Senate Minutes
Student Government Association
Northeastern University
9/10/12

Present: 26
Absent: 6
Excused: 0
Quorum: was met.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes from 7/23 approved without objection.
Minutes from 8/6 approved without objection.

Executive Vice President Nick Naraghi:
- Welcomed everybody back and welcomed all first timers.
- Hoped everybody checked out the list of everything the cabinet has been doing and has recently gotten done.
- Due to it being some people’s first senate, everything will be explained as the meeting goes along.
- Asked people to feel free to ask questions if they don’t understand something.
- Introduced himself and explained his role.
  - Chairs senate
  - Oversees communication with Executive Director of Communications Caitlin Rogers.
  - Assists the President in all of his duties.
- Full body Senate meetings mean everybody has to come typically due to an important vote.
  - Going to have 3 in the Fall Semester.
    - October 15, 2012 – Present resolutions of governance, things that change our governing documents.
    - November 5, 2012 – If there are more pieces of legislation to go over from the first full body, in order to prevent meetings from going too long.
    - December 3, 2012 – Presentation of the direct elections manual.
- We are trying to get everybody involved with Base Camp.
  - It’s a program where everybody can use project management and keep track of all the tools that we’ve been doing.
  - Expect to hear from your VP’s and association leaders about Base Camp.

President, Pete Petrin:
- Thanks EVP Naraghi and welcomes all the new and familiar faces.
- Introduced himself and explained his role.
  - Directly elected last spring by the student body.
  - Basic roles are to serve as the spokesperson of the association, to chair the executive cabinet, to oversee our efforts to represent the voice of undergraduate student body, to help with financial planning for the university and serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- The association was hard at work over the summer getting to work on a referendum implementing student budget priorities. You’ll hear about it more from others later in the meeting.
- Thanked EVP Naraghi for putting together the list explaining what we’ve been up to recently. It is going to help people know what’s going on and hopefully promote people to get more involved.
- Next Monday after senate there will be a presentation on the institutional master plan.
  - It is a plan that outlines where the university is going in the next ten years in terms of the physical space that we occupy as a campus. Including renovations, new buildings, athletics etc.
- There are some issues with the website, if you wish to see documents they are up to date and available upon request, otherwise the website will be updated as soon as possible.
- Members of cabinet and various groups will be visiting renovated places on campus this week to get an overview on some of the changes that have been made and answer some student questions.
  - If you have any questions you’d like to be asked, please let him know. We’ll try to recap if for you at next Monday’s senate.
- Working on NU Votes 2012, trying to be the hub over everything going on with the 2012 elections.
  - Working with about a dozen organizations and administrators to get it up and running.
  - There will be a lot of opportunities to get involved.

Comptroller, Maya Quijada:
- Introduced herself and explained finance board
  - Each student pays $120 of a student activity fee. It pools up to around two million dollars that goes to various student groups for planning events etc.
  - When a group plans something, they first have to present the idea to finance board in order to get approved for funding.
  - Roughly 5 to 12 students are in finance board depending on the year.
  - You get to know about all of the events before they happen.
  - Currently accepting applications.
- Been meeting since the middle of June.
  - Already have everything planned through November.
- Happy to see everyone and is glad to be back.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kristina Lopez:
- Introduced herself and explained her position.
  - Does everything related to academics. Library, labs, professors etc.
  - If you have any academic issues or concerns or want something improved she is the one to contact.
- The second floor of the library is finishing up.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Nicole Daly:
- Introduced herself and explained her position.
  - I work on the first year experience, orientation, bringing diversity to the programs we have, building up the Northeastern Community.
- This year she’s looking for her committee to assess and discuss reformat the first year experience in the realm of student affairs and how we can better connect and build up the Northeastern Community.
- Been talking a lot with OSCCR, OPEN and athletics and is really looking forward to having everybody back.
- We meet on Wednesday nights at 7pm in 433 CSC.
  - If interested in joining please let her know.

Vice President for Student Involvement, Kate Chandley:
- Welcomed everybody back and introduced herself and explained her position.
  - She chairs the student involvement board which represents the student organization community to the administration.
Main function is working with groups that have tentative recognition on writing a constitution.
- Have the vote on whether or not a group becomes official organization or not.
- Provide resources for student organizations.
- Forms for student leaders to discuss issues they are having.
- Provide workshops for student organizations.

- Student leadership day is happening on October 14th.
- This Wednesday is the first presidents meeting this semester.
  - It’s at 7pm in 109 Robinson.
  - If interested please let somebody know.
- Student involvement board is meeting this Thursday at 6pm in 435 CSC.
- Applications are open until Friday.
- If you are interested in joining Student Involvement board we are looking for more senators.

Vice President for Student Services, Terry MacCormack:
- Introduced himself and explained his role.
  - If you’re interested in making an immediate impact on a bunch of little things happening around campus than student services is the place for you.
  - Deal with dining. Work on the dining halls and retail.
    - Over the summer Curry Student Center got renovated, we had a lot of input.
  - Deal with sustainability. Recycling and renewable energy.
  - One thing we’ve been working on is the Farmers Market for students to get organic produce on campus. Trying to expand vendors constantly.
  - Deal with housing and reslife.
    - Trying to reform the way guests get signed into the residence halls.
  - If interested we meet on Tuesdays at 6pm in 433 CSC.

Chief of Staff, Noah Carville:
- Introduced himself and explained his role.
  - Deals with the administrative portions of the association.
    - Setting up for senate, managing the roster, making placards etc.
  - In charge of membership.
    - Make sure it’s still exciting for Senators and help new senators.
  - We have a new Senator retreat October 5th to 7th.
    - Hopes everybody will be there.
  - Runs SGA info sessions.
    - One on Thursday.
  - Does the budget for SGA.
  - If you weren’t on the roster it’s because he didn’t receive an active request.
    - If you want to be back on the active roster just shoot him an email.
  - He looks forward to an exciting year.

Executive Director of Communications, Caitlin Rogers:
- Introduced herself and explained her role.
  - Deal with all things social media, promotions, journalism, event planning etc.
  - Do a lot of brainstorming and works with every other committee to make sure things are being properly promoted.
  - First stage of planning our big outreach event in the fall. Helping with homecoming.
  - Wednesday at 8pm in 435 CSC.
The **Senate** moved into Special Addresses.

Parliamentarian, Olivia D’Angelo:

- Introduced herself and explained her role.
  - She looks at the appeals that come through the finance board or student involvement board.
  - Take care of election concerns.
  - Takes all questions and concerns with constitutions and governing bylaws.
- It’s a lot of fun and they are currently looking for more senators to get involved.

Elections Committee Chair, Julia Pattern:

- Introduced herself and explained her role.
  - We run elections.
  - We are going to be editing the manual this year, which should be exciting.
  - If you like event planning, creative thinking, a promotion etc. than this is the committee for you.
  - We meet at 7:30pm on Thursdays in 435 CSC.

The **Senate** moved into Question Time.

- No Questions.

The **Senate** moved into New Business.

VP for Student Involvement, Kate Chandley:

- Presenting Student Organization Approval and Revision Manual.
  - Matt *Crimmins* did most of the work on it; VP Chandley is just the current VP.
  - Was created as an internal guide for the student involvement board.
  - It makes it so groups with tentative recognition can have something to look into to know what they have to do and how things work.
  - It lays out specifically what the administration is looking for from a group in order to get approved.
  - Not voting on it tonight, just introducing it and clarifying questions.
- Recognition Process
  - 2 members of the student involvement board will meet with a tentatively recognized organization to prepare them for their presentation.
  - Helps board members get to know student organizations.
  - Provides a good base for guidance for these groups.
- Student-at-Large Matt *Crimmins* was asked to present guidelines.
  - We originally weren’t held accountable for anything. So we wanted to fix that.
  - We mainly focused on sustainability.
    - Want groups to be around for 20, 30, 40 etc. years.
  - Focused on overlap
    - We have a lot of organizations, so we wanted to make sure they were all unique.
    - If it overlaps we direct them to the group they should contact.
  - Worked a lot with governing documents throughout the entire process.
- As soon as the website is ready all of this will be set up, otherwise its request only.

The **Senate** moved into Question Time.

- Senator Van: “We [Senate] don’t need to vote to approve the manual?”
VP Chandley: “No because this is an internal manual, just as we do not vote to approve the SAF Manual for the Finance Board.”

VP Daly: “How does the appeals process work for student groups appealing a decision? Does this happen often?”

Student-at-large Crimmins “President Petrin came the closest, but this has never happened before. It is very rare. There has not been an appeal in the three years since the Student Involvement Board was formed.”

President Petrin clarifies “Student Groups always have the opportunity to come back and re-present to the Board. This is the option taken more often.”

No further questions

Senator of the Summer

President Petrin “We unanimously chosen this person. Her hard work on the Little Things to Know Guide, her perseverance and enthusiasm was phenomenal. A big congratulations to Amanda McAllister.”

New Business

President Petrin moves to create the Budget Review Ad-hoc Committee. The charge of this committee is to make recommendations to the Senate and Student Affairs as to officer compensation, as well as to review the Finance Board’s involvement in the approval of the Association budget. The chair of the committee will be President Petrin, and there will be at least two senators, two students-at-large on the committee, and one Association officer. The committee will terminate on November 5th, 2012.

VP MacCormack asks what the requirements are for the officer sitting on the committee. Can it be a Director?

President Petrin answers that it should be someone eligible to receive a stipend to get their input.

Senator Pett asks for clarification on the reporting deadline.

President Petrin clarifies that the committee will report on October 22nd.

VP Daly seconds the creation of this committee. With no objections, this motion passes.

President Petrin moves to create the Senate Representation Ad-hoc Committee. The charge of the committee is to assess the Senate’s structural ability to represent the student body to be a better representative of the student body. Membership will be open to all undergraduate students, and will be chaired by President Petrin. There will be at least two senators and at least two students-at-large on the committee. The committee will terminate at the start of direct elections in Spring 2013.

Senator Donati asks if there is a methodology to picking people for the committee.

President Petrin says that it is an open committee; all are welcome.

VP MacCormack asks if there is going to be some sort of permanent membership.
President Petrin responds that there will be based on regular attendance, but that does not mean there will be a specific membership.

This motion is seconded by Chief of Staff Carville. With no objections, the motion passes.

Open Discussion

VP Daly wanted to commend Senator McAllister on all her work on the Little Things to Know Guide. Thanks the Student Affairs committee and EVP Naraghi.

President Petrin wanted to let everyone know that Professor Herman and Marina Macomber will be the groups advisors.

VP MacCormack does not want new members to be scared by all the points and motions.

EVP Naraghi reminds the body that Chief of Staff Carville will start his new Senator Training and Education Program soon to help assimilate new members.

Parliamentarian D'Angelo reminds Senators that the information on the back of their placards can be very useful to making it through the process.

President Petrin encourages students to attend the Millennium Camus Conference on the 14th and 15th of September.

Without objection, the Chair closed the meeting at 7:43 pm.