



Senate Agenda 01/24/2022

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

A. Not in Attendance:

1. Senate Assistant - McKinley Barlow
2. Health Sciences Senator - Alexandra Holsey
3. Sciences Senator - Dane Steele
4. Exploratory Studies Senator - Katherine Skinner
5. Athletics Representative - Alexa Lord and Jonah Babel
6. Housing Representative - Samantha Nielsen
7. Non Traditional Representative - Dylan Tippetts
8. Veteran Representative - Gabriel Short
9. Greek Representative - Patrick Ullrich

III. Reports

A. Approval of Previous Senate Meeting Minutes

1. Not brought up for approval since we do not have enough of a voting body

B. Encouraging Student Attendance at Senate - VP of Academics Mitch Zufelt

1. We are in the theater for this meeting but will be in the church auditorium for the next meetings

C. Budget Update - VP of Finance Makayla Brown

1. There have been no changes to the budget

IV. Business

A. Funding Requests - VP of Finance Makayla Brown

1. No new requests

B. S.B. 012 Revision of SUUSA Governing Bylaws - Center for Diversity and Inclusion Representative David Nguyen

1. See SUUSA bill S.B. 012 Revision
 - a) Senator Mercer: With students being placed on an “academic plan”, does that mean they are in a probationary period and possibly be removed from office.
 - (1) It would be more of an indication to support that student in their academic goal. The removal from office would be left up to the discretion of the advisor. This way the interpretation would be determined on an individual basis between the student and the advisor.
 - (2) Rep. Nguyen has talked with Heather and determined that she currently decides what to do based on an individual basis.
 - (3) Chief Justice Spencer clarified that it is currently in place now so that if they fall below the current minimum GPA requirement then they will be on academic probation but with the proposed plan with the minimum GPA changing to 2.5 students will be placed on probation if they fall below 2.5 and will require a grade plan if their GPA is below a 3.0
 - b) Rep. Neugart: Is the grade plan currently in place for students who fall below the current requirement.
 - (1) The minimum to run for an election is a 2.5. The bill is stating that if your GPA is between 2.5 to 3.0. To run for election, they must have an academic plan in place. The knowledge of the GPA and the academic plan is confidential between the student and advisor.



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- c) VP Washburn: In the last Whereas, technically would the VP of Programming and the VP of Marketing are not a part of the government branch?
 - (1) By sitting on the senate, the position is included in the government branch.
- d) SLEC Director Fitzpatrick: Would they need a 3.0 within a set timeline?
 - (1) Rep. Nguyen stated that it is all about striving for a better GPA but not within a set timeline. As long as there is clear sign that the student is working toward academic success there will not be any repercussions.
 - (2) SLEC Director Fitzpatrick: followed up with concerns about a loss of interest in running from students who have obtained that higher GPA
 - (3) Rep Nguyen says we are keeping these positions from students who are capable but just do not have a current perfect academic standing and does not believe it will impact the interest of students who have a higher standing. We cannot represent our student body if they are not eligible to be included in the government branch
- e) Senator Smith: He is in support of this bill because GPA is a very subjective number. He has been chatting with the dean of his college and the selection process of valedictorian. An A in a freshman English class is not weighed the same as B+ in a rigorous engineering class.
 - (1) Rep. Nguyen added that GPA only matters for that first job but performance within that position matters much more.
- f) Senator Aleman: She loves the bill for the most part. She likes the idea of being more inclusive and that there are other ways to measure intelligence, drive, ethics, etc than GPA. In the second to last paragraph, instead of saying GPA, change it to a “B average” or something equivalent in the academic plan. This would specify the increasing trajectory that the bill is attempting to outline. In the beginning, “...our black, indigenous, people of color students...” audio. The suggestion is to change it to: “those students who are underrepresented and socioeconomically disadvantaged”.
 - (1) To answer the concern of the second to last paragraph about changing the language to a letter grade, it could be better to clarify the meaning of the increasing trajectory. He wants the bill to outline a need to strive to maintain the trend that will get that student to a 3.0. In terms of the section regarding BIPOCs, this language encompasses a larger swath of groups that can be included in the discussion. The bill is not written to state that the bar is lowered for those students in those groups, but rather the bar is reset to include the students in those backgrounds. The intention of the bill is to increase the inclusivity of the student senate and the conversations had within the government branch.
- g) Point of Clarification from Spencer: No direct wording from this bill will go into the governing bylaws and the only thing that will be added is the point the bill is making
- h) VP Washburn: What is the logic behind changing the GPA requirement of senators and EC to the same number?
 - (1) The aim of the 2.5 GPA in the bill is to be a lower minimum for both to be as equitable and inclusive of those who would run for both types of positions. They wanted to create a more uniform GPA requirement.
 - (2) Point of Clarification from Sam: It is not three separate branches but we are trying to form one conglomerate body so this would be applied to more than the governing branch.



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- i) Senator Mercer: Upon his first reading, he misinterpreted the bill in a similar way of what Senator Aleman brought up, so he suggests a rewording of the BIPOC section. Is there a GPA requirement for the marketing and programming positions? He doesn't think that a GPA is a reflection of intelligence, however it loosely represents the work ethic of the student in an academic setting. His concern is that those students who are up against socioeconomic adversity are being held back from participating to the highest of their abilities in the classroom and would also hold them back from doing their best in the senate/government to serve students to the best of their abilities.
 - (1) SPB Directors, assistants, and those in marketing are held to a 2.5 GPA standard.
 - (2) A 2.5 is not an end-all for the students in the university. A student with a 2.5 GPA is still on track to graduate. His counterpoint was how do we look out for those students who have those adversities without giving them a seat at the table. Giving them a voice gives the senate a better view on how to better serve students and make the university better. The senate cannot have diverse and equitable ideas if the senate is not diverse and equitable. Those who fall into those categories outlined in the bill understand the concerns of socioeconomic and minority adversity to a different level than those who are not a part of those categories.
- j) Quorum was not met to vote upon the bill. It is tabled until the next meeting.

C. Public Comment - VP of Academics Mitchell Zufelt

D. Close - VP of Academics Mitchell Zufelt