

**University of Virginia Student Council
General Body Meeting**

Minutes for January 24, 2017

The General Body meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

Board of Visitors Presentation

Phoebe: Emily will email the presentation out, it's a lot of numbers. For in state enrollment, over 5000 VA students were offered admission at a 45% rate, and 24% for out of state. Over the past 26 yrs., there's been a 49% increase of instate and 26% out of state in enrollment. For financial aid, we admit students need blind, and meet 100% of aid for in state and out of state. We give \$52 million per year for tuition in aid. UVA is getting decreased support from government which is a national trend. The state provides 9% of academic funding. Tuition and fees is increasing, but state support is decreasing. We give \$5.9 billion and 51,000 jobs back to the state. In the state legislature, someone proposed to cut in state aid and only meeting 5% of out of state student need. Before any bill is considered, they take public comment.

For SIF updates, the Bicentennial Scholar program is an attempt to have a permanent financial aid endowment by matching philanthropic support. For Cornerstone plan, middle income families of 1st and 2nd years at <125,000 can get \$2000 grant, and 3rd years get \$1000 grant. The Access UVA program is strong for lower income students. For the presidential search process, the BOV is creating a search committee to find a new president. Her first year here was my second year, and John Casteen sent out an email 13 months before, so this is on par. I have been told there will be at least 1 student if not more on the committee, with focus groups as well to determine what we want in a president. For tuition, it has not been set and the next BOV meeting is in March to see how much the state is going to cut from our budget.

Leeraz: Would the endowment cover what would otherwise be given by the state?

Phoebe: Permanent endowment would be for Access UVA, which is currently funded through tuition. We don't want to keep having tuition increases.

Brett: Out of state student tuition covers out of state need?

Phoebe: This proposal shows that in-state tuition can't fund VA student tuition. It limits out of state to receiving only 5%.

Julia: For flipping 300 spots, how would they make up the deficit difference?

Phoebe: The board is committed to providing a quality education to more students by adding 50 undergrad and 50 transfer students next year. This costs \$1.5 million. Thus by switching 300 over, it would be a major financial concern. Tuition is increasing, and this is just an idea. This idea was prior to the legislative session. The bicentennial scholar will only cover a partial amount of the loss.

Sydney: Will current students be affected by the changes?

Phoebe: It would be for admissions, so the next round. The increase in in-state students is fairly small, so it would be less noticeable. I think it's important to maintain diversity at UVA.

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GenBod1: Doesn't increasing tuition make financial aid more expensive by necessity?

Phoebe: Yes in theory, but not actually.

David: How did we spend 17 million on diabetes research?

Phoebe: This is over 3 years, and UVA thinks they can cure Type 1 Diabetes, and we got 100 million from a national institute to do so.

Jocelyn: Why comparatively is there so little funding for academics?

Phoebe: The nature of the projects are smaller dollar comparatively. When people apply, they set the amount themselves. You should have an SIF person come talk because they are the experts. We fund a lot of academic proposals but they are just smaller value. Feel free to email me.

Emily: Zaakir and I will go testify on the bill, email us if you want to get involved.

Community Concerns

Brett: I was told about the walkway next to Clem by Nameless field. Most of the lights are out, which is dangerous.

Madalyn: We got it.

Elaine: Computer science is becoming more of an important skill for everyone to have an intro, and it's hard to get into 1110. Could we make CS available for more?

Michael: That comes down to the SEAS and College budgets, and we are trying to figure out if we need to take more extreme steps

Jocelyn: There's a demand for Adobe Suites, and people think UVA should provide the opportunity for students to use Photoshop. We don't give the software access which is expensive. A lot of clubs would love to learn how to market better and get trained for clubs or future jobs.

Josh: A-school computers has Adobe Suites for free, technically anyone could use them.

Emily: Does the multimedia lab offer that?

Mackenzie: Maybe just more classes.

Jocelyn: We want the software to learn outside of class. I am trying to train people in my marketing committee but it's hard based on location. Maybe the library could offer a school wide subscription.

Eric: Adobe offers educational discounts, but then we might as well offer Wiley Plus and other textbook accompanied things as well. Many programs like HackCville gets funding from the UVA Arts Program to get help with that.

Leeraz: Could it not just go on the Hive?

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Brett: We already offer Word at no charge.

Eric: Adobe doesn't offer enterprise licensing so unaffordable. I can reach out to ITS.

Jocelyn: Does anyone know institutions that do offer such subscriptions?

Lauren: UMD does it, but not many people download it.

Emily: Want to research at UMD to build a case?

Austin: A lot of people have issues with grades being given in real time, but also affective appealing or being graded down. Is anyone working on objective grading systems?

Emily: I think that is their own prerogative and it would be difficult to enforce any deadlines. If someone could propose a good method, it might be suggested to the provost.

Maeve: I am wondering how widespread this concern is, because I feel like everyone knows how they are doing in a class.

Mackenzie: We have a lot of professors in the E-school that don't post.

Eric: Last semester I took an algorithms class, and people right before finals thought 50% of class was failing. Many professors purposefully set the average at an F and curve later, which is a lot of stress.

Josh: Many A-school classes have the same thing.

Julia: Some departments also won't even have the test if you go ask for a grade.

Jocelyn: Maybe reach out to whoever sets professor expectations. In my music and econ classes, my grades have always been posted so it might be based on the dept. chair.

Sarah: We have reps from each school, so in the next month maybe come up with a survey for each department, and then present it to the appropriate deans.

Phoebe: I have a meeting with the provost with the presidents of each school, so if you could reach out to your president or me and let us know your concerns. I am happy to put it on the radar.

Brett: I will make sure we all figure it out.

Committee Updates

Liam: Community service committee has design thinking workshop this week, and will do marketing soon. The case competition team is partnering with the career center, and we are figuring out logistics.

Elaine: This week for Cville trail app, we are hosting first focus group on Friday from 10-11.

Liam: For Service Scholars we are doing a new logging system. They have a working prototype and we will be testing it soon.

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Jocelyn: For Arts Madness Week, we want to make a huge impact on the school. We will do a daily event each week, any suggestions?

Eric: A photography showcase in line to Newc dining hall.

Emily: Paint Beta Bridge! Make it glow in the dark.

Eric: Open mic in amphitheater. For non-impromptu acts.

Jocelyn: We are continuing the Student Arts Gallery.

Leg Affairs: We are working on the house bill, and will testify eventually in Richmond. Tomorrow at 4PM in Newc 360, we want to meet and talk about Access UVA. If you want to be involved in the house bill, send letters to your house rep. There's also a rep on the education committee running for governor, speak to him personally. Email Zaakir with questions or talk to me.

Gabby: For Diversity, we are focusing on diversity week and at our first session, we want to plan a theme for each day. We are trying to figure out duration, and have had a couple of centers reach out to us. Career center wants to focus on diversity programs, and the SDAC is giving us \$3000 to get a guest speaker come in for the week. Our focus for the next 2 weeks are to determine the themes. We also want to highlight students from interesting backgrounds like part time or with kids.

Luke: What about the MLK thing? There's an interfaith event on Friday in Newcomb. For outreach, we had an event on Saturday where we informed people about UBE meetings and those requirements. We will also gear up staff tables at activity fairs.

Ty: The activities fair is on Friday and we need help during the fair. Please sign up, we want your help. Also I will slack out a Facebook cover photo, we want first years especially.

Lizzie: For Sustainability, our composting company is closing. We have a pilot with the Rivanna Waste Authority, and we are refocusing those efforts. We are planning our monthly forums, first one in Feb to plan Earth week. We are also working on an off grounds housing sustainability guide.

Rachel: We are sending a list of low commitment CIOS to student athletes, and also working with honor to investigate high report rates.

Brenna: We are hosting a startup career fair next Thursday in Newcomb, it will be in the newsletter.

Ben: We had a meeting with Tim Davis about the nap room, and may move to a resiliency space for unwinding with massage chairs. Also met with Becca White of UTS on the survey data, and they worked on a couple things over break.

Madalyn: We are looking at starting an analysis of blue lights and a transition from that if necessary.

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Daniel: For the remembrance garden, the funding we got did not come from SIF. We don't know who or what is paying. They brought in one of my professors to design the message wall, and I am going to work with him on that this summer. It should be done by the fall.

Officer Updates

Brett: There are 4 bills up for tonight. The dining report is coming to a conclusion and in the next couple of weeks we will have some general assembly legislation. We will start working on the grading concerns.

Maeve: The biggest issue is the Blue Ribbon Commission on memorials in public spaces, and they are currently analyzing the recommendations. They voted last Tuesday to basically do nothing. The report is adamant about moving the statues to different parks within city limits. Many people are very frustrated because they are not acting. If you are passionate about this, please let me know. Council is looking to get grant funding from UVA, so a lot of time is being spent there. Meetings have been very hostile lately.

Alex Cu: This semester we're under the same budget as last. I want to make sure you have access to the reallocation of funds form, please Slack me to let me know you did the form.

Sarah: I hope everyone had a great break, and am wondering about the meeting space. I want more attendance, and to enforce the committee member attendance.

Jocelyn: I really like it, it's easier to hear everyone.

Madalyn: I like being able to see everyone talk.

Austin: I like it better than the inner circle stuff.

Sarah: Please sign up for the leadership photoshoot. Dress business casual. For the Bicentennial, you will hear about it in the bill I am presenting tonight. I will Slack out a student opinion form later tonight, there is a lot of room for fluidity. The Jefferson's Legacy project we discussed last semester, we had Bryan Kelley working on it, and he needs to pass it on to someone else. If you want to work on it, please Slack me! We always discuss printing issues, so someone from Library Council is going to come speak. For Green Dot, we need 7 people signed up, please have people sign up!

Maeve: Also, whatever training StudCo does, I will try to be the lead so it will not take 5 hours. People look to you as leaders and thus training is important.

Mackenzie: I can attest that I got a lot out of it.

Sarah: I will also be announcing times for Safe Space trainings and others which are important for us as student leaders. For internal newsletter, please check Slack and give a few sentences to Ty about your committees. We have a new head of dining now. Please send me dining requests as least 2 weeks ahead of time. Please like and share things on Facebook.

Ty: The first newsletter goes out Thursday, please send news my way.

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Mackenzie: First appropriations round is tomorrow, please know that I am not ignoring everyone. The video project is underway. We need more people in the committee, and will eventually go outside of StudCo. If you want to learn, I can help as best I can. We will be buying equipment soon. We want to do a video per month indefinitely, first one will be in February and will highlight what it means to be a student during that month, particularly based on CIO events. If you know a group event, let me know.

GenBod 2: Virginia Circus.

Jocelyn: The Cavalier Symphony Orchestra is rehearsing, but concerts will be later.

David: Big event for Madison House is in April.

Emily: Snow ball fight.

Leeraz: We get to keep the equipment?

Mackenzie: Yes

Emily: I looked into the Range, and contacted some people. For the bicentennial celebration, it is the same weekend as Fall Break which is not ideal. We can't really change the day of the founding, or fall break. There will be a year full of cool celebrations. We will keep you updated on the bill. We really only have 2 months left in this term, but there's a lot to do. I don't want to leave much undone for the next group. We have fun ideas to do the transition ceremony on Humpback. I will be sending you guys a table to fill out every week for updates. Also, you should have gotten a UBE email about the election process.

Rachel: Fyi, that went into my spam folder.

The General Body Meeting Ended at 7:50 PM.

The Representative Body Meeting Began.