



Student Government

Senate Agenda

November 17, 2015

- I. Present: Deeksha, Valentin, Ben, Zach, Achieng, Laura, Peter, Reena, Danielle, Halle
- II. Organization:
 - A. Exciting volunteer opportunities!
 1. Weekly communicator updates
 - a) **Reena and Zatch**
 2. Checking the suggestion box weekly, bringing those to meetings
 - a) put on bulletin board the 5 point communicator announcement
 - b) QR codes of proposals
 - c) priorities for the semester
 - d) share our goal proposal list
 - e) label the box as a suggestion box--communicator announcement saying it's there
 - f) put a fun, surprise or prize QR code to get people to check the QR codes
 - g) Ben: who will check?
 - h) Zach: Keys on phys plant, \$10 deposit to get the key.
 - i) Deeksha: Senate can pay \$10
 - j) Reena and Valentin in charge of the box--need paper and pen
 - B. Hey, remember those facebook goals we had...?
 1. Clarification about facebook: for things that require direct response, post reminder in the chat. And write on every post in bold ***REQUIRES DIRECT RESPONSE IN 24 HOURS*** and tagging people to read the post

C. Processing and signing up for Monday Java sessions

1. Deeksha: not many people there during lunch
2. Zach: gain momentum
3. Peter: being there regularly will help
4. Zach: some gimmicky things will help (strobe light)
5. Ben: if people could come a little early so that we aren't leaving things unattended
6. Halle: underclassman and upperclassman together
7. Ben: public forum?
8. Achieng: Still need the public forum because we have all of us, not just one or two people.
9. Deeksha: people who went to TPP protest
10. Ben: we have a lot of proposal ideas we need to work on, making sure we aren't burning ourselves out
11. Deeksha: flowchart for administrative resources was a very supported idea
12. Zach: Will talk to Jim Hestand
13. Achieng: There is a form made public showing where money is going.

III. Continuing Business:

A. Standing Desk response

1. Peter: Talked to Patricia, reiterated same things as he did (students have more opportunity to move around than others, decide where it is best to allocate funds), thought response was reasonable but is sad. Costs too much money
2. Halle: Yoga balls for students to sit on might be cheaper, good for your back
3. Zach: see how much money we have at the end of the year
4. Peter: Halle, please pursue that if you want

B. Common Ground: From Kiernan

1. "For all of the discussions on justice issues which happen among Goshen's student body, there is little talk of classism or poverty. A college campus is an almost exclusively middle class environment, filled with middle class values and assumptions. Common Ground is a day long seminar put on by Church Community Services of Elkhart. This training dives into the experience of poverty, 'hidden rules' between poverty and middle class, and the challenges individuals face when attempting to move out of poverty. For more information on this program designed to understand poverty and inspire action, follow the link below.
<http://churchcommunityservices.org/services/common-ground/> Social Reform Club proposes that Common Ground training be brought to Goshen College's campus on Saturday March 5th. The training costs CCS about \$60 per participant, with

each session able to take on up to 25 individuals. Using these numbers, the maximum cost of this training would be \$1500. SRC can also provide breakfast and lunch to the group, which would bring the cost down. Additionally, it would be wise to charge students a nominal fee of 5 or 10 dollars. Common Ground staff has already agreed to bring the training to Goshen's campus, and hopes that it will work out. Additionally, Alex Moon and I attended a Common Ground session in October and both highly recommend that Senate funds this initiative. Thanks, and we look forward to hearing from Senate with any questions or concerns"

2. Zach: would cap the price for more students? Not sure. Is there a way we can get a more concrete price?
3. Deeksha: can we get funding from other sources?
4. Zach: say yes to funding, but not a specific number, but ask for more concrete information about cost and ask about other groups helping to buy

C. Making bulletin board exclusive

1. Take down posters from other clubs from Senate's bulletin board and move to other locations.

IV. New Business:

A. Meeting this afternoon

1. Zach: Jacob Putnam sent email to Launa about security guard's car bumper stickers. Jan Bender Shetler had told Launa previously but nothing formal was done. Meeting today with PC--super last minute and not many people were invited (only Senate and few profs who had been involved, and Jacob)...we invited some others. Security Guard now on paid administrative leave, and there will be an investigation. Hopefully they will keep us in the loop

B. *ADDITION/CORRECTION: Approximately two weeks before the the photos of the bumper stickers were sent, Jan Bender Shetler caught me in the stairwell. She mentioned a vague report she heard of an employee with a confederate flag sticker. She did not have a name, but thought the employee might be in security. I received the report and followed up. I contacted the Director of Safety and provided the report, asking the Director to investigate. Ross Peterson-Veatch later confirmed that the Director of Safety acted on the report Launa submitted; at this point the situation was addressed as an employee matter.*

1. Halle: How long have these bumper stickers been here?
2. Zach: This year (but he's worked here since 2012)
3. Halle: His reactions?
4. Zach: Aren't kept in the loop about that
5. Deeksha: He still has the stickers?
6. Zach: If you know students who have had unsafe interactions with

Goshen security please have them report them to Norm. Really affects how they will proceed with this case.

7. Ben: What we talked about in the meeting is that it is a symbol of hate, especially in the context of the past year--it's like a swastika, like a noose. Not just offensive, it's hate speech.
 8. Zach: Backlash discussed that could happen (what could happen to students). Meeting happened from 2:30-4.
 9. Laura: Should we make a statement about supporting students at Mizzou?
 10. Peter: Yes
 11. Deeksha: It's really important but timing with what is happening now
 12. Halle: Be really careful of timing because of potential backlash/violence against students like what is happening at Mizzou. But we should show solidarity.
 13. Zach: In my personal opinion, that is something pushed to the spotlight--people like Trump have made it more okay for people to say racist things--people on campus need to know that students support them, so we should get this statement out in an effective manner.
 14. Deeksha: Statement from Student Senate, or collaborate with BSU, LSU, ISC, SRC. Have people sign it if they are in support.
 15. Zach: I don't see an issue with us writing this statement and then asking people to sign it.
 16. Achieng: Are we going to wait until Monday, or will we release something soon and then say on Monday they can sign it?
 17. Halle: People in the Rott can sign, if we wanted to do it before Monday.
 18. Peter: Do we want to try to write something by Friday, as per usual, then post it and have it at our table at Java?
 19. Deeksha: Online signature?
 20. Ben: How will writing happen?
 21. Zach: This should be as collaborative as possible--work on an outline tonight rather than have one person write it and others edit it.
 22. Peter: Implement upsparkles/downsparkles
- C. Senate Identity: Looking ahead to end of semester
1. Deciding on focus
 2. Ben: Created a document of proposals with list of responses and

commentary. Are we getting the responses we want? Issue of not getting the responses we want from proposals. I'm writing a Record article on direct student responses we can have to these proposals. Acknowledge our own power more. What we want our legacy to be--what we want to accomplish this year.

3. Achieng: Rebrand senate--be more active and tangible for student needs?
 4. Deeksha: At the beginning we were more passionate about diversity and somewhere that died.
 5. Halle: A lot of this disconnect comes from not really knowing each other. Would affect how we get things done.
 6. Achieng: Hang out with each other outside of senate, have 1-minute check-ins at the beginning of the meetings
 7. Zach: As a student senate we hang out for a few hours at the beginning of next semester.
 8. Deeksha: Rule about commuters changes next semester or next year? (next year)
 9. Peter: Trying to navigate what we do as a senate vs other clubs?
 10. Zach: figuring out goals
 11. Deeksha: When should we have the next public forum meeting? Make it a Christmas party.
 12. Halle: So what if we start this right now? If next week we could have dinner together and then dive into it together. Start at 5:30, talk about nothing, then buckle in. Eat at 5:45 for dinner and make sure we get things done by 7:20.
 13. Ben: Context why I came to senate--my high school senate was more like CAC, whereas this group has potential to affect change at the administrative level. Prior to my freshman year, senate did not have any certain powers or agency. We can and should get to know each other and have more fun, but I think my goal for Senate is a little different from that.
 14. Zach: Okay, so what about dinner on Tuesday?
 15. Saturday at 10 AM at phys plant County Seat and Achieng will make reservations
- V. Open Floor: Peter: Goals as first agenda item for the next meeting?
- A. Zach: Feel like that's a long process, make that a full meeting time
 - B. have a check-in, go over goals,
- VI. Meeting Adjourned: 10:27