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SGA Minutes - October 9, 2008

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Student Government Association

Hughes/Engel

MINUTES

Thursday, October 9, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Black & Gold Room

Majority

Simple: 15

2/3: 20

I. Call to Order

VP Engel calls to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Administrative Assistant Shellnut

III. Guest Speakers

a. Bill Smriga, Memorial Union Director

Thanks for the opportunity for being here tonight. Briefly explained the event taking place on October 18, 2008 which marks 50 years. It's an important milestone. In order to provide a history of the Union, the Memorial Union has created a 50-year yearbook. It lists annual events that occur every year. One of the themes that they hope FHSU will pick up in this book is community. The Union serves as a community center for not only students but for faculty and alumni as well. It is a place to connect outside of the classroom. Participating in student government is only one of the many things that students participate in outside of the classroom. Come by 11:30-1pm for cake and entertaining music on Friday 10/17. There is a survey that can help do some serious assessments of what students like, dislike, need, and don't need from the Student Union. The renovation that was completed last fall is only a small transformation to help the building reach its full potential. Bill Smriga wants to give credit to Luke Hasse who is a senior marketing major and is responsible for putting together the survey and is in charge of the results.

IV. Executive Reports

a. President (Tyler Hughes)

Pres. Hughes attended Faculty Senate and had a brief discussion regarding the institutional evaluation reporting Task Force. They are revising the teacher evaluation process and the questions asked. A handout has been given on that to discuss during open forum. The President's Cabinet discussed background checks at the last meeting. The KBOR handed down a policy for required background checks on new employees last semester. Jim Slattery was in the SGA office on Thursday morning. Pres. Hughes was very disappointed in the small number of senators that attended the U.S. Senate candidate's forum. He has hopes for next week's forums having a better turnout with higher numbers of senators attending. He has been in touch with the President of the KBOR to discuss how SGA will donate the money raised at the lemonade stand directly to the KBOR. Pres. Hughes and LD Anglemyer will present a giant check to KBOR at the next meeting on Wednesday 10/15.

b. Vice President (Cole Engel)

VP Engel and Pres. Hughes met with two perspective students from the Kansas City area interested in senate for this coming fall. The students were eager to discuss the different aspects of FHSU's SGA compared to their high school counsel environment. He attended

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the town meeting regarding the Hay Sports Complex on Tuesday 10/07. Lastly he attended the forum with Jim Slattery Thursday morning.

c. Executive Assistant (Luke Hachmeister)

Executive Assistant Hachmeister served his office hours.

d. Treasurer (Robyn Sellard)

Treasurer Sellard e-mailed organizations about their hearings during her office hours. She entered salary expenses into the treasurer's report for the previous pay period, worked the ADP voting booth in the Union, wrote legislation for the Finance Club, and assisted Block & Bridle in their equipment purchases that were approved during last weeks meeting.

e. Administrative Assistant (Ashley Shellnut)

Administrative Assistant Shellnut donated blood in the Memorial Union Ballroom Wednesday 10/08, served her office hours, and prepared legislation for the meeting.

f. Legislative Affairs Director (Corey Anglemyer)

LD Anglemyer served his office hours while continuing to contact candidates and bring them to campus for public forums. Monday 10/13 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Black & Gold Room the Union will have state representatives Eber Phelps and Dan Johnson and state senator Janice Lee. Tuesday evening the county commissioner John Schmeidler will be in the Stouffer Lounge. SGA had the first candidate, Jim Slattery, in the office on Thursday morning. LD Anglemyer was embarrassed to have set a private Q&A with the candidate and in return had a very disappointing turnout of senators.

g. Webmaster/Historian (Doug Mercer)

Webmaster Mercer was not able to attend the meeting.

V. Committee Reports

a. Appropriations (Sen. Stramel)

Appropriations did not have any hearings but had the first reading for the Finance Club.

b. Senate Affairs (Sen. Winter)

Senate Affairs continued discussion on the senate social and decided on Judges. There will be a \$50 fee for having the private senate social there. They are thinking of having it on November 14 or which is a Friday or Saturday. Those are the only dates that can be reserved for SGA. They discussed setting up booths to fill the last open six seats on senate as well as handing out flyers for that as well.

c. Student Affairs (Sen. Smriga)

They started talking about the U.S. Service Academy, information will be in the office next week for the Academy and discussion will continue within the next couple of weeks. They brought up issues on the future residential halls and some concerns with international students. Student Affairs wants to know when the safety walk will be and minor safety issues. Sen. Smriga was approached about the Tiger card and whether or not it was against student confidentiality to put the date of birth on the Tiger card. This would be so students can use it as a second form of ID. Another recent change in the Tiger card is the

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price of \$10 to be replaced; one reason for this is the new Tiger cards are made of a more durable material. Meet at 6:15PM next week.

d. Legislative & Political Action (Sen. Engel)

They continued discussion on the athletic fee proposal and creating possible legislation for that. Meet at 6:30PM next week.

VI. Open Forum

a. Instructional Evaluation Reporting Task Force

Pres. Hughes: I want to ask one of the members of the Task Force to come to the mic and briefly explain the job of the Task Force and how the new questions were chosen.

Chapman Rackaway: The KBOR has taken on a greater focus on the assessment of how faculty is evaluated at regent's institutions. There were some general issues for the student-faculty evaluations that they wanted to focus on. KBOR want questions that are asked consistently to all faculty to help better track those changes over time and also performance based questions. The more specific performance questions are better to help faculty improve over time. The 16 questions that are asked seemed to be excessive and induced survey fatigue. As a result, the Task Force met over the last month and has been fortunate to have SGA represented by Pres. Hughes. Virtual College classes will have only 5 questions from a prior 8 questions while the on-campus classes evaluation was paired down to 10 questions. There are optional questions that can be included to the survey by the individual departments but are not required for. If the questions are exactly the same, it allows us to that over time tracking. We think we have a solid piece to help students give feedback to instructors to make them better teachers over time. That is the intent and the spirit of the evaluation. We want to know what the students think about this proposal of these questions. We'd like to hear your feedback.

Sen. Winter: Is there a reason optional questions are optional and not mandatory for the departments?

Rackaway: The intent behind these 10 questions was the ones that absolutely had to be asked, especially for 10 year promotion and merit evaluation. Departments want to collect this data and we do as well. I don't know a department that wouldn't be open to putting some of these questions on there.

LD Anglemyer: Are the results of the evaluations available to students? Are you able to regulate that or is it up to the individual departments?

Rackaway: The results are similar to grades. We couldn't have those available to other faculty members and it's a violation of the instructor's privacy to have those available. Some choose to put them on the web but to mandate that would not be a viable option.

Pres. Hughes: Could you explain how we tried to balance the three parts of the evaluation: peer, self, and student.

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Rackaway: It is important to share with you is that we are not getting a 360 degree evaluation of faculty by completely relying on the students. There are other aspects of being evaluated such as self and peer faculty evaluation. That gets you a global perspective on teaching performance.

Sen. Miller: The optional questions will be on the evaluation or will they be handed out by the department or will they not be taken into consideration by the department?

Rackaway: Let me back it up a little bit because I've missed an important point. The form will be a webpage. It will be an electronic delivery because by having them on paper it is not 100% confidential. A department may choose to tack some of these optional questions on top of the 10 questions.

Sen. Purdy: You said it will be online. How and when is it going to be distributed and how does the system work?

Rackaway: We can now, through the system, post the evaluation before the end of the semester for pre-posting of the evaluations. There is no set time for the evaluation to be taken.

Sen. Purdy: Is it mandatory to take the evaluation and how do you regulate that?

Rackaway: Every class and instructor will be evaluated. We don't have a formal mechanism to force people to take the evaluation. It will be quicker and easier for students to finish in a less amount of time but we don't have a formal enforcing mechanism.

Sen. Purdy: Have you thought about putting that on Tigertracks and making it so students can't access anything until they take the evaluation?

Fred Britten: There were 6 departments that ran a pilot study of the online evaluation last year. We looked at all kinds of evaluation instruments and chose these 16 questions to help faculty improve their teaching. The other departments used paper evaluations. When the Communication Disorders department did the electronic questions we decided that 16 were too many. The response rate was low and we were informed of this when going to an online evaluation. The departments had about a 30% response rate on the evaluations. The spring semester had a 37% response rate. Our department received 77% feedback in the fall and 59% feedback in the spring. The data says it needs to be done towards the last 2-3 weeks of class. This spring it was decided to do it before finals week. The timing should come at the end of the semester. We had people not filling out the paper versions and leaving them blank. The online we did not get 100% either but when you go campus wide you will see the responses will increase if the online version is our mechanism. After each question a student has the option for comments. They can give an explanation on why they gave a question a 5 or a 1 rating. I got more written comments last year than I had ever received before. It becomes tedious when you do that. As it was mentioned we need a set of core questions for norm referencing and also optional questions for the departments.

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Sen. Purdy: History shows that anything you put online on this campus there is not a big response like we think there will be.

Britten: The committee had some discussion about these electronic course evaluations and approximately 140 universities use this system. Some universities hold grades until evaluation results are completely in. The students I have talked with have said they like the online evaluations because they can do it any time of the day. The feedback we got was better information for improving teaching. Evaluations are in the handbook that courses should be evaluated once every year.

Sen. Leyerzapf: What plan do you have in effect if the feedback numbers don't go up?

Britten: We encourage students and send out notes to remind them. Those are things that are yet to be worked out. Those evaluations are not just used for 10-year promotion but merits. Those are some things that we will be looking at and have SGA to encourage students to take the evaluations.

Sen. Smriga: I have a few thoughts and concerns. Thirty percent is not a fair estimate or judgment for how a teacher is. The two extremes are students filling out the evaluation that either love or hate the professor. We are turning FHSU into a virtual college. By adding elections and voting online didn't change the numbers. We have to do all of these things online instead of the classroom. I like the new survey layout and questions but taking it online really irritates me.

Rackaway: What we have to do is a balancing act. We are looking at the teacher evaluation reports and asking if it is a good enough turnout to evaluate instructors. We are concerned about the response rate and this will help build the response rate. We hope to have SGA help get the response rates higher.

Britten: Some of the data we look at is the cost effectiveness as well. When you look at the time saved it's great. Faculty members when can more quickly get the results. The typed comments took too long to receive the results. I understand the comment of online and paper evaluations but we have to look at what works the best for faculty.

Pres. Hughes: We have to look at what the quality of the in class evaluation is. Students, including myself, are guilty of burning through the evaluation so they can hurry up and fill out the evaluation to leave class or to have more time to take a test. With the online version you can go home and put time on the evaluation. You will do the evaluation when you have time and not be hurried.

Sen. Hertel: I agree with Hughes about rushing through paper evaluation but even with the online version I don't fill them out because it takes too much time. I think the results might be the same online as on paper.

Rackaway: I think there is a belief among a lot of students that the responses they give to the evaluations don't have much import. They are without a doubt the one most looked at element in an individuals file, especially for new faculty members on the 10-year track. You

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have a lot of significant influence. That's why we hope there's going to be acculturation and seriousness about the teacher evaluations. No matter how the type of delivery is.

LD Anglemyer: One concern raised last year with the pilot programs for teachers and students was that instructors were receiving e-mails with a list of which students had completed the surveys. With a smaller response rate they were worried they would see which students replied to what. Is that an issue this year?

Britten: That was a glitch in the system last spring which was addressed. The e-mails had names of students that had not completed the evaluations.

Sen. Purdy: No one was going to fill it out even after the instructor told them how important the evaluations were. If you could have a reminder on Tigertracks before checking grades that would be helpful.

Britten: They can do that and it has been discussed.

Sen. Smriga: I think all of my surveys have been given to me at the beginning of class. We are at a laptop university. If we are encouraged to bring laptops to class we should be allotted time in class to do the surveys then.

Pres. Hughes: Students that know how important are. Not only can the only add how important they are but it is our job to advocate to students its importance.

Rackaway: We take the students comments seriously. I am happy to discuss this with you. If you have any more questions please feel free to contact Britten or myself.

Sen. Zervas: My opinion would be to have the senate social at Judges on a Saturday instead of Friday.

Sen. Munson: On the tiger card fees what are the differences between the \$5 and \$10 cards?

Sen. Smriga: I do not have that answer for you, but I will get one.

Sen. Kohman: I prefer Friday night and it's nice to sleep in on a Saturday morning.

Pres. Hughes: It would be important to check for sports and campus events on the two nights for the senate social.

Sen. Leer: We discussed the athletic fee increase and would like to know if you have received any further feedback from constituents.

Sen. Purdy: I think this issue needs to be addressed before the meeting goes any further. Apathy is a word that is used a lot about students, people who don't care or people who don't listen. Jim Slattery was here today and was in the office for an hour. It is an educational experience. Senate is a time for learning and experience and we are here to give students your all. You should not be on senate just for a resume but for the students.

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I don't think a lot of senators know what it is fully to be a senator. If we don't go talk to our constituents then we shouldn't be voting on anything. SGA is an experience for life and for your future job. How many students have you talked to so far? The job is to talk to students and bring feedback to the meetings. A lot of the students are not going to talk to Jim Slattery but will talk to you if you have the time.

Pres. Hughes: I spoke about talking to your constituency at the beginning of the year. The students I have talked to are confused and education is a big part. You can give them a copy of the proposal and talk to them about it. Education is the foundation of more discussion.

Sen. Ladd: Is this the final proposal or a rough draft?

Sen. Engel: That is the finished proposal.

Sen. Stegmaier: It's either they don't care and don't want to spend the money or they don't want to fund athletics.

Sen. Hertel: Most of them are confused and I am confused myself. I think some of the money will go to soccer instead of other sports.

Sen. Winter: I have talked to athletes and a lot of students are confused about the proposal. I definitely think more information and talking about it would be good.

Sen. Smriga: Confusion seems to be the overlying thing. It has to do with where the money is going. Is it still a general thought that it's going to transportation and athletic training? I think there needs to be more definite on where the money is going. They think it's going to athletic scholarships and we could get better players. It's not going to scholarships. I read the articles and the tension between SGA and President Hammond has been going on for 3 years. It's not getting anywhere and it's hurting everyone's reputation. The only way we can get past this is to let go of our emotions. We have the ability to take the money back if it goes to soccer. We need to look at what it's going to and not look at past tensions. We have to give it a fair shot.

Sen. Engel: The proposal would be an even distribution to a 15% increase. Exactly what it's going for is not there. I am not going to be convinced that transportation and medicine is what it's going for.

Sen. Kohman: The constituents I have talked to are in support of the proposal or do not want to spend any more money on tuition. There was question on if we would fund band or choirs because there are other programs on campus that need funding.

Sen. Hanson: It's come to my attention that students are for the proposal that it might have something to do with soccer or does not have anything to do with soccer. You have to let them know it does not have to do with soccer. Let them know what it's going for. They are absolutely against it because they don't want to spend anymore money.

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Sen. Thompson: I have several concerns. Some of the proposal is unclear for where the money is going. Football will get approximately a \$42,000 increase. Why do they need that much if track is getting less than \$10,000? I was disappointed from looking at the audit. Other universities have other sponsorships. We need to look at other ways to get increased funding without looking at student fees.

Sen. Sexson: If anyone has any ideas on how to better get the information out. SGA does have a lot more money to get information out to students, where by flyers or going to the newspaper.

Sen. Miller: If you are confused, it is confusing. Please come to us with questions. It is not for scholarships at all.

Sen. Attig: This is about the general pool of money. Is there a way, after a year, to go back and go through the accounts and see what the money has gone to?

Sen. Leer: When we visited with President Hammond we discussed how the money goes into a pot and is then divided from there. We can look back and see how much money was collected by the increase. I don't know if we can withdraw a fee increase if it was put on.

Pres. Hughes: The Student Review Committee takes care of such things but their obligations are vague. It could be interpreted in many ways, as an audit committee or a mild oversight committee. The problem you're facing is the committee is made up of 4 students. The amount of time to ask this committee to overhaul one sport's budget would take a lot of time.

Sen. Leer: What is their authority? Do they have the ability to recall an increase?

Pres. Hughes: No.

Advisor Meyer: I would say they have the authority to make that recommendation. However, with all of the activity fees President Hammond has not gone against what the students. He does have the ability to do so.

Sen. Zervas: If you look at our community, there isn't a lot more money we can get from the community. President Hammond is exhausted with giving money to athletics and has the students chip in some money. It needs to go to a student vote. There are too many opinions out there for SGA to vote. The 35-30 senators are not enough students to vote on something like this. Are we at full scholarships for athletics?

Sen. Smriga: I have had issues. If this goes forward then it goes to a student vote. I think that eliminates the SGA. I know there are people who interpret it different.

Sen. Engel: I was told by President Hammond that our scholarships are fully funded.

Sen. Leer: We are looking at serious situations. There have been a lot of our Chinese students not coming back because of the economy. This is an overall problem with

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students disappearing. I don't think this is a time to raise our fees. I think it is more of a luxury than a need. Realistically we will be facing more increases in the future.

Pres. Hughes: For voting, we are a representative body. Some criticism we received last year was that we were not representing the students and that it should go to a student vote on soccer. If 10% of students are voting on other student votes on campus then that's not a good thing. If you are doing your job then you are going to students and educating them. Apathy is unacceptable and why they don't care. Give them a reason to care, show them how to care, and get them excited. Make copies of the proposal and hand them out in classes or in the quad. Sit down and go through the proposal with your constituents.

Sen. Smriga: There is a big issue I have had. Where has Curtis Hammeke been in this whole entire issue? I have an issue when the athletic fees are going to athletics and our athletic director has not been involved with it and seems to not care about the increase. It seems like it has been SGA and President Hammond. Is Curtis Hammeke evolved in this process?

Sen. Engel: He was in this process last year. If the Burnett and Hammeke said something President Hammond would correct them and there was no need of them here.

Sen. Purdy: Soccer, everybody says we have been talking about it for 3 years. This proposal just started talking about this proposal. Soccer has been discussed for 3 years but not this proposal. If we go off of the word that this isn't for soccer at all, it is for an athletic fee increase.

Sen. Engel: I don't know how anyone can draw distinction.

Sen. Leer: As far as distinguishing it from soccer, there is a lot that adds up. He said he's been here year after year for this. This says the same thing as the soccer proposal with out the name of soccer in it.

Sen. Anglemyer: You said you didn't want to fund it but other sports are not as well funded as others. Soccer is coming whether we like it or not.

Sen. Thompson: I don't have a problem with funding athletics. I am concerned whether the money is needed and where it's going.

Sen. Winter: This is strictly my opinion. I am not for us paying for soccer but we told President Hammond that we wanted the other programs to be funded. I think this has something to do with soccer but he has put an effect out to do what we asked which is money for the entire athletic program.

Sen. Leer: The only thing we have for oversight is his word. It was publicly noted two years ago, in the Hays Daily news, that if SGA is going to vote down soccer than he's not going to pursuit it. He came out last year that in 2010 we're getting soccer and SGA has voted it down twice since then. I don't take his word for it. I think we have to look at it for what it really is it's going to soccer.

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Sen. Zervas: Either you are going to look at it as soccer or the athletic program. You have to come to a decision if President Hammond is going to go under the table to go for soccer or take his word that it's going to athletics. I have a feeling that he won't try to play us like that.

Sen. Kohman: Does it say in the proposal if money is not going to soccer? Can we have President Hammond sign a document saying the fee is not going towards soccer?

Sen. Engel: I have no idea if we can get a signature. The letter attached that says it will not go to soccer.

Sen. Zervas: 'In closing, let me reiterate that it is not my intent to recommend any increase in student fees to support soccer.' It says that in the proposal.

VP Engel: In regarding the signature, the SGA would have to place that into our recommendation in legislation. We would be recommending that the funding not go towards soccer.

Sen. Smriga: In the paper I read about the Hays sports complex, I was hoping someone could answer my question. It was stated that the complex would not be done until 2011. Do we know how that's going to go if soccer is planned for 2010?

Sen. Purdy: You can educate yourself on all of the topics and educate your constituents. You can ask us in private or e-mail President Hammond asking him a question that you have.

Pres. Hughes: There is a lot of truth on both sides of the issue. The skepticism should be taken into consideration. I think our natural inclination, from those of us that have been here for two years, is to take the past into the present issue. Yes, it should be taken into consideration. You also have to look at the proposal as it is now. You have to balance the skepticism and the concrete proposal.

Sen. Leer: In our constitution on page 25 that states that "legislation and/or Constitutional amendments may be initiated by ten percent of all full-time students attending [FHSU] in the form of a petition." I want to see the signatures on the student floor. I haven't seen the crowds that President Hammond has been talking about.

Pres. Hughes: How many of you have read the proposal cover to cover? We should not be discussing it unless every hand is in the air. If you're not taking the time to read it during your office hour you're not taking your job seriously. My question for you is why you have not read the proposal? Educate yourself and educate your constituency. Those of you who are not are disgracing this body.

Sen. Ladd: How are senators supposed to do research if you send them to work the booth or are doing other things during their office hours?

Pres. Hughes: If you worked the booth there was a lot of free time and you would have had time to read the proposal. You could also spend a little more time than just an hour a week

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serving your time. I'm guessing it takes only about 2 minutes to read the proposal. I doubt even half of you have picked it up.

Sen. Thompson: Is there a way to put the proposal online? Can we put a discussion board on the website?

VP Engel: Yes, I will put it up this evening. If we want to do an open forum we can do that on Facebook but not on the website. We can have a link the proposal to the site on Facebook.

VII. New Business

a. First Reading of Bill 08/F/106: Finance Club Appropriations

Sen. Stramel: Motion to consider Bill 08/F/106 for emergency business, 2nd by Sen. Purdy

Sen. Stramel: The representative for the Finance Club is here tonight and he is here to answer questions and take care of the bill tonight.

Sen. Smriga: I don't think we pass a bill on the first reading. Is there a way we can take this into consideration for next week?

Sen. Leer: I think we should.

Sen. Stegmaier: It's absolutely up to par.

Sen. Zervas: Do they need the money right now?

Sen. Stramel: The trip is in November and they do need the funds.

Sen. Purdy: Can we ask questions and have them not come next week?

Sen. Hansen: Are you able to make it to the meeting next week?

Addison Dauber, VP of Finance Club: I or someone can make it next week. I was under the impression of it not being a problem.

Sen. Thompson: He has been waiting for almost 2 hours and I would not like to have him wait till next week.

Sen. Purdy: I would like to move this bill to emergency business by unanimous consent. Motion to move bill to emergency business passes.

Dauber: In November we take a trip to Chicago and it is a great educational experience; how they are in real life. Especially with finances the way they are I think it will be a great experience. The \$1,000 will help with the flight and hotel.

Sen. Purdy: How much does the community service does finance club do? What services do you provide to the campus?

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Dauber: We do Tiger Financial Advisors. We sit in McCartney and let students ask us questions or help them set up a budget. We will be spending \$60 a student and 100-120 per students without appropriations.

Sen. Chavez: Is it still 14 students going on the trip?

Dauber: Yes, there are 14 students and 2 advisors going on the trip.

Sen. Leer: Move to table the bill, 2nd by Sen. Smriga. Tabling will need a majority vote.

The motion fails. We are back on discussion of the bill.

Sen. Kohman: In the request it shows that \$6,000 is the cost for the trip and the amount requested is \$1000. They are covering 75% of the cost.

Sen. Hansen: Moves for a direct vote.

No objection to a direct vote.

Discussion ended and the vote totaled: Y=25 N=3 A=1

Bill passes.

VIII. Old Business

IX. Announcements

- a. Damn Yankees, Tony Award Winning Musical, presented by FHSU Theatre, Felten-Start Theatre (Malloy Hall) 10/10 & 10/11 @ 7:30 p.m.; 10/12 @ 2:30 p.m.
- b. Meet the Candidates Public Forums:
 - Monday, 10/13 @ 7:30 pm – MU Black & Gold Room
 - State Rep. Dan Johnson
 - State Rep. Eber Phelps
 - State Sen. Janis Lee
 - Tuesday, 10/14 @ 7:00 pm – MU Stouffer Lounge
 - County Commission Candidate John Schmeidler
- c. Volleyball will be playing FHSU vs. Southwestern Baptist Saturday 10/11 @ 7p.m.
- d. Football team at Lewis Field Stadium Saturday 10/11 @ 2p.m.
- e. Election night, the SGA will be helping with volunteers for games, etc.
- f. C.L. Lindsey in the Black & Gold Room Sunday 10/12 @ 7:30p.m.
- h. U.S. Public Service Academy information will be in the SGA office 10/10.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Sen. Purdy, 2nd by Sen. Quinones @ 8:54 p.m.