

Senate Meeting – 10 April 2013

AGENDA

22nd Student Senate Meeting

12:15 – Call to order and agreement agenda; Sebastian Ordelheide on Website Project

12:45 – USC Vice President on Elections; ASM update

12:50 – Old business + New Business.
– Announcements and Adjournment.

Minutes

Taken by Stephanie Dissette (USC Communications Director)

Meeting begins (12:16PM)

1. Sven (USC VP): quick note
 - a. Sonia will be filming today, to help future generations understand how Senate works
 - b. The agenda has slightly changed due to late applications; normally, I need to hear by Monday if you want to add an element to the agenda; next week Mimi (Treasurer) will present a larger budget overview
 - c. Luke Shepard also cannot present today, as he did not go through Mimi (Treasurer) first

2. Sven (USC VP): invites Sebastian Ordelheide
 - a. Seb (O&A) introduces himself: last year AUP decided it needed to overhaul its website; we have hired an American company to help with that, students faculty and staff have been involved
 - b. Originally we wanted to launch by the end of May, but we have had to delay
 - c. Seb shows the design; Seb (O&A): what we were looking for was to build a website that was a lot thinner, to get rid of superfluous content; the pages on the current website that have not been updated because they don't matter; we have built a site based on the main areas of AUP
 - d. Seb (O&A): as far as the design, we are going to have an audience navigation portal; (I am presenting an html version, not a live website here)
 - e. Seb (O&A): we want to feature not just AUP stories, but stories about current AUP students, how they interact with the curriculum, their backgrounds; also stories on courses, etc.; and about alumni and where they are today based on their AUP experience

- f. Seb (O&A): very prominently we will have news and events; with a global event calendar – this will be fed by syndicate streams; it will be able to segment down to different streams (done by the SGA; lectures; etc.); hopefully it will increase participation and decrease the amount of noise (e.g. emails), which often results in no one paying attention to anything; we will also have deeper social media integration;
- g. Seb (O&A): for you guys, the student section is most important: things like cultural programs, bursar's office, etc.; for prospective students, current students, faculty and staff, etc.;
- h. Seb (O&A): we are currently working on converting all of this into Drupal; we want our website to translate to the future in that it will adapt to whatever device you are using (such as on your iPhone); "future-proof"
- i. Seb (O&A): what does this mean for students? There will be a student life section: student affairs, cultural programs, housing, community – including student government, governing bodies, student media, clubs and organizations, etc.; we did not want everything as splintered up as it is now; most prospective students want to look mostly at what students are doing and offering – we are giving priority to these pieces of the site; it will be maintained by student government and affairs, etc.; content will hopefully be maintained by the SGA Communications Directors
- j. Seb (O&A): I am working with three communications students to help with this project; aup.edu had something like 5000 pages; this site will eventually disappear, but not yet; even logging in will happen directly through this new site;
- k. Seb (O&A): it probably won't be shut down until about 2014
- l. Blake (CS): does the library website get involved in this; I know it's awfully difficult to navigate
- m. Seb (O&A): what I first hoped for was to include all the departments of AUP in this; but then I came to the Library – the library will probably stay as it is for now, but that will also be completely revamped; I also didn't understand the library website – it's a valid point; it's almost it's own web project; it is in process, and that will probably launch before or early fall semester;
- n. Nour (Sophomore): you mentioned the SGA will have ownership, if you are creating your own event, can you change the design?
- o. Seb (O&A): of the layout and the way it's going to be presented, no; of course the content is up to you and adding photos, but you cannot really refrain the design; for lack of a better example, it's sort of like Facebook; that's because of Drupal – you can't just enter text and modify it
- p. Seb (O&A): thank you very much for listening; we will keep you guys updated on launch date as it comes up; we are hoping to build some excitement over how the university is presenting itself; when I was a

student here, the image was very different, and I am excited to see where this is headed

- q. Sven (USC VP): there was a point of information by the Judiciary committee
- r. Alex (JCC): you needed to get the changes in the agenda approved by the Senate before continuing.
- s. Sven (USC VP): of course, are there any objections to the agenda? Okay.

3. Sven (USC VP): Dave, the floor is yours

- a. Dave (GSC VP): I want to tell you about ASM, how they got their money last year; make sure we can answer questions before Ford comes next week to explain
- b. Dave (GSC VP): some of you may know that last year three senators approved the block budget of 40,000 euros ahead to ASM; I want you all to consider this carefully
- c. Dave (GSC VP): this includes everything they spend money on except the professors – including all publications, etc.
- d. Laura (ICP): I have actually had a number of students complain about ASM, the fact that they don't publish often enough, and that they bought all the new computers this semester, they shouldn't need as much next year; they can always come back here to request more
- e. Loraine (GC): speaking as the 7eme editor and chief; we don't need any money; I was given 100 euros, and I'll be using it towards a launch party
- f. Dave (GSC VP): does everyone understand the concept of a block grant? Basically, they need to report
- g. Blake (CS): does the renovation include the clubs room?
- h. Dave (GSC VP): from my understanding, that was not included; someone else spent money on renovations
- i. Blake (CS): I think what the three senators and Ford did was justified; they are all motivated, dedicated students that have worked hard and used the money well
- j. Darcee (MPL/MPPA): I know that through a lot of our discussions we have talked about the dangers of allocating money, and how what we don't allocate doesn't come back to us; if ASM doesn't use that 40,000, what do we do?
- k. Kevin Fore: when they come next week, they have to present to us – after that, what they haven't used you all can allocate the funds, and what's left will go back into student scholarship
- l. Darcee (MPL/MPPA): we won't know until the end of the year what they will be giving back, and that won't give us time to allocate it
- m. Blake (CS): does ASM contribute to the Dark Room
- n. Dave (GSC VP): I don't believe so. They are their own club.

- o. Laura (ICP): we might want to consider another way to allocate the money, maybe based more on what each publication is spending – a more specific allocation;
4. Sven (USC VP): a quick word on Elections
- a. Sven (USC VP): I want to draw your attention to next week – the senate elections will open up
 - b. Sven (USC VP): if there are students in your classes that you think would fill your seat well, please do encourage the,
 - c. Sven (USC VP): of course, they are open elections, but you know the
 - d. Laura (ICP): when the results come out, will the new senators be invited to sit in on the meetings
 - e. Sven (USC VP): we will make that sort of obligatory to help them understand the way things here work
5. Old/New Business
- a. Darcee (MPL/MPPA): next week is the international student soiree with Mona Bismark, the next week is the dance workshop – it's free and nearby; please also help spread the word via social media
 - b. Laura (ICP): normally on the week of the 22nd of April, we will have a former French president here to speak; it's not everyday we have that opportunity
 - c. Blake (CS): a question about SGA – is there a possibility that we can change the election process from a democratic to some other form of government
 - d. Dave (GSC VP): you can invite the chair of the JC to speak on it
 - e. Alex (JCC): if you want to rewrite the constitution...
 - f. Blake (CS): seriously, since it is our government
 - g. Alex (JCC): you would have to get it approved by the JC and 2/3 s of the student senate
 - h. Laura (ICP): in a normal government, you'd have to make a referendum;
 - i. Blake (CS): but just how states are given more power – like how some departments here are bigger than others, should we not give them more power;
 - j. Dave (GSC VP): in our capacity, we are much more administrators; you can do what you want, as long as it's constitutional
 - k. Blake (CS): shouldn't we consider this change
 - l. Dave (GSC VP): if you want to propose a change, you need to work with Alex (JCC) on that
 - m. Loraine (GC): I would like to hear your plan, but you should make a proposal for Senate
 - n. Rene (MAGCS): an interesting point in that larger programs might have more representation in the Senate; such as a program with 80 constituents versus 3? Is that what you mean?

- o. Blake (CS): I just wanted to bring it to the attention of the students
- p. Rene (MAGCS): I mean does anyone else have an idea on the concept? Do larger programs need more representation?
- q. Togzhan (Senior): I think maybe allocating them a larger budget, but not representation
- r. Laura (ICP): I am not sure AUP is big enough, or has big enough difference between programs for it to matter; and the grad programs would be the most penalized by that idea
- s. Blake (CS): can I vote to end this?
- t. Dave (GSC VP): you can just stop talking
- u. Blake (CS): I was just wondering where power should be allocated; let's say that you have one film student working on a project versus science students that all need money for research
- v. Dave (GSC VP): again, you should create a proposal

6. Announcements

- a. Sven (USC VP): two senate meetings left; President Schenk will be at the next one – dress up nicely please
- b. Sven (USC VP): if you have anything you want to add to the agenda, please do send me info by Monday

Meeting adjourned (12:52PM)