

University of Virginia Student Council

General Body Meeting

10 October 2017

The General Body meeting began at 6:35 PM

David: After the meeting, we have a rep body meeting to talk about ad hoc committees and then break up into meetings. Sign up online for public comment, jump on it. Chairs and others not reps need to speak in that period. We will be going over the budget, which will be led by Michael. Ellie will be giving her response as internal affairs.

Ty: Rolling Round 2 is wrapping up this week, and chair review will be tomorrow evening. We will talk about funding and requests. Alex and I are working on recruitment for the internal audit. The CIO process is going well, next Tuesday we will have our first CIO bill, and then they will be steady. On Friday, I will send the bill out, so let me know if you have questions so I can prep the CIO leader. The audit committee is knee deep in data right now, which is exciting so we can see SAF trends. For the budget session, Michael and Ellie have done a good job.

Alex: There is no color on the bill resolution, so we can be conscious of our use of ink. We had boot camp this past Sunday, if you are a chair or rep, we will let you know if you need to come. If you need a graphic as a chair, let the committee know two weeks in advance so they can put their best effort in and use their time efficiently. If you're having an event or cosponsoring, let Katie and I know a week in advance. If you are a chair, let Liam know about your projects. Please use Slack and not emails for general communication. Please save Nov. 11 for our Monticello retreat. We have a new historian named Nate, and he will be recording our history.

Liam: I echo what Alex said about letting me know about your project, and the project proposal process. The video narrative project has done a second video, and it will be out on Thursday. The legislative affairs developed a voter video for the year, and published resources on their channel. Share that with your friends.

Sarah: If your committee is doing a project and wants to do a video, we are ordering high tech equipment and have the capability to broadcast your message. On Halloween, David will open up his room for trick or treating on the Lawn, instead of GenBod. We ask that you come through to help pass out candy. On Election day, we are moving our meeting back to 7:00 PM so you can get to the polls. Bootcamp got off to a great start, and I wanted to let people know that we are investing in substantive opportunities for your own development. In the future, you can expect to see more opportunities like mindfulness, team building, or lunch sessions. You can look forward to a meeting where we get to set the culture for the year to come. I spoke to someone today about how everyone's stress levels currently reflected of what it should be in mid-November. Please take care of yourselves, this work is really important, and we need to keep progress and conversations going.

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Katie: I wanted to speak for Safety and Wellness budget. We are working to create a resiliency room on grounds to have a safe space for mental wellness. Contact me or the committee if you want to get involved.

Representative Body Session

Roll call

Motion to vote on 9-26-17. Seconded. Passed.

Michael: I am the financial officer, and have been working with the committee chairs to get the budget together. I will do a basic overview of it now, it should be on Slack. We are requesting \$60,758 in SAF, which comes from Student Fees. Non-SAF comes from the StudCo bank account, which has fewer restrictions. SAF cannot be used for food, so non-SAF is typically used for that. This makes a total of \$78,000. Compared to last year, we are \$8,000 over. For Academic Affairs, they are shifting from doing one big event to several small ones. They will do an academic fair in Clem 2, in addition to Cavalier Education, which is taught by a graduate student. Additionally, they will continue the academic resource fair, and teaching awards. Finally, they are hosting a diversity dinner series.

Athletic Affairs is doing sports boxes, and club sports fundraising. In the past, club sports request a lot of money because they are high cost, and we are trying to get them to find other routes. We will do water bottle distribution in partnership with the athletic department, and are trying to make it more sustainable. Buildings and Grounds is doing a lot in terms of information gathering and dissemination. Community Relations is doing a public service case competition, and the service scholars program. The code of ethics implementation is a new one, and finally, focus groups to gather student input. Diversity engagement is doing a disability awareness week, and Campus Closet to do interview clothes. They will do Winter Wonderland with the community, and then some discretionary funding. Entrepreneurship requires no funding. Legislative affairs is working to get out the vote, so they will have a few related events. Safety and Wellness is starting pilot programs that they'd like to get the student body behind them to demonstrate need to administration. They are working on the resiliency room, a mobile app, and free feminine hygiene products.

Student Arts is doing an Arts Fellows project that they hope to fully fund, and hanging art in Newcomb. They will do several arts advocacy initiatives as well, a benefit performance, and stickers. Sustainability is doing work across grounds with other organizations, most specifically Pancakes for Parkinson's. Additionally, they are doing Earth Week and a leaders program, and they hope to continue Sustainabanquet. Marketing is looking to make new clothing items, and general promotion items. We have money from a Jefferson Fund grant that we will use to improve our photos and videos. This is a temporary line item. Outreach is

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focusing on the student senate this year. The Rep Body is trying to revamp their community concerns collection by making a research database that will be incentivized. The exec operations committee has money for boot camp, will provide food at several events, a new member initiation banquet. The Bicentennial committee will put out events across grounds, as well as a contest, and discretionary funding for any other initiatives that come up. Finally, Student Organizations Support supports printing, materials and other events to sustain them.

Ellie: I don't have a lot of changes right now, but some questions about initiatives. First, for Community Relations, I don't understand what the code of ethics implementation is, or what that money is doing.

Sarah: In the past, StudCo has tried to introduce a code of ethics to govern forms of community engagement. We want to train students when they work in the community to they have more context on the work they're doing. We have put an advisory board together to ensure that the code is aligned with best practices. We are subsidizing individuals at this time, and that's where the money would go.

Ellie: For the focus groups, on Community Relations, one is TBD. What would that be? For Sustainability, I was confused about Green Leaders, and what it meant.

Jacob: Green Leaders is the idea to connect green organizations on grounds by having reps meet monthly, and as an incentive, we're having a pot of money for the groups to apply for in hosting zero waste events. The money would go towards composting and its supplies.

Ellie: Under exec ops, for boot camp and initiation banquet, it looks like a lot of money for food.

Sarah: StudCo has not invested much in its culture, such as bonding and community. This banquet would be a lot of administrators in the room. UVA Catering is quite expensive, we are trying to be conservative otherwise. This is non-SAF, so it doesn't come from students.

David: Today we are tabling the vote, and will do the full vote next week.

Michael: I will note any amendments on my copy of the budget and resend it.

Victoria: How transferable are funds between initiatives?

Michael: It depends on if it is SAF or non-SAF. The budget goes to the Student Activities committee for the final say, it is more difficult to move SAF. The exec board would decide on non-SAF.

Avery: Are the leadership binders the ones that have already been produced?

Michael: The ones already produced came from the summer budget, these would be for the remaining ones.

Josh: For the line item purchases like the camera, how do you decide on a company?

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David: We look for the most cost-effective ones, and the camera would hopefully come from a grant anyway.

Chi: on Community Engagement, their Code of Ethics, I would like to come from non-SAF funding, since it is compensation for non-students.

David: That funding was intended for honorarium, which is not necessarily like a salary, more like a gift.

Motion to amend. Seconded. Motion passed.

Austin: Can you go over the change in the rep body budget?

David: I think there was a slight increase. We took out the rep body grants because there was a significant displeasure. We increased the co-sponsorship funds.

Kelsey: For the Buildings & Grounds budget, is there a reason it needs to be SAF?

Colleen: We were concerned about the amount of funding, and unsure about cost.

Ellie: Can we cut the TBD under Community Relations? If it were discretionary, it would be different.

Liam: Last year, this committee was approached by administrators who wanted to design an app to connect students to the history of Charlottesville. That is what last year's focus groups were, and Margaret's phrasing here may be misleading. With the community engagement committees, they get approached by administrators frequently to run focus groups.

Kelsey: Why can't that come out of discretionary money?

Sarah: There are several focus groups throughout the year, and it is unpredictable. It is a core part of community building.

Liam: It gives them more flexibility.

Ellie: I think we should change it to discretionary funding.

Motion to amend. Seconded. Motion passed.

Avery: For the boot camp leadership binders, I don't think continuing it is necessary. They exist online, and it seems like a waste of paper and money. For the marketing camera set, it is a large investment to improve a livestream that doesn't get a lot of views.

Sarah: For the camera, last October we got a grant to produce videos that would be comparable to UVA Communications. In order to reach that level, they need to be at a certain caliber, and this expense would be stretched over a decade of use.

Will: Can you talk about the likelihood of getting the grant?

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Liam: We have filed the request and will hear back before the next meeting. I think it is pretty likely. We can keep you updated.

Will: In that case, keeping it on the budget seems fine.

David: We have already received the grant, we just have to make sure they will back the purchase.

Lukas: What is the athletic affairs publicity budget?

Michael: The committee is to work with Mincers or somewhere similar to give out nicer things.

Lukas: That description seems vastly different from the line item.

Liam: We were interpreting this more as helping them with publicity for their fundraising, whereas now it's just supplemental funding. Rather than publicizing the funding, we are helping them to get off the ground.

Mollie: This is just us helping them as much as possible as their funding goes down. We want to set them up in years to come with ways to fundraise. We don't want to cut them cold turkey.

Lukas: It is the shipping of money rather than solving the problem. I like supporting their fundraising efforts, but the two items aren't matching up. I want them to be self-supporting.

Avery: For the legislative affairs money, are these new debates?

Elizabeth: That needs to be corrected to election.

Ian: For the Monticello trip, have we thought of alternatives, like a potluck picnic, or something that doesn't require \$850? It doesn't seem like a wise decision. I think we could find an alternative to doing this.

Sarah: This was passed with part of the last budget, and it's an opportunity to recontextualize what it means to go there. We have invested conservatively in leadership development in the past. I hear your concerns and I appreciate your sentiment, but this is an opportunity to have a strategy session off-grounds and consider our school's position.

Ellie: Going off of that, we are spending about \$4500 on Exec food. I understand the sentiment but I think it should be less.

Kelsey: For the app development, we are spending a lot on that.

Taylor: The Clery Act is federal guidelines on what alerts can be sent out how. Only certain crimes can be reported as a result via text or email. There's a website online that lists all crimes, and we want students to be able to enable those notifications.

Ian: Would we have gotten an alert through this system about the Nazi rally if it were in place?

Logan: We are going to discuss that tomorrow morning, and it is at the top of our list.

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Kelsey: My biggest concern is that the university has to report crimes, and we don't want those rates to go down as a result of this frequent announcement system.

Eddie: For legislative affairs, what are the materials for the political polarization campaign?

Victoria: We would be making videos, roundtables, and printing special pamphlets.

David: I want to change debate to election.

Motion to amend. Seconded. Motion passed.

Lukas: Going back to athletic affairs, how can we clarify it without cutting that part of their budget?

David: We would table it to get a better understanding before next week. My understanding was different from theirs.

Avery: I think we should cut leadership binders from the budget. I think people should just be able to access it online.

Alex: There are binders for 250 members of the organization, and we get generally positive feedback that having a physical binder is much more helpful and more engaging. We thought about switching to something online, but we thought the benefits were better.

Eddie: I am a digital guy. Why don't we let people choose?

Sarah: In terms of institutional memory, we have not done a good job. We proposed the idea of notebooks, which was too big of an expense. A tangible binder would serve a similar purpose. This is to overcorrect for what has been a lack of training and memory for this organization.

Austin: I understand that concern, I think that getting the video camera would resolve that, but this expense is very large, much larger than many CIOs budgets.

Alex: In terms of the process of ordering these binders, we approved them in the spring, and we allocated the same amount for this boot camp session. I think this conversation is completely valid, but at the current moment, since it was approved last spring, and the first boot camp has binders, it would be unfair for upcoming boot camps to not get binders.

Ellie: Let's change the binders to \$800 in order to have the freedom of choice between print and digital.

Liam: I think that's a fair point, but I would be concerned that people would want paper and some people wouldn't get binders. You make a good point and we should have done this ahead of time, but we are too far in to make that change. As for the price, Leeraz did significant research to get a good deal, and this is the most cost-effective option.

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Shivani: Would it be possible to have former StudCo members to donate back their binders? I don't use mine on a regular basis and that would save some copies and some money.

Alex: The binders do not stay the same, this one is for general StudCo members, versus the ones intended for leadership last year.

Eddie: We could send a straw poll to committee members to ask them to vote, and adjust the budget next week.

Ellie: My concern is that we won't have a concrete number for who wants which.

Alex: I would ask to let the \$1500 go through, and then do a poll to figure out if it was helpful.

Motion to amend. Seconded. The motion does not pass.

Lukas: Back to athletic affairs, I wanted to mention a conversation I had the other day. The athletic department relies on us to provide water bottles for two days. A wise person told me that StudCo is an advocacy group that gets projects off the grounds, and then hands them to administration. Going forward, we need to have a conversation. We should not be paying when they have millions of dollars. We could use that money for other things for the student body. The other question is what waste we are reducing by going from plastic bottles to plastic cups?

Ian: I totally agree, I would totally just mix it to see what happens. We have no obligation to fund varsity athletics. It doesn't make sense, and it is their job.

Ellie: We should defund water from \$3400 to \$0. If we keep funding, it will never change.

Liam: Jacob can talk through the water distribution process.

Jacob: I can explain how distribution is executed. The temperature has to reach an index of 90 F or above, so the likelihood of that is low. The costs were split between us and athletics. They cover the bottles, and we cover the cups. The idea behind the cups was to make them compostable, but that was a planning issue with athletics in terms of contamination. Plastic cups still have less waste.

Liam: For context, this is a program that has been in place since 2009. If it were to go in place, I think it would be wiser to do it in the spring session. I don't think the game will reach that temperature, but because it is a long-standing partnership, it could be a problem. I think we should bring it up in the spring before the football season. It would be better so they can plan ahead, rather than us pulling promised funding.

Eddie: Since we're in the middle of a season, I don't think we should pull out. I think it is a good use of our money. We are directly helping the student body.

Sarah: Severing that commitment would be in bad taste right now. I agree that we should ask athletics to pay for it, but for the sake of future initiatives, I don't think we should back out.

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Kelsey: There's no chance we would spend this money.

Ty: After the games pass, we can talk about removing it from the pot if the money is not spent.

Motion to amend. Seconded. The motion does not pass.

Motion to table. Seconded. FB17-12 is tabled.

Michael: if you have any additional questions, let me know.

Community Concerns

Victoria: As far as the bureaucratic structure, it's rude to reprimand people for rules they don't know about. The logistics of who can sign up for classes is unfair, particularly for transfers. I cannot get into the classes that I need. The only route is to course-action. I want to know who I can talk to.

David: There will be people reaching out to you.

Ian: I know legislative affairs has been working to have class off on election day, but one complaint is that even if we don't get class off, we have exams on that day. Can professors move exams as well? Also, I've had 2 dozen people approach me about emergency alerts, and I think that should be noted.

Elizabeth: We will not have class off on election day, the schedule is set 15 years in advance. As far as exams, we can't hold professors accountable. That should fall to the faculty senate. Professors will do what they want in the end. We will discuss it in the spring with those stakeholders, and distributing information to professors about voting early. Slack me any questions or classes that have exams on that day.

Kelsey: I am concerned that at the bicentennial, there was a celebration of student activism, yet student activists were arrested.

Anna: From a member, the gravel path by Nau is really dark at night.

Colleen: I submitted it to the night tour.

Ellie: For the alert system, there was a burglary and rape on Shamrock which was two blocks away from my house. I was walking late at night in that area last weekend, and a lot of students would have wanted to hear about that.

Alex: I live a block away from Shamrock, and yesterday the house across from me was robbed.

Josh: On Saturday, there was a Facebook post telling people to stay away from the park, but it didn't describe why.

Announcements

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Sarah: A number of task forces have been formed, particularly for the alert system. The internal newsletters have started coming out, including who is meeting with who. We are going to have a strict publishing schedule. I am working on a letter and video to President Ryan to explain who we are and what we're thinking about. I am working with Dean Allen and the PAC to form a student leadership toolkit. Think about what resources that could be, such as Robert's Rules, and speaking to the press. Finally, in terms of space, Newcomb is working to move some people around, let me know if you need more storage space.

Michael: Thanks for bearing with the budget.

Emily: The student dance groups are performing this Friday in the amphitheater, go if you want to support. We are looking for submissions to put in Newcomb, let us know if you are interested.

Elizabeth: We are 27 days out from the election, there will be a schoolwide email tomorrow. Tomorrow we are painting Beta Bridge, please change your cover photo.

Sydney: We are hosting the academic resources fair tomorrow, there will be pizza and chicken.

Stuart: I am with the Bicentennial committee, and our first big event is next Wednesday.

Mary Alice: We will have parliamentarians for all of the meetings, please get used to being interrupted. We will be creating how-to facts sheets for you guys.

Colleen: HRL is putting on a lot of fairs for on and off grounds housing. Please let people know to attend those fairs.

Stephanie: Please Slack me marketing things, you can design your own but we have to approve it.

The General Body meeting ended at 8:32 PM.