Student Government
Senate Agenda
September 15, 2015

I. Present: Ben, Halle, Laura, Peter, Achieng, Deeksha, Reena, Valentin, Zach, Danielle

II. Welcome to At-Large Reps
   A. Creating an inclusive, egalitarian, and motivated senate culture
      1. Ben: Welcome to Senate. This is what we do… We have minutes and open floor at the end. We talked about this the past couple of weeks--we want to make sure senate is egalitarian, make sure people's voices are heard. There's a constitution with some formal outlines, but that doesn't say everything we want to be. Let's open it up for ideas.
      2. Peter: I think transparency is important, and I'm not for people deleting things from the minutes.
      3. Zach: Majority vote? Or 80%? Or ⅔?
      4. Ben: The constitution outlines that all members have voting rights, President doesn't but has veto rights, members can override president with ⅔ votes. We'll have disagreements throughout the year, and consensus doesn't always work.
      5. Peter: 5 point consensus? Where people go through how much they're willing to compromise if everyone else is for it.
      6. Valentin: Consensus is a better way of voting for things than majority.
      7. Deeksha: It could provide a middle ground.
      8. Ben: But we do need a way to voice dissent because last year people wouldn't want to share their opinions.
      9. Reena: I think we should try it

10. Halle: At Pacific Northwest they had everyone right 1-5 on a piece of paper how much they agreed/disagreed and then put it up on the board to show visually the middle ground
11. Ben: We could do it for more contentious votes.
12. Zach: It would be the 5 point consensus just on the board?
13. Halle: It would anonymous and visual.
14. Peter: I think that would be a good tool for large groups but not necessarily small groups.
15. Ben: But you still need space for dissent.
16. Achieng: I think the 1-5 is good, but also saying why you are voting for or against.
17. Zach: 5 is a yes vote and 4 is a no vote?
18. Achieng: Or strongly disagree/disagree
19. Deeksha: 5 is YES; 4 is You're not helping it but willing for it to go through; 3 is n
20. Achieng: What about a 3-point consensus?
21. Zach: 4 points?
22. Ben: I don't want to play this card, but a lot of things are not going to happen if everyone has veto power.
23. Peter: But if we have an understanding that veto should be used very sparingly.
24. Deeksha: Does every member get veto?
25. Achieng: Is that what we want?
26. Ben: On the one hand, us making good decisions we support is important, but on the other hand..
27. Deeksha: I don't think every member should have veto power
28. Zach: What if we work under the assumption that we try to pass everything that goes through?
29. Halle: If we were to pass everything, how would anything get done?
30. Zach: Work under the assumption that we'll try to understand everything.
31. Ben: Sorry, Danielle, We're talking about voting and decision-making and how we want that process to be.
32. Laura: Majority vote but with a lot of space to express dissent. Say yes because… and no because...
33. Reena: I agree
34. Ben: We want to make dissent as easy as possible and safe
35. Deeksha: We could say: every person could say why they voted each way

36. Peter: We could have yes, no, and people who abstain, and tehn the yes have to have more than half.
37. Zach: I'm more worried for the one person who votes no because it can be uncomfortable for them to talk. I don't know how you make it easy for that one person to say "NO"
38. Ben: Should we come at this from a different angle to work on how we are going to make a comfortable space for senate?
39. Zach: We could all vote at once to make it less uncomfortable, like a rock-paper-scissors vote?
40. Ben: Maybe we can see how it feels because we'll have a ton of votes for the club applications.
41. Reena: Try each way
42. Ben: Are there other things we want to talk about?
43. Achieng: Do we want to give someone a specific amount of time to talk? Because some people have really powerful voices and others are quieter. Maybe give 2 minutes per person?
44. Ben: Do we want to do a formal call for disagreements for votes?
45. Zach: What if you gave each person 2 minutes to talk if they want, and then had discussion after
46. Valentin: Bev tlaked about how when they got together with faculty, each person got to share their opinions, and it took longer, but each person said they're opinion
47. Peter: But that would also take a lot of time, so maybe we could just decide if an issue is contentious enough
48. Zach: An optional two minutes--you won't need to talk.We set this time aside
49. Peter: And that's good for some things, but not tonight
50. Danielle: It would be bad to go to each person individually each time
51. Peter: What about opening it up for general discussion
52. Valentin: I meant giving people time to share their ideas, so if someone doesn't normally talk, if they need to talk they will.
53. Zach: What if have one person play devil's advocate
54. Ben: Efficiency is an issue though
55. Deeksha: I think that for things like club proposals we wouldn't need that, but for proposals like on transparency, we should all have an opportunity to speak.
56. Zach: How do we decide which things are most important?
57. Valentin: when there's someone expressing disag

58. Peter: this all goes back to culture
59. Ben: It usually goes to a place where we're going in circles or we reach consensus.
60. Zach: Each person gets two minutes, then after that 5 minutes of open discussion. And then decide if there should be a vote
61. Deeksha: I think we should just start and figure it out.
62. Ben: If we can accomplish the culture, some of these safety precautions won't be necessary. Balancing efficiency and good culture
63. Peter: What if we go around in a circle and each person says how we want to vote.
64. Zach: Do people feel comfortable enough speaking up?
65. Ben: Let's try that for a little bit and then revisit this in a few weeks. How do you see Senate interacting with campus? What do you envision Senate doing?
66. Reena: telling more people about senate because a lot of people have never heard of it and what it does. Make its presence aware. Maybe through posters or the communicator.
67. Valentin: Or maybe not the communicator, because a lot of people ignore it.
68. Zach: but adult students and commuter students often read that.
69. Valentin: Other types of adverising.
70. Deeksha: Facebook
71. Zach: Bulletin boards
72. Deeksha: twitter
73. Halle: Instagram
74. Danielle: advertise in class if your profs let you
75. Peter: being the mouthpiece of the student body to speak truth to power, and that will be the most effective
76. Reena; how often are meetings public?
77. Ben: They're all technically public, but once a month we're going to try to have public forums in the connector
78. Zach: And convo committee is giving us a convo next semester.
79. Ben: Any other ideas and thoughts?
80. Deeksha: sleepover!
81. Zach: Are there specific goals or agenda that you have for why you ran for senate?
82. Valentin: One goal I had was making the campus more open about recycling and eco-friendly.

83. Reena: our recycling program is not great
84. Valentin: we could put more recycling bins in more open areas, like the connector, not jsut the dorms.
85. Reena; science building has none. There needs to have a recycling bin next to each trash can
86. Halle: problem is that someone has to pick those up and take them to recycling. That would be an extra allotment of time
87. Deeksha: it could be student volunteers
88. Danielle: It's pretty contradictory that we say we're such a green school and not have recycling
89. Deeksha: And making people aware of what we need to recycle
90. Valentin: Like putting pictures on the bins about what can be recycled.
91. Halle: What does the city recycle?
92. Laura: Things aren't separated
93. Zach: could we continue this at a later date? Reena, do you want to write the proposal?
94. Reena: we can keep talking about it later
95. Ben: It's great to use facebook as a means for communication to get things moving through a lot quicker. Anything concerning our culture of senate? Please bring that up at any time. For now, let's move on.
96.

III.   Announcements/Organization
   A. Club day this Thursday -- set up at 9:30, tear down at 5
         a) Ben: could anyone be there to set up? and tear down?
         b) **Reena: I can be there for tear down**
         c) **Achieng: set up**
         d) **Zach: Tear down**
         e) **Laura: set up**
         f) Ben: half table for clubs
      2. Extra table for voter registration
         a)
      3. Senate table for email listing
         a) Ben: Do we want a senate member there throughout the day?
         b) Zach: I think so for visibility. Talk about our goals, give updates, etc.
         c) Deeksha: If senate is near the SRC table, I can work it 12-1

d) Peter: And if it's near the ultimate table I can do it too

e) **Achieng: Will send out emails to RAs to tell floors about club day**

f) Ben: Email to clubs stating: how much money, gender pronouns, and club day

g) Zach: Let's do gender pronouns

h) Peter: It's important to increase awareness for all genders on campus and to not assume we all are cisgender

i) **Peter: I can be at the table from 1-2**

j) Zach: Can anyone do it from 10-12?

k) **Danielle: I'll do 11-12**

l) **Halle: I'll do 10-11**

m) Ben: Maybe just explain what senate is doing and the email list it to provide announcements, but we won't flood their inbox

B. Meeting on Sunday changed to 4pm (from 7pm)

1. Ben: If you read the email, you saw that we are working against institutional racial oppression, so you don't need to attend every meeting if you don't want, but if you're excited about it feel free to attend. This is a senate thing, but it's also with LSU, BSU, ISC, SRC. Look at the facebook for that.

2.

IV. Continuing Business

A. Decisions on club allocations

1. Ben: Senate does get paid, but not very much. We have $12,000 total including our salaries. Clubs also ask for more funding than we have. Also, keep in mind that there are special funding requests. Also, a lot of clubs don't use the money they are allocated each year, and we don't get that money back.

2. Deeksha: Voices in Harmony--a lot of their activities are next semester, not this semester, so we were thinking $50 for their church visit this fall.

3. Voted thumbs up by consensus, on the count of three--$50

4. Deeksha: SRC--requesting money for snacks, materials, transportation. They spent a lot of money last year; recommending $300

   a) Ben: a lot of students are involved.

   b) Halle: So if they spent it all last year, why are we only giving them $300?

    c) Deeksha: They can do special request funds.
5. Approved by consensus--all hands in the air!--$300
6. GCNSA--suggestion is $100 for brunches each semester. They said they have a projected deficit of $2000--the club gets outside sources from fundraisers that they can keep. Rights now they have $700. Tell them to make a special request for the request
    a) Consensus--all hands in the air--$100
7. GC Players--wanted $1100 to go on a "Post Traumatic Super Delightful" Tour, but that's more of a special request that they can make later. We thought $110 for food would be good
    a) Ben: They often do their events.
    b) Consensus--$110
8. PAX--asked for $500 for a peace conference in the spring; we thought $100 is good for this semester for different materials. But they're not super active except next semester. Maybe $50 instead
    a) Consensus--$50
9. Women in STEM--no money requested, but potentially will have a guest speaker
    a) $50 for them
    b) Consensus--$50
10. GSWA--They wanted $150 total for this semester
    a) Halle: So since the main events are for next semester, does Sexual Violence Awareness Week cost $150
    b) Consensus-$150
11. Cycling Club--$50 instead of $100 because they spent nothing last semester
    a) Majority--$50
12. Eco PAX--They requested $250, but we were thinking $180 for a divestment workshop, soup, visit Potawatomi HQ--tell them to fill out a special request form for South Bend and Merry Lea
    a) Ben: We usually help subsidize events, but not pay for the whole thing. Both/And
    b) Achieng: Do you want to change it to $150?
    c) Consensus: $150
13. Ultimate--They're asking for $100 to rent out the RFC in the winter ($7.50 per hour) and go to Fort Wayne for an event
    a) Consensus: $100
14. Meditation Club: no funding request
15. Cooking Club--We were thinking $200 to start because it's a new

club
   a) Consensus: $200
16. Coffee Club--requested $75 per week for 10 events. But we thought $50 a week, so $500 total. There's a convo credit this Friday at 7
   a) Halle--is there a way to let them know to be practical about their expenses
   b) Consensus: $500
17. Art Club--they are requesting $650 this year, but they only spent $150, and the printer and travel can be special requests, so we thought $100
   a) Deeksha: What about $150?
   b) Consensus: $150
18. Commuter Club--last year they spent $455, and they want $270 this semester
   a) Consensus: $270
19. Pre-Dental Club--$30? They want a speaker but that can be a special request
   a) Consensus: $30
20. FIRSST: They are requesting $5000 for a car, but that can be a special request, so we can give them $130
   a) Consensus
21. Swing Dance Club: no request
22. Monologues: Requested $100 for this semester--writing workshop in the fall
   a) Consensus: $100
23. Breaking Club: Requested money for snacks
   a) Consensus: $50
24. Service Club: $50 for snacks
   a) Consensus: $50
25. Pre-Law Club--snacks
   a) Consensus: $50
26. Pre-health--one meal and snacks
   a) Consensus: $100
27. Hymn Club--snacks and copying costs, so $50?
   a) Consensus: $50
28. PIN--give them $200?
   a) Consensus: $200
29. Unity--$100 for snacks
   a) Consensus: $100

      30. BSU--asked for $350 in the fall for a movie, talent show
          a) Consensus: $350
      31. ISC--a request wasn't turned in. Should we still give them money?
          a) Consensus: $150
      32. LSU--$350 for the fall?
          a) Consensus: $350

B. Zach will email all of the clubs tonight.
C. Deeksha will get forms to Shirley

D. Explain current senate initiatives
    1.
E. Initiatives needing At-Large involvement:
    1. AVI feedback team
        a) We need someone to be part of a group to give feedback to AVI
        b) Halle will do it
    2. Students on Ken/Gilberto/etc. intercultural team
    3. Senate-specific discussion boards and suggestion boxes
    4. Goshen.edu Senate webpage (picture, updates, links)
    5. Computers in apartments
    6. Convocation committee
F. Reusable grocery bags (Deeksha)

V. New Business

VI. Open Floor:
    A. Achieng: When i went to the adult classes, they were wondering if there could be child care at events like kick-off for adult students to attend.

VII. Meeting Adjourned: 10:45