constitution as either the first part of the business or the last.
 - b. Senator Benestelli moved to make it a part of the reports for the evening.
 - c. Seconded

- d. The Ayes had it.
 - e. Is it so moved that the speak will have his report?
 - f. The ayes had it.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- a. Tabled till next week after Secretary Antoni will email them to the senate.
- V. Proposal of Senator(s)
- a. Dena Sweeney and Ted Bickish were proposed senators
 - b. Ms. Sweeney expressed desire to be a senator. She can contact the student body well, she can arrange for whatever the student body needs to be brought up in senate on their behalf, to motion in their favor and to propose change in that which the student body would like and see fit.
 - c. The floor was open to questioning the proposed senator.
 - d. Senator Binately (Benestelli) moved to close questioning.
 - e. Seconded.
 - f. The ayes had it.
 - g. Ted Bickish introduced himself as an organ performance major and a junior. Politics is a fascination of his. He feels it is important as someone in the democratic society to stay involved with issues that are relevant to a group of people. He wants to be active in that by being a senator and being involved.
 - h. The floor was open to questioning.
 - i. Senator Benestelli moved to close questioning.
 - j. Seconded.
 - k. Ayes had it.

- l. Senator Benestelli moved to set the time limit of 5 minutes.
- m. Seconded.
- n. The ayes had it. It will be five minutes.
- o. The floor was open to discussion.
- p. Senator Baron moved to approve both proposed Senators Sweeney and Bickish.
- q. Seconded.
- r. The ayes have it.
- s. The senate welcomes the two new senators Sweeney and Bickish.

VI. Reports

i. Vice-President

1. Vice-President gave her report. She reported that the executive session minutes have to be posted online. She cited article VII. Section B.6 under the meetings of the senate.
2. She looked to see if Senator Sweeney's votes had affected anything last semester. There was nothing in the approved minutes. In the unapproved minutes, her votes did affect the SFB outcome.
3. Senator Magargal questioned about Madame Chair's first point in her report.
4. Madame Chair replied that the SGA constitution supercedes the bylaws.
5. The approval of the Jersey Boys trip was approved before we moved the senate time to Thursday evenings.
6. President LaBoy has sent out an email about needing a new advisor since Gina Molinari stepped down. As of right now, Dean

Johnson is stepping in. Ryan has asked the senate's opinion - please respond to that.

- a. Dean Johnson said that historically it's only been one advisor. And Joe Woodhull just stepped in to help
7. President LaBoy replied that the executive board is trying to follow more so by the constitution and thought it worked well last semester with two advisors. They want to find an advisor that the senate is comfortable with.
8. Madame Chair said that any faculty, staff, and administration might serve as an advisor.
9. Madame Chair reported that the only way we can have the senate meeting next week is if it is at 7:00 p.m.
 - a. The Senate agreed to the time change for next week.
10. Senator Sweeney moved to have the meeting at 7 pm.
11. Seconded
12. The ayes had it. If quorum is not met, you may have a meeting but no legislation can be passed
- ii. Speaker Report
 1. No reports were given.
- iii. Constitution and Bylaws Presentation
 1. Senator Benestelli presented the proposed constitution and bylaws. He gave an overview of the structure of the draft document. Senator Benestelli presented a power point presentation.

2. Discussion occurred.
3. Senator Baron moved to extend the meeting until all points on the agenda are reached.
4. Seconded.
5. The ayes had it.
6. Senator Benestelli announced that there will be a round table discussion at 5 pm, this Saturday in Thayer lounge.
7. Mare Somaine added that Sean (Dean) Campbell would like to be a part of this going forward. He ultimately is a conduit in the process of proposing it to the Board of Trustees of the university.
8. Senator Benestelli explained the ratification process; that amendments are ratified by the senate of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the membership of senate.
9. Dean Johnson replied that while the senate may choose to ratify this, ultimately, if the Board of Trustees are contrary or different with what this group comes up – this is a dense document that really needs to be analyzed by a whole lot of people. Dean Campbell would like to begin the process. As the person who ultimately has to go to the Board of Trustees, he wants to be involved.
10. Senator Baron asked that if a student organization wishes to have their documents ratified, isn't that usually handled by student government itself?
11. Dean Johnson replied that ultimately the authority of student government lies in the board of trustees.

12. Madame Chair said that the Board of Trustees creates student government.
13. Senator Benestelli added that each year the Board of Trustees gives us the authority to govern ourselves.
14. Senator Goff advised the senate that all pages are transferred by one Arabic numeral.
15. Senator Sweeney asked for permission to address the senate. We do realize that this is a dense document, they as a committee feel it is a very necessary change. These are not presented to hinder to the students but rather present more opportunities for them to be more involved. She encouraged the body to skim and find any type of errors, things you disagree with or agree with to make this a stronger document.
16. Senator Benestelli said that the first thing they'd like to do is to extend the invitation of the members of SFB to become members of senate. It's not a matter to shun but a matter of appropriate location.
17. Madame Chair thanked the ad hoc committee on behalf of the executive board. She stressed to not just skim but look over in detail before ratification process. Please keep your constituents in on this loop. Let them know about the roundtable discussions.
18. Senator Goff explained about providing a paper document. They wanted to bring it out in a professional draft even though we are a part of the green campus initiative. Since

it is the first draft and it could change a lot, it would be better this way.

VII. New Business

i. Princeton Campus Signage Reform Act Bill

1. Madame Chair read the legislation to the body.
2. Senator Baron had 3 minutes to speak. Last semester he was on a committee with Senators Snyder and Garrick. They have both left the senate.
3. Point of Information: Senator Goff said that former Senator Garrick has ecclesiastic obligations on Thursday evenings.
4. Senator Baron spoke on behalf of the committee. He yielded his remaining time to questions about the document.
5. The floor was opened up to questions and discussion.
6. Discussion occurred regarding the legislation.
7. Senator Magargal moved to table further discussion until such time as the committee has been able to talk with ADOS.
8. Point of inquiry: Senator Baron asked what is there to be done in the case that this committee does not exist?
9. Madame Chair replied that it's a matter of solidifying that it will be happening.
10. The motion was seconded.
11. The nays had it.

12. Senator Goff proposed the following amendments to the chair:
 - a. Moved to strike the comma and change and to which. Remove 7 feet and have it say, "placed upon the same posting place". Section 2 no. 1, strike the comma on line 9
13. Seconded.
14. The ayes had, the amendments were passed.
15. Senator Benestelli moved to amend the bill, to rule the bill out of order if the name is not changed to Senator Baron's.
16. Senator baron would prefer to show that this is not his bill. He would like it to be Senators Baron, Snyder, and Garrick
17. Point of order: Senator Goff: began to say that because they are no longer senators and it should not say that.
18. Point of order: Senator Baron said that he could have his name on the bill provided that there be an amendment saying that the senators participated.
19. Senator Benestelli moved to replace the signage committee with Senator Baron.
20. Seconded.
21. The ayes had it.
22. Senator Goff proposed an amendment to append section (5): acknowledgment should be in CAPS. The following line should read: this bill is submitted by senator baron on behalf of the now- dissolved signage committee of the student senate 2008-2009

including former Senators Snyder and Garrick.

23. Seconded.
24. The ayes had it.
25. Senator Bickish proposed an amendment to the bill. Section 3 (1) line 14 – proposed to change 2 weeks to 4 weeks.
26. Seconded.
27. Call for division .
28. The nays had it.
29. Senator Fili moved to amend section 3 E. numeral 1 to the penalties 7 weeks to 4 weeks and in row 2 the penalty of four weeks to 3 weeks
30. Seconded.
31. The ayes had it.
32. Senator Goff moved to amend the same two lines down, that individuals need to be lower case.
33. Seconded.
34. The ayes had it.
35. Dean Johnson mentioned that the language is left vague. He doesn't believe that senate has the authority to impose job definitions on administration.
36. Discussion occurred.
37. Point of order: Senator Magargal reminded Madame chair that she has the right to control conversation
38. Senator Benestelli moved to table the bill for one week's time.
39. Seconded.

40. The ayes had it – the discussion was tabled till the next meeting.
- ii. Readings and Carols Resolution
 1. The Readings and Carols Resolution was authored by Senator Baron.
 2. Madame Chair read the legislation.
 3. Senator Baron was given the floor to discuss the resolution.
 4. Discussion occurred within the senate regarding the legislation.
 5. Point of order: Madame Chair reminded Senator Goff that he had two more minutes to speak.
 6. Senator Benestelli moved to strike the words “full time members” on lines 1 and 2.
 7. Seconded.
 8. The ayes had it.
 9. Point of order: Senator Goff reminded that all points of conversation should be directed towards the chair.
 10. The discussion was closed.
 11. Senator Baron moved to approve the resolution.
 12. Seconded
 13. Call for Division.
 14. The ayes had it. The Readings and Carols resolution was passed.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

- a. Senator Sweeney moved to adjourn.
- b. Seconded
- c. The Ayes had it.

IX. Adjournment

d. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.