

**University of Virginia Student Council
Representative Body**

Minutes for March 29, 2016

The General Body meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM

Approval of the Minutes-3/23/16

Roll Call- Roll was taken.

Daniel: I'm the Buildings and Grounds committee chair, and I'm going to present the Student Memorial Garden. The project started in 2004 and it's been periodically revived and forgotten since. This is a space of remembrance for students who have lost their lives while at the university. It is currently stuck at the funding stage. I want opinions on whether we need this, and how we can go about approaching the school to get it done. The site is to the left of Newcomb, down the staircase, in a small courtyard. It is overgrown and tired looking now, but it is on prime real estate on central grounds. It's on the axis of existing memorials like the Whispering Wall, so it makes sense spatially. It is to be a place where students can go to preserve memory of those lost and handle the mourning process. It would be emotionally charged because people go there to deal with hard feelings. People will feel sheltered by the buildings, it creates an enclosed space.

It was an A-school student project initially, which inspired most of the modern design. The biggest component is a long wall made of slate tiles that people could leave messages on. It's not a place with set protocol, it is to be used as people see fit. The past few semesters, Rhodeside & Harwell has taken over the project and helped student designers. There have been several meetings to define the garden, as well as a survey that confirmed that the memorial would be seen as necessary. There are images of what it would look like, on the right there is a stone wall for chalk messages. It is not a traditional monument because people in our generation want something interactive and relatable. Currently, we are looking at a steep budget of \$750,000, which could be brought down later. As of now, we've done all we can without funding. Funding options are limited, we can't collect money gradually because people will forget about it. The strategy should be more pointed, and we should talk to influential school officials. I'd like any reactions or thoughts on whether this is worthwhile. Contact me on slack or email if you are more comfortable.

Luke: What's your name?

Daniel: Daniel McGovern

Luke: You should take a multifaceted approach, have it named after someone to get major donors who would have a stake. Reach out to classes as major contributors, and other significant figures.

Daniel: We've been told it would be a lot of matching funds from donations. We need to reach out to a lot of people. No one can fund it by themselves.

Araba: I wanted to emphasize how much I like this project. A place that comes to mind with these events is the amphitheater, and I like the idea of having a set place for mourning. Especially for events like Take Back the Night, it could be a center point.

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Katie B: I don't think the garden should be named after someone who has not passed away as a student here. It would be inappropriate.

Daniel: Especially with the wall, it is very democratic and should remain a blank space.

Emily: For trustees, you can give it to your class or a CIO, and it would be interesting to have this as an option.

Maeve: It could be a line item for Hoos Day, which is a huge online campaign. Many organizations, schools, and departments request money through this process, but it is on April 12.

Caroline: I've been involved with this project for a while, I really like that you guys are supporting this. If you want to get more involved, the university left all the fundraising to three students, so we could use any help we can get. It means a lot to me as someone who has lost two friends, I appreciate your support.

Daniel: The people in Office of the Architect have done all they can do, and we really want to get the project going.

Zaakir: It may be a good idea to ask the university on their thoughts.

Community Concerns

Alex Ci: Before we head into general concerns, I'd like updates on last week's concerns.

Emily: The sinks for the downstairs bathroom got a work order, I will test it later. Apparently the basketball court water fountain near the Dell isn't working well. Anyone want to take that one on?

Katie B: I'll put it in now.

Emily: The Dell parking lot was followed up on by Jess, but she isn't here. Microwave accessibility was less of a concern because they do exist, there might be a marketing campaign to spread that knowledge.

Alex Ci: Any discussion of pending legislation is to be reserved for the session.

Jocelyn: Someone had a good suggestion that we could have one credit art classes, similar to the athletic ones. People would want to take a fun painting or sculpting class, and the prerequisite three hour drawing class is limiting that ability.

Araba: This is more of a request. There is no appeals process for most majors you have to apply to. We'd like to put together a task force to create an appeals process for next spring. People shouldn't get rejected and have to change their whole life goals. If anyone is interested in helping, particularly Academic Affairs, Slack me.

Alex Ci: Anyone like to take charge of the art classes?

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Elaine: Are you specifically referring to visual arts?

Jocelyn: Yes, traditional 3D art and studio art.

Elaine: Academic Affairs has Cavalier Education classes, which students could teach basic art for. We cannot provide a consistent class offering though.

Alex H: We will mention Araba's idea at the meeting on Wednesday.

Joanna: Does that address solely Commerce or Batten, or any major?

Araba: Anything with an application, none of them have appeals processes.

Joanna: My concern is that small programs function well when they are small; there won't be space for everyone. Major doesn't drastically change their career a decade later. I understand that more with professional schools, but it might be stepping on faculty's toes.

Araba: I'm not saying program size should be expanded, but the applications should get a second look. I don't think that the faculty is clueless or uncaring, but a lot of students come here with a specific program in mind and they should get a second chance.

Emily: I never thought of that perspective, so maybe admission didn't think that either.

Araba: The first step is asking what the general campus climate is, not just taking over the process.

Katie B: I submitted the water fountain request. I think we should put a link to that form on the website, it is less well known for the different buildings on grounds.

Emily: We are currently trying to revamp the website.

Anna: We are trying to get that launched around the time of Speak Up UVA, but because there's only one person working on it, they need more time. Give it two weeks.

Katie J: There's a lack of greenery in study areas, especially Clemons. It is drab and there are no plants. Greenery is beneficial to air quality, health, and elevates mood.

Katie B: Is it because people have to water it or allergies? There's no light in the stacks.

Jocelyn: Maybe general nicer décor would fix that.

Emily: More art?

Jocelyn: I'll look into that. A project we're doing now is getting art up in Ruffner and that may be transitioned to Clem.

Eddie: A lot of soap dispensers are empty, and we should make sure those are getting filled for sanitary concerns.

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Emily: That's a work order, we can note that there is a pattern.

Maeve: That's HRL, I'll let them know.

Michael: There's a need for a compiled lists of contacts for facilities, I can make it.

Anna: Forward me the list, I can format it and spread it around.

Bryanna: Going into course registration, a lot of students are worried about large classes. Is there a way we can make it easier for students to create study groups? I can make it my project.

Committee Reports

Katie B: Eric, Zach Cohen was contacted about something for legislative affairs, and he is several years removed as chair. Someone from South Carolina wanted to create a join task force, they might have a graphics package for us to use.

Eric: I thought Zach was doing something critical to committee work, I'd like to know what listservs he's on. He's listed as Director of State Relations, I can add Zaakir instead.

Emily: I talked to President Sullivan about the task force and she is super excited.

Jocelyn: I met with outgoing co-chairs, and we talked over transition stuff. I asked what we should focus on, and they said following up on student concerns. The Fine Arts Café meal exchange was successful!

Annie: I've been working with students to address transfer issues. There was a forum last Monday that got great feedback and we will follow up on those concerns.

Ty: I've been in contact with outgoing chairs as well. We're want to be a proactive point of contact for CIOs to let them know we are a reliable resource as the term begins.

Alex H: Look Hoos Talking nominations on Wednesday, nominate your favorites.

Anna: I'll upload the form on Facebook. For marketing, send requests 2 weeks in advance. Sustainability did a great job with their climate action event. I can post an example on Slack.

Jocelyn: Talk to the person who led dinner series. They have a comprehensive list of names you may want to reach out to. That would be Diane D'Costa.

Ben: I spoke with the university on the smoke-free grounds project. They are not going to move forward with that now, but will address it in a few years.

David: We talked with Mackenzie about our plans for recruitment and transitions.

Officer Reports

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Maeve: Nothing new from City Council, other than a more definitive timeline on when representative body will make a resolution for the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Eric: If you are a chair or rep that has not received Slack invitations, email me immediately. For the website, the blurbs are different from mission statements for recruitment. Send those to Anna on Slack.

Alex Cu: Thanks for listening to me talk about the budget last night. The Budgeting 101 doc in slack is very important.

Joanna: Sorry for the confusion about committee blurbs. Mission statement goes into the bylaws; the blurb should be for the general public and be much more detailed. I will share the application with you later today, tell me any changes you'd like. It has basic questions, and then committee descriptions with meeting times, so let me know if those are incorrect. If people can't attend your meeting, they can't be on the committee. I can also edit descriptions.

Zaakir: When does the application go out?

Emily: We think tomorrow, stay posted.

Mackenzie: Rolling Round 3 is finished, reimbursements until the end of the semester. I am launching new program for education on the CIO approval process, because it is confusing. I am compiling documents now, let treasurers that are frustrated with the process email me directly.

Sarah: I met with Dining. They followed up with Daria's project to get meal exchange at Fine Arts Café, which will be available 11-6 every day. They are really excited, and want students to continue to bring concerns forward.

Emily: I met with Career Services this week, which is coming up with an initiative using different "families" of jobs, rather than school based. Academic Affairs is working with them in the future, and anyone else is welcome to join in too. In the next week, I will be launching the presidential senate. StudCo is to be the voice of students, but I want to create a senate that is representatives from student leaders across grounds. At this meeting, you could present an issue, and student leaders would vote on the issue they wanted to work on for the next month. It will go full scale next year, but we can do one project this year. I also met with President Sullivan today, and she had news on buildings updates. I'd like to thank the Director of Student Activities for coming to the meeting today, he's been here for a month and his office is in the PAC.

Brett: Thanks for coming, reps are always open to all student concerns. I hope to see this turnout every week, and nothing is too small or too big. We want to do everything we can. Legislative and rep body meetings are also available to everyone.

The General Body meeting ended at 6:50 PM.

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Representative Body Called into Committee at 6:54.

Brett: Committee appointments are coming out later this week. Everyone is still on internal affairs committee for now. Any objections of moving through to legislation?

The Representative Committee Meeting Ended at 6:55 PM.

The Representative Legislative Session was called to order at 6:55 PM.

Emily: I'm VPO for this because the bill were tabled last week, and I am proposing this new one. The administration thought both of these were fine moving forward and followed university policy.

Erin Edwards: I am a fourth year, and started HOPE on Grounds. Our mission is to be a support to girls on grounds that have faced unintended pregnancies and sexual violence. We have seen both of these issues come up, and we want to direct them to resources within the Charlottesville community. Three of our officers are trained by Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia and are prepared to handle emergency pregnancies. We had 24 hours of training. We also felt that sexual assaults was a hot topic on grounds. We can't provide counseling ourselves on that, but we can link them to external resources, like SARA. Our club members would have that information available, and they could references friends to that link.

Annie: Will your CIO train new people?

Erin: In our constitution, it states that 2 members must be trained by the pregnancy center. They would be the experienced ones, and everyone else would be able to connect them to those that are trained or to the centers. There is one next to Trader Joes and another by the greyhound bus station.

Girl: The concern we had last week was whether or not your position was anti-abortion?

Erin: We are not taking sides, the pregnancy center is Christian so they don't perform abortions, but they have all the information. We do not take any stance, and want to be able to support those who need someone to talk to and share resources. The center does have post-abortion counseling and everything would be confidential.

Katie J: Is the center your main resource or will you refer to other places as well?

Erin: That is our main connection, but there are other places we could reach out to. SARA is also super excited and wants to give presentations. We have some of their materials that someone could come and request. We want to have a google doc that anyone could look at. We hope to establish more connections in the future, but the pregnancy does have a lot of connections that we could easily pull from.

Bryanna: When you go onto the pregnancy center website, it says you can adopt, parent or abort, and has adequate resources for everything. I think it's good to go.

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Erin: Any information that you could look for is there. There is no pressure to go one way or another. We just want people to be comfortable and informed.

Brett: Any other questions and comments?

Motion to vote. Seconded. SB16-08 passed 8:0:2.

Brett: Jacqueline is here to present for DREAMers on Grounds.

Emily: Mackenzie is the official VPO for this one.

Mackenzie: This bill is exactly the same as last week's. The reason everyone is here is to hear Jacqueline speak. I think we should approve this.

Jacquie: I am part of DREAMers on Grounds. The group is composed of Dreamers and allies, and our mission is to create a more inclusive environment and provide education. As Dreamers, we go through a lot of restrictions legally and financially, and want to create a space for students applying who feel unsure. We want to be a point of contact, and let them know that UVA is a place where they are welcome and can get a good education. One approach we will take is to educate within and outside the university. We will train undocumented allies to let people know who Dreamers are, what they go through, and how it affects our communities. For advocacy, we are not endorsing any party, but want to give students the opportunity to pursue education. 3 years ago, there was a bill to give DACA recipients in-state tuition, but last general assembly it was taken away. If there are bills introduced to give students the opportunity to study, we want to advocate for those.

I know StudCo met and came up with an agreement, but we want to emphasize how offended we were by the comment made on social media. We do not think it is acceptable for a student representative to do that, mixing personal preference with their position that is supposed to represent the values of the university. They should not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender, etc. This issues goes beyond the use of technology, but the lack of professionalism and moral conduct. Openly celebrating on a social network that an already marginalized group was denied CIO status is offensive. We do not think UVA should be represented by that representative.

John: Where did they post it? Facebook? Is social media considered a valid media sources? You could sue if you wanted to, but probably don't have enough money.

Michael: Bryanna and I got to visit your Dreamers 1 on 1 event last Wednesday, which opened my eyes. There was a panel with legal professionals and students, and that session helped me learn so much. The open discourse is really important and I am strongly in favor of approving this CIO.

Jacquie: We will have more of those.

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Brett: The following is a statement from some members of the representative body, read for the minutes.

“To: The University Community

Re: The State of the Representative Body

We, the undersigned, as individual members of the representative body, stand in solidarity with the DREAMers on Grounds, their allies, and other members of the university community who were affected by the comments expressed by a Representative. Further, we reject the sentiments expressed in his post; they are not reflective of our views and we recognize that the words contained therein were harmful, inappropriate and divisive. Insensitive, derogatory, and hurtful comments have no place in this Body or our Institution. We would also like to apologize for the lack of transparency surrounding the original vote, this incident, and commit to being more accountable in the future.

We recognize that the Representative Body’s failure to approve the DREAMer’s CIO status resulted in the further marginalization of undocumented students at the University. We intend to take the first step of many to rectify this situation by voting in favor of granting CIO status to this vital organization during the legislative session this evening.

As the legislative body of the University of Virginia, Representatives have a unique duty and ability to be a powerful force. It is our aim for this body to become more inclusive, diverse, available, and accountable to not only those who have put us in this position of authority, but also to the entire University. This means using our position to speak and represent not just the majority, but more importantly, those who may not otherwise have a voice in this system.

In closing we encourage our fellow representatives to join us in affirming this statement by voting in favor of DREAMers.

Brett Curtis, Chair of the Representative Body
Clara Carlson, Representative
Alexander Cintron, Representative
Bryanna Miller, Representative “

Luke: I agree with that statement but don’t want lose sight of the fact that it is a CIO application bill. CIOs must only provide a service, have student members, and include a non-discrimination clause. They meet the criteria, so they should be approved.

Brett: We made sure everyone was aware of that.

Annie: This is a great cause. You have been able to establish a CIO in addition to garnering support from the community. You are able to manifest student rights and welfare, and when you felt marginalized, you fought for student power which is incredible. Thanks you for coming and bringing your support.

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GenBod Member: Dreamers On Grounds listed a petition, and I was wondering how StudCo would respond to that. How will you prevent this again?

Brett: In reference to the specific demands, we are working on transparency and accountability, which has led to the website and Speak Up UVA updates, as well as doing a better job of explaining the CIO approval process. Groups should know where they stand. In reference to other specific mentions, the StudCo rep body and board are discussing what may happen and what ramifications will take place. The rep did release a statement of apology and we can't speak for that person otherwise. We are taking that into consideration, this statement is our first step.

Eddie: Whatever happened last week, we can work on making StudCo even better. We want to be great advocates.

Brett: As reps, we are students first. No one told me to wear black to stand in solidarity, but you made your presence known and I got the message. Thanks for lighting a fire, and making sure we are representing all students at this university.

Motion to vote. Seconded. SB16-09 passed 7:0:3.

The Representative Legislative Session ended at 7:33 PM.