

## **HARTWICK COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE**

### **Minutes: September 23, 2008**

**Senators Present:** Blea, Damus, Gray, Jones, Madzar, Meyering, Montefusco, Post, Pringle, Schultz (Eric), Schultz (Victor), Shipman, Spahr, Thomas, Woskoff

**Senators Absent:** Bassett, Brennan McDonald, Mere, Rubio

**Senators Late (15 min. +):**

**Passage of Minutes:**

**Committee/E-Board Reports:**

- *Vice President, Rudy:*
  - o Nothing to report
  
- *Finance Report, Treasurer Utterback, A.T. Negrich:*
  - o The Finance Committee oversees all club budgets and all SMRs. Any expenses that pop up throughout the year goes through Finance. It also deals with Gas SMRs, those just stay in committee. Kim is my Co-Leader of that committee, we meet every Monday at 6PM. It's one of the more time-committing committees, but we have hands-on connections with clubs.
  
- *Senate Affairs, Coordinator Fiteni :*
  - o Senate Affairs is the editing of all bylaws, constitutions of clubs, and all other documents. We make resolutions between clubs, we're making resolutions and sending letters to different people. If you like to edit word documents come join me.
  
- *Secretary, Roods:*
  - o Forst: Secretary's committee is a formulation of the old old senate affairs committee and campus affairs. Responsible for doing elections.
  
- Forst: the Pine Lake Committee has gone under revisions. Not only does this deal with Pine Lake. We're also allocating members to the Pine Lake Advisory Board. We will be sending senators or a senator to serve on that committee.
  - o The Laura's Committee deals specifically with all the things that goes on with Laura's Café. They work closely with Food Services and Aramark in dealing with that space and revamp of former Table Rock.

**President's Report:**

- Forst: The following are the Ad Hoc Committees which you can serve on as many as you wish:
  - o Safety Committee—all safety issues
  - o Food Services committee—works with Aramark
  - o Academic Standards committee—two students have frequent meetings throughout the semester
  - o Tech Services Committee—three or four people to work on the laptop program.
  - o Library Committee—two or three, work in the library
    - Jones: have you talked to Beth about this? She never contacted us last year.

- Forst: we're setting up a different type of dynamic. You'll be responding directly to that staff member in charge and reporting back to us. You're also responsible for setting meetings this year. We're changing that.
  - Staff Council Representative—if someone's interested in working with Staff and the issues they deal with.
  - College-wide Assessment Committee—a lot of paperwork and reading and getting use to what assessment really means. I would encourage you to get involved. It's a great resume builder.
  - Student Life Committee—we didn't have it last year, we want to have it this year so we can talk about issues revolving around student life.
    - Forst: I'd encourage you to think about this.
- Montefusco: we're required to be on one of the top 5 committees? Then we can pick to be on one or more of the others?
  - Forst: yes.
  - Woskoff: what were the times for the ones we have to be on?
    - Finance is Monday at 6.
- Forst: because it is the first meeting and we ran through committees, there isn't anything much more to talk about. I'd like to welcome you and congratulate you on getting into Senate. Now we're going to swear you in.
  - **All Senators Present Sworn In**

### **SMRs**

- Utterback: we have a club that's going on a trip and wanted to do a Pre-Gas SMR so they want a guaranteed amount that we could reimburse them. Since we don't have a finance committee yet it's coming to you guys. So you have a general idea, there's 5000 dollars put towards gas for the semester. That's kind of the top end of it just so you're aware. She'll present the trip when she comes in.
  - Damus: I have a question about Orchesis, since I'm the programming for it, many students need more money. We don't have any kind of money for the orchesis club.
    - Forst: Club Finances are a big issue on this campus, next week we'll be putting forth the proposal for the Student Activity Fee at the coming board of Trustee's Meeting. In essence, it would double the amount of money we have to allocate out to clubs. It would help us reach out to clubs, and satisfying the amount we need to finance clubs. This would help out with a lot of clubs. It would help with OH Fest, Student Union, and all of the different things that we do such as vans.
    - Treasurer Utterback: Just wanted to add that you can always SMR, that you can do at any time—if you have a specific performance and you know you need a costume with a specific price you can come to senate.
    - Blea: so what group is SMRing?
      - Utterback: Ballroom dance
      - Forst: I would also suggest, as senators, if they have any concerns regarding their finances—Raimie and Kim are in charge of finances. Anybody can respond to those questions and if you have any, ask us. We can help students and clubs alike.

- Woskoff: I know you're going to work with that fee, are we also going to handle Pine Lake fee?
          - Forst: this fee would be raised and go towards sustainable events and things.
          - Utterback: as far as finance questions go, we can be reached at [SenateFinance@Hartwick.edu](mailto:SenateFinance@Hartwick.edu). That's the best way to reach Kim and myself.
  - Utterback: SMRs are Special Monetary Requests. There is 20,000 for the fall and 20,000 for spring. Clubs will come in with an amount, then we recommend an amount. We'll have a computer screen up for you all to see and the club will come in and defend it. The Finance committee will then tell you all our recommended amount and why. Then the general senate can approve the SMR, you can decline it, you can do a portion—sometimes there will be multiple items. In the past senate can approve some things and not the other. Senate may say: we're only going to give x amount towards each student.
  - VSchultz: what happens to the SMR money if we use all but 100 dollars for the fall, what happens to that 100 dollars?
    - Utterback: it's still there and rolls over to the spring. For instance, when we did budgets, just so you know how drastically over budgets are, the request were more than double what we had to give out. So if you hear clubs say their budgets were cut. This past year, we cut down budgets as much as we could and had gone 6000 over. So we dipped into that rollover fund to make it work. If special things pop up, one year something broke and there were van issues that also comes out of the rollover—it is our safety net.
    - Forst: SMRs cover a lot of things, if there is an emergency need; they come into senate and SMR for that money.
    - VSchultz: So if we don't use all the money it isn't lost
      - Utterback: no it stays.
  - Forst: the Student Activity Fee was a project that was started last year. I would encourage you all to talk to your constituencies and friends. Because we will be discussing it next week and will be putting it forward to the Board of Trustees, it's something I feel is very important and would be an asset for students to have. For years we've been suffering with drastically cut down budgets and it's a big problem for clubs. To be unable to receive the funds that they need.
    - Montefusco: so, how much will the fee be raised? We have an estimate?
      - Forst: the fee is exactly double. Now you pay 100 a semester, then you would pay 200 a semester. This would put us on par with schools we're benchmarked with. We don't get the Dane Cooks; we don't get Luda before he hit it big. It's a big problem for retention. We talk about student apathy and it's a big problem not to have the activities and support the clubs.
- **Pre-Gas SMR 1**
- Utterback: this is Julie, she's representing Ballroom Dance. This is the pre-gas SMR form. For Pre-Gas SMRs, you basically would approve to give the full amount or not. When they come back with the final receipts, and if its 6 dollars under, at least they're guaranteed a said amount.

- Well, we're going to compete at the Cornell/Ithaca competition this weekend. That's pretty self-explanatory.
- Forst: at this point in time we ask people to step out of the room. Now we'll discuss.
  - Utterback: I would say its fine, last year we stayed drastically under the 5000 we had, relatively speaking it's not that high of a gas SMR.
  - Meyering: I know that going to competitions is a big part of Ballroom Dance, it's what they're all about.
  - Roods: motion to give them the full amount requested
    - Post: seconded
    - Motion Passes for \$94.81

### **Old Business:**

- Forst: I do not have any old business.

### **New Business:**

- Rudy: there are some freshman students who are residents of Smith who complained that there was an E-mail sent out by the RD of smith saying that if you locked yourself out of your room, the first one is a freebee, after that, if you contact any of the Res Life staff, you will be charged 5 dollars to be let in. Now they're going to have an influx of safety being called when it's first the responsibility of the res-life staff, and when they're not available, then its safety's responsibility, to let people into their rooms. I think it's a ridiculous thing to put in place.
  - Forst: I'm going to take this up with Zach Brown tomorrow or the RD.
  - Jones: I lived in New Res over the summer, the RA said they were going to be charged 50 cents. I think it works because it makes people think before locking their room.
    - Rudy: the question is what would they be doing with the money.
    - Meyering: I'm familiar with the 50 cents thing, I'm okay with that, but 5 dollars seems kind of expensive. I'm wondering what they're doing with the money.
    - Fiteni: as I was reminded, I don't think we can use the RAs in this situation, they need to pay attention to their classes, using the RDs is fine, campus safety's job is to unlock doors. Campus Safety needs to be called.
    - Rudy: it's not really campus safety's duty. It's responsibility of the RD and RAs. It just seems a little obnoxious that they want to charge 5 dollars to let a student into their room.
      - Spahr: I would go to the RDs first. When I got locked out, Campus Safety doesn't care too much.
      - Gray: I'm an RA in Holmes and I've talked to RAs in Smith. One of them got asked to be asked to let students in 30 times in 5 days. I think it's more to remove RAs of all that, the money might be a point to raise.
      - Pringle: I can understand it if it's in the middle of the night or something, but before that it's your job to be in the office or ready to help this person, that's their job, it's what they're being paid for. Unless its 3 in the morning 4 times. Then I can understand that.

- Blea: I would think that depending who you're going to push, I would suggest, it's a good idea because it's a deterrent, but I would lessen the amount.
- Blea: I would like to change the time people can be let into dorms. That was brought up last year to Zach Brown. If most of the campus wants it and one dorm says no then that's general consensus.
  - Post: why don't respective hall councils go back to their dorms and hold a vote?
  - Spahr: I think if you have a Hartwick ID you should be able to get into whatever dorm you want.
  - Forst: as an off campus student, does your card work ever?
    - Spahr: never.
    - Forst: Greek students have that problem.
    - Utterback: I think we should definitely look into it again, last year there was one dorm, this year it could be completely different.
      - Post: I think it was just their Hall Council.
- Utterback: I think since this is the first meeting, it might be a good idea to set up a list of goals that we have as a general senate. Things we can work on, things we want to get done—that way we're all on the same page. So if you joined Senate we can get that out there now that would be great.
  - Forst: Student Activity Fee proposal
  - Woskoff: the Pine Lake Fee proposal
  - Blea: more information on our books earlier
  - Meyering: I want to see another successful OH Fest
  - Gray: more students who aren't senators to come to meetings
  - Pringle: the time pushed back for the swipe-cards
  - Post: open forums
  - Utterback: having students feel that we're more accessible to them, it's been a general feeling that Senate is a joke and students feel underrepresented. If students don't feel comfortable coming to us, getting their voice out there, it's a battle on this campus, but it's something we all need to work on. Get out there and let them know how to contact you.
    - Jones: I was thinking we could put a neon sign that says we're in session.
  - VSchultz: I love the upbeat thing with Laura's but the back-room is still a dark place.
  - Montefusco: I don't think that the student body knows that they're allowed to come to these meetings.
    - Forst: I have a direct question, maybe you guys are the exception. Do you think the general student body reads the general ZHD lists? We've always discussed that.
    - Spahr: the heading might matter
    - Forst: do you think that students see a ZHD they just delete it thinking it's not from the students?
    - Rudy: you might want to put something in the Subject Line.
  - Post: decrease the apathy on campus
  - Blea: increasing accessibility, I told a student that they can come to meetings.
  - Woskoff: do you know if we're able to have a say in what's happening with the space for Arnold? That would be a nice thing.
    - Forst; there's a class right now who are specifically dealing with the after-effects of Arnold being torn down will happen. They're handing

out surveys—if you haven't please speak to some professors. They're going out to Hall Councils and Greek Life. If people want to bring something to senate there's no reason we couldn't work with the class and discuss the issue. I would not say no to anything.

- Jones: can we get a clock for this room?
- Madzar: have fun
  - Forst: if you could, please take out the community standards and look at the third up from the bottom, it's extremely important that we all have fun.
- Jones: Last year, I don't know if it was announced when the openings for the OH Fest committee were, I'd like to know when that happens and get on that.
  - Utterback: that was a perfect example of ZHD e-mails not being read. There were three sent out, probably more.
  - Forst: in regards to OH Fest topic, Senate is moving away from programming—it isn't our charge to the campus, that's Student Union's job. If you're looking at doing it in the future or serving on it this year talk to Student Union, though we will be looking for volunteers. Senate is transitioning from being the sole organization.
  - Jones: when did we decide to do that? We're handing it over to student union?
    - Forst: when we discussed the separation of Union and Senate, it was over the charge to the campus. OH Fest would fall under Union's charge. It would be beneficial. It is awkward for Senate to coordinate this event. It's not an official thing; it's something we're transitioning into. If you have a concern, it can be brought up in discussion. If you're interested in being in OH Fest, contact Student Union.
    - VSchultz: is Union official out?
      - Forst: yes.
    - Thomas: how does that work with combining with SUCO?
      - Forst: the way its set up is that their programming board is involved with that. We don't interact with their Senate.
- Rudy: I was noticing on my walk, there's still a sign on the back of Johnstone that says "Miller Building".
  - Utterback: the reason I understand is that it's called the Johnstone Center but it's the "Miller Floor".
- VSchultz: are we going to go on the walk to discuss lighting on campus?
  - Blea: that reminds me, we have a new president. Will she come to a senate meeting?
    - Forst: we have not extended an official invitation at this time but she's put the Tuesday night at 8 aside so she can talk to us.
- Montefusco: I had heard that President Drugovich wants to change Soccer and Water Polo to division III, is that true?
  - Spahr: I had a meeting with President Dick Miller about this last year with my lacrosse mates. He is the one that officially wanted to change it. I play two sports and we weren't getting the funding we should have like overnights. They get flown to Ohio. Their sport was suffering, but they were overruled because they got another grant from alumni. This happened once before 6 years ago. It's not going to happen unless in the next couple years they start losing money again.

- Rudy: this does come up frequently. It costs over 1 million dollars to keep up a DI team. If we aren't getting funding then that's why these questions come up.
  - Forst: I'll speak to President Drugovich. If it's an issue it will be discussed at the coming Trustee Meeting.
- VSchulz: in the library, one of those boxes that comes up that houses plugs—there's one on the main floor over by the printer, there's a box stuck up. A student sliced their foot open, it was not pretty. It might be good through some buildings. Many of our buildings are old and may have those.
  - Roods: there are boards popping up in the deck around Laura's.
  - Forst: if it's a major safety concern that needs to be addressed right away.
  - Rudy: the blue lights by the tennis courts is bagged up, there's nothing to push. It's in the woods. I think the blue light should be fixed for the sake of anybody who uses the Tennis Courts.
  - Fiteni: I talked to Tom Kelly about that and its being replaced.
  - Post: I was wondering, how do we submit our cell phone numbers to safety? I was wondering how you do that.
    - Forst: I don't know what the procedure is, I can have that for you next meeting. If there's something they can implement before now and next meeting. More to follow on that.
- Montefusco: I noticed that there was a blue card in our mailboxes. I'm not sure if that was the reason why we needed to write down our cell phone numbers.
  - Utterback: are you a freshman? Maybe if you submitted it last year it might still be in effect.
  - Green: maybe it would be a good idea to have Tom Kelly to come in and talk about that system.
- Thomas: will there be bike racks put in front of Golisano at any point in time?
  - Forst: I'll check about that.
- Post: do you want the dorms for the cards for next week? Is there a time frame?
  - Forst: the best process is if someone wants to write a proposal and maybe survey hall councils so there is a formal recommendation. If people want to contact me about that I can elaborate. Then we can have a concrete process.
- VSchultz: are cycles allowed on our track?
  - Roods: bikes are not allowed, as far as I know.
- Jones: who's running Club Officer Training?
  - Forst: it will be a joint effort between Student Life and Raimie, Kim, Joanna, and myself. It won't be very long, we're hoping to get everybody in, everybody out. ZHD will be going out to remind students. Registration is required and so is ID. You should bring your ID or your club will not get credit.
- Thomas: is there a make-up session? I know I work on Sunday from 1-3.
  - Forst: you can register for either. Just like in the past. In the case of clubs that absolutely cannot make it they can talk to Ali Spears about special arrangements. If you ignore it, it will be different. If you miss this training, your club budget will be frozen. Once the 29<sup>th</sup> passes, and your club has not attended, your funds are frozen until you speak to student life.
- Montefusco: what is the training? I don't understand it
  - Forst: it's for club officers to become familiar with finances, how to work with senate, what to do in case of emergencies. It's like problem solving for clubs. It's that kind of event.

-Jones: I've been seeing that they've been taking the Vines off of the buildings.

- Rudy: my guess is that they're taking the vines off because they damage the buildings.
- Damus: who do we see about getting a van?
  - Forst: you would look at Allison Spears; she is the person to talk to. ([SpearsA@hartwick.edu](mailto:SpearsA@hartwick.edu)).

**Announcements:**

- Forst: the 28<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 3 is the first day of club officer training. On the 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 is the second day. If you or anybody you know is an e-board member on a club, tell them about it.
- Post: Saxton Hall is doing roommate trivia at 8PM, there will be prizes. Anyone who knows their roommate the best gets the sweetest prize
- Forst: Student Senate meetings are in Golisano 103 at 8PM on Tuesdays.
- Rudy: if you are not registered to vote, we're tabling outside the commons. For those of you who are registered you need to fill out your absentee ballot now. There is an interest meeting for College Democrats tomorrow at 9 in Stack Lounge.
- **Pringle: Motion to adjourn**
  - **Forst: seconded**
  - **Meeting Adjourned**