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Student Government Association

MINUTES OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
March 10, 1998

Call to Order: Vice President Leigh Ann Sears called the regular meeting of the Student Government Association to order at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Secretary Fite called roll. Those members absent included Jason Nemes, Martha Bonds, Melissa Lee, Gabriel Fancher, Tim Leavell, Kevin West, Katie Staples, Lindsey Sullivan, Neal Riddle, and Mike Armstrong.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to suspend with the reading of the Minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Officer Reports: President, Keith Coffman - President Coffman had no report. He wished everyone a safe and fun Spring Break.

Vice President, Leigh Ann Sears - Vice President Sears reported that Executive Council Candidate Certification will be April 2, 1998 at 5:00 p.m. Applications for office will be available after Spring Break and will be due April 2 at 5:00 p.m. She reminded everyone that Primaries will be April 21, 1998 and the General election will be April 28, 1998.

Director of Public Relations, Heather Rogers - PR Director Rogers thanked everyone who signed up to help work the SGA table during the OARs. She reminded them that the first OAR is March 25. If anyone else is interested, please sign up. She reported that the first ad notifying the students of elections will be run in the Herald on Thursday March 12, two weeks before the filing date deadline on April 2. She announced that March 10-12, Student Health Service will be sponsoring a Safe Spring Break table in DUC. On March 31, there will be an evening of poetry at 8:30 p.m. in Van Meter. If anyone has an event coming up, please let her know. There is limited advertising left due to elections. She gave John Crowe the PR award for the week and thanked the PR committee for their hard work.

Secretary, Jamie Fite - Secretary Fite read the list of open positions: Potter College, Business College, Education College, Graduate College, Non-Traditional, Sophomore Off-Campus, Junior Off-Campus, Senior Off-Campus, Keen Hall, East Hall, Florence Schneider, North Hall, and South Hall. She asked that anyone who has 60 earned hours and a 2.75 gpa and wants to serve on Academic council please see her as soon as possible. She reported that she will not be at the next meeting due to the Career Fair in Nashville. If anyone who is running for Secretary wants to take minutes that week, please put them in her mailbox following the meeting. She reported that she is getting notebooks together for Matt Bogard and Christen Gibbs.

Treasurer, Chad Lewis - Treasurer Lewis reported that this weeks expenditures totaled \$984.03 leaving the account balance at \$17,666.82. Major expenditures were payroll and Organizational Aid.

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Committee Reports: Academic Affairs - Chairperson Matt Bastin reported that the committee is finalizing plans for Faculty Appreciation Day and Meet your Dean day. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome.

Student Affairs - Chairperson Jason Cole announced that the forum that was scheduled for tonight has been canceled due to weather. It will be rescheduled for after break. He is still researching the Neighborhood Watch Signs. The committee is also hoping to get the emergency phones on campus to work in conjunction with the escort service.

LRC - Chairperson Anne Guillory reported that Resolutions 98-4-S and 98-5-S both passed in LRC. The Child Care grant legislation also passed and will be voted on tonight. She closed by thanking everyone who worked hard on the Constitution both this year and last.

Public Relations - Chairperson Jenny Stith announced that the committee meets at 4:00 on Tuesdays, not 4:15. In the committee they discussed the possibility of having the director from Residence Life/Housing come speak before a Congress meeting. Today during their meeting they made banners for elections.

Campus Improvements - Chairperson Christoph Miller announced that two pieces of legislation from the committee will be voted on tonight and asked for support of those. He then reported that the committee had been discussing safety issues in the parking structure and comment boxes. He has reserved the telephone room in DUC for April 8-9. The committee and others will be doing campus-wide surveys asking for ideas, questions or concerns.

Hillraisers - Sally Eilerman reported that they were discussing the possibility of getting Hillraiser Ids, similar to the Big Red Cards, for next year. They are still working on events for Baseball games.

Academic Council: Potter College - No Report
Ogden College - No Report
Business College - No Report
Education College - No Report
Graduate College - No Report

COA: The next meeting of COA will be April 7, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. in DUC 305.

Unfinished Business: Committee Member of the Month - Vice President Sears announced that the committee member of the month is Steven Graham.
Resolution 98-5-S - Author Christoph Miller spoke in favor of the resolution "Placing of Ergonomic Keyboards in computer labs and classrooms." There were no questions of the author. A motion was made to pass 98-5-S. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
Resolution 98-4-S - Author Christoph Miller spoke in favor of the resolution "Repairing Normal Dr. Sidewalks." Matt Bastin informed Congress that the sidewalks are property of the city and not the University. A motion was made and seconded to pass 98-4-S. There was a call for hand voting. Motion was passed 26-16.
Constitution - Parliamentarian Josh Detre moved to limit debate to 2 ½ minutes for each debate. Motion was seconded and passed. LRC Chair and co-author Anne Guillory asked Congress to take the Constitution as a whole and to look at it carefully. Her speech was taken as a speech in favor. Questions were asked of the author. Steven Graham asked a question regarding Impeachment of Congress members and Judicial Council. Guillory stated the reason for the differences. It would

not be fair for Judicial to preside over impeachment of one of its own members, possibly even the foreman. Next, Josh Detre questioned 2.2.5 and asked why all Executive Officers did not have to be on Congress for a semester or even a year. Guillory said that minimum requirements were made for the President only. She doubted anyone off Congress would run anyway. Matt Bastin questioned 2.3.15 and asked why the President should have sole veto power. Guillory answered that the Student Regent should be trusted to have sole veto power, this is also to increase his power in Congress since he/she doesn't have much now. Jason Cole and Josh Detre also asked questions of the author. Matt Bastin questioned 2.2.6 asking why the President and Vice President will be running on the same ticket again. Guillory answered by stating that the President and VP need to be two that can get along with each other and work complimentary and it will also make it easier to run (one can campaign while the other is in class, etc.). Stephanie Cosby asked if there could be something stated in the Constitution that would delegate power to the committees to track/follow-up on legislation. Guillory said that it had not been discussed in meetings, but could be a possibility. Questions ceased and then moved into discussion and debate. Eddie Schwab proposed several amendments to the Constitution. Adding 5.2.7, "In the absence of a decision or an opinion by Judicial Council, the final work on constitutionality and legality of legislation shall rest with the LRC, with the majority decision reflecting such opinion." This was discussed fully. A motion was made to overturn 5.2.7. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Next 5.2.8 was suggested, "From time to time, LRC has the responsibility to, as a subcommittee of the whole, review decisions made by Judicial Council, determine whether the decisions were based on the constitution and any reasonable interpretations, or a penumbra created by judicial fiat, and if the decision was blatantly unconstitutional, or Judicial Council simply is not performing the job as assigned to them, is expected to draw out Articles of Impeachment. Also, is responsible to review and advise for confirmation all judicial appointments at the opening of each semester for which served. When a decision is found by LRC to be one of Judicial Fiat, Congress may, with 2/3 vote, override such a decision." This was discussed fully and found to give LRC too much power. Previous question was moved. Motion was seconded and approved. A motion to pass 5.2.8 was made. Motion was seconded and denied. Next, 8.3.1 or 4.3.5 was presented, "All Judicial Council Appointments made by the president and approved by a skeleton crew of Congress (committee heads and remainder of executive council) shall be made by the President when Congress is not in session -- subject to advise and consent by the next general congressional meeting. If in congressional session the appointees to be confirmed are considered unacceptable to Congress, then Congress must supply a list of duly qualified alternates, and has two weeks to name, conduct hearings to review the nominees in LRC, and to confirm them. Otherwise the original nominees win appointment by default." Brief discussion occurred. A motion was made to accept 8.3.1 or 4.3.5. Motion was seconded and denied. Next, 4.5.8 would be changed to read, "Establish an independent committee, subject to approval by Congress, composed of persons chosen at their discretion, to supervise the conducting of elections and the counting of all ballots. This committee will be responsible to Judicial Council. For the purpose of conducting an election, it can only be dismissed at the recommendation of the whole of the Executive Cabinet with the approval of 2/3 of Congress, following a request by Judicial Council, pending from an appeal in the election outcome." Brief discussion occurred and was determined that SGA did not need an independent committee. A motion was made to deny changes to 4.5.8. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Finally, 1.4.1 was proposed, "At every meeting, a summarized version of the minutes must be read to Congress. Suspending of reading of the minutes may be done by a 2/3 vote, in order to more quickly address a pressing issue, subject to reading when the point of order has been resolved." It was discussed and majority felt it was unnecessary to read the minutes each meeting when they are posted in the office. A motion was made to accept 1.4.1. Motion was seconded and denied. Next, Matt Bastin made a motion to strike 2.2.6. Dwight Campbell, Sally Eilerman, and Drew Harrell spoke against the motion and believed that 2.2.6 should stand as is. Stephanie Cosby gave an FYI as to why it was changed to separate them two years ago. The previous question was moved and

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debate ended. A motion was made to strike 2.2.6. Motion was seconded. A roll call vote was requested; 22 were in favor, 23 were against and 6 obtained. Nays had majority and motion was denied; 2.2.6 will stand as is. Next, Jason Cole moved to change 2.2.5 to require the President to serve one year on Congress before being eligible to run. Majority agreed that the President needed to have SGA experience. A motion was made to pass the change to 2.2.5. Motion was seconded and approved. Next, Josh Detre proposed that 2.2.5 should state that all Executive council members should serve one year on Congress in order to be eligible. A motion was made to accept changes to 2.2.5. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The last proposal was made by Matt Bastin; the motion was made to strike 2.3.15 and amend 2.8.5 to read, "Have veto power over all legislation passed by Congress with each officer having one vote. A successful veto requires a majority vote of the Executive Cabinet. The sponsoring committee of the vetoed legislation must be given a written explanation within forty-eight (48) hours as to why that legislation was vetoed. The President shall present reasons for the veto at the next regular meeting of Congress. If legislation is not vetoed, the Vice President of Administration will stamp it approved." This motion would also require changing 2.4.8, 2.5.9, 2.6.8, and 2.7.8 to read, "Be a voting member of Executive Cabinet." This motion was discussed thoroughly. Debate ended and motion was seconded. Motion was approved with 27 in favor and 15 against.

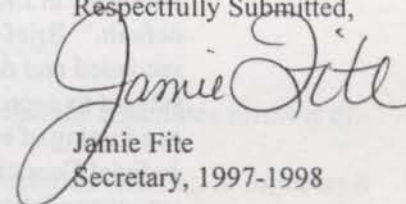
After discussion ended on all proposed amendments a motion was made to pass the new constitution and present it to the student body during elections on April 28, 1998 to be approved. Motion was seconded. Constitution passed unanimously.

New Business: Secretary Fite read Bill 98-1-S "Child Care Grant Recipients." A motion was made to suspend with the bylaws and to vote on it tonight. Motion was seconded and approved. A motion was made to pass Bill 98-1-S. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Secretary Fite read two pieces of legislation which were up for first reading. Resolution 98-6-S "Placing additional lighting on Snell Hall to light sidewalk," Bill 98-3-S "Meet You Dean Reception," and Bill 98-2-S, "Faculty Appreciation Day."

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jamie Fite
Secretary, 1997-1998