



Meeting Minutes  
Oakland University Student Congress  
Thomas-Engnell Administration  
Center for Student Activities, Oakland Center  
Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
6:30 P.M.



- I. Call to Order
  - A. Call to order Monday, June 27, 2016 at 6:32 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
  - A. Legislator Chande, present and voting
  - B. Legislator Fox, present and voting
  - C. Legislator Hock, present and voting
  - D. Legislator Ishaque, present and voting
  - E. Legislator Kubinski, not present
  - F. Legislator Mabrouk, not present
  - G. Legislator Nasry, present and voting
  - H. Legislator Poppe, not present
  - I. Legislator Saadat, present and voting
  - J. Legislator Sanders, not present
  - K. Legislator Seeger, not present
  - L. Legislator Semma, not present
  - M. Legislator Harris, present and voting
    - We have quorum
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016
  - A. No changes to the minutes
    - Raise of Hands Vote for Approval of the Meeting Minutes
    - By chair's decision, the yeas have it, the meeting minutes are approved
- V. Comments from the Gallery
  - A. There are no comments from the Gallery
- VI. Guest Speaker
  - A. Emily De Lano, Service Beautification Projects on OU's Campus
    - Ms. De Lano presented on various volunteer opportunities, highlighting that OU has been working with the CARE House of Oakland County in making meals for families, as well as completing some of their administrative work. Specifically, there will be a day of service on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. De Lano continued onward to speak about Grizzly Gives Back, which involves various volunteer opportunities for different communities, especially for the Orlando Shooting, as well as some non-profit work for the LGBTQIA community. Additionally, they're doing work for women who have been rescued from sex trafficking. All these projects will be taking place in Banquet Room A on July 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-2:00.
    - Ms. De Lano is part of an experimental learning committee, and they're working with the Grounds Department to create apprenticeships for students. They projects may be campus beautification projects, such as planting flowers or placing new recycling units around campus, but they don't have to be.

- Ms. Mishack spoke in response to Ms. De Lano about Oakland University's issue with cigarette butts, as well as currently not having any outdoor recycling bins. Ms. Mishack and her committee plan on still implementing the event Talking Trash, in which students go around campus and clean up general litter. She mentioned that she's interested in discussing this topic further with Ms. De Lano and the Grounds Department.
- Ms. De Lano and Ms. Mishack make arrangements to exchange emails, as well as make plans for Ms. Mishack to attend the next upcoming meeting with the Grounds Department about these internships and possible beautification projects
- Ms. De Lano goes onward to ask all of Congress is there are any more questions that she can answer, perhaps in regards to the Organic Farm.
  - Ms. Mishack said that she was planning on directly going to the Grounds Department to discuss potentially moving the Organic Farm to an alternative location, which would be more beneficial than the initial location that administration wanted them to lease out.
- There were no further questions for Ms. De Lano
- Vice President Engnell thanked Ms. De Lano for coming to speak to OUSC

## VII. Old Business

### A. C.R. 17-01 Transfer Center, *Elijah Sanders*

- Legislator Sanders isn't present so Vice President Engnell spoke on his behalf
- Vice President Engnell reminds the Congress that this is the second reading of this resolution and a vote will be taking place today; resolutions don't actually cause action or spend any of the budget, but rather, the resolution is taken to President Hynd and Vice President McIntosh, who will then take the resolution to the Board of Trustees.
- Vice President Engnell said "the resolution advocates for a transfer student center in the university. Currently, the student body is made up of 42% of transfer student and there is not a center dedicated just for them. There is \$90,000 in the recent budget put forward for a transfer student advisor and more transfer student support, but we do not yet have a center, so this advocates for a physical space for transfer students to assist them in the acclimation into the new atmosphere and also to help them stay on track for graduation."
- Vice President Engnell opens the floor up to discussion
  - President Thomas says that through his experience with working at orientation, he can see that "transfer students are not taken care of as much as they should be". He also hopes that additional efforts, on top of this resolution, will be incorporated to help transfer students grow acclimated to the Oakland University experience and environment.
  - Legislator Fox describes how he recently was reminded of the importance this resolution when he was at class and out of the ten students in the class, seven of them are transfer students from various universities, who all universally agreed that Oakland University wasn't accommodating

and that they were neglected by orientation. Additionally, Legislator Fox reminds Congress that this would be a good time to propose the idea of implementing a transfer student center, since the OC will be expanding fairly shortly.

- There was no further discussion regarding C.R. 17-01 Transfer Center
- Roll Call Vote
  - Legislator Chande, yea
  - Legislator Fox, yea
  - Legislator Hock, yea
  - Legislator Ishaque, yea
  - Legislator Nasry, yea
  - Legislator Saadat, yea
  - Representative Harris, yea
  - C.R. 17-01 passes unanimously

#### VIII. New Business

##### A. Approval of Archiving Committee, *Elijah Sanders*

- Anthony Clark and Doran Londo
  - Legislator Sanders isn't present so Vice President Engnell spoke on his behalf
  - Vice President Engnell attests for both Mr. Clark and Mr. Londo, saying that they would make great additions to the committee, especially Mr. Clark, who was the Chair of the Archivist Committee last year
  - Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion
  - There was no discussion
  - Show of Hands Vote
  - 6 "yeas", 1 abstention
  - Anthony Clark and Doran Londo are approved for the Archiving Committee

##### B. Approval of Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee, *Lena Mishack*

- Elijah Sanders, Victoria Camaj, and Mahnoor Moeen
  - Ms. Mishack spoke on behalf of her potential committee, saying that they're great people who are passionate about their work and interested in getting involved.
  - Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion
  - There was no discussion
  - Show of Hands Vote
  - Seven yeas, passed unanimously
  - Elijah Sanders, Victoria Camaj, and Mahnoor Moeen were approved for the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee

##### C. Approval of Student Activities Funding Board, *Jorge Garcia*

- Associate Chair - Mary Olkowski
  - Mr. Garcia highlighted Ms. Olkowski's dedicated nature, saying that she has already been coming to the office this past week and has been doing a great job.
  - Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion

- Legislator Hock said she was impressed with Ms. Olkowski because she introduced herself to the SPB and has been trying really hard to learn their names.
  - There was no further discussion
  - Show of Hands Vote
    - Seven unanimous yeas
    - Mary Olkowski was approved for the Associate Chair of SAFB
- Approval of Bridgete Liebau, Victoria Camaj, Lisa Wassenberg, Tim Brown, and Robert Skylis
  - Mr. Garcia said that the rest of the board consists of some returning members, including Bridgete, Victoria, and Lisa. The two new people up for approval had to apply for the position, while the returning members had to propose a new initiative that they're going to implement this semester.
  - Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion
    - President Thomas said that he can attest for Bridgete, Lisa, and Tim, who he finds to be fantastic individuals who would do a fantastic job on the SAFB.
    - Legislator Hock inquired if any of these positions were paid, and Mr. Garcia said that Ms. Olkowski is the only paid member.
  - There was no further discussion
  - Show of Hands Vote
  - Seven unanimous yeas
  - Bridgete Liebau, Victoria Camaj, Lisa Wassenberg, Tim Brown, and Robert Skylis are approved for SAFB
- D. Approval of Senator, *Zack Thomas*
  - Maddie Keller
    - President Thomas reminds Congress that the University Senate operates similarly to Student Congress, but it's the upper house composed of three students and various other faculty and administration. This is where most of the big-time proposals occur, which then goes onward to higher-end administration and the Board of Trustees for consideration. Moreover, two of the three Student Senator spots are Vice President Engnell and himself. For the third position, they sought to add a more diverse option and they think that the President of Greek Council, Maddie Keller, would do the best job of representing the student body.
    - Ms. Keller spoke on her experience as a business student and as the Greek Council President, vocalizing her excitement about the position, as well as the valuable leadership skills that she has learned throughout her years at OU. She emphasized that with her own E-Board, she is already working on improving relations with other organization, as well as increase Greek Council's

outreach beyond previous chapters, which included donating just over \$1,000 to Rainbow Connections in Rochester Hills.

- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to questions and discussion
  - Vice President Engnell said that through previously working with Ms. Keller, she is action-orientated and organized, as well as would be able to “rouse the faculty and staff for the student initiatives that matter”. Her approval would also allow Greek Council and Student Congress to be connected at new levels.
- There was no further discussion
- Roll Call vote
  - Legislator Chande, yea
  - Legislator Fox, yea
  - Legislator Hock, yea
  - Legislator Ishaque, yea
  - Legislator Nasry, yea
  - Legislator Saadat, yea
  - Representative Harris, yea
  - Seven unanimous “yeas”
  - Maddie Keller was approved as a Student Senator

E. Executive Board Appointment and Approval, *Zack Thomas*

- Administrative Assistant, Jessica Walukonis
  - President Thomas reminds Congress that the past Administrative Assistant resigned due to a scheduling conflict with another job obligation. However, from their candidate pool, they offered Jessica Walukonis the position. He spoke of Jessica’s bubbly personality, emphasizing that she was already taking initiative by coming into the OUSC Office for training, as well as taking the minutes for this current meeting.
    - Ms. Walukonis spoke of her previous secretarial work, in which she built valuable skills in office work, as well as customer service skills. She emphasized that she wasn’t afraid of hard-work, including the inevitabilities and extras of any position (cleaning). Moreover, she spoke of her diligent and passionate nature in her other jobs, as well as a student, in which she promises to apply to her position as Administrative Assistant.
- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to questions
  - Legislator Fox asked Ms. Walukonis about her hours worked and obligations towards her other jobs.
    - Ms. Walukonis responded to Legislator Fox by saying that she is fortunate to have flexibility within her other positions; she works 3 hours a week as a teaching assistant, 4 hours at the hospital, and 9 hours as a lifeguard during the fall/winter semesters.
- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion
  - Vice President Engnell said that he can fully attest to everything that Ms. Walukonis mentioned. He emphasized that she

is one of the most prepared, and nicest, individuals that he has ever met, and has the ideal personality to sit and greet students that walk into the OUSC Office.

- President Thomas said that Jessica is one of the most passionate and dedicated individuals that he knows, highlighting that she has spent countless hours, including Friday night, towards training. He emphasized his confidence about her ability as the Administrative Assistant.
- There was no further discussion
- Roll Call Vote
  - Legislator Chande, yea
  - Legislator Fox, yea
  - Legislator Hock, yea
  - Legislator Ishaque, yea
  - Legislator Nasry, yea
  - Legislator Saadat, yea
  - Legislator Harris, yea
    - Seven unanimous yeas
    - Jessica Walukonis was approved as Administrative Assistant

F. Legislative Chair Nominations, *Zack Thomas*

- President Thomas said that there were vacancies in the Legislative Branch for the Steering Chair, Parliamentarian, and Tailgate Chair. He went onward to say that he recommended Legislator Ryan Fox for Parliamentarian and Legislator Saad Saadat for Steering Chair.
  - Vice President Engnell opens the floor for nominations for Steering Chair
    - Legislator Hock nominates Legislator Nasry for Steering Chair
      - There is a second
    - Vice President Engnell asks Legislator Nasry if she accepts the nomination
      - Legislator Nasry accepts the nomination
    - Vice President Engnell asked Legislator Nasry if she accepts the position
      - Legislator Nasry accepted the position
  - Vice President Engnell asked if there are any other nominations for Steering Chair
    - There are no further nominations
  - Show of Hands Vote
    - Seven unanimous yeas
    - Legislator Nasry is Steering Chair
  - Vice President Engnell opens the floor for nominations of Parliamentarian

- Legislator Chande nominates Legislator Ryan Fox for Parliamentarian
  - Legislator Saadat seconds the nomination of Legislator Fox
  - Vice President Engnell asks Legislator Fox if he accepts the nomination
    - Legislator Fox accepts the nomination
- Vice President Engnell asks if there are any further nominations at this time
  - There are no further nominations
- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion
  - Legislator Hock said that with all due respect towards Legislator Fox, she has opposition towards this nomination because “he is the Judiciary Chair, which means that he has the say over the Constitution in meetings and the interpretation of the Constitution and covers the Constitution in meetings, so I think that the power should be divided to someone else to be the keeper of the bylaws.”
- Vice President Engnell asks if there are any other discussion topics at this time
  - There is no further discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
  - 3 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstaining
  - It is determined through the Bylaws that President Thomas has the deciding vote
    - President Thomas said “yes”
  - By a 4 to 3 vote, Legislator Fox is the Parliamentarian
- Vice President Engnell gives President Thomas the floor to ask whether there are any other Legislator nominations
  - There are no further nominations

G. C.B. 17-01 Bylaws Grammar and Spelling, *Ryan Fox*

- This is the first reading of this bill, so no vote will be taken
  - Legislator Fox described the reasoning for the bill by saying that the current Bylaws consists of a lot of grammatical errors, phrases that are complicated/confusing, and other wordings that don’t make sense to have in professional Bylaws. He said that President Thomas and himself went through the Bylaws and made the corrections, which was sent in a specific email that highlighted the changes made.
  - Vice President Engnell reminds the Congress that we will have access to a screen at the next meeting, July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016, so during the second reading, the specific changes will be shown.
  - Vice President Engnell opens the floor to questions/discussion
    - President Thomas further described this bill by saying that the bill seeks to add consistency and professionalism, as well as to articulate changes that are already occurring. He emphasized the

numerous grammatical errors, specifically the use of ‘formerly’ instead of ‘formally’, and other such changes were made.

Additionally, some more substantial things were changed, such as enumerating that the Student Body President appoints Legislators to committees, as well as that Legislators are required to attend Senate meetings. Furthermore, the wording was notably changed in the Parliamentary section, but the new phrasing essentially has the same meaning as the original wording.

- Legislator Hock said that Section F Point 7 in the Bylaws articulates that the “Parliamentarian shall not have the power to direct, meet, or chair general body meetings unless they hold a different position in the line of succession that permits directing, leading, or chairing general body meetings. I do not think that the Parliamentarian should have the ability to be the Steering Chair. I think that’s too much crossing of power.”
- Legislator Hock made a motion to *strike Part of Section 4 Part F Point 7, unless the Parliamentarian holds a different position in the line of succession that permits directing, meeting, or chair general body meetings.* This motion makes it explicit in the Bylaws that the Parliamentarian shall not have the power to direct, lead, or chair general body meetings.
- Legislator Fox seconds the motion
- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion on the motion
- There is no further discussion
- Show of Hands Vote on the motion
  - The motion passes with seven unanimous yeas
  - The line is struck
- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to further discussion
  - Legislator Ishaque asked who goes next in line if it’s not he Parliamentarian. The question is answered by Vice President Engnell, who said that there’s a line of succession explicitly stated in the Bylaws
  - Legislator Hock asked for the font of the Bylaws to be changed, so that it no longer switches between Times New Roman and Arial. She also inquired about the double title of the Bylaw.
    - Vice President Engnell suggested that the double title might be because the document was printed off of Google Docs, but Legislator Hock insists that the Bylaws’ double title has been like that for “maybe six years”.
    - President Thomas said that the double title might perhaps be because of Elections Bylaws and SAFAC Bylaws included at the end of the Bylaws.
      - Legislator Hock says, “So, these are the body of the Bylaws and then the Election Bylaws are Appendix One and SAFAC Bylaws are Appendix Two, the Student Program Board



constitutes Appendix C. So, they should just be the regular Bylaws and then it should start with Appendix One.”

- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to further discussion on the bill C.B. 17-01 Bylaws Grammar and Spelling
  - Legislator Hock said that Student Congress Cords (Section Nine, A, Three) says that the term number includes the Executive Board members, Legislative members, and committee members can receive cords. She said she opposes committee members receiving cords because she doesn’t “think that it’s high enough to deserve cords”. She also mentioned that she thinks Congress should get rid of “the term member does not include University organizations that rely on Student Congress for funding”, because this no longer happens due to OUSC and SAFB being separate now, thus SPB depends on SAFAC for funding, not OUSC.
  - Legislator Hock moved to *strike from Section 9 Part A Point 3 “the term member does not include University organizations that rely on Student Congress for funding, e.g. WXOU, SVP, OU Post, SLLB, or appointed agents of SPB, SAFB, or the Elections Commission”, and strike the term “committee member”*.
    - Legislator Harris seconds the motion
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion on this motion
  - Legislator Hock said, “the term member does not include [and so forth] or the Elections Commission”, and the Elections Commission is a committee of Student Congress, so if we allow committees, but not the Elections Commission, that’s not fair.”
  - There is no further discussion
  - Show of Hands Vote on the motion
    - The motion passes with seven unanimous votes

H. C.B. 17-02 Bylaws Updates Overall, *Ryan Fox*

- Legislator Fox said that this bill clarifies the responsibilities of the Vice President, including giving the Vice President the duty to officially chair general body meetings. The next section requires TurboVote, or a similar program, to be used by the Legislative Affairs Director to ensure student voter registration prior to any major election. The following sections include striking of responsibility of the Judiciary Chair to train new Legislators, and instead give this responsibility to the Research and Review Chair, since that position has already been assuming this role. Additionally, in the past, there has been issues with updating and uploading the Bylaws, so this bill makes it so the Visual Communications Director updates and uploads the Bylaws, rather than the Judiciary Chair updating

the Bylaws and sending them to the Visual Communications Director to be uploaded.

- Vice President Engnell opens the floor to discussion
  - President Thomas described some of points of the bill further, saying that responsibilities that were already operating in practice would be officially added to the Vice President Section. For number two, he said that TurboVote sections is not to constrain the Legislative Affairs Director, but rather, use it as a tool to ensure more voter registration. Additionally, by having the Research and Review Chair train new members, it would be less constraining on the Judiciary Chair, who already has numerous responsibilities since this person must conduct a whole branch. Number Five and Six makes the process of updating and uploading the Bylaws more efficient by having one person responsible (the Visual Communications Director) for this duty, instead of having the Judiciary Chair update the Bylaws and send them to the Visual Communications Chair to be uploaded.
  - Legislator Ishaque said that if the Bylaws are to be updated, Congress should clarify the requirements of being a Legislator.
  - Mr. Queen said he recommends a transfer in the Grizz Art Initiative from the Student Services Director to the Visual Communications Director, since it regards the art community.
  - Legislator Hock said that she disagrees with number five and six, saying because the Bylaws are edited and changes by bills passed by legislators, and therefore should be updated by a legislator. She went onward to say that responsibility of updating the Bylaws should be delegated to the Parliamentarian, since we view the position as the keeper of the Bylaws, and this would still keep the implemented checks and balances.
  - Legislator Chande responded the Legislator Ishaque by saying that the requirements of being a legislator is already highlighted in the Bylaws in Section 4A. But, “if you’re referring to something regarding classes and schedule conflicts, then I think that should be added to the Bylaws.”
  - President Thomas responded to some of the feedback that was presented, addressing Legislator Hock’s points first, saying that he sees the concern with checks and balances, but, as of right now, Mr. Queen and Ms. Goldwater are the only individuals with access to the website. He went onward to say that he understands that in any system of government, there is room for abuse, which is why there’s a legislative and judicial branch. Thus, “if Mr. Queen or the entire administration goes rouge and starts incorporating edits, the reason we have public body meetings, is for you guys [the legislators] call us out and change those. Obviously, there’s no plans to go rouge, but there’s always an ability for you guys [the legislators] to call us out and make motions in meeting, and make it clear to the public that this is what happened.” Thus, even if the Parliamentarian updated the Bylaws, there is always room for potential abuse, which is why we’re all here operating as a system of checks and balances.

- There is a motion by Legislator Hock to *strike line item five from CB 17-02 and to edit line item six from CB 17-02 and edit item Six that says that the Oakland University Student Congress Bylaws be amended to add Article 4 Section F Subsection 8 line item A “shall be required to update the Student Congress Bylaws anytime they are amended”*.

Essentially, Five takes everything away from Judiciary and gives exactly what was taken away from Judiciary to Parliamentarian.

- President Thomas said that last year there were issues in updating and uploading the Bylaws, with the most updated Bylaws being from February 2016, even though there was a Bylaw change about co-sponsorships. The system of Legislative review and then the Visual Communications Director uploading the Bylaws just wasn't operating, so he sees the same problem with transferring the duty to the Parliamentarian. Thus, the idea is to remove that problem by making sure it's one person's responsibility, which “adds accountability, instead of taking it away.”

- Legislator Hock said that two and three years ago it wasn't a problem for the Judiciary Chair to update the Bylaws and then send them to the Visual Communications Director, “and this [change] takes away power from the Legislature and gives it to the Executive Board.”

- President Thomas said, “I don't think it's giving away power, it's uploading the Bylaws to a website in a more efficient manner. If the Bylaws weren't updated correctly, you have all the authority to take action against one or more or all of us, or motion to just submit guidelines, that's all in the hands of the Legislature and that voting power isn't taken away. It just makes the process more efficient, instead of going to a middle man, which, even though it might not have a problem two or three years ago, it was a problem last year for whatever reason; I think it was because there was no clear accountability on one or more of the people involved in the process. I wouldn't say that there's any exchange of power here, I just think it's a clarification of responsibilities.”

- Vice President Engnell reminds the Congress that this is now a debatable motion and there are only two speaking opportunities per person involved

- Ms. Mishack said that she wanted to point out that there are many times in which there isn't a Parliamentarian chosen, but OUSC at all times has a Visual Communications Director. Additionally, “the Visual Communications Director or whoever is uploading them, could definitely still make edits if they wanted to and then obviously the Legislature would catch if some not foreseen change was made, and then vote on it.” She went onward

to highlight that it would be more efficient if one person updated and uploaded the Bylaws.

- Mr. Queen (second speaking opportunity) said that he thinks that eliminating the middle man would be efficient, and “I would only be making necessary edits that are made officially by Congress. I don’t really see the argument of the Executive Board gaining more power than the Legislature, when it comes to that. I’m only making the edits that I’m told to make. I don’t care what are in the Bylaws. I am just your graphic designer. You know, I’m over-exaggerating, but, in the end, I’m only making the necessary changes that Student Congress is needing to make....I don’t see any power being taken away from the Legislature or being given to me. It just makes it easier for the updated Bylaws being available for everyone.”

- Legislator Fox (first speaking opportunity) says, “Point of Parliamentary Inquiry, was there a second from Legislator Hock’s motion? Are we debating the motion?”

- There was no second for the motion made during the time the motion was initially brought up

- Motion seconded by Representative Harris

- Legislator Chande inquired about the problem with the old process of using the Judiciary Chair.

- Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Chande by saying that “the issue was that it was not being uploaded and transferred, so the Judiciary Chair was not collecting the Bylaw changes, editing the Bylaws, and then sending them to the Visual Communications Director to be uploaded.”

- Legislator Fox (second speaking opportunity) said, “I would just like to say that I’m in support of having an administrative [executive] do it because it’s very much an administrative role, so it’d just make more sense to have an administrator [executive] just do it.”

- There is no further discussion on the motion

- Show of Hands Vote on the motion

- 2 yeas, 5 nays

- The motion fails

## IX. Adjournment

- Legislator Hock leaves the general body meeting
- Quorum is lost
- Meeting is adjourned at 7:43 p.m.