



## **Student Government Association Senate Minutes: January 16, 2006**

**Presiding Officer:** Executive VP Dominique Huff

**Officers Present:** VP Chad Eason  
VP Jamie Colvard  
VP Kenji Otokawa  
Senator Brant Barber  
Senator Sarah Baska  
Senator Deniece Carrington  
Senator Radiance Clay  
Senator Joshua Evans  
Senator Sean Gleason  
Senator Christine Gulas  
Senator Alisha Hunter  
Senator Robyn King  
Senator Amina Kirk  
Senator John Lloyd  
Senator Adam Lyons  
Senator Andrew Murphy  
Senator James Newman  
Senator William Oglesby  
Senator Elijah O-wuor  
Senator Cari Randall  
Senator Donell Samuels  
Senator Syretta Shealey  
Senator April Stancliff

**Officers tardy:** VP Venetico (excused)

**Officers absent:** VP William Moore (excused)  
Senator Charlotte Cherry (excused)  
Senator Derrick Cooper  
Senator Oscar Gomez  
Senator Matthew Oskam  
Senator Michael Riccio  
Senator Garrett Smith  
Senator Jeffery Walker

## **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 P.M. by Executive Vice President Huff.

Roll call by Senator Clerk.

## **II. Approval of Minutes for January 19, 2006**

Approval of the minutes from last meeting.

Motion to approve minutes by Senator Evans; seconded by Senator Murphy. The minutes are approved.

## **III. Reports from Internal Committees**

Public Relations – The PR Committee meetings will be on Thursdays at 5:30 PM before the regular Senate meetings.

Senator Evans inquired about when legislation would be posted to the website. VP Colvard responded that when the webmaster duties were switched the former person didn't return the disks and files were missing from the office computers. The Senate Clerk has to then retype all the former legislation. Executive VP Huff interjected that the person handling the website is also an academic advisor also has been handling the students that were dropped from their classes which might explain the delay at this time.

Student Services – The Student Services Committee meetings will be held on Thursdays at 7:00 PM on non-Senate weeks.

Senator Samuels inquired about missing bills and why they hadn't come before the Senate. These bills included campus print credits and citations to smokers. VP Eason replied that he would find out what had happened to them to see why they weren't with the other bills coming up.

Student Life – The Student Life Committee meetings will be held on Thursdays at 6 PM on Senate meeting weeks.

VP Otokawa announced that Senator Lyons would be taking Senator Gomez's place on the committee due to his resignation. Additionally, bills 05-21, 05-22, and 05-23 were coming before the Senate.

#### **IV. Confirmation Hearing**

Executive VP Huff announced that the Student Judicial Board has submitted their candidate for Chief Justice. The current members of the Student Judicial Board have elected him to this position, but he needs to be confirmed by the Senate per the by-laws.

The candidate for Chief Justice is Chad Hardy. Hardy is a junior majoring in political science. He has served on the Student Judicial Board for a year and a half. He is currently a member of the Executive Board for this group.

After the candidate left the room the floor was opened for discussion.

Senator Samuels inquired about why the candidate wasn't dressed more appropriately. Executive VP Huff responded that Mr. Hardy has prior classes and meetings and was unable to return home to change clothes.

Senator Randall and President Mildner both noted that Mr. Hardy was a good guy. Additionally, he had served on the Constitution Committee.

Senator Samuels inquired if more than one candidate was nominated. The response to her inquiry was no.

Senator Evans asked if the last Chief Justice resigned. The answer to this question was yes.

A motion was made by Senator Murphy to confirm Chad Hardy as the new Chief Justice. The motion was seconded by VP Colvard. The motion passes.

#### **V. Legislative Updates**

Print Credits – Executive VP Huff attended the IS&T Committee meeting and presented SGA's bills and resolutions. It was supported by the committee and send for further approval by the Technology Committee.

Student Life and Development – Five new organizations have been chartered.

There have been complaints regarding noise in the Library Plaza. Offices around the plaza area are having a problem with it because it distracts from business being done. Spotlight and WRAS 88.5 are looking into the matter.

Senator Lloyd inquired as to when the meeting would be held. No meeting to look into this matter has been scheduled at this time.

Senator Samuels noted that the groups that play music do have to turn off the sound at 1 PM and that other groups reserve the plaza besides the radio station and Spotlight. Students on this committee should also know that there are time limits placed on groups that reserve the plaza.

Senator Evans inquired if someone from reservations would come out if groups don't end on time. The replay was yes.

Senator Baska commented that it's not the classrooms that are having a problem but administrative and business offices that are trying to conduct normal business.

Pamela Anthony mentioned that this is just something that is being looked into in order to try and find a happy medium.

Guest Henrietta Mitchell made a comment that due to its proximity to the library it is also distracting for this people trying to get assignments completed.

Senator Randall noted that most students use this time as a break from classes and that Spotlight tends to have first dibs for use.

Senator Lyons commented that Doug Pattil from International Affairs has mentioned it to him and that noise tends to go on after 1 PM and the level of the noise is also a concern.

## **VI. New Business**

Discussion and Voting on Bill #05-21 "Election Commission Member Recruitment Process" - Senator Murphy explained that this bill is designed to reform the way elections recruitment is done and how the selection of the group that handles the election is done.

VP Otokawa from the Student Life Committee said that he didn't think it was fair for just 5 people to decide. Senator Murphy asked if it had been passed by the committee and VP Otokawa replied that it wasn't voted on. It was sent back to the Senate for discussion.

VP Colvard commented that she liked the bill but that certain dates needed to be changed.

VP Venetico commented that this is something that is worthy of discussion by the whole Senate since it affects the group as a whole

Senator Barber inquired about the \$600 allocation. Executive VP Huff noted that this was a cap for expenditures.

Senator Lyons suggested that the due date not be set during Valentine's Day week.

VP Colvard suggested having February 20<sup>th</sup> as the due date for submitting applications for the committee. Senator Murphy accepted this as a friendly amendment.

VP Colvard made a friendly amendment to change the deadline for the commission to be in place to March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Senator Murphy accepted this change.

Senator Evans made a motion to vote and was seconded by Senator Lyons. The bill passed.

Discussion and Voting on Bill #05-22 “Declaration of SGA Elections Day” – Senator Murphy said that there’s no explanation needed as this bill designates when elections will be held. VP Otokawa concurred.

Senator Barber made a motion to vote and was seconded by Senator Murphy. The bill passed.

Motion by VP Colvard and second by Senator Lyons to vote on the bill. The bill passed.

Discussion and Voting on Bill #05-23 “Elections Reform Act 2005” – VP Colvard made a motion to suspend the reading of the bill and to allow 5 minutes for the Senate members to read through the legislation.

Senator Gleason asked why this was here if it hadn’t been passed by committee. Executive VP Huff replied that things in the box are supposed to be finished and ready to be submitted.

VP Venetico inquired about the part regarding Executive Board re-election. With terms limits in place, would that mean that I couldn’t run again? The answer to the inquiry was yes.

Senator Evans commented that there wasn’t quorum in committee so it was sent to the Senate for discussion.

Senator Barber made a motion to end discussion. The motion passed.

Introduction of Bill #05-29 “Supporting Fully Funding the Accelerated Degree Program at Alpharetta Center”. Read by Senate Clerk. Moved to Academic Affairs.

Introduction of Bill #05-30 “Supporting Governor’s Funding Allocation for Science Teaching Lab”. Read by Senate Clerk. Moved to Academic Affairs.

## **VII. Special Business**

Constitution and Bylaws – Senator Murphy announced that the changes to the constitution and by laws would be sent via e-mail to the Senate.

Student Drop Issues – Due to comments made during the meeting, a discussion was opened regarding the recent student drops that affected the student body.

VP Venetico suggested the forming on an ad-hoc committee to approach the administration about improving this so that students are as adversely affected.

VP Otokawa commented that an e-mail was sent in early January, but that it needs to be made more clear. Additionally, there was confusion with HOPE.

Senator Newman inquired to the customer service issues involved.

VP Eason noted that a large part of students' complaints revolved around customer service. He suggested that an extended registration period might resolve this matter.

Senator Evans noted that the law requires students to be dropped for non-payment.

President Mildner commented that notification by the Registrar's Office has been horrible, but in a way our hands are tied because we are bound by law to drop these students from their classes.

VP Venetico suggested that students be sent an e-mail if their amount falls short.

VP Covard made a motion to close discussion. Seconded by Senator Murphy.

### **VIII. Announcements**

Pam Anthony announced that the Miss GSU pageant would be held on Sunday.

The Student Life and Development Office announced that Homecoming parade applications were available and were due on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Senator Lyons encouraged students to read the articles written by himself and Executive VP Huff in the *Signal* about the withdrawal policy.

### **IX. Final Roll Call and Adjournment**

Final roll call.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.