



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

MEETING MINUTES

- I. *Call to Order – 6:00PM*
 - a. Meeting is called to order by Executive Vice President, Ben Handler
- II. *Roll Call – 6:01PM*
 - a. 33 out of 39 Senators in attendance
- III. *Approval of previous meeting minutes (11/15/2016) – 6:02PM*
 - a. Senate is asked for amendments or objections to the previous meeting minutes, none raised
 - b. Motion is made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, second is given
 - i. Vote – majority in favor of approval of meeting minutes
- IV. *Approval of meeting agenda (01/24/2017) – 6:03PM*
 - a. Senate is asked for amendments to this meeting agenda.
 - b. Motion is made to add a portion for Johnathan Flowers to speak after line item VI, second is given
 - i. Motion is made to recognize the President, Jared Stern, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of recognizing the President
 - a. The President explains that he spoke with Mr. Flowers and told him that the best time to speak would be during public comments. President Stern also explains that the information that he plans to speak about is not complete, and asks that the Senate wait for more information rather than to allow Mr. Flowers to speak for 20 minutes.
 - ii. Vote on allowing Mr. Flowers to speak after line item VI – majority opposed
 - c. Motion is made to move SB 17-123 on the agenda to line item IX, subsection b, second is given
 - i. Vote – majority in favor of moving SB 17-123 on the agenda.
 - d. Motion is made to add another section for public comments after line VI on the agenda, second is given
 - i. Vote – majority opposed of adding another section for Public Comments
 - e. Motion is made to move SB 17-124 on the agenda to line item IX, subsection c, second is given
 - i. Vote – majority in favor of moving SB 17-124 on the agenda.



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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

- f. Motion is made to move SB 17-131 on the agenda to line item IX, subsection d, second is given
- i. Vote – majority in favor of moving SB 17-131 on the agenda.
- g. Motion is made to move SB 17-121 on the agenda to line item IX, subsection e, second is given
- i. Vote – majority in favor of moving SB 17-121 on the agenda
- h. Motion is made to strike SB 17-118 from the agenda as they have not met with IAC yet, second is given
- i. Vote – majority in favor of striking SB 17-118 from the agenda.
- V. *Executive Reports*
- a. *Executive Assistant – Jami Hagemann – 6:13PM*
 - i. Jami welcomes members of the Senate and public back for the semester, and states that she works primarily with the Treasurer on funding, but can help answer any general questions related to USG.
 - b. *Gabi Piquini – Treasurer – 6:14PM*
 - i. Gabi welcomes everyone back for the semester, and states that the funding board met with RSOs before the end of last semester, and that those bills will be presented tonight. Additionally, she states that there are a lot of funding requests in the system, and that the funding board is meeting next week to begin to allocate funding to those RSOs. She welcomes any and all funding related questions, but says that she may be unavailable over the next few weeks due to Vet-School interviews, and that Jami will be temporarily taking over some of her duties.
 - c. *Ian Ritchey – Chief of Staff – 6:15PM*
 - i. Ian welcomes the Senate back for the semester, and reminds them that the Student Center will be the new location for Senate meetings moving forward, except for the next meeting, which will be in the Student Health Center as they were last semester. He also states constituency reports will be due at the end of February during the senate meeting on March 7. Finally, he states that there are currently 38 members of the Senate, and that one new member will be sworn in tonight as we work towards our goal of completely filling the Senate.
 - d. *Rose Weisenstein – Vice President for Student Affairs – 6:16PM*



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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
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TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

i. Rose welcomes everyone back for the semester, and states that the Diversity and Equity Affairs Committee will begin meeting next week and will meet bi-weekly from that point on during the off-week of Senate meetings. She also states that the University Diversity Council has sent out a diversity and inclusion related survey to student emails, and that it is extremely important that those be taken and be taken seriously.

e. *Ben Handler – Executive Vice President – 6:17PM*

i. Ben welcomes everyone back for the semester, and states that he is continuing to work on the website, and that the information that is currently posted is the more up-to-date information. Also, he says that the Search Committee for the next SIU Chancellor is wrapping up, and he will provide more information when it is available and appropriate to do so.

f. *Jared Stern – President – 6:18PM*

i. Jared thanks everyone that has returned to USG this semester, and states that this location will be used for all but one USG Senate meeting this semester. He says that the room is hopefully going to increase the levels of respect between Senators by having everyone look at each other, and hopes that this room is better for acoustics as well.

VI. *Advisor Report – Tena Bennett – 6:19PM*

a. Tena stands and welcomes everyone back for the semester. She reminds students that the international festival is coming up in two weeks. She also says that the food pantry in the basement of the Student Center has received more than 700 customers in its first semester.

VII. *Committee Reports*

a. *Internal Affairs Committee – Elizabeth Lewis – 6:21PM*

i. Senator Lewis reports that she is continuing to work with Chief of Staff, Ian Ritchey, on enforcing the attendance policy for all Senators, and that Senators need to be mindful of the policy and make sure that they are communicating with the Executive Board if they are going to be late or absent from a meeting.

b. *External Affairs Committee – Brandon Kyles – 6:22PM*

i. Senator Kyles reports that the EAC has not met yet this semester, and that meetings will take place every Thursday and 4:30PM in the Student Engagement



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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

Suite Conference Room on the third floor of the Student Center. He also says that he is finalizing the details on the decals that were suggested to EAC last semester.

c. *Judicial Board – Kelly Meloy – 6:23PM*

- i. Chief Justice, Kelly Meloy, reports that if anyone has any issues with anything regarding USG that they are more than welcome to contact her, and that her information can be found online on USG's website. She says that she is looking forward to working with everyone this semester and hopes that it will be under positive circumstances.

d. *Diversity and Equity Affairs Committee – Rose Weisenstein/Marissa Jackson – 6:24PM*

- i. Vice President for Student Affairs, Rose Weisenstein, says that the DEAC has not met yet this semester, and therefore, has no report at this time.

e. *USG Governing Documents Advisory Board – Jared Stern – 6:25PM*

- i. President, Jared Stern, reports that he will chair the GDAB as Senator McConnell has left the Senate. He says that more information will come later on in the agenda during appointments to the committee, and if anyone has any questions regarding the Board to please let him know.

VIII. *Old Business*

a. *SB 17-116 Constitutional Amendment – GPA Requirement – 6:26PM*

- i. Senator's Kane Hudson and Elijah Mihalik come forward to present their bill proposing to lower the GPA requirement for Senators from 2.5 to 2.3.
 1. Discussions within the Senate that are moderated by the Executive Vice President, Ben Handler, commence for approximately 20 minutes.
 - a. Topics include, but are not limited to: USG's reputation, comparing SIU prestige and status to other state institutions such as the University of Illinois, the current level of inclusion in USG, and the standard that should be set for Senate participation within USG.
 2. Motion is made to approve SB 17-116, second is given
 - a. Vote – majority opposed, the bill does not pass (record of votes cast can be found on the last page of these minutes.)



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

IX. *New Business*

a. *Swearing in of new Senators – 6:49PM*

- i. Chief of Staff Ian Ritchey confirms that he has received all of the necessary paperwork from the following undergraduate student, and that he has met the minimum requirement to hold the office of Senator for USG: Colby Menefee.
- ii. Motion is made to approve Colby Menefee, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor if approving the nomination.
- iii. Oath of Office is conducted by the USG President.

b. *SB 17-123 Panhellenic – Event Funding – 6:52PM*

- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, comes forward to present SB 17-123
 1. SB 17-123: \$689.00 for “Winter Fest.”
- ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 1. Question is raised by the Senate on the validity of reimbursing an organization for an event that he already happen.
 - a. Motion is made, seconded, and approved to recognize President Stern.
 - i. President Stern clarifies that there is no issue in the current guidelines with allocating money to organization after the event in question has taken place.
- iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-123, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of approving SB 17-123 (record of votes cast can be found on last page)

c. *SB 17-124 Inter-Greek Council (IGC) – Event Funding – 6:55PM*

- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-124
 1. SB 17-124: \$6,400 for “Theta Xi Variety Show.”
- ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
- iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-124, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of approving SB 17-124

d. *SB 17-131 SIU Miracle Network – Event Funding – 7:06PM*

- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-131



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

1. SB 17-131: \$3,750 for “SIU Dance Marathon.”
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 - iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-131, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of approving SB 17-131 (record of votes cast can be found on last page).
 - iv. Point is made that proper procedure was not followed when passing SB 17-124 earlier in this agenda.
 1. Motion is made, seconded, and approved to recognize President Stern.
 - a. President Stern clarifies that proper procedure was followed, and has been followed correctly throughout the process of allocating funds this year, and states that the confusion is coming from the transition between two different Student Funding Guidelines. He reminds the Senate that the documents were sent to them at the end of the previous semester, and that they are also posted on the USG website.
 - v. Motion is made to revisit SB 17-124, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of revisiting SB 17-124
 - vi. Motion is made to table SB 17-124 pending further clarification, second is given
 1. Motion is made to kill the previous motion, second is given
 - a. Vote – majority opposed, does not pass
 2. Vote to table SB 17-124 – majority in favor.
- e. ***SB 17-121 Paul Simon Public Institute Ambassadors – RSO – 7:27PM***
 - i. Senator Lewis, Chair of the IAC, comes forward to present the bill recommending that the organization entitled “*Paul Simon Public Institute Ambassadors*” be officially recognized as an RSO by USG
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate
 - iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-121, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)
- f. ***IBHE Student Affairs Committee – 5 appointments – 7:30PM***



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

- i. Executive Vice President Handler invites Student Trustee Naomi Tolbert to come forward to speak about the committee that she is forming.
 1. She states that is hoping to get at least five Senators to participate on the committee, but more are welcome if there is interest.
- ii. Executive Vice President Handler conducts the nomination process through an omnibus to allow all of the nominees to be approved together.
 1. Those nominated include: Senator Kyles, Senator DeZanek, Senator Lindsay, Senator Davis, Senator Mihalik, Senator Gonzalez, Senator K. Hudson, Senator Lugboso, and Senator Reiselbach.
 - a. Motion is made to approve of all of the nominees, second is given
 - i. Vote – majority in favor of approval.
 - g. *Mass Transit Advisory Board – 1 appointment – 7:39PM*
 - i. President Stern stands and explains the nature of the MTAB, and states that we have only been asked to fill one undergraduate student vacancy on the Board.
 1. Senator Lindsay is nominated.
 - a. Motion is made to approve the nomination of Senator Lindsay, second is given.
 - i. Vote – majority in favor of nomination
 - h. *Governing Documents Advisory Board – 1 appointment – 7:40PM*
 - i. President Stern stands and explains that there is one Senate vacancy on the GDAB that needs to be filled per the resolution that was passed last semester.
 1. Senator Brandon Kyles is nominated
 - a. Motion is made to approve the nomination of Senator Kyles to the GDAB, second is given.
 - i. Vote – majority in favor of nomination.
 - i. *SB 17-117 Saluki Skeptics – RSO – 7:42PM*
 - i. Senator Lewis, Chair of the IAC, comes forward to present the bill recommending that the organization entitled “*Saluki Skeptics*” be officially recognized as an RSO by USG
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-117, second is given

1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)

~~j. SB 17-118 Woke – RSO~~

k. *SB 17-119 Queer People of Color – RSO – 7:43PM*

i. Senator Lewis, Chair of the IAC, presents the bill recommending that the organization entitled “*Queer People of Color*” be officially recognized as an RSO by USG

ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate

iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-119, second is given

1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)

l. *SB 17-120 CRU – RSO – 7:46PM*

i. Senator Lewis, Chair of the IAC, comes forward to present the bill recommending that the organization entitled “*CRU*” be officially recognized as an RSO by USG

ii. No members of the organization are in attendance

iii. Motion is made to table SB 17-119, second is given

1. Vote – majority in favor of tabling SB 17-119 until the next meeting

m. *SB 17-122 Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF) – Event Funding – 7:47PM*

i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-122

1. SB 17-122: \$5,000 for “Pay it Forward Tour.”

ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.

iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-122, second is given

1. Vote – majority in favor of approving SB 17-122

n. *SB 17-125 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship – Event Funding – 7:52PM*

i. Motion is made to omnibus SB 17-125 – SB 17-128, second is given

1. Vote – majority in favor of implementing the omnibus

ii. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-125

1. SB 17-125: \$350 for “Am I Enough.”



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

- o. *SB 17-126 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship – Event Funding – 7:52PM*
- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-126
 - 1. SB 17-126: \$1,500 for “Chapter Focus Week.”
- p. *SB 17-127 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship – Event Funding – 7:52PM*
- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-127
 - 1. SB 17-127: \$750 for “Corners Asian American Conference.”
- q. *SB 17-128 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship – Event Funding – 7:52PM*
- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-128
 - 1. SB 17-128: \$1,300 for “Vision Conference.”
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 - iii. Motion is made to approve the omnibus, second is given
 - 1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)
- r. *SB 17-129 African Student Council – Event Funding – 8:03PM*
- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-129
 - 1. SB 17-129: \$2,000 for “International Food and Culture Festival.”
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 - iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-129, second is given
 - 1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)
- s. *SB 17-130 Collegiate Farm Bureau – Event Funding – 8:06PM*
- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-130
 - 1. SB 17-130: \$1,300 for “2017 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Annual Conference.”
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 - iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-130, second is given
 - 1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)
- t. *SB 17-132 Agricultural Student Council – Event Funding – 8:10PM*



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

- i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-132
 1. SB 17-132: \$3,000 for “All Ag. Banquet.”
- ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
- iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-132, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)
- u. **SB 17-133 ATMAE – Event Funding – 8:14PM**
 - i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-133
 1. SB 17-133: \$1,250 for “Midwestern Competition.”
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 - iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-133, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)
- v. **SB 17-134 The Big Muddy Crew – Event Funding – 8:16PM**
 - i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-134
 1. SB 17-134: \$5,000 for “39th Annual Bug Muddy Film Festival.”
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 - iii. Motion is made to approve SB 17-134, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)
- w. **SB 17-135 Ladies United Creating Change – Event Funding – 8:18PM**
 - i. The Treasurer, Gabi Piquini, presents SB 17-135
 1. SB 17-135: \$750 for “USHLI Conference.”
 - ii. Members of the organization come forward to speak on their behalf and field a series of questions from the Senate.
 - iii. Motion is made to open the floor for discussion for five minutes, second is given
 1. Vote – majority in favor of opening the floor for discussion
 - a. The floor is closed for discussion by Executive Vice President, Ben Handler after five minutes.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

iv. Motion is made to raise the amount to be allocated from \$750 to \$3,900, second is given

1. Vote – majority in favor of raising the amount to be allocated.

v. Motion is made to approve SB 17-135, second is given

1. Vote – majority in favor of approval (record of votes cast can be found on last page)

x. *SB 17-136 Constitutional Amendment – It's On Us Committee – 8:34PM*

i. Senator Trebor Mann comes forward to present SB 17-136 which proposes that “It’s On Us,” be recognized as a standing committee within USG.

ii. Executive Vice President Handler explains that this will be voted on during the next meeting.

X. *Public Comments – 8:36PM*

a. Motion is made to open the floor for public comments, second is given

i. Vote – majority in favor of opening the floor for public comments

1. The public voices their concerns on the manner in which they feel minority students are being treated, and that they feel that USG has not done anything for students thus far in the academic year. Also, the point is made that USG needs to work on improving relations between USG and GPSC, and that USG needs to be more inclusive of all students on campus when making decisions.

b. Motion is made to close the floor for public comments, second is given

i. Vote – majority in favor of closing the floor for public comments

XI. *Executive Board Closing Remarks – 9:03PM*

a. Jami Hagemann – Executive Assistant

i. Jami reminds the Senate that she will be assisting Treasurer Piquini over the next few weeks while she is away, and welcomes all questions related to the funding process or USG in general.

b. Gabi Piquini – Treasurer

i. Gabi thanks everyone for sitting through another long meeting. She says that the funding board will continue to work through all of the requests that have been submitted. She also reminds the Senate that she is limited to meet with students in person over the next few weeks, but that she can be reached by email.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
~ SENATE MEETING MINUTES ~
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

01/24/2017
MEETING
MINUTES

- c. Ian Ritchey – Chief of Staff
- i. Ian thanks the Senate for their continued attendance and participation, and states that he think that we can fill the Senate by the end of the semester. He asks that Senators remain respectful of each other throughout the meeting in an effort to do the best for our constituents.
- d. Rose Weisentein – Vice President for Student Affairs
- i. Rose reports that the DEAC will be meeting next week, and that she will continue to work on student outreach to improve the image of USG. She welcomes all students to come talk with her during her office hours or by appointment to share their experiences with her. She says she is looking forward to another great semester.
- e. Ben Handler – Executive Vice President
- i. Ben tells Senate that he will continue to make changes to, and update the website so that information about USG is accessible. He also reminds the Senate about the Big Event that will be occurring on April 1.
- f. Jared Stern – President
- i. Jared tells member of the GDAB to expect an email from him shortly regarding the first meeting of the semester for the Board. He also states that all of the signed legislation will be posted to Orgysnc and the website. He asks the Senate to vote on a deadline for turning in legislation to be added to the agenda for Senate meeting. The decision depends on if the Senate wants to have the legislation that is being proposed on the Friday before the meeting or not. A vote is taken, and the Senate decides to continue with the Wednesday at midnight deadline for turning in legislation so that the can have the information on the Friday before Senate meetings.
- XII. *Constituency Comments and Concerns (Good of the Order) – 9:10PM*
- a. Executive Vice President, Ben Handler, passes the gavel around the Senate for each Senator to have the opportunity to talk about their workings within their constituency, and to provide any further closing remarks and/or concerns.
- XIII. *Adjournment – 9:31PM*
- a. Meeting is adjourned by Executive Vice President, Ben Handler.

