Student Government
Senate Agenda
August 26, 2015

I.   Present: Ben, Laura, Deeksha, Achieng, Zach
II.   Senate budget
    A. $12,000
        1. Why is our budget lower? Let's ask Launa next week.
III. Old business
    A. Student clubs
        1. "Restructure Club Funding" proposal
            a) Ben: This should all be confirmed before Club Day. We'll set a date for club funding on the form. Shirley has the forms, so we'll have to ask her to change it. **I'll ask her.**
            b) Approved by consensus
        2. Pick Club Day date
            a) Notify Shirley
            b) Ben: It's usually around Sept. 20. If we give a club funding, it's mandatory to attend club day (to get freshman to sign up)
            c) Deeksha: Let's do September 17 (Thursday)
            d) Ben: Do our schedules work to set up by 10 AM that day? Let's meet at **9 AM on Thursday Sept. 17**.

    B. PIN funding
        1. Ben: making it institutionalized.
        2. Laura: Launa says we should still seek funding from Senate and she will continue to work on getting administrative funding
        3. Ben: Let's still push to have the administration to pay for a higher percentage than last year.
    C. Forming AVI committee

1. Achieng: The other people who are part of Senate will be in the group or just random students?
2. Ben: Both, and maybe put an announcement. We'll have a flier that asks if people want to be in this committee.
3. Laura: Ellen Conrad said she will participate.
4. Ben: We can just see what kind of interest there is.
5. Deeksha: Let's try to have this committee be diverse and have some international students in it.
6. Zach: Tap people on the shoulder.
7. Ben: Would someone write a facebook ad/communicator announcement.
8. **Achieng: I'll write it up and do the posters on computer paper.**
9. **Zach: I'll submit it to the communicator if you send me what you want to say.**
10. Deeksha: we can reimburse you for printing those.
11. Ben: We can use Senate's money too to print.

D. Statement on Diversity
1. Achieng: We should also talk about Hilberto.
2. Ben: Has everyone read this?
3. Zach: We could **send this to Regina** before sending it along. Also, I couldn't find racial demographics of the Mennonite Church.
4. Laura: Put it in the Record?
5. Ben: And give it to PC.
6. Deeksha: And facebook.
7. Zach: **Achieng, could you ask Chad to promote the Senate page** because Res-life has hella likes.

E. Erin Bergin's gender-neutral bathroom proposal
1. Laura: **I will continue to work on it**. Also, we have to think about if we will fund that.
2. Zach: Let's wait for club funding until we decide, but I think we can fund gender-neutral bathroom signs.
3. Laura: Give less club funding money so that they can apply for each individual events.
4. Ben: I'm wondering if we end up giving no money and not separating that, then we could end up running out.
5. Deeksha: What if we say, you can have $500, but for each event you have to apply for it separately.
6. Ben: Could you get the record of what was pulled out of Senate's budget?

       7. Zach: **Let's see if we can find out transactions from last year.**
F. Transparency Initiative
       1. Ben: We're tabling this until we get word back on the Student on PC initiative.
       2. Zach: We'll revisit the language later.
G. Student on PC Initiative
       1. Ben: I sent that into Ken. I forwarded you his response. Do we want to give this to Launa? **I'll send that to her.** We'll wait and see what happens.
H. Commuter student on senate Initiative
       1. Ben: We could try to amend the constitution or a bylaw in-house instead of as an initiative. Oh, cool. It's in the election code, so that would be easy to change.
       2. Deeksha: Why can't we just change it?
       3. Ben: It's good to have a process that's consistent every year. So that's why we need a constitution, I think. If we were to change the constitution we would have to bring it to the student body. But since it's the election code, that should be different.
       4. Zach: The election code is not online. That's a problem--the link needs to be updated.
       5. Deeksha: I'll talk to Micah about updating this.
       6. Zach: Should we change this before the rest are voted?
       7. Achieng: Yes, because this has to be put through before the commuter student gets elected.
       8. Ben: It's a matter of amending that
       9. Zach: I will do that before the next meeting.
       10. Ben: post the proposed amendment in facebook.
       11. Voting: approved change by consensus.
I. Coffee Hour Initiative
       1. Zach: They're in talks with CIIE who might pick up part of the expense of the coffee. It's a good way for people to meet others.
       2. Achieng: Hopefully CIIE is into it and will help fund it.
       3. Ben: I'm not sure we can put up that much money per week ($150).
       4. Zach: They're also trying to get cheaper coffee from Java.
       5. Deeksha: I doubt they would give us convo credit.
       6. Zach: But we could at least try and get half a credit or something. I emailed Bev but she hasn't responded.
       7. Ben: I wonder how this will work if it's every week.
       8. Zach: It for sure wouldn't happen every week, and it could be

canceled for that week, or promote to go to other events when they're happening. The idea to moving it to 10 AM is to get more commuter and adult students to come. And we can buy coffee not from Java, too, so that it would be cheaper.

9. Ben: should we commit a certain figure? Let's just submit this for chapel credit and do the club funding portion later.

10. Zach: if we get it in the door now, it can be shaped. I need to talk to Bev Lapp. I'll drop in tomorrow.

11. Achieng: Let's capitalize on this. We're trying to get people to come together. I feel like we should still do it.

12. Zach: I say, we should go for it. It might be unreasonable the expense, but it's better to try, and if it doesn't work out then…

13. Deeksha: if we push for it, we'll be more respected.

J. Coed Apartments (?)

1. Ben: Do we want to still push for that as a Senate? The pro side is that ⅔ of reslife were more for it and the administration has changed from last year. The down side is that it's been two years and it's been turned down.

2. Deeksha: We should still do it.

3. Ben: It will need some work because it's worded for the dorms. The other thing is that now the student data is two years old and at that point they were in favor of it. It's a lot of work to do it again. Is it worth our time again?

4. Achieng: I say yeah.

5. Zach: I don't think support has lessened.

6. Achieng: We're saying that we're still going to push for this.

7. **Ben: I'll work on it.**

IV. New business

A. Weekly record updates

1. Ben: Grace asked if we want a Senate update from this week. So we need to figure out who will do the five points and send those to her.

2. **Laura: I can do it this week.** And then hand it off to an at-large member.

B. Student on Ken's Provost leadership team

1. Deeksha: Let's talk to Ken and ask about the timeline.

2. Zach: And we could pick someone who could update Senate.

3. **Ben: Let's talk to Ken and ask if we can delay it a few weeks.**

C. Senate Visibility

1. Discussion board and/or suggestion box
    a) Ben: we talked about this last spring to see what the campus actually wants. Is this something we want to work up again or are we going to say that the public meetings are enough? They were taken down some years ago because of non-use.
    b) Laura: The suggestion box is good for commuter students to give us suggestions who can't come to night meetings.
    c) Zach: We could put one in the commuter lounge.
    d) Deeksha: The board could be too offensive
    e) Zach: Let's put announcement boards commuter lounge, java, and by the rott
    f) Deeksha: and student apartments.
    g) Ben: Rott, Fraker, and Java with announcements and suggestion boxes, and commuter lounge. Where do we get these? And we have to talk to space planning
    h) Zach: Phys plant might be able to put up smallish bulletin boards for us that will be exclusively ours. And we can talk to the people at java, fraker, commuter lounge, and rott.
    i) Achieng: Have two place have boxes and the other have announcement boards.
    j) Deeksha: Will talk to phys plant
    k) Ben: Will find out about putting a bulletin board up in the commuter lounge.
    l) Zach: will ask people in Java
    m) Achieng: will ask the Rott/Fraker
D. At Large elections
    1. Change application
        a) Deeksha: Get the forms out by the 31st
        b) Ben: Get them to submit it by Wed. Sep 9th
        c) Ben: elections from Thursday the 10th to Monday the 14th at 5pm, results can be put out on Tuesday and they can come to the meeting Tuesday night.
        d) Deeksha: Who is editing the form?
        e) Ben: I can and then put it on facebook
        f) Achieng: And I'll make posters.
        g) Ben: What do we do if no commuter student applies?
        h) Zach: Tap them on the shoulder, but just give the spot to a traditional student then.
        i) Ben: communicator announcements should go out Monday

j) Zach: **Will write them everyday until Wednesday the 9th.**
        Thursday election announcement, Friday, and Monday. I'll
        post stuff to facebook the day of.
E. Senate meetings
    1. Public once a month?
        a) Achieng: Do once a month public forum where they give
            ideas and proposals, problems, etc. Let's not do our own
            agenda like this in Java.
        b) Zach: And maybe we have a 10 min run-down about what
            we are doing .
        c) Achieng: To avoid few people coming, are we going to have
            some type of incentive?
        d) Ben: We could publicize that there is food and have it here in
            AD and then do another meeting back to back.
        e) Zach: We could have it another day entirely on Wednesday
            at around 9, and if people don't come then it can end early.
            And we could move it around each time to get different
            student input.
        f) Deeksha: Let's do it this next Wednesday and offer snacks.
        g) Zach: communicator, facebook
        h) Zach: Let's reserve the 3rd floor connector. And we can do it
            8:30-9:30.
        i) Ben: **will give the intro**
        j) Laura: **I will do food--no more than $20.**
        k) Achieng: **I will reserve the 3rd floor.**
        l) Ben: get there a little bit early
        m) Zach: **I will do publicity**
    2. Time and date
        a) Ben: There's not really a time on Tuesday, so Wednesday
            will be our only time. Launa has church things Wednesday
            evenings, so that's potentially problematic.
        b) Achieng: Wait, Tuesday's fine I think. We're still figuring out
            when to meet as RAs
        c) Deeksha: could we do 7 on Tuesdays?
        d) Ben: **I'll put that on forms for elections.**
V. Open Floor
    A. Zach: Adult student talked to us about concerns. Is it worth going to the
        adult classes and asking for ideas at the beginning of those classes?
    B. Achieng: Can we have adult students on senate?

    C. Ben: Yes

D. Zach: I can head that up.

    E. Zach: Also, Monday at 10 meeting with Brenda Schroff.

    F. Achieng: We should talk about when we can meet with Hilberto.

    G. Zach: Wednesday or Friday at 1.

    H. Achieng: **will contact him.**

    I. Deeksha: **will write a proposal about computers in the apartments.**

    J. Deeksha: Also, I have an idea to give Goshen shopping bags to people who visit Goshen. **I can write the proposal.**

    K. Deeksha: International students might like a bidet to feel more at home. We could put just one on campus somewhere. **Can write a proposal, but might ask for help.**

        1. everyone likes that idea.

VI.   Meeting Adjourned: 9:57