Quorum: was met

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

The minutes from February 13th and February 20th pass without objection.

Executive Vice President Nick Naraghi:
10 • The mid-year senator evaluation will go out tonight
• In old business we will be discussing the Association Budget, with five minutes of presentation, five minutes for questions, and 20 minutes for debate which can be extended by a motion at any time
• The referendum will be voted on in new business for feasibility, accordance to University policy, and fairness in wording
• Lastly, to address open discussion last week, I have been able to meet with some of you to answer questions, but if anyone else has questions, please don't hesitate to approach me after this meeting or whenever you have time

The Associate Dean and Director of Off Campus Student Services, Gail Olyha, addressed the Senate. The Director of Information Services for Cooperative Education, Tony Armelin, addressed the Senate.

President Pete Petrin:
20 • Participated in a sustainability symposium with NU Dining, Facilities, and Student Affairs to discuss Student Government's efforts in the area of sustainability. Thanks to VP MacCormack and Senator Corrado for the information.
• In discussion with other local student governments to discuss the potential MBTA changes and to create a place for student input for changes.
• Working with VP Wankel to discuss changes to the Board of Trustees website, and trying to improve the transparency of the board
• Referenda review and Budget debate will occur tonight.

Comptroller, Maya Quijada; yield

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kristina Lopez; Delivered by Eric Tyler
25 • We just had a great College Expectations meeting, were a month out from reporting to Senate so everyone has been reaching out their colleges and meeting with their contacts.
• The NUCool forum is Wednesday at 6 in 431 Stearns. There will be pizza and you have the opportunity to improve cool! I have flyers if you're interested.
• Registration for summer classes was this past week, if something happened to you when you were registering please let me know, and we will try to solve it for the next round! That being said we will be chatting about registration in committee on Wednesday so if you have something you would like to add please feel free to stop by.
40 • We will be having TRACE tomorrow night at 6:45 in the conference room and committee Wednesday at 6 in 435 curry.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Nicole Daly;
• This Thursday there is a presentation on Women in History in the McCloud Suites at 9pm.
• Carnevale is still going on, and there are a variety of events in this week
• Well wishes to those going on Alternative Spring Break next week.
• Sending out an I AM Northeastern email, relaunching a twitter campaign. Any ideas for tweets should be forwarded along to me.

Vice President for Student Involvement, Kate Chandley:
• Congratulations to Senator Brown is now my AVP.
• Email from Chiquita Baylor that the Student Leadership day will be included in the budget, and a lot of work went into that this weekend.
• Tentative recognition paperwork was due to Campus Activities last week, so there are 13 new groups due for recognition this semester.

Vice President for Student Services, Terry MacCormack:
• Food Advisory board tomorrow, please let me know if you have any issues or things you want addressed.
• Meeting with officials from the One Card office to discuss off campus vendors and other Husky Card issues.
• Senator Pett is working on signage regarding work requests in the residence halls. Hoping to have it completed for the next Fall move in.
• Thanks to President Petrin for presenting at the Sustainability forum today.
• Thanks for all committee members for working on the budget priorities results, and creating digestible results.
• Senator Nagy and President Petrin working on the smoking policy discussions happening on campus, and creating a comment that Student Government can put forward.
• The Referenda from last year have had progress. The modified guest sign-in policy referenda is going to have a pilot after spring break for apartment style housing. On Sunday through Wednesday throughout the day can sign in 5 people instead of 3. It will not be in effect for late night hours. If it goes well if can be reassessed and implemented later on.

Chief of Staff, Noah Carville:
• STEP will be cancelled this evening, and there will be no meeting next week due to spring break. One month check ins will begin after spring break

Executive Director of Communications, Caitlin Rogers:
• February newsletter will go out on Friday
• Relay for Life only has 3 people interested, so please let me know if you are interested
• Committee will be back on Wednesday, and we will work on Orientation and Passing of the Gavel.

The Senate moved into Special Addresses.

Parliamentarian, Olivia D’Angelo:
  o Spending time hearing appeals and working with Marina to better the OAB for the future
  o A few important topics will be addressed tonight, so please speak on the subjects tonight if you are interested. Propose changes if you feel they would be beneficial.

Elections Chair, Julia Patten:
• I worked on space reservations for the Debates, and the moderators have been contacted.
• The schedule for elections has been adjusted, and nominations will occur on Monday, March 18th. Candidates briefing will be that following Tuesday at 9:30. All campaign workers should be there.
Campaigning can begin on that Wednesday. Internal elections will occur on Monday April 8th. Voting will occur from March 28th through Wednesday April 3rd.

- We still need people for the elections subcommittee. Look to twitter and facebook for updates.
- Working with IS to continue the work on the ballot.
- Working on the number that is required for signatures, so that candidates know how many signatures they need.
- Please address any issues with grievances or any other concerns to me.

Renewable Energy Initiatives Board Chair, Mary Corrado;

- There was a meeting on Thursday and there were a lot of edits made to the Renewable Energy Fund manual. It will go up on the website.
- There is an open seat on the board for a sustainability focused student group representative. Applications are rolling and on OrgSync.

The Senate moves into Question Time.

- VP Daly asks what a grievance is.
- Elections Chair Patten answers that it is a formal complaint against a candidate for violating a policy or procedure set by the Code of Conduct or Elections manual. If the grievance is found to have merit, there will be a hearing and sanctioning if found in violation of the manual.
- Parliamentarian D’Angelo asks how early campaigning is handled.
- Elections Chair Patten answers that it should not be done, and otherwise it is addressed in the manual. A grievance can still be filed, but nothing will happen to the candidate until the candidate is officially recognized.

The Senate moves into Unfinished Business.

The Senate moves into Question Time.

- VP MacCormack commends the work of President Petrin and Chief of Staff Carville. He also says that the lack of stipends will make it more difficult to recruit quality candidates that can afford to commit the time to an executive board position, and that he would not be able to serve in the positions without the stipends.
- VP Daly agrees that the stipends do help to offset costs that are incurred as an executive board member. There is a large time commitment that is difficult to combine with having a part time job.
- Comptroller Quijada feels that it is hypocritical to take stipends when the student body feels that we should not get stipends out of the Student Activity Fee. There was also minimal participation in the committee to find alternatives.
- VP Lopez says that it is important to make a decision that will be in the best interest of the organization. Until 2006, full tuition was covered for executive board members. Stipends should be maintained.
- Chief of Staff Carville mentions that $11,500 can be fundraised and distributed as stipends.
- Elections Chair Patten says that we have accountability to the students, but the positions do directly advocate for the student body’s needs, but they should be funded. However, they should not be funded by the SAF.
- Senator Ramsey says that she was ignorant to the issues surrounding stipends, but as a student, she feels that the executive board is doing a job for the student body, and it is something that the students are paying for.
VP MacCormack says that the cash account would be a great way to fund the stipends, but the numbers are not up to the point where it can fully fund stipends for everyone. There is a sense of accountability to the students with the SAF funded stipends.

Senator Eide feels that barriers made by us should not be there, since we are a student organization just as much as any on campus, and it is deconstructive to our representation.

Comptroller Quijada mentions that stipends have been declined by the finance board for the past three years, and only funded through appeals.

Senator Pett says that his constituents support the stipends for the executive board, and because we are charged to represent the full student body we should have stipends. It does not add up to a significant amount from each student.

VP Lopez mentions that RSA stipends are funded through the Resident Activity Fee, and stipended positions are held to write monthly reports, so how will those individuals be held accountable to that in the future.

Chief of Staff Carville says that he does not feel one way or another on the stipend issue, but he is torn because both sides are compelling. However, all student organizations on campus function without stipends, and require significant time commitments.

Elections Chair Patten says that people are against stipends because of the lack of communication between the SGA and the student body. If people realized the amount of work, they may not be against it. The lack of stipends would be detrimental.

VP Lopez cites the hour requirements as equal to a part time job, and that is not something required from other student organizations.

Senator Eide feels that the elimination of the stipends should not be based on the stipends, but the service you will provide that is cited in our governing documents.

Senator Pett says that he would not have been able to complete the job without the stipend because he pays his way through school by himself, and did not have the ability to work in other jobs to earn money.

EDOC Rogers says that no one on executive board has not done the position because of the stipend, but it allows for the time commitment without needing a second job.

VP MacCormack says that the late nights in the office are just the commitment to the students. The nature of the organization is to serve the needs of all students, and it would be a different situation if the organization had a more specific focus. The work of other student organizations should not be devalued.

Senator Withop says that if a Senator was unable to do a position just because of the money, it hurts the student body.

Senator Ramsey says that the stipends are so small that it isn’t something for someone to seek the position for the money. However, having the stipends available allows for those who do not have a lot of access to money to serve in the position.

Comptroller Quijada says that it is important to recognize that SGA has an annual budget, which is unique to only a few organizations. This debate is whether the stipends should come out of the SAF. The full tuition scholarships came from Student Affairs.

VP Daly says that the association has a problem with turnover rate, and has a hard time retaining people due to burnout and the time commitment. The Senate should try to compensate the executive board according to the work done.

Elections Chair Patten says that an organization benefiting all students should have a stipend.

President Petrin is happy that there are opinions in the room regarding stipends, and the specific points in the presented budget reflect his constituents opinions.

Comptroller Quijada moves to extend debate to the end of a speakers list.

- Senator Donati seconds
- Without objection, the motion passes
Senator Ramsey is happy to vote for the lack of stipends as long as the money would be available to help compensate executive board members in the future through other means.

Senator Pett moves to amend lines 3-11 to read $3,150 each, and line 12 to read $750, and line 13 to read $250

- VP Lopez seconds
- Senator Eide objects

The Senate moves into Debate

- VP MacCormack mentions that fundraising needs to be focused on in order to move away from the SAF stipends.
- Senator Pett says that these amounts should be at the amounts stated so that the President and Executive Vice President, as well as the EDOC and Chief of Staff get funded at equal amounts.
- President Petrin feels that he’s heard a lot of debate due to personal issues and needs, and cites the amounts of work he has and what else he does to offset his presidential duties.
- Senator Kisby has discussed these issues with his constituents, and stated that he is against stipends due to their opinions on work requirements from executive board members in all student organizations.

- Senator Eide moves to extend Senate to the end of the agenda
  - Senator Kisby seconds
  - Without objection, the motion passes

Debate continued for the amendment proposed by Senator Pett

- Senator Eide says that he problem with stipends is that it comes from the SAF. He feels that they should be compensated from another budget or source, since the SAF is so strapped from other areas.
- Senator Corrado mentions that there is no solid opinion one way or another from the student body on stipends, and there is no history to see how the lack of stipends impacts membership.

The Senate moves into Voting Procedure

- Comptroller Quijada moves to have a roll call vote
  - VP Daly seconds
  - Without objection, the motion passes

- With 10 for and 13 against, the motion fails.

Chief of Staff Carville moves to call to question.

- Comptroller Quijada seconds
- Senator Pett objects

Chief of Staff Carville withdraws his motion

- Senator Kisby says that because we represent the student body, if the majority of students say no to stipends, than we should not have stipends.
- Senator Driscoll says that stipends should exist, but they should not be funded from the SAF.
- Comptroller Quijada states that the budget request was on time, but SGA requested an expedited timeline, so the presentation is a week earlier.

The Senate moves into Voting Procedure

- VP Lopez moves to vote via secret ballot
  - Senator Tyler seconds

- With a vote of 14 for and 14 against, the budget fails.
Due to the failure of the proposed budget, the proposed budget for FY 2013 will be proposed.

President Petrin moves to extend the report deadline for the Senator Representation Ad Hoc committee from February 25th to the last spring Senate.
- Senator Kisby seconds
- Without objection, the motion passes

The Senate moves into New Business.

Referenda Approval is brought to the floor.

- President Petrin and VP Daly present the Newsletter Referenda
  - The Senate moves into Question Time
  - The Senate moves into Debate
    - VP MacCormack mentions that the Referenda seems to fit within the guidelines of feasibility, adherence to University policy, and fairness in wording.
    - President Petrin moves to waive the 2 week requirement to vote on the feasibility, adherence to University policy, and fairness in wording of the Referenda.
      - Without objection, the motion passes.

- The Senate moves into Voting Procedure
  - With 25 for, and 0 against, the vote passes.

The Senate moves into Open Discussion

- VP Daly announces that swipe access to the office will not be updated for a while until the University wide Husky Card project is completed.
- Senator Corrado says thank you to Senator Carroll for her help with the RSA event before the hockey game over the weekend. She also encourages everyone to go to the BU hockey game.
- Parliamentarian D'Angelo mentions that she was confused as to why the Referenda were voted on first before they received signatures.
- Comptroller Quijada says that Elections Chair Cotter presented for the 3 criteria to the Senate after the Referenda got the required signatures, but then some students got discouraged when they signed on to a Referenda and it wasn’t approved for feasibility, adherence to University policy, and fairness in wording.

- Elections Chair Patten says that she is discouraged that there is only one Referenda, and she will add it to the elections report to be worked on next year.
- Senator says that he brought the idea to the NUHOC executive board, but nobody from there knew what it was.
- Senator Trowbridge mentioned that no information went out about it except for Senator word of mouth, and cited the lack of communication as a reason that there was only one Referenda.
- EVP Naraghi states that it is still a new process, and improvements still need to be made over time.
- Parliamentarian D'Angelo says that she is upset about the lack of Referenda, but she takes some accountability for the issue.

- Elections Chair Patten mentions that this is the best time for communication with students, so it should be improved for the future.
- Senator Pett points out that if we don’t receive 20% of the student body’s vote in the Direct Elections, the Senate will have to vote. He encourages Senators to really push the Direct Elections.
- Comptroller Quijada mentions that President Petrin and Chief of Staff Carville did a great job in preparing the FY ’14 budget.
- President Petrin says that Chief of Staff Carville did most of the ground research and that he did a great job.
- Senator Corrado says that she has the RecyleMania schedule, and people should see her to get it.
• EVP Naraghi mentions that Senators should prepare feedback for the Tony Armelin meeting on Wednesday at 6 in regards to NUCool.

• Senator Corrado asks if the evaluations being sent tonight are just for Senators
  o EVP Naraghi answers that it is just for Senators, and it will be sent via email.

Without objection, the Chair closes the meeting at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted to the Senate by Ashley Caron