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SGA Minutes - December 4, 2008

FHSU Student Government Association

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MINUTES Thursday, December 4, 2008 7:00 p.m. – Black & Gold Room

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

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

III. Guest Speakers

TigerTracks Election Channel Set-Up
 Pres. Hughes runs through the set-up of the election channel on a projector screen. After you set up the channel on your Tigertracks homepage it will be there for all future elections.

IV. Executive Reports

a. President (Tyler Hughes)

Pres. Hughes attended President's Cabinet. They went over the presentation that Pres. Hammond gave Wednesday 12/03 afternoon concerning the budget challenge. FHSU is looking at a 3% budget cut from our action plan, one time funds. As a result our strategic planning process has been suspended for this year. Most will be going to the budget cuts. Pres. Hammond is keeping some money in reserve for university emergencies. The university is looking at no salary increases for faculty/staff and a hiring freeze, except for where it is deemed absolutely necessary. There will not be any on-campus classes during the summer, with a few exceptions for graduate classes. It will all go to virtual classes only during the summer. It will allow us not to use air conditioning in some of the buildings such as Rarick hall. FHSU is looking to only have 4 day work weeks and shut down the buildings for 3 days, to help save on these efficiencies. Again, there is going to be a 3% cut and then another 3% cut. The first will come from the strategic planning and the second will be through revenue generating efficiencies on campus. The focal point of his presentation was that the university doesn't know for certain what is going to happen but things are bad. They will know more towards the end of the school year when the legislature gets their budget together. People will hurt system wide with all universities. This was what Dr. Hammond was trying to drive home. He laid out some strategies for how we will counter the cut. It will be student oriented and he wants to continue to build the campus. Dr. Hammond sees it as our way out of the budget crisis, which means protecting students, keeping costs low for students, and protecting our faculty/staff. He mentioned possibilities that he got from a conference with all university presidents. One suggestion that FHSU is already doing is some energy efficiency with the generators that the university runs. Some possibilities that he would like to stay away from at all costs is putting more part-time faculty on campus. A lot of universities are increasing class size to create some efficiencies and he would like to stay away from that to keep the heart and soul of our university. Please ask if anyone has questions. The SGA advisors and a few SGA senators were at the presentation.

Pres. Hughes spent time the rest of his week in classrooms going through the election channel set-up and talking about how important it is to vote in the upcoming special election. The executive staff has visited about 30 classrooms. Something SGA would like to see the senators do is going into their classrooms and present. Students need to know how to see how to set-up the elections channel and more significantly the importance of voting in this upcoming election. Student fees are something that every student has a personal interest. It is something that

Majority

Simple: 16

2/3: 21

every student should care about. SGA would like to see 1,000 students vote and even more than that. Numbers like that would send a message to students on campus that they do have an opinion and they do care about what is happening. Talk to your students about voting in the upcoming election.

b. Vice President (Cole Engel)

VP Engel has been dealing with the allocations process. The preliminary allocation's deadline was Monday 12/01. SGA received a lot of requests but before going on fall break, Sen. Winter was elected the chair of Allocations committee. He has been going through the requests and their budgets, making preliminary comments, and spoke with classes regarding the upcoming election with more to follow in the upcoming days. VP Engel also participated in the tree lighting ceremony.

c. Executive Assistant (Luke Hachmeister)

Exec. Asst. Hachmeister attended the President's presentation over the budget with several other members of SGA staff and decorated the office. He will try to get the order for SGA polos in before winter break.

d. Treasurer (Robyn Sellard)

SGA received the preliminary budgets for allocations requests and Treasurer Sellard has been working this week on verifying those. She updated the treasurer's report, attended Pres. Hammond's presentation, e-mailed organizations on hearings and readings for the current meeting, and wrote legislation for Thursday's meeting.

e. Administrative Assistant (Ashley Shellnut)

Admin. Asst. Shellnut visited a few classes about the upcoming special election, revised the previous minutes, and helped decorate the office.

f. Legislative Affairs Director (Corey Anglemyer)

During fall break LD Anglemyer attended a Bookstore Contract committee. They are looking at renewing their contract or looking for a new bookstore to contract with. One of the ideas was an all-online bookstore. The committee would like feedback from the senate and their constituents on this idea. This week LD Anglemyer has been giving presentations in classrooms. He sent in the final proof for the congratulations cards on Monday. Hopefully they will be in next week so that senators can write on them and he can get them sent out during the Christmas break. The Counsel on Preparation of Teachers and School Personnel (COPTSP) did not meet this month due to lack of agenda issues. They will meet again in January.

g. Webmaster/Historian (Doug Mercer)

Webmaster Mercer uploaded the SGA photo gallery which is now up and running during his office hours. So far it has pictures from the Higher Education Lemonade Stand. If there are pictures that senators or executive staff would like on the website please send to him.

V. Committee Reports

a. Appropriations (Sen. Stramel)

Alpha Gamma Delta had a hearing this evening and it will be up for first reading, along with a trip request from ATSO, and an equipment fund request from the University Leader.

b. Senate Affairs (Sen. Winter)

Senate Affairs ran through some ideas in their committee meeting. Sen. Winter need senator volunteers to work the election booth in the Union on Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

Senators will be helping students upload their election channel if they don't already have it set up and vote. They discussed the fun Christmas sweaters for next week's meeting.

c. Student Affairs (Sen. Smriga)

They have a resolution up for first reading. Please look over the U.S. Public Service Academy book in the SGA office before next week's voting. First thing next semester Student Affairs will be to investigate the alcohol policies on campus and the student interest on bringing alcohol on campus, mainly in the Union but possibly to other areas as well.

d. Legislative & Political Action (Sen. Engel)

Sen. Engel and Pres. Hughes met last Friday with the Physical Plant director and had a good discussion about recycling. He said that any efforts that SGA can put forth to bring more recycling on campus, bring more bins to the university, and give the students more opportunities to recycle; they would provide the labor necessary to take away the materials. Sen. Engel was contacted by Bill Smriga and had a little road block. Dana Cunningham, the Facilities Planning director, has a tentative plan to implement a set of matching recycling bins throughout the entire campus. He advised Bill Smriga to strongly discourage SGA from moving forward and setting up those on campus at this time. Sen. Engel will set up a meeting with LPAC and Dana Cunningham.

e. Allocations (Sen. Winter)

Allocations received 17 preliminary requests. The committee is currently going through the requests. The committee will meet on Friday 12/05 to make preliminary comments on the requests.

VI. Open Forum

LD Anglemyer: There was talk of the all-online bookstore. I brought up some concerns in my report. Could they be shipped to the Union and then paid for with a credit card? Do they have to be shipped to the student's permanent house or on-campus residence? I want some feedback from senate.

Sen. Zerfas: How would that affect athletes that are on scholarship for books?

Pres. Hughes: Would it basically be like what our bookstore has and pre-register for your textbooks when you sign up for your classes?

LD Anglemyer: Yes, it would be similar to that.

Sen. Leer: Some publishers have been working on either strictly digital versions or online based versions on the textbooks. Are they looking at promoting that more as a green option?

LD Anglemyer: That wasn't brought up in the meeting.

Sen. Sexson: If they are taking the bookstore out of the Union is there a plan on what would go in that space?

LD Anglemyer: It wasn't brought up. It wasn't taking the bookstore out of its space. We're throwing out ideas of what we would like to be in the bookstore to be in the future. I think there were plans to visit other bookstores on other campuses in the spring. As of right now, we're not talking about replacing the bookstore with anything. I don't think that would fall under our committee.

Sen. Sexson: You said that it would be an 'all-online bookstore', so I assumed that meant no in stock books at all.

LD Anglemyer: There is nothing finalized yet. We are just talking about some ideas.

Sen. Kohman: Would students still be able to sell books back to the bookstore or would they send them back by mail to the vendor to appraise it and send a check back?

LD Anglemyer: I'll bring that question up to the committee next month.

Sen. Leer: When you buy a book for a class. I would like to see, as an option for the students, if you're renegotiating contracts if they bookstore will buyback books that aren't being used for future classes and transfer it to other stores. This way students don't have to do all of the footwork.

LD Anglemyer: I think the way it works now is if the book isn't going to be used next semester, then they buy the book at the national wholesale price. It depends on the national demand of the textbook. It gives me an idea to set it up to where the campus gets some percentage of the sale and the student would get most of it.

Sen. Stegmaier: In answer to Sen. Leer's question, Barnes & Noble on campus does it. Basically they have an online database of hundreds on Barnes & Noble stores that if they need the book then it can get shipped out to another store. Obviously they will buy it back at a lower price because they are not using in their store.

Exec. Asst. Hachmeister: I know the thing that scares me about the online bookstore is I tend to buy books as needed. I don't buy all of my books at the beginning of the semester. I've had several situations where I bought the textbook and went directly to class. An online store isn't going to give you that kind of flexibility.

LD Anglemyer: I brought up the same concern. That's why I don't think they are looking at taking out the whole bookstore.

Sen. Smriga: I think most of the students that utilize our bookstore are the ones who use it for convenience. They can go right in and get their book or order their books and have a box all ready for them. If they are competing with the online format then people would just go online to these cheaper sites. I agree with your concern for needing your book right away. If the bookstore did leave, that is a revenue based service for the Union, and then the space would definitely need to be transformed into something that is going to make money. I'm questioning why that would help.

Sen. Hanson: What happens to the revenue for the apparel, art supplies, or notebooks? Are all of those things going to be online also?

LD Anglemyer: I think the only thing mentioned was textbooks. There would still be merchandising space for apparel and other items.

Sen. Stegmaier: I'm confused as to why we are discussing this because Fort Hays already has this capability. Any book that you can buy in the bookstore you can buy online.

LD Anglemyer: I think a lot of the concern is that they are running out of space in the bookstore. That would free up the space. I will bring all of these ideas back to the committee and get you some answers next time we meet.

Sen. Stegmaier: I guess if space is an issue then we need to give them more space.

LD Anglemyer: I think they have all of the space that they can be given. There is not a lot of room in the Union.

Sen. Smriga: The online store addition would be good so you can buy apparel online. I know that the Athletic Department is selling clothing online and market students to buy it for the holidays. My personal feeling is that the Barnes & Noble should be selling apparel at athletic events. I'd like to see Barnes & Noble or whoever takes over in the bookstore to sell apparel at the athletic games as well. I think it's something to be discussed in your committee.

Sen. Melchert: Why do we have extra space for a teacher's lounge if we don't have enough space for a bookstore?

LD Anglemyer: That's a good question but I don't have an answer for that right now.

Sen. Leer: If we're looking at not having textbooks down in the bookstore, that's the primary source for you to get ISBN numbers if you want to shop around. I would like to see someone produce the master ISBN list if we're not going to have that available, a place to go look up what we are going to need.

LD Anglemyer: I think that is one thing that was mentioned with Barnes & Nobles. They are trying to make ISBN's a lot more available for students.

Advisor Mason: It has just become active. Next semester you will see all of the ISBN numbers listed for all of your textbooks online. This is part of the higher education opportunity act and it's not due until 2011. Our store was able to do it immediately. It will be in place in January so you won't even have to go downstairs. You should be able to just find it online.

Sen. Hertel: We already have the ISBN numbers. They are on most of the teacher's syllabus. We have those already available.

VP Engel: Mason advised is that the ISBN numbers will be available on the Barnes & Noble website beginning in January. There were laws that required this to be available not until 2011 but we are fortunate to have a bookstore that allows us to have it available to do that in advance for us. You should not have to go downstairs into the Barnes & Noble bookstore to get your ISBN numbers. They will be available when you order them online.

Sen. Konkel: I know this is all extremely preliminary and no ideas have been settled but if the bookstore was somehow taken away and completely removed to online, bring back a bowling alley.

LD Anglemyer: I think you could fit half a lane in the space downstairs.

Sen. Engel: If we were to go to a complete online bookstore would there be used books still available?

LD Anglemyer: That kind of depends. I assume there would be but it depends on what bookstore we contract with and what they offer.

Pres. Hughes: Students that show up and don't have a credit card or a paypal account to buy stuff online with. There are still people that have very real fears of using their bank account information to buy things online.

LD Anglemyer: That was another concern that I brought up to the committee. Some people don't like giving out their credit card information. I suggested that if we do go all-online that we still keep the

space to ship to and people could come in and pay with cash or checks if they wanted to. They like that idea.

Sen. Purdy: Are they trying to compete with any other bookstores like half.com? I would rather buy books from half.com than Barnes & Noble.

LD Anglemver: Not that I know of.

Sen. Purdy: Having the online bookstore in addition to the campus bookstore but I don't see the point. Students who want the book now and they have to go get it right away are able to do so. With the entire budget cut, do you know what's going to happen to the student health center?

Pres. Hughes: The concern was whether or not to run the health center over the summer with no students on campus. That was something that was mentioned and would shorten contracts which are another concern. As far as I know, the student health center's budget is okay. The concern was having the health center open with no students on campus.

Sen. Purdy: Let me mention that may soccer should be held back a little bit if we are having all of these budget problems.

Pres. Hughes: That can be brought up.

Sen. Smriga: I heard rumors that they are thinking about closing down McMindes Hall for the summer and either putting them all in Wiest for summer camps and things. They would have them eat in McMindes or at the Union if McMindes is closed. Was that discussed at all or is there truth to McMindes closing for the summer?

VP Engel: No decisions have been made. Everything is pretty much under discussion. When discussions are going on rumors are ramped. When you hear something bring it to the SGA meetings so we can either confirm or deny it.

Sen. Zerfas: A way to keep costs low would be going to a 4 day school week, having Fridays off, and every class would be an hour and a half. We couldn't implement it for next semester but maybe for next year.

Pres. Hughes: There would be some interesting concerns with credit hours because you have an hour of class for Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and how you would schedule that. You would run into scheduling errors with that. Are there any universities that do that? Scheduling seems like it would be kind of a problem.

Admin. Asst. Shellnut: In Europe, most of their schools don't have classes on Fridays.

Sen. Leer: One thing Dr. Hammond suggested during his presentation was to get ideas coming in on things that would make the university operate more efficiently or operate with more revenue. I think there are enough of us here and with us talking to our constituents I would like to see us having a brainstorming session. We could come up with some original ideas that have not been thought of yet.

Pres. Hughes: Something we were talking about in my class this semester was the amount of lights that get left on on-campus is ridiculous. If you are on campus late at night you will see light that don't need to be on. That's one small thing but it's going to take a lot of small things to make up quite a bit. It's efficiencies like that which can help us out in really bad times like these.

Sen. Engel: Faculty passed on some information that 40 plus students in sections of his class were concerned, one upset and mad, that he was the only professor allowing them use of their laptops in their classrooms. It's preliminary; I have not had the opportunity to speak with these students. I will speak with them next week and get more information. Has anybody heard any information on this from any other of your constituents?

Sen. Kohman: I have had students complaining that in certain classes, the teachers are not allowing them to use their laptops at any point in time during the class.

Sen. Thompson: In the EMG focus groups, we had a lot of comments about not really being a mobile computing campus. A couple of specific majors, one being justice studies, their teachers tell them that their laptops will not come out of their bags or bring them. If we are requiring them to get tablets, then that's kind of a bad deal. They were not happy about that.

Sen. Miller: I can kind of understand why people would be upset. Especially with laptops, people are really reliant on their laptops. At the same time I can see the teacher's perspective. One professor said that he walked to the back of the classroom and more than 20 computers were on Facebook and not doing anything that was remotely related to the course subject. I can see the perspective of it being a distraction. If we are requiring tablets and computers to be a mobile computing university, I don't understand it.

Sen. Smriga. That's understandable as we are claimed to be a laptop university. There are some classes where you should have no explanation of why you would have a laptop out during class. I don't know when you would use it during a math class. While we're a laptop initiative campus, teachers deserve the time to decide how they going to teach their students in the best way and making policies. Using your laptop or the teacher's policy are all parts of a teacher's right to teach on campus. It's about the teacher's rights on campus.

Sen. Purdy: Just because we are a laptop campus does that mean we have to have computers and are they forced to buy them?

VP Engel: From the experience that I have on the Instructional Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC), as your official representative, the FHSU policy, adopted by President's Cabinet, is that all incoming students, freshman, transfers, to FHSU are required to bring a laptop, preferred tablet, device with them. If a teacher plans to use it in their classroom, there is no excuse, or reason, why a student should not have one. Whether they have a laptop or a tablet, some of that goes into platform. They are allowed to use a Mac if they want to. As of now, Mac, Apple, does not have a tablet version. But the policy states that they have to bring, preferably a tablet, PC with them when they enroll. Current students were grandfathered in at the time. This started two years ago so theoretically, in two years, all students at FHSU should have a mobile computing laptop, or tablet, device for classroom use. That is the university policy.

Sen. Purdy: I find a problem with that. I'm sure everyone finds a problem with that. If there are certain majors that don't need it, then the policy needs to be revamped to suit the needs of certain majors and those who need it. You see in classes students on Facebook, on cell phones, and sleeping. If students aren't doing their work, they're an adult and that's their fault. If they can't sit in class and they need Facebook then they can leave. If the teacher wants to, they can tell them to get out. I think that while it's a problem, at the same time, it's the student's own fault.

Pres. Hughes: We do require it; however we don't have a tablet KGB running around checking on students. We are sending a mixed message. We say we require them but we don't check on that and we have classes that say you can't even use them. There seems to be some problems there with communication.

Exec. Asst. Hachmeister: I know in my personal experience is it is really not so much that the classes are banning them, but the classes aren't effectively using them. If theoretically we have a classroom full of students that have laptops, there should be all kinds of interesting things you can do with them and I'm not seeing any of that. I take my laptop everywhere and I'm usually the one that has it or has it out during class.

Sen. Munson: What's the point of requiring them if the teacher's going to bring in a cart of laptops for the class to use?

Sen. Zerfas: We have this new technology to use these computers in class but we don't have any teachers teaching to the technology or using the technology to teach. So, what's the point of using them at all?

Sen. Mohr: I know that over in the HHP department our teachers use the computers to walk through the discussions that are going on. Everybody has their computers open. The teacher kind of controls that as they go through the notes and PowerPoint presentations. If that's the case why are more teachers not using it? It's available.

Sen. Sexson: Students are paying to go to these classes. I don't see how this is going to help them learn then they shouldn't be allowed to use a laptop. If they're going to pay student fees and tuition to go to these courses and not learn anything, that's their choice.

Sen. Roston: Two years ago before I had decided to come to this university they told me it's required for you to have a tablet. I haven't even used the tablet technology. I've used my laptop to go online and type but if we have the technology then utilize it.

Sen. Konkel: I've been in classes where laptops are required and teachers use it effectively. No one is goofing off and everyone was involved. I've been in classes where students bring their laptops and a cart if provided. Seventy-five percent of us are on Facebook. I have heard it from everyone. One idea with being a mobile computing campus, we may not back it up, but we have the ability to be. We require buying a laptop. It's useful to have one. Almost every class I have you are required to work on things outside. There are only so many computers that can be rented out from the Cody Commons or the Library. It's better practice to say that you might as well get a laptop for later even if you're not using it now. I think it should be teacher preference whether or not to mandate using them during class. Don't force teachers to incorporate it in class. It may be a distraction.

Webmaster Mercer: I like to take notes on my computer. Some of my classes, especially with rows for a hundred students, there are no plug-ins. So if you have any other classes that day, your battery life is only two and a half hours, and you're battery is dying in class, it would be nice to have more places that students can plug-in their laptops.

Sen. Kohman: I have two things to say. On the tablet issue, when I was being recruited to Fort Hays, I asked if the tablets were being required and I was told explicitly yes that they are required. I found out that when I was on campus there was no need for me to use the tablet. I think that they need to rethink how they are saying that. The Macs and tablets are effective for graphic design majors. I think that they need to think about where they are throwing that required word around, maybe suggest it for some majors rather than some others. Back to computers in class, I don't know about the rest of you but my handwriting sucks and taking notes on my computer is a lot more effective for me. It's the teacher's job to teach and the student's job to learn. If the students don't want to learn it's their fault because they're paying to go to class. I don't believe that the teachers should be handicapping certain students that actually use their laptops effectively.

Sen. Winter: My personal intake on this whole thing right now is that we can battle it all out tonight but I would advise for Sen. Engel to bring us back some more information and we move forward from there.

Sen. Thompson: Pres. Hammond makes it very clear at his recruitment trips in Wichita and elsewhere. He says we are a tablet environment. We use laptops non-stop. You have to have a tablet. If there are whole departments that are not requiring tablets and aren't allowing the students to use them, there is something wrong with that. A tablet costs about \$1000 more than a regular laptop. They need to look at it and get something worked out. If the teacher's aren't using them effectively in class maybe they should finds ways to help them. There are ways to do it unconventionally.

Sen. Miller: Wasn't there something awhile back with issues on teacher's not utilizing it at all? I know a lot of the Statistic sections are taught with Excel. Some teachers don't use laptops in class at all and other need to have them in class. Then everyone has a laptop and nobody can plug them in because there are only two plug-ins in the whole room. There have been a lot of mixed signals and mixed messages passed back and forth. If classes that are required to take laptops and kids can't plug-in their laptops, then they're not going to want to bring it in the first place. In turn, they aren't utilizing the technology. Other steps need to be taken to figure out whether or not we should or should not require the laptops.

VP Engel: Yes, that came out of the Mobil Teaching Learning committee that I was serving on last year. The Elements in Statistics, which is a Math 250 course, has been slit. Half of the sections are taught in a standard classroom, using Excel on tablet computers, the other sections are taught in a computer lab using traditional computers. With the laptop or tablet environment, the desks were not big enough for a textbook, notebook, and a tablet. Some of the students are having issues with having older machines, battery life was a problem, we're bringing in extension cords and drop cords, wires were everywhere, we're ending up with safety problems, and possible ADA violations. That was being researched and looked into; finding new ways to remodel the classrooms to have tables in there with power in them. That requires infrastructure changes and I'm not sure with the budget situation that we're in, where that issue is at. The Mobile Teaching Learning committee has not been active this year but I will bring it up the other technology committee that I serve on.

Sen. Purdy: Is there any financial aid or grants available to incoming freshman or transfer students to get the laptops or do they have to pay that out of pocket?

Pres. Hughes: We have a discount through the education service with Dell, Apple, and HP. We have a discount through the college. We had submitted an action plan which has now been suspended. Along with the Faculty Senate, they had called action plan money for five laptops to be given to students on need basis service. Like I said the action plan has been suspended. Other than the discount that we get from different companies, is there any type of aid the campus gives?

Advisor Mason: Part of your financial package, it is an educationally related expense; if you qualify you could get enough aide to cover it.

Sen. Engel: The faculty member that I spoke to, he made it clear that they have very little problems with off-task behavior on their laptops. He believes it to be a management issue when that does happen. The teacher just doesn't know how to control it when it gets out of hand in the classroom. It's very efficient to take notes in the classroom on a computer screen. If you're contributing to a discussion in the classroom, why not Google the discussion topic and get more ideas to contribute? Multi-tasking is a very valuable 21st century skill and you're denying that by not allowing laptops in the classroom, for all practical purposes.

Pres. Hughes: These are my final thoughts. There's some ambiguity, obviously, that needs to be addressed in one way or another. One way we can do that, is when we have these concerns that we're talking about now, such as classes not utilizing the technology, or not allowing laptops, we need to hear them so we can carry them on and hand it to the administration. Maybe we don't want to name names but we can say departments or even course numbers. When these concerns come to you, bring them to us, so they can be carried forward with where they need to go.

VII. New Business

- a. First Reading of Bill 08/F/112: Advanced Technology Student Organization Appropriations
- b. First Reading of Bill 08/F/113: University Leader Equipment Fund
- c. First Reading of Bill 08/F/114: Alpha Gamma Delta Appropriations
- d. First Reading of Resolution 08/F/101: United States Public Service Academy

VIII. Old Business

IX. Announcements

- a. SGA Allocations Committee Meeting, Friday 12/5 @ 6:30 pm, Smoky Hill Room (enter through North door by Davis Hall)
- SGA Special Election Student Athletic Fee Increase, Weds. & Thurs. 12/10 & 12/11 (polls open Weds. @ 8 am, run through the night & close Thurs. @ 4:30 pm)
- c. Tiger basketball on Friday 12/05, Women vs. Nebraska-Omaha @ 5:30pm and Men vs. Nebraska-Omaha @7pm.
- d. Tigers Against Violence is on Saturday 12/06. They are taking registrations forms until the day of the event.

X. Adjourn

Sen. Purdy motions to adjourn with a 2nd by Sen. Konkel @ 8:02 p.m.