

University of Virginia Student Council

General Body Meeting

September 11, 2018

The General Body Meeting began at 6:37

Ellie: We're going to start with a presentation from Brendan Nigro, the student member of BOV.

Brendan: Hi everyone, I'm Brendan, I'm a 4th year, undergrad, and I'm in the college. For a general rundown on how the BOV works, there are four board meetings through the year. We lost two of our three days of meetings because of the storm. For safety concerns they decided to end the meetings early. I'm here to talk about the issues the board is considering and voting on tomorrow. Tomorrow they'll be considering concept sight and design guidelines for the Brandon avenue residence halls, we hope to have occupancy fall of the coming year. There are three schematic design approvals, the first being the Alderman library renewal. It's a 152 million dollar project where the funding is coming primarily from the state. The university will lobby to the state asking for 145 million. The idea behind this is essentially demolishing the stacks. Also, the dean of the libraries says there will be 1.5 million books remaining in Alderman and Clemons after the renovation. Currently there are 1.7 million. The off grounds storage for the books, the Ivy stacks, will be able to deliver books within 24 hours, and the graduate students can order them directly to their department's office.

The next design approval will be the Student Health and Wellness Center, right on Brandon avenue, they want to make it three times as big than it is now, and they're trying to get three times as many CAPS psychologists to alleviate wait times. The building will also act as home to the Kinesiology department. Also, it will have a functional space at night, with a space open for late night studying so students on Brandon avenue will be able to use it frequently at night.

The last schematic design approval is the softball stadium. It ended up next to Klockner stadium, what was the practice soccer field will become the softball stadium. This will be a 20 million dollar project. In regards to funding, the Alderman renovation is funded by state, other two are funded by gifts. Not through tuition or fees. Any questions?

Question: I know a lot of Alderman and the stacks is foundational in terms of origin, how much will be saved or preserved?

Brendan: The old stacks allowed for a greater collection of humanities books on grounds to be stored, in 1967 the faculty called for more. No part of the Alderman stacks will be retained after the renovation. The rooms themselves will not be renovated, such as the maps, McGregor, Alderman café, and Memorial hall will be retained. The historical front will be retained. The renovation is largely because there aren't adequate systems, the stacks are not ADA accessible, and have poor fire safety. The dean of library calls it a ticking time bomb because of the poor fire suppression. Hopefully they're trying to bring it up to contemporary standards of safety. The façade will be changed by additional doors, they're adding two more sets on either end.

In terms of finance, this meeting touched on the strategic investment fund allocation. The university is getting a biocomplexity initiative, it's an approximately 30 million dollar hiring package, allowing for really exciting research for UVA. It will be funded through government grants, UVA expects to get that

hiring package back. There's also a bioinformetric and genomics initiative. UVA bought a portion of land with a hospital company in NOVA at the old FBI headquarters and are doing a research initiative there. That's a capital gift.

The six-year plans will be approved as well at the meeting, the state asks for a six year budgetary plan of UVA. They plan to extend in-state UVA tuition for UVA college at Wise students, people will be eligible if they live in Appalachia, which will include residents of Pennsylvania and Mississippi.

Academic and student life will offer three new degree programs next year. There will be a BA degree in statistics, not interdisciplinary, as well as a BS in statistics at a 45 credit major, and a PHD program in media culture and technology.

That's what we're voting on tomorrow, there's not as much discussion on the student experience because of time constraints. There was also a discussion on accessibility in the Greek system on how to make more accessible to low income students.

Question: Will current students be able to switch in to the new major?

Brendan: I'll ask the provost tomorrow. The board is meeting tomorrow from 11-4:40, they're public in the rotunda but they do get packed so come early to get tickets though we do have streaming downstairs.

Exec updates

Alex: So there are updates in regards to the student policy advisory board and in terms of initiative to get student input in faculty hiring. I've met with multiple leaders of various student groups and we're getting closer to what the board will look like. In regards to the selection committee process, we're finalizing it by next Tuesday, and we're keeping in mind intersectionality not representing groups but student experiences. That's big, it'll happen, we'll have it completed by mid-October.

It's big for accountability for UPD, Gloria Graham and Chief Sutton have been very helpful with the whole process, we're really trying to make an institutional mechanism to file complaints to the administration. As towards input to the hiring process, there was an exploratory meeting last Tuesday in provost office with student leaders of groups such as ALC and OYFA, we'll be working on that closely, The tuition advisory board will be meeting in the next two weeks, Ellen, Katie and Megha will be your contacts for those issues. In regards to academics and tuition in general there's a big focus on specific schools, those would be the deans of the specific schools. When tuitions are proposed by different schools its separate deans. In general, if you're interested in school specific issues make sure you pay attention to school council board, like president and vice president. If you're interested in that be aware and for representatives you are representatives to student council from your respective schools, it would be a good opportunity to get in contact with your school president on school specific issues. Thank you for braving the potential of a storm.

Camilla: The day of dialogue is September 23rd 11am -3pm. I'll slack out the signup at gen bod and this covers a membership requirement, if you don't know the requirements talk to your chairs. For the next update, our service chair Emily.

Emily: I worked on the first and second global service case competition and that was really successful and we worked really closely with the previous heads of the committees, we're trying to bring continuity and consistency to the committee if you want to collab or anything slack me.

Ty: I don't have a ton of new updates just reminders on dates. We're right in the middle of semi-annual funding and right in the middle of funding for CIOs. We wrapped up a funding info session for financial officers at north grounds.

CIO applications opens Monday, September 17 and will close October 26th. On Friday I met with appropriations and audit and management working on regulations for audit and management. We finished updating the policies and procedures manuals to make sure all members are standardized in conduct with carrying out functions.

Taylor: The application is still live at uvastudentcouncil.com/application, there's promotional material out now on grounds. Once the application closes I'll send out responses, Wednesday at 5 is the deadline to send out invitations for interviews. The lawn chats this Thursday and Friday are at the lawn room of the lovely Galen Green, the sign-up sheets are in leadership channel.

Ellie: I've got updates on the Align conference, which is a conference for low income first gen students we're hosting this spring with my co-chair Josh Ferris. We'll be voting on bill to make ad hoc committee to work on this conference. We had another food pantry meeting this past Friday, we're looking to launch it in middle of October after fall break, consisting of volunteer training, with a launch party afterwards. I'll send out updates when the date is set. Yesterday Avery and I met with student financial services who reached out to us after our tabled resolution they went through the background of what happened this past summer with tuition aid. Two of the members had quit during the review process but they're really looking to make sure something like this doesn't happen again starting initiatives like a peer mentoring program and a better way to upload documents to student financial services on SIS. Hopefully we'll have a rep from student financial services next week. We talked about ways student council can help them communicate with students more through social media and sharing certain events. Lastly, we have free menstrual hygiene in Madison house share the event on Facebook, we're looking to expand to libraries and Newcomb.

Leadership updates:

Academic affairs: The academic resource fair happened last Thursday, we had a lot of students happy with the info they got from it. This Friday the cav education program opens and now students can apply to teach a class, the committee also working on an iclicker drive to get low income students and first years free iclickers.

Emily: First thing, the arts spotlight is happening, the first one Monday September 24th and you can find more information on the studco page and if you have any arts CIO people interested have them contact me. Art is going to be going up in Newcomb, it'll be coming up in next two weeks so we can hang it. There will be an arts networking event Monday October 22nd from 6-8pm with lots of arts professionals talking to students about careers.

Erin: I've been working with SAC recently to have booth at their activities fair happening September 26th from 5-7pm and working with leg affairs to do voter registration then. Also, we'll be working with SAC and academic affairs to discuss how priority is given to student athletes in class sign up

Community relations: The coffee chats initiative launched this past week so we want to meet with student leaders from different CIOs and the community to address initiatives and events happening with studco through the year. Today I spoke with provost Lewis Nelson, head of academic outreach for public service and community engagement, and he wants to schedule monthly meetings with student council and work on ways to improve student experience. If you want to be a part of that slack me.

Issac: Alright so updates: we'll be doing voter registration targeting student athletes, which is a great initiative because the times we're out on main grounds isn't necessarily the best time to reach them and we don't want to exclude them from the opportunity. Faculty in nursing school is working with us to target nursing students to register to vote. On September 19th in the nursing school we'll be visiting a lecture and standing out in common areas to register people. Thursdays we'll be out and inside newc and outside dining hall from 11-1pm, every Thursday until October 15th which is the registration deadline.

Katie: Hello it's me and my dog. Free menstrual hygiene is happening, so head over to Madison house if you need it, it's going on as long as supplies last or until Friday. Next week we'll be cosponsoring an event with peer health educators called speed friending, make new friends! There will be food, and I believe it's a zero waste event. I don't have the Facebook link yet but I'll pop up in your genbod channel when I do.

Student life: Thanks to everyone who came to the focus groups. In regards to the tuition and fees committees, the two committees are having a joint meeting and a public comment section September 26th 3:30-5 in Newcomb hall.

Rep reports

Chi: I'm reading Avery's reports, first he'll be working with Allie for a directory of mental health resources to be distributed at the beginning of the year. And second, he's had members of res staff approach him about voter registration, so he's compiling a list of interested halls for programming matters and getting them reg to vote. Thank you.

VPA updates

Asha: outreach is working with CIOs to build better relationships, working on going to gen body meetings of CIOs.

Ellie: No one signed up for public comment, and for an update on public comment so y'all know, the legislation and agenda and link for public comment is on the website Sunday before gen bod.

Start of legislative session, attendance is taken.

Vote on minutes of the last meeting, minutes pass.

Ellie: So first we have FB18-06, a bill to make ad hoc committee for Align conference, this will be the primary source of planning and executing align conference. There will be a variety of chair positions. Pending passing of bill, we'll be sending out application for chair positions. Any questions, comments, concerns?

Vote on bill, second, passes. Yay. Clapping.

Ellie: Next we have FB18-07, the bill for an appointment to the service committee.

Alex: Emily has been a longstanding member of service committee, since Liam Wolfe was chief of cabinet. She's done multiple initiatives with the service committee and she's very ready to do the job.

Motion to vote, second, passes.

Ellie: Now we have FB18-08, a bill to amend bylaws to studco in regards to recording secretary. We have Shannon here taking the minutes now. She's a very fast typist and is very nice to come to these meetings. In talking with the executive team, it makes more sense to put her under vice president of administration, as the position is not held by a representative anymore

Taylor: So, we're not really changing anything, just makes organization better. Someone who's tracking our record and formalizing the process.

Motion to table, second, tabled.

Ellie: Ok so we have FB18-06 and FB18-07 pass with 17 yeas and 3 abstentions, and FB18-08 tabled with 17 yeas and 3 abstentions.

Community concerns

Alex: I want to hold a moment of silence for the families and victims of 9/11.

About community concerns: Historically it's not just been about small issues but also systemic ones such as accessibility in old dorms or issues of lack of diversity in faculty. I welcome any and all comments and questions

Megha: In regards to the storm approaching, we don't have a lot of information and is there a way to get the university to tell us if there will be emergency resources for food or water or shelter?

Sarah: A lot of the places close to grounds, like CVS and Kroger are out of supplies, and in regards to parking people need to be on higher elevation than ivy is there a place for people to move their cars?

Alex: We'll contact Gloria Graham and Pat Hogan to say that we've had these issues and concerns and need a less vague email.

Emily: I know this is just a shot in the dark, but, a bunch of RAs in the S6 lot are concerned about flooding and want to not be penalized if we move to the Ohill parking lot. For just that one day to move the cars to higher elevation during the storm

Alex: I believe that's a department of transportation issue.

Question: Regarding accessibility, during student activities fair I had to walk a student with a wheelchair down to amphitheater, is there a way to inform them of where the access routes are and is there a more accessible one?

Alex: We could provide those materials up front, but we could move it to the lawn to make it more accessible. That accessibility issue is one we've worked at moving but have received pushback.

Ty: To my knowledge there isn't a more accessible route which is a little absurd, but the larger question is the availability of resources via SDAC.

Omar: I have a thought on chair budgets, why do we decrease the budget each year I've noticed that every time we do the budgeting it's only gone down. Is there a reason we decrease the budgets so much?

Alex: I have a three-fold answer to that, the reason it decreased is historically we've over-requested in the past more than we needed for programs, so we want to request budgets that are more specific and not wasting the amount of money we're requesting. We don't just want to take money out of the pot and not have it for CIOs. Also, the representatives have been more focused on the budget and used the power of the purse to act as a check and make sure we aren't spending as much money in general, we want to do things sometimes and reps question it and personally I'm in favor of doing as much as we can and doing as much as possible. A couple of restrictions being we don't have an unlimited amount of non SAF money we get from the activities fair and for SAF the reps have to be keener, this is a negotiation we have to go through every budget cycle. I don't think a decreased budget makes for a better government.

Omar: Is there a fundraising committee or are we barred from making one?

Alex: Avenues for fundraising aren't that high, we're exploring the possibility of an endowment, we don't have the alumni network or basis that organizations like Honor has. We've had one if you're interested in talking to CFO.

Brian: I have a suggestion for accessibility at activities fair, the information table was at the base of the amphitheater so that would need a design change.

Ellie: That's the end of the meeting, thanks guys.

Meeting ends at 7:26