

**HARTWICK COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE**  
**Minutes: September 30, 2008**

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

**Senators Absent:** McDonald, Mere, Schultz (Victor), Shipman,

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

**Passage of Minutes: Jones: motion to approve the minutes from last week**

- **Meyering: seconded**
- **Motion Passes**

**Committee/E-Board Reports:**

- *Vice President, Rudy:*
  - o Nothing to report
- *Finance Report, Treasurer Utterback, A.T. Negrich:*
  - o We have three SMRs tonight
- *Senate Affairs, Coordinator Fiteni :*
  - o Nothing to report
- *Secretary, Roods:*
  - o Nothing to report

**President's Report:**

- Drugovich: Thank you all for allowing me to have a couple of minutes. I appreciate being here. I want to visit to do something very simple, invite you to attend the Inauguration this weekend. There was a really nice edition of Hilltops with an insert of schedule and things that are happening. I'm here because of you. No one comes here because they like the way the campus looks—we do have a beautiful campus and very talented faculty and staff. I'm really here because of you. I'd like to take a moment this Saturday to celebrate, so we can own the moment together. One reason to do it, there is food. Two, my mother is coming to this event, she's 81 and would be pleased to know that the students here participate in this process and celebrate together. The most important reason to participate is that this is a real ritual in higher education. At higher-ed institutions install new presidents. Very few people will have the privilege that has been handed to me, for you to participate in that is rather a rare moment, you can ask your parents if they were able to attend the installment of their college presidents. There will be 56 colleges who will be represented. Our faculty will be there, there will be remarks. We will have greetings from the state government, city government, city of Oneonta. From constituents that are connected with the college from our alumni. Another part of the program is that I have invited a special mentor of mine, Dr. Tom Cortus, who will do an installation address and I have no idea what he is going to say but he will get to set up the fact that this installation is happening and you are inviting me to join you. Then I'll be making some remarks as well, which will be my first formal remarks as president to the college. It's a weighty moment in the history of the college. I would be very pleased to have you with me this Saturday to celebrate it. The one final reason, the

committee has created a schedule of events. Your faculty will be giving academic presentations that they wouldn't normally address. There is also a presentation on Hartwick presidents in the Yager Museum. We'll have a harvest barbeque supper. Then Friday night, Rory Kennedy will be in Binder to talk about her melding of liberal arts and her creative arts—documentary filmmaking. This Thursday we'll be screening Ghost of Abu Ghraib. It will really enrich your experience of her talk Friday night. As I said, Saturday morning at 11AM we will all gather at the tent and have the installation followed by a lunch. Afterwards there will be a parade in downtown Oneonta, and then there is the soccer game Saturday night. The one thing I wanted to mention, the decided to design a special t-shirt for this event. It will have the inaugural logo on it; it will be given to the first 500 students who arrive. One of the personal requests I have is to have my photograph taken with all of you after the inauguration. If you are all there, it would be terrific. I hope you can join me. I'm hoping I can come back and speak with you. As far as the full body is concerned, if there are things you would like to discuss with me, questions you have, I'll be asking to come to see you as well. I hope we can have that dialogue throughout the year. I appreciate the invitation to be here. Have a good meeting.

- Forst: there are a couple things on the list tonight. In terms of safety concerns, will be joined by Tom Kelly next week. He will talk about the issues we brought up, sit down with us and entertain our questions. We can go out with all safety concerns. I also spoke to the RD of Smith about the lock-out policy. It was created in response to a large number of lockouts past quiet hours—this was 11PM or later. It's not uncommon for other institutions to charge higher than 5 dollars after this period. This is in response to having a large number after that time frame. If you are charged for a lock-out, if you're never locked out again, you are re-funded that money. If you are charged once, your 5 dollars will be refunded at the end of the semester.
  - o Basset: so, why can't they just charge for when it's past certain hours? Why the entire day?
    - Forst: that was not brought up as a concern. The explanation is that there have been so many—100 in the last two weeks—in Smith that this is a concern and this is a deterrent and think more pro-actively about not getting locked out. That is the process, so it is for you to decide how you feel about that and take action. I merely gathered information about the subject.
      - Rudy: do you know what they're doing with the money?
        - o That's yet to be determined.
  - o Forst; we're still looking at a proposal for moving times back for key-card entry to dorms. It would be better if we could draft something that would let us flesh out what we need and what steps need to be taken. I don't believe there's anything significant that needs to be discussed. The vines needed to be taken down because it damages the buildings. Also, when Tom Kelly is here for the next meeting, after that point myself and the director of Res Life and Facilities will be taking a "security and safety walk" where we tour the campus at night and look where places are unsafe. That issue has been handled since then.
  - o Forst: you will find in the general bylaws that there are a lot of different bylaws. I want to go over the attendance policy. We should just refresh things; Raimie will talk about SMRs once again. It's article two. You have two unexcused absences. VP Rudy and Secretary Roods, contact them and it explains what happens if you go beyond that.

## SMRs

- Fencing Club: \$1,050 for SG12-ST Machine
  - o Kupinski: So, what we're SMRing for is for some competition scoring equipment. Over the past several years we've been making this club, now class, into an actual competitive team. Having electronic scoring equipment is necessary if you want to compete. This is to help us get there, we have students who compete and do very well. We had one student compete this summer, totally unranked fencer, doing very well. We'd like to give everybody else the same opportunity. It's a one-time commitment for us, but after that, except for upkeep, this is really critical to take us to the next step. We don't ask for much but the problem is that when we do ask it's kind of on the heavy side. It's computerized equipment, it's built ruggedly and stand up to being kicked around. I'm sure if you ever bought equipment for sports, you know it gets pretty expensive; this is just a one-time commitment. We're now a gym class; we don't get any funding from the Phys Ed department. This is serving about 60 people on campus. It's a big club.
    - Gray: would the gym class be using this equipment?
      - Everybody would, as long as they're at the right level. This equipment is meant to be used by people who have passed on our beginning syllabus and through our advanced syllabus. I and my officers have used the teaching syllabus for the club which translates over to the class. The class is the way for our more dedicated people to get credit for it.
    - Utterback: the one machine does two people at a time?
      - Yes, it takes care of all that. The electric gear, body coil, we have that stuff because we've been working towards that in steps over the past few years. It's literally a table-top box and it comes with floor cables which are a heavy-gauge wire on a wheel. They're long, expensive, they hook up to the squaring machine that has a built-in timer, scoring, coaching aids. This model is ubiquitous.
    - Spahr: where would you be keeping the unit?
      - We have space up in the gym? It comes in a locked case; we have space that we use.
    - Roods: what's the lifespan on these boxes?
      - A long time, if you break something on this, you're trying to break it—it doesn't have small moving parts. The machine will work as long as you take care of it and not dropping it down flights of stairs. The reels which attach to the back of the fence, they come with this, their life-span is I think varies 5 to 10 years, maybe more. It's not going to see competition duty usage. You're going to see 10 people on this over three practices a week tops. These will last us a long time.
    - Rudy: do you have a warranty on it?
      - Not a written one, but this company has taken care of us; they've given us a discount because we're a school, and competition-ready team. They've been really accommodating with us because they typically don't give discounts to clubs. If something does in fact go wrong they'll take care of us.
      -

- Finance Committee recommended to postpone this SMR and try and propose the student activity fee this week. Based on that vote, we'll know. If they move the fee up mid-shift there will be extra cash sitting around for SMRs. They do have one of these machines already; they can practice without the machine. They had originally asked for two last spring, Senate at that point only gave them one and think about SMR'ing next year, hoping on the student activity fee being increased which did not go through last spring, but will be resubmitted last spring.
  - Jones: just so everyone knows, what is our SMR pool?
    - Utterback: the SMR pool is 20,000 for the fall. It seems like a lot but that's with 60 clubs pulling out of it. Just so everyone knows, the Finance committee's recommendation is just a guide.
    - **Jones: Motion to postpone the SMR.**
      - **Rubio: seconded**
      - **Motion Passes**
      - Utterback: do you only want to see it next week, even if the student activity fee is not passed?
        - Forst: I think we should reevaluate it next week, they put in this SMR early, they deserve to be reevaluated. I would suggest someone make a motion to have it evaluated at the next meeting.
        - Spahr: you also have to think about how they're also becoming very competitive. Being an athlete, we get so much from the school; clubs don't get much at all. They did it early, they're looking forward to this, it would be good for them to come back.
        - **Meyering: motion to postpone this until next week, regardless of the passing of the Student activity fee.**
          - **Jones: seconded**
          - **Motion Passes**
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- Anthropology Club: \$1,540 for Conference in San Francisco
  - We haven't done anything for 6 years, I'm trying to revive this, and I believe the first step is by going to the meeting. You can meet professors from graduate schools, find graduate schools, it's a good experience, gets you out there. It could help us with thesis projects. The department so far has put forwards nothing to help us.
    - Post: how much are you paying out of pocket?
      - 400 for airline
    - Meyering: How many of you are going on this trip?
      - 6.
    - Utterback: the hotel is for 6 people, they're staying at a hostel to save costs for 5 nights, and it's only 150 a student. Registration fees, when they're at the conference, they can get into the conference without having a pass, they want 4 passes that they can pass around so they

can pass it off, one person can go out and hand off the passes. That's why there are less registration fees.

- It's mostly just professors talking about recent books they've written and things they've put into journals, etc.
  - ESchultz: what is the date?
    - Nov 19-23, but we'll be coming back the 24<sup>th</sup> because it will save us money.
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  - Utterback: Finance committee recommended 1,220. This will pay for 2 passes and all of the hotel. This is on the basis that they're already paying 400 out of pocket; this is the first time they've been able to go to their national conference. Other students, such as Geology Club and Chem. Club go to their national conventions.
    - Gray: does the club have money in their budget already for this?
      - Utterback: not for this, they have a really small budget. \$515.
    - Jones: From my experience, the Anthro doesn't ask for much and I think its great **Motion to pass the finance committee's recommendation.**
      - **Spahr: Seconded**
      - **Motion Passes: \$1,220**
- SMR: Senate: 100 dollars for band to play during Inauguration weekend.
- Student Union and Student Senate are cooperating here to bring a band, the New Gentleman's Outfit, to Laura's Café on Friday night during Inauguration Weekend. I feel it would be a good gesture if we could fund this event for President Drugovich's Inauguration.
  - **Meyering: Motion to pass the 100 dollars**
    - **Blea: seconded**
    - **Motion Passes**

### **Old Business:**

- ESchultz: have the assignments of committees been taken care of?
  - Forst: no, we haven't and the e-board hasn't had a chance to make those assignments. Those will be made tomorrow and go out after that meeting.
  - Post: what about the 5 main ones, what about the others?
    - Forst: those will be taken care of as well.
- Utterback: while we have the people that weren't here, can we get them?
  - Fiteni: *Swears in New Senators*
- Montefusco: I was talking to a lot of the people in Van Ess about the changing the key-card time. Most everyone was in favor. How are we going to go about this? Who's making this proposal?
  - Forst: I believe this was brought up by Blea and Post, I believe they were taking the point on this, get in touch with them regarding that. Anyone is at liberty to do that. It's easier to take it in paper form and present that.
  - Post: there's a thing on the website that gives you a key on how to write that.
    - Rudy: if anything, everything's better if it's down in words.
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### **New Business:**

- Forst: I hope that everyone was able to read their e-mail in the last day or so. I sent out the new draft of the Student Activity Fee Proposal. For those of you who have read it, are there any major changes that you'd like to make?
  - o Jones: before we go through the changes, you want to submit this to the next board of trustee meeting?
    - Forst: we are on the agenda for the Trustee committee meeting. The old draft has been submitted. This has more benchmarking, has a lot more of how allocations would be done with the money if it were approved. It would give us more timeline information for the fall.
    - Jones: when is the next possibly meeting we could present at?
      - December. If this were to wait, funds could not be raised until the next academic year. There would be no actual funds that would be allocated. This would go to that December meeting and tabled until the May meeting which would render any other changes null. To be able to present this now at this meeting and hopefully be in the best position that we are, have the trustees make a decision on this now rather than wait until December.
      - Utterback: This is more of an updated version of what was already passed and submitted last year. This was submitted and they said they want to see it again. They're going to see the old one; it's up to you if they see the new one.
        - o Damus: if we oppose the 200 every semester, is it still going to be passed?
          - Forst: Senate hasn't made a decision on if they support or oppose this. The trustees are at liberty to change fees at any time if that's their prerogative. They do have a copy of the older proposal, it's on the agenda. It is a possibility.
          - Rudy: the original draft was actually passed unanimously among the senate.
      - Jones: I read through this earlier and I found some grammatical errors, do we need to go through each and every one of those?
        - o Forst: we can make a special motion to change grammatical errors and not change content. The list of colleges in terms of benchmarks, these are institutions we consistently look across the board at in all sectors.
        - o Damus: what if we take Colgate, why are we comparing ourselves to them or Hamilton?
          - Forst: I can't actually answer that, they choose a wide array of schools to benchmark against.
          - Fiteni: having sat on several committees, we compare ourselves on our student affairs committee compared to them; they have some of the leading stuff on them.
          - Utterback: a lot of that is just small liberal arts schools—we compete against these schools.
      - Damus: since the tuition is increasing every year, why do we have to increase the student activity fee?

- Forst: we operate with a standard budget that cannot accommodate the number of clubs we have, the programming we do. Those are the points of what we need to handle. If you look at the financial information—the amount of budget money requested far exceeds what we supply. In order to combat that, raising the student activity fee is the way to go about that.
- Utterback: the student activity fee is a straight 200 dollars; tuition going up has nothing to do with that fee. A lot of people don't see that different. It hasn't gone up with tuition. Tuition goes up, that goes to various different aspects of this college, but not into club budgets.
- Spahr: you can look at it in dollar amounts, inflation goes up, a concert at St. John Fischer is going to cost the same amount that it will cost here.
- Damus: back to the fee, when you spend four years at Hartwick, it will give you a total of 1600 dollars, for some people, it's nothing. For others, it is kind of a big chunk of money.
  - Rudy: one of the questions I want to ask senate was, I know this might be confusing, especially for freshmen—is everybody on board with what this proposal is doing? The problem we're at right now is the fact that we have 60 some-odd clubs, and everybody is coming to us asking for budgets. The only way that we're ever going to be able to satisfy clubs is to raise the student activity fee so there is more in the bank to go out. If you're looking at the senior class right now? Our freshman year, we had a lot of events. Right now we're in a situation where there is not as much going on around campus, it's not attracting new students, we have an apathetic campus. To solve this is to get more money; the only way we can do that is by raising the student activity fee. Look at OH State, they had Dashboard Confessional. Hartwick could never do that.
  - Forst: it's also an issue of retention. Students eventually will leave, they don't pay for the full four years, and other students pick up that burden. There's a huge gap in terms of supporting the students that leave—if you stop the bleeding in terms of retention, it will keep students here; it will force the school to adequately adjust the financial aid packages. I don't feel that 90% of the population will be thrown out of school because of the raising the student activity fee.

- Rudy: also, Hartwick likes to give you things for free. We can't get better entertainment unless we raise this fee.
- Forst: also, if clubs were to charge students, it's feasible that over the course of four years, if every club charges a certain amount, they could charge ridiculous amounts—150 per person—and then you've paid one semester's worth for one event. Where if you're paying this one fee, everyone is paying their fair share.
- Jones: last year, we passed a different draft of this proposal?
  - Forst: there are more benchmarks.
  - Jones: and then, we asked the whole campus to vote and it failed?
    - Forst: the vote technically did not fail; the conversation between the administration was that the vote had to pass by 2/3. There is no in-paper process on how to raise the fee. That was an arbitrary number so that President Miller would feel comfortable giving it to the trustees. They were fine with having a Student Senate proposal and go to the general committee of the trustees. It passed more than a majority but less than 2/3.
  - Jones: is it possible that we have a personal bias towards what the student activity fee might be and therefore we should try and get another vote?
  - Utterback: the other thing with the vote, we have an extremely apathetic campus. Every vote has terrible turnout. Trying to get everybody on this campus to vote
  - Jones: but, voter turnout for the presidential elections is horrible as well but we still have to do it.
  - Thomas: how did last year when you had the survey for OH Fest, what was the response rate?
  - Forst: less than 1/3 of the whole campus, I don't remember the number off the top of my head. Last year for Senate E-Board Election was the highest it's been.
  - Thomas: well if we go to our dorms and survey our dorms.

- Forst: it is your job to survey the students regularly. The problem with holding off with this is that the trustee meeting is this week and they're looking at a draft of the proposal whether it's this one or the next one. Personally I feel that this one is extremely more effective. Senate last year voted unanimously. This adds more supplemental information.
- Pringle: along the lines of what Sen. Jones was saying, if this were a presidential election it would have passed because we already had a majority.
  - Utterback: this is technically old business, the trustees voted to push it off till now. From there perspective it's going through. Fee is something the Trustees deal with. We can give them a suggestion, but ultimately they get to decide. They could pick a different number; they could make it a higher number, etc.
  - Forst: it's on their radar.
- Blea: I feel that people are very frustrated by not having the money, that's why that was brought up in the first place. Obviously we want campus opinion, but this needs to go through now.
- Meyering: a majority of us, I ask you to talk this up among your members. The more we get to vote, the better chances we have from it.
- Thomas: I know that if not all of us, most of us have complained against the lack of programming—the problem we're facing is people don't want to pay for it. They want more stuff but don't want to see an increase. This isn't going to come from a tree of money.
- Forst: it's important to note that there is a lot of talk about apathy. We should take a stand and say that we want something done about it. I think this proposal speaks to this issue. We're doing it as students. We're making a stand and are saying "we're taking back

what's ours and want to have a positive experience at this college"

- Utterback: the raise doesn't just go to the clubs, it goes to general programming. If you were senators last year, Union was broken off from Senate—this would get students who aren't in clubs still affected. OH Fest can continue. Better students and students who really want to be here don't choose Hartwick because we don't necessarily have as much to offer from an activity standpoint. It's a residential campus; there should be something to do on campus.
  - **Blea: motion to pass this proposal, pending grammatical changes that need to be fixed—and that if there are errors to be fixed it can be sent out to senate again by e-mail**
    - **Pringle: seconded**
    - **Motion Passes**
  - **Forst: Motion to amend the document with the suggested changes that are listed on the electronic copy on the board.**
    - **Montefusco: seconded**
    - **Motion Passes**
  - Utterback: also, this happened last year—if you make a motion and there's a vote and you vote to deny it, that vote stands. You can't make another motion to go against it—if the motion is not something that you want. Be cautious with the wording. Once it's voted on, that's it.
- Utterback: is there anything anyone has heard of that you want us to bring to the board of Trustees?
- Nothing.

#### **Announcements:**

- Meyering: college democrats are planning on attending pi sigma alpha, which is a poli-sci honor society and watch the VP presidential debates, Thursday Evening in stack lounge.
- Forst: everyone is invited to the Golisano Hall dedication, I hope you RSVP and will represent Student Senate
- Fiteni: the VP of student life search is just about to finish off its pickings of who it wants for its future VP of this college.
- Roods: be sure to attend the inauguration this Friday.
- **Pringle: motion to adjourn**
  - **Jones: seconded**

- **Motion Passes**