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SGA Minutes - February 12, 2009

FHSU Student Government Association

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Student Government Association

Hughes/Engel

MINUTES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

7:00 p.m. – Black & Gold Room

<u>Majority</u>	
Simple:	15
2/3:	19

- I. Call to Order
VP Engel calls to order @ 7:02 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
Admin Asst Shellnut calls role.
- III. Guest Speakers
- IV. Executive Reports
 - a. President (Tyler Hughes)
Finalized everything with the EOF committee this week which is up for first reading. At KBOR that Pres. Hughes and LD Anglemyer, they sat through mundane meetings. Learned that K-State appointed a new president, who was the former head of research at the University of Mississippi State. Pres. Hughes and LD Anglemyer attended Button Day on the Hill. They gave valentine buttons and goodies to our legislators and went out on the House of Representatives floor during their debate. During the Student Advisory Counsel (SAC) Dr. Kurt Brungardt gave a short presentation regarding Kansas Core. They have an upcoming event to travel to Chapman to help clean up in April. Students are being asked a lot of questions and I would like to remind everyone that Open Forum is a great place to discuss those concerns.
 - b. Vice President (Cole Engel)
Participated in the Allocations hearings on Sunday. Spoke with the new senator, getting him oriented, and communicated with another student interested in senate. Talk to your constituents and find what experiences with mobile computing. Need feedback and discussion to take to the provosts of the universities.
 - c. Executive Assistant (Luke Hachmeister)
Served his office hours and prepared for the meeting.
 - d. Treasurer (Robyn Sellard)
Attended Allocation meetings and corresponded with organizations about upcoming hearings with Appropriations. Senators and exec staff who attended Higher Education Day in Topeka need to sign travel receipts.
 - e. Administrative Assistant (Ashley Shellnut)
Revised last week's minutes and constructed new senator binders with past legislation.
 - f. Legislative Affairs Director (Corey Anglemyer)
Attended the KBOR meetings. The Ways and Means Committee in the House and Senate wanted to see what a 10% budget cut and another 3-5% cut on top of that. This is why we need to keep writing our representatives and senators. LD Anglemyer would like senators and exec staff that traveled to Topeka to write thank you notes to the senators and representatives that students met with on higher ed. day. A lot of legislators said they would like to see and hear from Student Government more in Topeka. It's always good for everyone to keep higher education in mind.

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- g. Webmaster/Historian (Doug Mercer)
Served his office hours and made updates on the SGA website. Webmaster Mercer has pictures that will be going on the website this next week so look for them to be posted by next Thursday.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Appropriations (Sen. Stramel)
Had a trip request from Sigma Delta.
- b. Senate Affairs (Sen. Winter)
Did not meet tonight, and will meet next week.
- c. Student Affairs (Sen. Smriga)
Discussed International students and housing. Sen. Smriga will be gone and Sen. Ladd will be the acting chair.
- d. Legislative & Political Action (Sen. Engel)
Talked about financial information of the Wellness Center. Has information on participation numbers and they offer. Received 10,000 hours of fee money from the President to make up for loss of on-campus credit hour production. The total is around \$270,000.

VP Engel: It is \$26.65 times 10,000 student credit hours.

- e. Allocations (Sen. Winter)
Did have hearings from 12:30-6:30 and the same amount of hearings this following Sunday.

VI. Open Forum

Sen. Leer: In LPAC we talked with Jeff Burnett about what the wellness center is doing and what they need for operations. We've been discussing adding a line item fee to keep the Wellness Center on their fee and running. It would need to take in \$65,000 to keep it operating fully. The amount they are coming to Allocations with is much less and we will see some limited results from this. Ideally he needs this to keep the maintenance up and operating well. We want input on what students think about having a potential fee increase. Any thoughts?

Sen. Smriga: I know we discussed when the increase could go into effect. Can it go through this year for next year's budget or is a year out still?

Sen. Leer: We would have to scramble to make it happen but I don't think we could do it in a reasonable and responsible manner. It depends on how much we could get the word out and how much support is in the student body. With the state of things, without a doubt, it would go to a student vote for ratification.

Sen. Smriga: That is for the fee increase and shifting in the allocations funding? Is it both scenarios?

Sen. Leer: We are looking right now at putting it as an additional fee. Other colleges around us in division 1 and division 2 have a fee on the student fee schedule for their gym or wellness center. This was because there were other funds coming from SGA and action fund money. We need something more reliable with the action fund money now gone.

Pres. Hughes: The proposals for fee or tuition increases have to be in 3 weeks prior to the April regents meetings, a month before Spring Break. As far as an increase for the Wellness Center, I support the Wellness Center. I would like to see a fee in the future but I don't think now is the time for

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a completely additional fee increase. I worry about their space. If and when they get a fee increase I would like to see a bond measure for a new building at the same time. I don't think this is the proper climate for a brand new fee.

Sen. Stegmaier: For a fee in the future, do you have a dollar figure per student? Would it be a flat rate or a credit hour rate?

Sen. Leer: We would need at least 70 cents for the current credit hour enrollment but to give a good margin I would say a dollar increase just in case the credit hour enrollment were to decrease and the Wellness Center wouldn't have problems right away. Jeff expressed that they would be conservative about saving every penny to go towards a new building or any surprise maintenance.

Sen. Smriga: I don't think because of the budget cuts we should be ruling out an increase at this point. I think it depends on the certainty of how well the Wellness Center is going to be able to operate. If it comes down to the Wellness Center being open or not open then we need to act now. I don't think the Wellness Center is something we can afford not to have open. The way it is funded right now, if students had to pay money with an increase I would like to see a charge for faculty/staff and community members. It is something that could work and bring in more revenue. It would be another auxiliary that we should get the benefit for but faculty/staff need to add some additional money into the facility, at a reasonable small fee.

Sen. Thompson: All the constituents that I have spoken with are very supportive of a student fee increase for the Wellness Center. They're talking about going there and not having machines open. Talk to your constituents and see what they think about it.

Pres. Hughes: I don't think it's an issue of supporting the Wellness Center. Nobody wants to see it go away. They're getting the funding from Allocations and I want everyone to keep in mind that if a fee increase were to be pushed through this year that means they can not have Allocation's funding. It would be a shot in the dark if SGA passed a fee increase and the KBOR approved it. If that is what it came to and KBOR said no then they wouldn't have any funding. As far as more equipment, there are a lot of machines occupied and a lot of people there. If you were to buy more equipment where would you put it? Do you have a lot of room to expand over there?

Jeff Burnett: No. If there is money to buy new equipment then we would get rid of current machines that are on loan, which would be bought back later. One big issue is the Wellness Center is out of room. Our next step in this process is to have a stand-alone facility. Talking about further equipment, some equipment needs to be replaced, like some of the cardiovascular machines because the maintenance bills on some of the equipment are getting high. In the past we have charged faculty, staff and retired people who have utilized the Wellness Center. The provost made us the best deal that we could have. He took the highest number we had made and added \$1,000, on a permanent basis, to make it free for faculty and staff. We did come out far ahead and send thanks to the provost.

Sen. Konkel: constituents I talked to about a possible fee increase were concerned about where the money will be going because the Wellness Center and the equipment is all new. They need to be educated on how the equipment needs to be repaired or replaced.

Sen. Engel: The \$28,500 requested by the Wellness Center will allow them to sustain at current operating levels for the fiscal year 2009-10.

Sen. Leer: During the 07-08 fiscal year the Wellness Center had 68,331 visits and 88.9% was students. It would make it the single most used student service on campus. Most of the objections to

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it are also good points for the Wellness Center such as tuition increases. If things keep going up how many will keep coming to the gym? This is something that is a winning deal.

Sen. Ladd: It seems that we have a general consensus of being in support of the Wellness Center. Do you see a fee increase passing through KBOR?

Pres. Hughes: Anything with a lot of student support helps because our regents are very student friendly. They've made it clear this year that they don't want to see any increases anywhere as far as student costs go. I don't have any answers until the issue came to that. The regents said they don't want to increase it. Some regents do want increases but in example we had one regent last year who voted no on every fee increase.

Sen. Thompson: If we do go with a bond and getting a new building it will be used as a huge recruitment tool to increase on-campus enrollment. We do need to do research for a new building and a bond with the current problem already at hand.

Sen. Smruga: I think that may be jumping the gun at this point in time and we need to get them on track and sustained for the future. I don't think the university is in the state to go out and build a big building. I think we are a few years out from that reality especially with renovations of Picken Hall. I want to know what is the administration's view on this?

Sen. Engel: Pres. Hammond and Provost Gould are not in favor and are not buying the plan.

Sen. Leer: The figure we received from Jeff Burnett would need to be around \$12 million for a building but we need something in there to keep the Wellness Center sustained and running for now.

Sen. Engel: In addition to my previous comment, they are in favor and support of the Wellness Center but not the increase at this time.

Sen. Thompson: I think we should begin researching options for a new building not to build a new building a building next week. We need to fund them and if they're not getting it from the college then they might as well get it from the students.

Sen. Leyerzapf: Are there policies for having a membership fee for organizations or places like the Wellness Center? What if you get a \$5 a month membership fee?

Pres. Hughes: I don't think there are any policies like that. I don't know what anyone else would think of that. It's interesting.

Sen. Engel: Are you saying that you're proposing that you would only charge the people who are using it and not the entire student body?

Sen. Leyerzapf: If it's cheap they're going to pay for it anyways.

Sen. Engel: I don't know that they would be able to budget successfully not know how many members they would have annually. If the members are at one level this year and a lower number the next year you wouldn't be able to budget that way.

Jeff Burnett: You wouldn't have a determined number and I would be nervous about this exact scenario by having a high number one year and a low number the next. We went from 26,000 to 70,000 but it's a hard thing to budget for. What can we actually provide? That would be very difficult.

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Advisor Meyer: There are some people that \$5 a month, even though they go to the Wellness Center often, would not be able to pay or wouldn't want to pay the monthly fee.

Pres. Hughes: Continuity between all of our fees would be my issue. All students pay for the use of the Memorial Union and CSI. Students don't always utilize the union but they can. The Wellness Center benefits from our student activity fee which every student can benefit from but not everybody does. They all pay for these things. I would worry about the standardization of the facility being there and students are paying for it but not utilizing it.

Sen. Sexson: I don't go to the Wellness Center on a regular basis but occasionally. It becomes a case of, I have a membership but do I utilize the Wellness Center enough for it to be worth paying the fee. I think you will lose a lot of sporadic visits by students and faculty by charging a monthly fee.

VII. New Business

- a. First Reading of Bill 09/S/104: Technology Education Collegiate Association Appropriations
- b. First Reading of Bill 09/S/105: Sigma Alpha Iota Equipment Fund
- c. First Reading of Bill 09/S/106: Educational Opportunity Fund Committee Ratification

VIII. Old Business

- a. Second Reading of Bill 09/S/102: Alpha Gamma Rho Appropriations
Sen. Stegmaier motions to consider the bill with a 2nd by Sen. Hertel.

Drew McNutt: I'm the noble ruler of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. We're asking for money to go to go to a leadership conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With the money, we want to pay for the registration of \$125 for two men and the lodging fees for both nights. The event is from March 5-8. We will be flying out of Kansas City. The fraternity is paying for the flight tickets from fundraising and other expenses that come up during the trip.

Sen. Winter motions for a direct vote.

Y=27 N=0 A=1

Bill Passes.

- b. Second Reading of Waiver 09/S/101: Equipment Fund Percentage
Sen. Winter motions to consider the waiver with a 2nd by Sen. Quinones.

Sen. Winter motions to amend the Waiver to read 2.1% with a 2nd by Sen. Quinones.

Sen. Winter: The reason for this is because we were given an extra of 10,000 hours of virtual fee money which increased our total Allocations. This would be the same amount of money received but the 2.1% would reflect the change or increase of the money received.

Sen. Smriga: I'm not sure if that even enough. I'm looking at the treasury report from February 5 and it says there is 73% left from the equipment fund. It seems like the equipment fund just sits there and isn't used. I would rather give more money to an organization that needs it. I can see the percentage being lower.

Sen. Sexson: This is just for this year correct?

Sen. Winter: This 2.1% will be less than what was given to the equipment fund last year. The 2.1% will be \$14,100 and last year was \$14,575.

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Sen. Engel: This time last year we had 74% left in the equipment fund which is about the same as we have right now. We managed to use most of that by the end of last year. Can someone tell us how much was in the equipment fund at the end of last year?

VP Engel: I think it was somewhere around \$780.

Sen. Engel: This time last year we had 74% left and we managed to use almost all of it. To me the \$14,000 compromise is pretty good.

VP Engel: The carry-over in the equipment fund last year was \$792.14

Sen. Purdy moves for a direct vote on the amendment to read 2.1%.
Amendment Passes.

Sen. Engel moves for a direct vote.
Y=28 N=0 A=0
Bill Passes.

IX. Announcements

- a. Tiger Basketball vs. Southwest Baptist, Wednesday 2/18 @ 5:30 & 7:30 pm
- b. Wrestling Dual tomorrow FHSU vs. Western State.
- c. Kansas Catholic College Student Convention 2009 which FHSU is hosting at the Ramada Inn. Keep other universities in your prayers for safe travel.

X. Adjourn

Sen. Konkell motions to adjourn with a 2nd by Sen. Munson at 7:42pm.