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9-25-2008

### SGA Minutes - September 25, 2008

FHSU Student Government Association

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#### Recommended Citation

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# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

### MINUTES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Black & Gold Room

#### Majority

Simple: 16

2/3: 21

- I. Call to Order  
VP Engel calls to order at 7:03pm.
- II. Roll Call  
Administrative Assistant
- III. Guest Speakers
  - a. University Police Department (Ed Howell), Hays Police Department (Philip Hartsfield), and Drug & Alcohol Wellness Network (Bob Duffy) (DAWN)

Howell: We're here to talk about the upcoming Oktoberfest and the things we can do to be successful. How many people in the room have heard of and utilized the Safe Ride? It is not referred to as the drunk ride even if in some scenarios that is the case. By July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2008 1149 rides were given and to the current date 2,004. The total number of rides given from the conception in 2005 is 33,959. By 10% of impaired being removed from the roadways, have we created a safe environment?

Hartsfield: Has anybody here been to a football game? Typically we see an ambulance and EMTs at a football game. They are there to enjoy the game and hopefully not have to be called to service. This year by having the helicopter in the air for the key hours of 9-3 on Friday and Saturday night, it's like an ambulance at a football game. It's up in the air and can immediately be called to a location if there's a problem. For instance, they have a spotlight that will light up a block in a flash. A lot of people walking around and a majority of them are under the influence. The last thing we want is to have a car chase this weekend with so many pedestrians in the area. By having the helicopter we can follow a car the miles necessary and stop the individual safely. It's help that allows us to keep everyone safe over the weekend. The helicopter doesn't cost the city a dime and KHP will be up in the air most nights of the week.

Howell: It's Oktoberfest and Homecoming weekend. Hopefully everyone will have a safe environment and be careful. Pass the word along about the Safe Ride. Does anyone know the regular operating hours for Safety Ride?

Sen. Roston: The operating hours of Safe Ride are Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10pm-3am.

Howell: Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the traditional days of operation from 10pm – 3am. It will not run Wednesday. The heavier times of operation during Oktoberfest will be Thursday night 10pm – 3am. Friday it will be running with two busses from 4 – 3 and 8 – 3 and Saturday 10 – 3. Does everybody know the phone number?

Sen. Zervas: It is 621 and dial right down the center of the phone.

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

Howell: Let people know coming into town about the public service. The Safe Ride has been a partnership with SGA in the past and received allocations in the form of \$5,000 in previous years. We hope to continue that partnership and strongly believe this is a service we can provide to our community. The University PD operates on a 3 prong approach, education, options and enforcement all equally apply. Judge me not by my rhetoric but by my actions. Education we've been to the fraternities, classrooms, radios, and TVs, that's the education component. The option's initiative is the Safe Ride. We went behind the judiciary to get that to fund some form of transportation in Ellis County. It's not called the Drunk Ride; it's called the Safe Ride. For whatever reason you need a ride during their hours of operation take advantage of it; it is free. If you feel unsafe and you need a ride, that's what it's there for. Pass that information along.

Hartsfield: They will even pick you up and take you to the bar so it really is a safe ride in all directions.

Howell: We don't have time to go over all of our alcohol violations but I will let Bob Duffy talk a little bit. Then for the remainder of our time I would like to open up to all of you for questions that you might have for us.

Duffy: I don't mean any disrespect for the gentlemen behind me but to me the law is the 2.0 grade point average. During Oktoberfest if you don't get arrested then certain things won't happen. There are other consequences that can still happen. If you get a 2.0 GPA you don't worry about taking the Succeeding in College course, your financial aid being suspended or academic reinstatement. The law is one possible consequence that can happen during this weekend. What I don't want to see for anyone is to see you experience all of those other consequences. I look around this room and see a group of bright students. I could quote to you all fines up here but there's probably not anyone in here that couldn't come up with the money one way or another and not affect their academic progress too much. But what I don't want to see you struggle with is not being able to do things like study abroad or doing other things with your life. Those are things we don't want to happen to you because of this weekend and that are the whole point behind the Safe Ride. It's not just the police saying if you don't take advantage of this we're going to arrest you. We are there so you can be safe and be a college student. We extend that out into the community because there is no real border between Fort Hays and the city of Hays.

Howell: We'd like to take time to ask questions. This is your opportunity hypothetically to ask the 3 of us any questions about public parties, MIC, or transporting open containers. Are there any questions? I want to emphasize Bob, the whole intent behind your laws are to enhance your public safety. It's not because we want your revenue or to put you in jail.

Hartsfield: A few things this weekend there will be about 40 officers total covering a whole lot of area. I will have at least 20 cars patrolling. That's not to cause anyone grief that's to keep everyone safe. We want to present a presence so everyone is safe and minimize incidents that could have happened. If you're with friends at a house party and we happen to show up for a noise complaint please help us help them gain cooperation. When we don't have cooperation it causes us to go to other steps and levels. Remember there is a new law that came out this last year, unlawful hosting of a minor. Whether you are a minor

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

or over 21 it is a \$1,000 fine that is mandated by the state plus court costs. My officers don't enjoy giving that citation out but they're there getting paid to enforce the law and uphold the laws. So think about that when you have a gathering that you don't know everyone there. You can give us a call and let us help you disperse of the party. We would rather you do that then let it get out of control. We're not there to be the bad guys, we will enforce the laws, but we want you to have a fun and safe weekend. Let everyone know about public possession, 90% of the citations that we write for MIC is someone walking down the sidewalk with an open container. If you see someone leaving a party or building with an open container, do them a favor and let them know that they might want to finish that before walking down the sidewalk or going to the next party. My officers are there this weekend and if they see violations they're going to enforce it.

Sen. Purdy: A group of my friends were talking about designated drivers and how they've been very discouraged. Does the Police Department encourage designated drivers? Apparently there are situations where they feel like they're being harassed. They understand the safety and know why they got pulled over. I felt like it was unreasonable that they were getting pulled over for not using a turn signal and then getting a ticket for it.

Howell: You bet. A designated driver and the Safe Ride are parts of that component. What we have seen in the past is that the DD means the person who had the least amount of alcohol. From a police department standard I can tell you that I'm behind it 100%. Because anything we can do by removed somebody from being impaired on our public streets, have we made our environment safer? Yes.

Sen. Zervas: What is the rule of alcohol and tailgating at football games?

Howell: Tailgating at football games used to be no alcohol on Fort Hays' property. I went to my administration and said here is the problem that I have. Here we have a policy here at Fort Hays that say no alcohol whatsoever, no exemptions. We were proposing to change the policies. As it relates to tailgating, you can have alcohol, beer, as long as you are of age and are tailgates. It can't be in glass containers. You can't bring kegs of beer or any volume of beer to that location. We prefer it to be in a cup. No whiskey or mixed drinks, but beer is permissible. That's been in play for about two years now.

Hartsfield: My officers are actively at night, from 9pm-4am, are looking for DUIs. They are the people who are putting others in danger. This community has an excess of 300 DUIs a year. Often the police officers are engaged in different calls and don't have the time to look for DUIs. The folks who don't use turn signals or have tag lights out, have a break light out, and all those things, those are the causes for why an officer should be stopping somebody to notify them. Between certain hours there is a higher chance that the person may have been consuming alcohol. It's likely that if they have a taillight out and we stop them, hopefully they are the designated driver and have not been drinking. We've been fortunate in the last few Oktoberfests, since there is an influx of 5-10,000 additional people in town; we don't have that many DUIs. Typically it's around 8-12 DUIs during this festival. We appreciate the no drinking and driving.

Howell: I want to reiterate on behalf of the sheriff's department KS highway patrol, HPD, and the University PD that we firmly believe in designated drivers as well.

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

Sen. Miller: I work on campus in the residential life building and a lot of people think that just because they live in a residential hall that they won't get ticketed with the same infractions as people having a house party.

Howell: That is incorrect. Do we check people for alcohol violations? Yes. Do we enforce it? Yes.

Sen. Miller: In the dorms, if they do come across a situation where there is a hosting, would like us to call you?

Howell: Yeah, we meet regularly with the residential life members and we try to encourage them if they have anything they cannot deal with and if they need any type of police assistance whatsoever don't hesitate to call us. Do you know how to get a hold of the University PD?

Sen. Miller: Yes. I have your number.

Howell: Everyone else has our number too. But if you're ever in doubt, call 911. Other questions? Thank you very much for your time and your support.

#### IV. Executive Reports

##### a. President (Tyler Hughes)

Pres. Hughes attended the breakfast with the Kansas Board of Regents Monday morning. It was informative for him. The regents enjoyed listening to the students. The SGA prepared for the lemonade stand and thanks everyone who helped. It was a huge success. The reception he received during delivering lemonade across campus was amazing with people donating and people who thought it was fantastic for raising awareness. Our grand total for the day was \$117.49. Next month Pres. Hughes and LD Anglemyer will take a check to the Board of Regents. SGA has agreed to give \$5,000 from the contingency fund to the Safe Ride program. Funding for Safe Ride was started 3 years ago at \$5,000. It was a line item budget and meant to be a line item budget in the future but was never carried through. It's SGA's hope to give the money to them this year and from here on out will be a line item on the executive budget every year. He will bring it up for discussion during open forum.

##### b. Vice President (Cole Engel)

VP Engel attended the ITPAC meeting this past Friday. They talked about system performance issues that senators have brought up regarding the scatcat system. Those issues are being addressed, in addition to adding an external interface to the e-mail so that it will work similar to blackboard. They discussed some electrical issues on campus with the increased number of tablets and laptop computers. There are safety and space issues in classrooms from running drop cords, to not enough outlets, and physical space on desks. The university is in the process of making the rooms more Tablet friendly rooms. ITPAC is also working on an action plan for a wireless printing solution. We would like that to be accessible through the network. They're working on having various printing stations across campus. VP Engel attended the KBOR breakfast, having an interesting discussion with the regents. They discussed higher education

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

funding and economic and energy policy issues. The lemonade stand was very successful as we sold about 300 cups of lemonade. Seventy-five dollars was from individual glasses and the rest of the \$117.49 were donations from faculty, staff, and students. He had an interview with KFHS regarding the Talking Tigers debate team. The Talking Tigers were suspended for this year. Regarding their funding was what the interview was about. They presented to allocations last year and were fully funded \$9,000. This allocation will remain in their account and will carry over into future years. Because they were recently suspended by university administration and not completely discontinued, they will hold onto that funding for when they start competing again.

c. Executive Assistant (Luke Hachmeister)

The Executive Assistant served his office hours. He made the agendas and bills, helped with the State Higher Education Lemonade Stand, and attended Regent's breakfast Monday.

d. Treasurer (Robyn Sellard)

The Treasurer served office hours. She helped with the lemonade stand and wrote Bill 105 for the Block and Bridle equipment fund request.

e. Administrative Assistant (Ashley Shellnut)

This past week the Administrative Assistant finished writing the minutes, updated the roll call sheet, served her office hours, and visited the State Higher Education Lemonade Stand. This afternoon she had her picture taken in Forsyth Library for senate profiles.

f. Legislative Affairs Director (Corey Anglemyer)

LD Anglemyer served his office hours, ate breakfast with KBOR on Monday, helped set up lemonade stand in the quad, and began working on contacting candidates for public office for public forums. Hopefully FHSU will see candidates coming to campus in the near future.

g. Webmaster/Historian (Doug Mercer)

The Webmaster served his office hours, designed new headers for the senate page on the SGA website, and uploaded bills and agendas from last week.

### V. Committee Reports

a. Appropriations (Sen. Stramel)

Appropriations voted on a member for Executive Review Committee, Jennifer Skaggs.

b. Senate Affairs (Sen. Winter)

Senate Affairs discussed flyers to design and put on campus for the final 6 open seats for senate. They continued discussing the senate social which will be held on either November 6 or 13. They will continue discussing details on renting out Judges and will not ask SGA members to go sing but to come and have a good time while getting to know fellow senators. If there are any other suggestions for the senate social other than bowling, Sen. Winter is open to options.

c. Student Affairs (Sen. Smriga)

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

Student Affairs met with Jeff Burnett. He informed them on the Wellness Center. The committee asked some questions and the concerns they had were already being addressed. Meet at 6:15p.m. next week.

d. Legislative & Political Action (Sen. Engel)

LPAC was briefed on an initiative that Sen. Leer is working on. They continued discussion on athletic fee proposal. Pres. Hammond is scheduled to attend the committee meeting next week. Meet at 6p.m. next week.

### VI. Open Forum

Pres. Hughes: What do you think about giving student fees dollars to Safe Ride?

VP Engel: As an added note, Bob Duffy from the Alcohol & Drug Network is in the audience to address any questions you might have regarding that.

Sen. Engel: I think it is an extremely valuable service and I see no problem with continuing funding.

Sen. Zervas: I'm with Sen. Engel, this town is seriously lacking on public transportation, especially at night. I think it is a good way to help all of the college students out and definitely giving them the option of being able to do what they want and get there safely.

Pres. Hughes: I will say that one concern was that our money may not be directly affecting students. So, why would we be spending student fee dollars on it? But to counter that, every drunk driver we take off of the streets that isn't a student, we're creating a safer environment for our students. That's the whole idea of it, if anyone has concerns about that.

Sen. Thompson: Is \$5,000 enough to cover the costs of what they need to provide adequate service?

Duffy: The \$5,000 will be enough because it's not just the university that provides the service. We have other funding services besides the money that comes from the diversion fees. My office contributes \$5,000 annually to it. They get money from Wal-Mart, various bars, restaurants, and the alcohol industries. The \$5,000 will go to that and I try to use the \$5,000 SGA for more on-campus advertising.

Sen. Ladd: Is this \$5,000, if we don't provide this money are the services provided going to be limited or will it just help cover the costs?

Duffy: No, the services basically are covered by the diversion fees but along with the service we need to advertise every week to make sure that it's out there. That's primarily where the donations come in, the advertising. We are looking at a bigger role of expanding the partnership of a safer community. Right now this is directly for the Safe Ride advertising. That's all we're spending the money on.

VP Engel: Are there discussion or questions? With no objections we will proceed with the monetary agreement and donation to the Safe Ride. Are further items for open forum?

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

Sen. Miller: Who was it that sat on Student Affairs and talked to the Wellness Center? What were some of the things discussed?

Sen. Smriga: Part of it was just to get informed. We wanted to know how the hours had changed and if the facility was large enough. Dr. Burnett gave us a packet of questions we had asked in an e-mail and his brief answers, which will be left in the office. Sanitation was one of the concerns. One part was a shirt policy with the big cut off shirts that they are already addressing. It mostly has to do with the bacteria that can be on the machines. The usage of the Wellness Center has increased each year. Currently, 89.7% of participants are students, 9.7% are faculty staff, and less than 1% are fee holders. Hopefully you all know that there is no student fee money going to the Wellness Center at this time. All the money they have goes to student workers. When the Wellness Center comes to our equipment fund for help to purchase equipment we should be able to give it to them. Jeff Burnett is not paid for the overtime he's putting into the Wellness Center. He's probably one of those unsung heroes of our campus and he doesn't really get all of the thanks for what he does. Dr. Burnett would be happy to answer questions.

VP Engel: Any further discussion? Any further items for open forum this evening?

Sen. Zervas: In LPAC we were discussing the possibility of raising student athletic fee. Right now we have a proposal from Pres. Hammond for a \$1 increase for next year and the following year. I was curious if anyone had an opinion on that. Is anyone for or against it?

Sen. Stegmaier: What is it all used for?

Sen. Zervas: How the athletic fund works is student athletic fee dollars basically go in a pot and there's private money and state money that goes into that too. That is then divvied up based on a percentage to each sport on what they need or what they think they need. What we're trying to do is increase the fee enough to increase each sport by 15%. I don't know if anyone has any other ideas on that.

Sen. Smriga: A quick question on that increase, is there any way of really monitoring that? I know you said it goes into a big pool of money. If it was to go up for reading, how would it be read so that we know these fees are going up?

Sen. Zervas: That is one of the questions that we have for Pres. Hammond. It's tough to see by how they do their budget over there but we have that question for Pres. Hammond also.

Pres. Hughes: This proposal was brought up last year. Out of a conversation that Pres. Hammond had with senate regarding the soccer proposal. The biggest concerns that students had on campus were that we weren't funding our current programs enough, so why should we fund two more? His answer to that was, okay so let's fund them. My problem is, like Sen. Zervas said; we don't know where this money is going to go. I think accountability is an issue. We live in a bureaucracy. Bureaucracies are built on accountability and redundancy and we don't quite know where that money would go. Also, a lot of the programs we discussed last year were like the tier 2 and tier 3 programs. The tier 1 programs we were told were fine. So I guess my biggest concern would be making sure those lower tier programs are receiving adequate funding, back to the accountability thing.



# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

VP Engel: Any further discussion?

Sen. Smriga: This isn't really on a particular topic but it's a general note. Raising any fee at our university is a really touchy topic. Our slogan is 'Affordable Success', use it a cliché as you want to use it. We really need to be careful on what we're raising fees for and whenever we're looking at these fees we need to make sure this money is going to be benefitting our students in the best way it can be benefitting our students. If it is \$2, we need to not only be looking at is this \$2 not only good for what we're looking at but is this the best way this money can be spent. Or is there another way we need to be using it? As I noted our Wellness Center does not have any funding from student fees. Is there money that needs to be going somewhere else that is not funded already? Or is this the best option? I think it's too early to tell but it's not just looking at the one topic. We need to look further down the road at FHSU where it's hard to get our students to support a fee increase. We need to be careful of where that money is being spent and when it's being spent so we don't over spend at one time and get ourselves into a pit later on.

VP Engel: Any further discussion? As an added note, we will be obviously discussing this in the future at future meetings and when Pres. Hammond comes to speak to us. I think it's important for us to have these preliminary discussions in order to gain or create a list of questions, issues, ideas, and things we want addressed so that when those people are here these issues can be addressed. Please do if you have anything on your mind about this at all. Now is a good of time as any to bring it up.

Pres. Hughes: Student fees are beneficial because we get to keep them. Tuition goes to the state general fund and they're giving back out to the institutions on a proportional basis. So student fees we get to keep and that's why we see an increase of those every year or attempted increases. Sen. Smriga is right when he says that increases a lot of diversity for good reason. Sometimes it is necessary to increase those fees. What we need to keep in mind is not to just look at these fees as \$1 or \$2. These are incremental steps that are going to build on each other like a snowball effect. Some of these are necessary but we need to keep in mind where they are going to go, where they're spent, when they're spent, and whether or not they're going to be adequate in the future. Will there be more increases in the future?

Sen. Leer: These preliminary discussions are necessary. Please get these questions in to LPAC by next week.

Sen. Winter: Are we sure that this money is going to go to existing sports and not soccer?

Sen. Miller: The athletic department would love more funding but it's important to make sure the right sports are getting the right funding.

Sen. Munson: Rather than a fee increase, there needs to be a better way to distribute the money. Maybe it doesn't get distributed fairly to the right sports.

Sen. Purdy: Accountability is one issue; a question we have for Hammond next week.

Sen. Smriga: All senators don't have as much background on the issue as the ones in LPAC. We would like to have more facts than emotions.

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

Sen. Leer: The newer senators can go to KFHS to watch past meetings.

VP Engel: Is there any further discussion?

Sen. Zervas: We need to get opinions from our constituents. We need to talk to the athletes because we don't have a lot of sport representation on SGA.

Sen. Stegmaier: It affects all students, not just athletes. Everyone is paying for the fee increase.

Pres. Hughes: It's going to affect us all. It will affect our recruiting. If we don't have enough funding for programs or fees are too high. We need to be talking to all athletes and students outside your constituency. Talk to athletes.

Sen. Engel: There is a lot of uncertainty surrounding the proposal right now. You can talk to your constituents but they need to know about the proposal before we talk to them about it, before we get their opinion.

Sen. Miller: Please don't be close minded to funding athletics. You're looking at a group of 400 student athletes that will be affected like all students. They're not just HHP or other departments. Once we get questions answered, stay open-minded. Know that this will affect a lot of students and will help quite a bit.

VP Engel: This topic or any other issues for open forum are for the executive staff, senators, and the students in the audience.

Sen. Winter: We need ideas for the senate social we go bowling every year.

Stegmaier: Do the socials have to be on Thursdays? Putt-putt golf or pool at Precision Valley is another idea.

### VII. New Business

- a. First Reading of Bill 08/F/104: Executive Review Committee Ratification
- b. First Reading of Bill 08/F/105: Block & Bridle Equipment Fund
- c. First Reading of Resolution 08/F/100: Support for United Way of Ellis County

### VIII. Old Business

### IX. Announcements

- a. Oktoberfest: Office will be closed this Friday 9/26
- b. Free BBQ; Hosted by Leadership Studies Association, Monday 9/29 @ 6 p.m. in the Frontier Park shelter on Main Street (everyone is welcome...)
- c. SGA Budgetary Seminar, Tuesday 9/30 @ 7:30 p.m. – Stouffer Lounge
- d. Clean & Green, Tuesday 9/30 @ 3:00 p.m., meet in the quad by the rose garden to clean-up the campus for about an hour.
- e. Homecoming football game, FHSU v. Truman, Saturday 09/27 @ 2pm.
- f. Campus-Community Service Fair, Thursday 10/2 @ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., MU Ballroom

# **Student Government Association**

## **Hughes/Engel**

g. Block & Bridle showing is Saturday 11/01 all day. Any FHSU student is eligible to compete, even those who have never showed an animal before.

X. Adjourn  
Sen. Purdy 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sen. Zerfas at 8:13pm.