

Minutes of Student Government Meeting

Date: March 16th, 2006; 5-6pm; room 403

Attendance: Alex Bell
Anushay Anjum
Brian Ziff-Levine
Danielle Rosario-Mullen
Denis Fitzgerald
Jessica Waverka
Natalie Rodic
Sarah Marusek
Shannon Hayes
Torsten Jochem

Meeting chaired by Natalie Rodic and Torsten Jochem

1. Greeting; Presentation of Agenda

2. Updates

2.1 Update on budget

Torsten reported from a meeting with Robert Ward (Vice President of Student Affairs) in which different options for establishing a budget based upon current university policy were discussed. It is basically a long-winded route for getting access to the \$15 student fees that are paid by every student every semester. That money currently goes straight to the Office for Student Development Activities (OSDA), and to change that process is going to take some lobbying. The student government decided to consult with the University Student Senate about this issue. In the meantime, we will fill out the paperwork to become a recognized student organization in order to get access to limited funds on individual basis need from the OSDA. Further, we decided against asking GPIA for funds for reasons of independence and autonomy as well as since GPIA-funds are very limited.

2.2 Update on concentration reps

Natalie is working on an addition to the student government charter which will state intended duties of student government concentration rep's. Concentration rep's are suggested to be in contact with the teaching assistants (TA's) of their respected concentration to complement their efforts, to increase communication to the student body, and to strengthen overall the concentrations.

There is currently a lack of a student representative for the "Cities & Urbanization" concentration. The student government will reach out to students of the concentration to see if any are interested in helping in this effort. If someone is interested, s/he should feel encouraged to approach us to fill the position.

The teaching assistants (TA's) which are hired by the administration are as follows:

- Media & Culture: BoHee Yoon
- Socio-economic Development: Rasmus Reeh Pederson
- Rights & Governance: Alex Bell
- Conflict & Security: ??

2.3 Update on the NSGS Alumni Meeting

Sarah reports from an alumni meeting that was organized by the alumni office of the New School. She says that the alumni office is planning to set up a platform with which alumni can stay in contact with each other. Specific features are not yet known. This led over to the next item on the agenda.

3. Discussions

3.1 Networking tool

Torsten demonstrated the openBC platform and its features. Student government members had concerns that it was overly comprehensive and may be time-consuming to establish the initial profile. Since the alumni office is planning a networking tool for alumni (see 2.3), we will investigate on what features this future platform will offer and whether we are able to bring in some additional requests. Torsten raises the concern that the networking tool of the alumni office may not offer the ability for the *current* student body to get to know each other and to network. But this needs further inquiry with the alumni office to find out.

4. Misc

Next meeting: March 31st (Friday), 5-6pm; room 704