Senate Minutes
Student Government Association
Northeastern University
July 23, 2012

Quorum: was met.

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

Executive Vice President, Nick Naraghi:
- Meeting with members regarding communications and events.
- Working to get website up as soon as possible.

President, Peter Petrin:
- Working with Risk Management and Student Affairs on contracts process.
- Completed several outreach events including Beach Bash carnival and “If I was President”
- Millennium Conference which SGA is an internal sponsor of on September 14 and 15.
- Attended the Institutional Master Plan meeting to listen to feedback.

Comptroller, Maya Quijada:
- Heard September small requests.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kristina Lopez:
- Dealing with student concerns.
- Working on town hall meetings.
- Will be attempting to re-establish ad-hoc committee for the fall.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Nicole Daly:
- Met with Val Randal-Lee and John Tobin to discuss community initiatives.
- Looking for volunteers for move-in day in Fenway and Mission Hill on September 1.
- In contact with UHCS and OPEN about a peer mentoring group related to consensual sex.

Vice President for Student Involvement, Kate Chandley:
- Working on event request for Student Leadership Day.
- Completed allocation for spaces in Room 240 and will be setting up a meeting to release decisions and expectation for the space.
- SIB will be meeting this week.

Vice President for Student Services, Terry MacCormack:
- Farmers market is continuing and are looking into ways to make payment easier.
- Working on Hertz On Demand roll out promotion. There are four locations: North Lot, Matthews, Columbus Surface Lot and Ryder parking lot.
- The beverage survey results were accepted by dining. There will also be a Coke Freestyle machine in On The Go. Renovations should be completed by mid-late August.

Chief of Staff, Noah Carville:
- I have been working on resolving printing issues and ordering supplies.
- Working on new senator workshops and meeting with EVP Naraghi and President Petrin.
- Planning retreat and have set a tentative agenda.
- New senator absence excusal request form is being developed.
Elections Committee Chair, Julia Patten:

- Working to schedule a meeting for all candidates and campaign workers.

The Senate moves into Question Time.

- Senator Pett asks if students under the age of 21 will be able to use the Hertz service.
  - Vice President MacCormack responds yes, that it will be available for students 18 and up.

The Senate moves into New Business.

- Executive Director of Communications confirmation for Elizabeth Sullivan.

- EVP Naraghi asks if anybody has an issue with him chairing due directly working with this.
  - No issues were brought up, thus EVP Naraghi remained as chair.

- Senator Pett asked if the confirmation could proceed tonight due to the candidate not being on the agenda sent out to the senators prior to the meeting. Says he is concerned that some people may have come tonight who are not present if they had known who the EDOC nominee had been.
  - EVP Naraghi yielded the question to Parliamentarian D’Angelo. Parliamentarian D’Angelo said a vote could be imposed to overturn the chair.

- EVP Naraghi suggested senate evaluate the question during the recess and bring it to a vote if they felt it was necessary once the recess is over.

- EVP Naraghi ends the recess and suggested that senate should move forward and that if it is a big enough issue that a vote can be started to overturn his decision by a 2/3rd vote from senate. EVP Naraghi is comfortable moving on and the legislation and constitution isn’t specific as to whether a name has to be on the agenda or not to move forward.
  - Senator Pett motioned to overturn EVP Naraghi’s decision, seconded by VP Nicole Daly.

The Senate moves to a roll call vote.

- Vote resulted in 8 for and 1 against, thus voted passed overturning EVP Naraghi’s decision.

- VP Daly explained that the vote passed due to the fact that Elizabeth Sullivan’s name didn’t show up on the agenda, thus they weren’t properly informed prior to senate.

- EVP Naraghi informed that in order to move forward with the confirmation a motion to change the agenda by 2/3rd's vote.
  - Chair entertains a motion to change the agenda to include Elizabeth Sullivan as candidate for confirmation Executive Director of Communications.
  - Senator Carron motioned to change the agenda which was seconded by comptroller Quijada.
    - Objection from Senator Pett.
The Senate moves into Debate

- Senator LePage doesn’t think that changing the agenda now fixes the initial problem of senators not showing up due to Elizabeth Sullivan’s name not appearing on the agenda due to the fact that they still weren’t informed prior.

- Elections Committee Chair Patten thinks that if somebody had a problem with the agenda, it should have been brought up when the agenda was sent out versus now. Allowing the agenda to have been fixed prior to the meeting. If people really wanted to know they could have reached out and asked instead of causing us to not have an EDOC for even longer.

- Senator Pett said that bringing up the issue with the agenda wouldn’t have made a difference because the fix wouldn’t have been done more than 24 hours prior to senate.

- EVP Naraghi informed that anybody who doesn’t have rights for purpose during New Business needs to be yielded to by somebody who has speaking rights.

- Comptroller Quijada thinks we are getting into semantics and need to focus on what really matters, which is the fact that we don’t have an EDOC, which is key to everybody and that it is really hard to operate without one. If somebody felt strongly about EDOC’s they would have shown up, the name shouldn’t have made the difference.

- Senator LePage says that this candidate was already known about and discussed so he doesn’t understand why the information was not disclosed in the first place.

The Senate moves to a roll call vote.

- A motion to amend the agenda to include the EDOC confirmation of Candidate Sullivan.
  - A vote yes will be in favor to include on the Agenda, a vote nay will be against including her on the agenda.

- The vote resulted in 6 for, 3 against and 3 abstentions the vote passed.
  - Candidate Sullivan will be added to the agenda.

- EVP Naraghi had no way of adding her to the agenda during the meeting so they will just proceed normally.
  - Senator Pett was uncomfortable with EVP Naraghi chairing due to Elizabeth Sullivan being his nomination.
    - EVP Naraghi yields chair to VP MacCormack.

- EVP Naraghi gets 5 minutes to introduce Candidate Sullivan.
  - After discussing with members of last year’s communications board and members of SGA, EVP Naraghi believes he hasn’t been fair to all involved parties.
  - EVP Naraghi 1st point is to apologize for the lack in transparency he’s displayed regarding his thoughts and search for an EDOC.
- Thanked those who informed him he wasn’t going about his business in the best way possible.

- Apologized to the individuals who he didn’t fully explain himself to until now.

- He realizes what he has done and has now fixed it.

  - EVP Naraghi wants to highlight the process to choose the EDOC nominee. Interviewed applicants based on thirteen traits. Originally appointed Elizabeth because he thought she was the most qualified candidate, and he still believes that. He believes she did not receive a fair confirmation hearing the first time around. He has reached out to all the members of the Communications committee from last year to consult them on this choice.

  - EVP Naraghi’s 3rd point is to introduce the candidate that should be approved. He makes the distinction that it is his responsibility as EVP to pick the most qualified candidate for the position, but it is not the Senate’s responsibility to vote on whether or not the candidate is the most qualified candidate. It is only the Senate’s responsibility to vote whether or not the candidate is qualified to hold the position.

- Candidate Sullivan speaks on her qualifications:

  - Will be a Junior Communications Studies major and Psychology minor this fall.

  - Worked on the Communications committee under both ex-EDOC Cotter and Dwyer and worked on the Elections committee and Elections sub-committee.

  - Was on co-op in Washington D.C. this past term. Volunteered for a communications specialist for two political campaigns while in D.C. This gave her a lot of real world experience for communications and involvement.

  - Believes we should follow through with existing Communications projects, and to transition successfully from last year to this year, she will be speaking with both former EDOCs and the current interim EDOC. Will be emailing the entire committee with her plan for the committee for the next year. She will also be available for email and phone communications for the remainder of the summer.

  - As a Communications studies major with professional experience, she wants to change SGA’s approach to communications. She wants to get the university to see the Senators as individuals rather than the association as a whole, better integrate NUideas, continue on with SGAmes, and work on better recruitment strategies.

- The floor is opened to questions for Candidate Sullivan

  - VP Daly asks the candidate whether or not we should set time requirements on communications with the Huntington News

    - Candidate Sullivan answers that she would not be happy if she got a phone call at 3 AM with a question, but she wants to be careful with building a better relationship with the Huntington News. She does not want to do anything that would make them more upset with us, but there should still be limits on times they can call us.
Senator Pett asks what steps she plans to take to improve the relationship between SGA and the Huntington News.

- Candidate Sullivan responds that we need to be more transparent so that we do not come across as a big and unapproachable dictator. As far as transparency goes, she would like someone to be a Huntington News contact so that the Huntington News does not feel left in the dark. We have many great writers on our Communications committee, and if someone would like to create a direct connection with the News, that would benefit our relationship.

- Comptroller Quijada motions to extend question time by five minutes. VP Daly seconds this motion.

- Debate is opened for Candidate Sullivan’s confirmation.

  - Senator Van expresses concern that Candidate Sullivan stated she would drastically change the communication strategy. He thought it was good this year, and this worried him.

  - EVP Naraghi states that Communications need a lot of work. They have been good, but they need to be better. He says we need to be more responsible in communicating with the student body.

  - Comptroller Quijada states that it is important to note that Candidate Sullivan said she would incorporate the strategies of the previous EDOCs to improve her strategies.

- VP Daly motions for a secret ballot vote on Candidate Sullivan. Seconded by Chief of Staff Carville.

- Reconvened after tabulating the votes at 8:32 PM. By a vote of 6 No to 4 Yes to 1 Abstain, the candidate is not confirmed.

- VP MacCormack yields the chair back to EVP Naraghi.

- EVP Naraghi asks if there are any other points for New Business.

- VP Lopez motions to re-establish the Ad-hoc Committee for College Expectations for this coming year. Charge for the committee is to work to uphold the college expectations and wishes of the students and to meet with members of the administration and faculty to meet the expectations of the students. The membership will consist of the VP for Academic Affairs, minimum of two Senators, and a minimum of two Students-At-Large. The report from the committee will be due March 25, 2013. There is a second from Senator Vo. The motion passes and the committee is re-established.

- Move into Open Discussion.

  - Senator Van asks VPs about their progress on referenda items.

  - EVP Naraghi states that this falls to the VP when they are giving their executive addresses. If the VP does not give an update in the address, you are to assume that there is nothing further to update.

  - VP MacCormack follows up that he is moving forward on the sustainability referenda and is working with administrators on these referenda. Working with RSO to upgrade technology for the guest sign-in process and policies.
Elections Chair Patten states that she is very disappointed that we were not able to appoint an EDOC again. It is a poor reflection on us to the student body, and she thinks this candidate was fully qualified.

Comptroller Quijada says this is disrespectful to the last two EDOCs to say that this candidate, who has more professional experience than the previous two, was unqualified for her position.

Parliamentarian D’Angelo says that she will be holding an elections de-brief in Frost Lounge soon.

EVP Naraghi states that there was a local robbery and mugging tonight, so everyone should be careful on their way home.

Without objection, the Chair closes the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted to the Senate by Tim LePage.