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Minutes

Student Government Association

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11-20-2008

### SGA Minutes - November 20, 2008

FHSU Student Government Association

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# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

### MINUTES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Black & Gold Room

<u>Majority</u>	
Simple:	16
2/3:	20

- I. Call to Order  
VP Engel calls to order at 7 p.m.

- II. Roll Call  
Admin. Asst. Shellnut calls roll.

III. Guest Speakers

a. Tigers for Troops (James Brungardt, Tyler Gonzales, James Bailey, and Sage Sexson)  
Brungardt: We work alongside the organization operation SOS, which is run by Melanie Elliot in Kensington. The Tigers for Troops assists Melanie in collecting supplies and donations for postage for sending Christmas and Valentines Day care packages to 1,000 soldiers over seas. We are here with Tigers for Troops and our 310 Leadership team.

Sexson: The reason we are here today is to find a group such as a fraternity, sorority, or any campus group to take over Tigers for Troops. There will not always be a 310 group to run Tigers for Troops. We are looking for a group to take over its responsibilities and to help Melanie out by collecting items on campus and in the Hays community. Our main reason we are here is to let everyone know that we are here and find someone who would be interested in taking over Tigers for Troops.

Gonzales: It's a well sustainable group already. If another organization would like to take a hand in that we will be helping you out with the transformation in taking control over it. We need a group to step up and take charge of Tigers for Troops because the 310 Leadership group will be done with our part of the project after the New Year.

b. Carol Solko, Director of International Student Services

Solko: I appreciate the opportunity to come talk to you about international education week. The flags in the Union represent the countries of students that are here on campus studying. They had a successful international fair at The Mall. The mayor of Hays and the provost signed a proclamation on Monday 11/17. Every day international students read a book to the Tiger Tots, the kids colored flags for the different countries, and the international students also did some community outreach at some of the elementary schools. We have about 261 students that are visiting FHSU right now and a majority of those students are from China. About 2500 students are taking classes from FHSU in China currently working towards a bachelor's degree. Fort Hays benefits these student and they benefit us as well. We have about 20 countries that are represented on campus. There may only be 1 or 2 students from some of these countries but it brings diversity on campus. Dr. Hammond's goal is to have about 600 international students at FHSU by 2020. We feel we can reach that goal and diversify the university even more. Some of the things that we encourage our students to get involved with is (foreign language) conversation tables and our Friendship-Family program, which we match international students with individuals or families in the community. It is not only limited to families in Hays so that these students are able to learn more about American culture. We have a 'Helping International Students' group at Chuck's Place in Wiest Hall every Thursday at 8pm. Community members and international students can come to get help with various questions they may have on getting a driver's license, insurance, or how to find different things in the community. Tiger Transport is another service that is not limited to only international student but to all students which runs three times a week from 2-7pm on a

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

route system. It is free and is also open to the public. Our International Spice program is in the spring. The first is a taste-testing spice where we will have 7-8 foods of the different countries prepare a food for students to sample. The second will be a panel where students from different countries will pick a topic such as politics, health, or education. It's an event where people can come and ask questions to the students and get a perspective of different areas and regions of the world. There are a variety of opportunities for people on campus and the Hays community to interact with our international students. As I came to the Student Affairs sub-committee we talked about the things that are available for the international students and how SGA can help get students involved with the international students.

#### IV. Executive Reports

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

LD Anglemyer and Pres. Hughes went to the monthly KBOR meeting in Topeka. They had the first reading of the housing and food increases for each campus. FHSU is looking at a 4.9% increase which puts us on the lower end. It will be voted on and discussed next month. The Student Advisory committee discussed Higher Education Day which does not have a set date yet. Senate members will probably receive an e-mail during Christmas break asking for volunteers to help lobby in Topeka on that day. Pres. Hughes and LD Anglemyer had breakfast with the regents on Thursday morning. They discussed the budget, tuition increases, and asked if students on the FHSU campus were having problems by receiving financial aid in the future, with the loan crisis presently taking place. Let Pres. Hughes know if any students are voicing any problems or bring it up during Open Forum. They discussed the possibility of moving admission standards from the legislature to directly to the board of regents. Pres. Hughes sent out an e-mail to allow us to come into classrooms and show students how to set up their election page on Tigertracks. This last Wednesday he had over 25 classes scheduled for the Special Election presentation. It's a 5-10 minute presentation. The handout has the directions and the question. Show students on the projectors in the classrooms how to go through the process of adding the election channel.

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

SGA received an electronic file for the signatures from the petition and the executive staff will start verifying those on Friday. They doesn't see there being any problems with verifying the signatures and the Special Election will still take place on 12/10 & 12/11. Exec. is working on getting the election set up on the computer. VP Engel met with a few student groups regarding the Allocation's process. Student Government has been working on the committee process for the Allocations committee.

##### c. Executive Assistant (Luke Hachmeister)

In addition to preparing himself mentally for verifying signatures in the week after fall break, Exec. Asst. Hachmeister created a spreadsheet for the SGA polo orders, which will be black with the gold SGA emblem this year and he served the rest of his office hours. Contact the Exec. Asst. if you have any concerns about the SGA polo design.

##### d. Treasurer (Robyn Sellard)

Treasurer Sellard worked with organizations that have traveled over the last week, processed their receipts, and arranged for them to be reimbursed.

##### e. Administrative Assistant (Ashley Shellnut)

Admin. Asst. Shellnut attended a Student Publication Board meeting on Friday afternoon with Exec. Asst. Hachmeister. They discussed buying a new computer for the University Leader staff. She revised the minutes and served her office hours.

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

- f. Legislative Affairs Director (Corey Anglemyer)

LD Anglemyer attended the KBOR in Topeka. They passed their legislative initiatives for 2009. They would like to amend and are working on 8 different initiatives. There are only 2 that might affect FHSU students. They want to try and amend the current method of privately funded construction to remove the red tape and bureaucracy involved in the process of hiring architects, engineers, and contractors. Additionally, state university financial assistants would like to amend statutes to allow state universities, as authorized by the KBOR, to provide scholarships, fellowships, and tuition and fee waivers to undergraduate and graduate students. With regards to the budget, the board voted not to appeal the 3% cut for next year. All the universities indicated that they would be able to hand the 3% cut. KBOR did intend to appeal the 4% for the following year. They felt that if they did not appeal the additional 4% then it would go up to another 7% the following year with a total of 10%. With that budget cut, the Kansas Academy of Math and Sciences will not take place next year. Dr. Hammond feels that the \$238,000 which has already been contracted will be fine but will not be in place for next year. He hopes that it will continue in the FY of 2010. One thing the regents have been pushing was discussed at the regent's breakfast. Students should not only be contacting the state representatives of their college but also their hometown state representatives and senators. Ask them to keep higher education in mind. SGA is making a couple of changes with the congratulation cards and will have those for senators and students by fall break.
- g. Webmaster/Historian (Doug Mercer)

Webmaster Mercer updated the website and posted some new items on the website. He began working on the online photo gallery. Please send him any pictures that you would like to see in the gallery either in digital form or a hard copy that can be scanned.

### V. Committee Reports

- a. Appropriations (Sen. Stramel)

There were 2 hearings this week; one was a trip request from ATSO and the University Leader had an equipment request. Sen. Stramel wishes everyone a happy and safe fall break.
- b. Senate Affairs (Sen. Winter)

Senate Affairs had one interview for senate and discussed having theme Thursday for senate on December 11, the last meeting of the semester. Contact Sen. Hansen or another senator if you have questions.
- c. Student Affairs (Sen. Smriga)

They passed a resolution for the US Public Service Academy, recommending its development. It will be up for first reading next week. Senate Affairs also discussed McMindes dining hall no longer have styrofoam cups for students and beginning a mug refill program, which still has a few glitches.
- d. Legislative & Political Action (Sen. Engel)

Visited with Bill Smriga for recycling for glass, plastic, and other bins and if SGA purchased the bins then the Union would take care of the labor required to empty the bins at the city's recycling center. There will be a walk through of the Union next Monday to discuss where the bins are needed. There is a magazine in the SGA office to help students give feedback on what is more visually appealing. We discussed having beer sales in the Union.

### VI. Administer Oath of Office (Cline, Mohr, Thompson)

Sen. Winter issues the oath of office to Sen. Cline, Sen. Mohr, and Sen. Thompson.

### VII. Open Forum

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

Sen. Purdy: What is our budget to spend on recycling bins?

VP Engel: We don't have exact numbers but we do have money left over from last year in a contingency fund.

Sen. Purdy: What is this new program [in McMIndes Hall dining room]?

Sen. Smriga: At some point in the last couple of weeks, the styrofoam cups in McMIndes Hall have stopped having those. Students aren't supposed to be taking food or drinks out of the dining room because it's not part of the meal plan. Students were upset because the styrofoam cups were gone and they couldn't take a drink out of McMIndes Hall. They started a petition and in one day 150 of the angry students signed it at the Front Desk and it is now up to about 200 students that are saying they want the styrofoam cups. Chartwells countered back with a new program. Residential Life have some mugs left over from an event and they will start selling the mugs for \$2 at the front desk, hopefully starting December 1. Basically you buy the mug with a lid, take it down to the cafeteria, trade your mug for a clean mug, and get your drink but every single time you are charged \$1.25 for each drink. Students who are already on meal plans are being charged. Every student is being charged way over what the cost of the pop is. You're not keeping your own mug but recycling the mugs. You'll get a clean one, get your drink, and trade it for a clean one next time. My problem with it is the cost and rotating the mugs. It should be a campus effort and not just McMIndes Hall because there is food service in more than one building on campus. It hasn't gone in effect yet. Residential Life said they would like this to continue on in the future. They are looking at purchasing more mugs so that students who do purchase a meal plan will automatically get a mug.

Pres. Hughes: The idea is nice but in McMIndes we are looking at a constant and contained population so it's easy to distribute those mugs. The \$1.25 is an issue especially if students are being charged for an entire meal for getting just a soda. It seems kind of high for \$1.25 for a refill. In your preliminary discussions with the committee did you see any foreseeable solutions for the Union?

Sen. Smriga: It really comes down to Chartwells flexibility and it's not our decision at this point. We used to have a system like this in the union about 5 years ago where you could buy a mug for a face value of \$5 and then it would cost \$0.25 for a refill every time. It has been deemed unsanitary by Chartwells. We think this should be a campus-wide issue. The Union is part of Chartwells too and a lot of students would probably like to benefit from some sort of program. We think that Chartwells can make a lot of money off of this but it is our job to show Chartwells that our students are interested in these programs. One thing we talked about is having one set charge such as \$10-15 to cover the charge of the pop and the mug. Everyone could buy a mug and use it instead of looking at having a sanitation issue. Another idea is to see if Chartwells is willing to sell these mugs and just give out the pop. Personally I'd like to see something that is campus-wide and more affordable or a free option after you have purchased something up front. We need to see if we can tackle these sanitation issues.

Sen. Winter: I agree that is a great idea but I think the price is ridiculous. I think that not being able to keep your same mug needs to be addressed.

Sen. Leer: Was the sanitation issue cited from a health code or was it just decided?

Sen. Smriga: There have been rhetorical questions that have been brought up.

Sen. Hertel: With me being staff in McMIndes, one problem with the styrofoam cups being taken out, everyone would go downstairs to grab a cup of coffee and go to class. Taking away the styrofoam cups, everyone going to the dining room don't have any cups for coffee? Are they supposed to drink

# Student Government Association

## Hughes/Engel

coffee out of the plastic cups? They are paying almost \$6 for breakfast. Why do you have to pay more just to get a drink?

Sen. Miller: Carol Hackerott, the director of Residential Life, and I talked about this and they have a program like it at Colorado State. They give each of the students a water bottle and the cost for it is already built into their meal plans. They can use it anywhere on campus. Styrofoam is the worst possible thing going into a landfill. They said the reason it wouldn't work here is because the Kansas health department that they are running into a roadblock with. Also, Chartwells isn't willing to budge with the KS health department. I don't know how we are getting away with it now if that's the case. I think it's a great idea because it would cut down on waste costs. I think the extra cost is ridiculous if students are already paying a big cost for meal plans.

Sen. Thompson: Did they give any justification for the price they were talking about, was it \$1.25? Isn't a snack included in the open-access meal plan for \$2 per day? How are they getting away with doing that in the middle of the year?

Sen. Smriga: I just received an e-mail. I didn't have a meeting for this issue.

Sen. Purdy: VP Engel, are you on the committee for Chartwells, for the renewal of their contract? Is there anyone here that is on that committee that gets to deal with that or talk with them?

Pres. Hughes: Tisa Mason e-mailed me earlier in the week. We're going to put together a committee to look into the contract before the contract is up. We're going to compile some information before that process begins.

Advisor Mason: I have asked for students from Student Government, UAB, International Student Association, and Residential Life. We have already negotiated and are still in the process of doing so. Next year there will be three new meal plans so there will actually be six meal plans that will give students more flexibility, importability, and a better deal. We're going to sign a one year extension with Chartwells. The RFP committee, which includes those 4 students, faculty, and staff, will spend the entire spring semester doing extensive student focus groups and other constituency interviews and surveys so that when we write our RFP we have the students represented in what they're looking for. You can't do that quickly and thoroughly. We will use that data so that in the summer and into the fall write that RFP and spend the fall interviewing companies. The next year they will go forward. We are trying to get better deals for students.

Sen. Smriga: McMIndes is now a tray-less cafeteria. They were basically trying to cut down on the price of washing dishes and now they're washing these mugs. They took something away to wash and have now added something else. I thought that Chartwells is trying to do something when I read this initiative. This is typical of Chartwells, making an effort that only goes so far. They are charging \$1.25 for pop. We have to remember that for students this is their home and where they live. They are getting robbed of things from their own home. I think there needs to be something brought up about this and more students that need to be angry about this.

VIII. New Business

IX. Old Business

X. Announcements

- a. SGA Allocations Requests *Preliminary* Deadline, Monday 12/1 @ 4:30 pm
- b. Allocations committee meeting, immediately following adjournment - SGA Conference Room
- c. Blackout the coliseum is Saturday 11/22. FHSU Women basketball vs. Nebraska-Kearney @ 5:30p.m. and FHSU Men vs. Nebraska-Kearney @ 7:30p.m.

# **Student Government Association**

## **Hughes/Engel**

- d. Fall break, 11/28, is the final registration deadline for Tigers Against Violence, 3 on 3, Basketball Tournament. The entry fee is \$12/person with teams of 3 to 5 people.
- e. Have a great fall break!

### XI. Adjourn

Sen. Purdy motions to adjourn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sen. Konkell at 7:40 p.m.