



Meeting Minutes
Oakland University Student Congress
Thomas-Engnell Administration
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Monday, July 11th, 2016
5:30 P.M.



- I. Call to Order
 - A. Call to Order Monday, July 11th, 2016 at 5:32 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
 - A. Legislator Chande, present and voting
 - B. Legislator Fox, present and voting
 - C. Legislator Ishaque, not present
 - D. Legislator Kubinski, not present
 - E. Legislator Mabrouk, not present
 - F. Legislator Nasry, present and voting
 - G. Legislator Poppe, not present
 - H. Legislator Saadat, present and voting
 - I. Legislator Sanders, present and voting
 - J. Legislator Seeger, not present
 - K. Legislator Semma, not present
 - L. Legislator Harris, present and voting
 - We have quorum
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 27th, 2016
 - Legislator Fox *motioned* "to change in the minutes at the top of the page from "agenda" to "minutes"."
 - Seconded by Legislator Saadat
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion on the motion
 - There was no further discussion
 - Show of Hands Vote
 - The motion passed unanimously
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
 - There was no further discussion
 - Show of Hands Vote
 - The meeting minutes were approved unanimously
- V. Comments from the Gallery
 - A. There were no comments from the gallery
- VI. Guest Speaker
 - A. There was no guest speaker
- VII. Old Business
 - A. C.B. 17-01 Bylaws Grammar and Spelling, *Ryan Fox*
 - Legislator Fox *motioned* "to strike in the Bylaws the second iteration of the title at the very beginning so that it says "Oakland University Student Bylaws" just once."
 - There was a second
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion

- There was no further discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
 - The motion passed
 - The line was struck
- Legislator Fox *“motioned so that all the font for the entire webpage is just ten-point, Times New Roman.”*
 - President Thomas inquired as to whether there needed to be a motion for a font change. Legislator Fox said that he is seeking consistency in font, and just wants to ensure that it happens
 - The motion is seconded by Legislator Sanders
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
 - President Thomas said that he didn’t think that we needed a formal motion to change the font, so he already compiled all of the Bylaws and appendices, and changed it all to ten-point, Calibri font because he *“hate[s] Times New Roman.”*
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
 - 5 yeas, 1 nay
 - The motion passed
 - The Bylaws will be changed to ten-point, Times New Roman font
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to any further changes
- There was no further changes or discussion
- Roll Call Vote on the Bylaws Spelling and Grammar Bill
 - Legislator Chande, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea
 - Legislator Nasry, yea
 - Legislator Saadat, yea
 - Legislator Sanders, yea
 - Legislator Harris, yea
 - C.B. 17-01 Bylaws Grammar and Spelling Bill passed

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

- Legislator Fox explained that this bill switches around the responsibilities of a number of positions, notably switching some duties from the Judiciary Chair to the Research and Review Chair and the Visual Communications Director. These changes mostly reflect what we’ve already been implementing, as well as will clarify as to which individual (the Visual Communications Director) will update and upload the Bylaws to the website.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion and changes
- There was no further discussion
- Roll Call Vote
 - Legislator Chande, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea

- Legislator Nasry, yea
- Legislator Saadat, yea
- Legislator Sanders, yea
- Legislator Harris, yea
 - C.B. 17-02 Bylaws Updates Overall Bill passed

VIII. New Business

A. Approval of Prospective Legislator, Anders Engnell

- Erin Rourke
 - Vice President Engnell spoke highly of Ms. Rourke, remarking that she has been in the process of trying to become a legislator for nearly three months without prevail due to issues with quorum. He continued onward to say that Ms. Rourke is a wonderfully persistent and determined individual, who has already spent several hours in the office
 - Ms. Rourke said that she wants to become a legislator because she yearns for more leadership experience. She's currently a member of Ms. Merogi's committee and is working on a Sexual Assault initiative. Ms. Rourke wants to get teal flags, which is the color of the sexual assault victims/survivors, and have statistics that show how many sexual assault incidents occur on campus, and then another color flag showing how many are reported. This would showcase the severe difference between the two and make people aware of the options they have if they're a victim of sexual assault.
- Vice President opened the floor to questions for Ms. Rourke
 - Legislator Fox inquired about Ms. Rourke's availability in attending the rest of the summer meetings.
 - Ms. Rourke answered that she will be able to make all of the remaining summer meetings and is currently in the process of rearranging her schedule in the fall so that she is able to attend the fall meetings.
- *Legislator Ishaque entered into the meeting at 5:44 p.m.*
- Legislator Chande asked Ms. Rourke if she has read the Bylaws and Constitution.
 - Ms. Rourke replied that she has read the Bylaws and Constitution, but it has been a little while since she has reviewed them.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
 - There were no further questions
- Vice President Engnell asked Ms. Rourke to please leave the room briefly so that the Congress can discuss her approval
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
 - Ms. Merogi said that Ms. Rourke showcases great work ethic, initiative, drive, and passion. She continued onward to say that Ms. Rourke would make a really great addition to this legislature.
 - Legislator Fox said that Ms. Rourke is very well-qualified and that she has his endorsement.
 - Ms. Mishack said that she sees Ms. Rourke around the office frequently, and that she has always showcased an immense interest and

drive for being a part of Student Congress, which was demonstrated by the fact that she once drove over an hour to attend a general body meeting.

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- An individual from the gallery went out and retrieved Ms. Rourke
- Roll Call Vote for the Approval of Ms. Rourke
 - Legislator Chande, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea
 - Legislator Nasry, yea
 - Legislator Saadat, yea
 - Legislator Sanders, yea
 - Legislator Harris, yea
 - Ms. Rourke was unanimously approved as a legislator
- Legislator Fox *motioned* “to add under New Business [the] removal of Legislator Dan Poppe as line item B of New Business.”
 - The motion was seconded by Legislator Ishaque
- Vice President Engnell opened to floor to discussion and questions
 - President Thomas inquired as to whether this request was sent in prior to the deadline, to which Legislator Fox answered yes.
 - Vice President Engnell said, “Yes, it was sent in an email to Steering Chair Nasry and I; it was in the body of the email and we both missed it. So, it’s not Legislator Fox’s fault.”
 - Legislator Fox explained that since Legislator Poppe has missed three meetings, he is constitutionally obligated to put him up for removal.
 - Ms. Mishack inquired as to whether these absences are considered excused because of his summer living arrangements.
 - Vice President Engnell said that it’s not currently indicated in the Bylaws that travel/work issues are considered excused absences, and only unforeseen circumstances are excused.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- Show of Hands Vote on the motion
 - The motion passed unanimously

B. Removal of Legislator Poppe, *Legislator Ryan Fox*

- Legislator Fox said that he’s torn about this removal because quorum issues have been a continuous issue this summer, and with less legislators, it would be easier to reach quorum. Additionally, if an individual is removed, he/she can always reapply. Thus, with quorum issues, it might be “more realistic to actually remove him.” However, Legislator Fox assures that he finds Legislator Poppe to be a qualified legislator, and that his potential removal would simply help alleviate quorum issues.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
 - President Thomas said he finds Legislator Poppe to be a qualified individual, but there are certain rules set out in the Bylaws and Constitution that should be abided to.

- Vice President Engnell said, “He will be able to reapply in the fall, and, according to the Bylaws, he will just need to attend one meeting.”
- President Thomas said, “Point of parliamentary inquiry, in the Bylaws, doesn’t it say that if you are removed, you cannot follow the Income and Perspective Legislator Clause?”
- Ms. Mishack said that she’s almost positive that he would have to attend three meetings, or go through the entire legislator process if he were to reapply. She also voiced that she doesn’t think it’s fair to put Legislator Poppe up for removal due to the fact that he’s working in Dakota and physically cannot attend any of the summer general body meetings.
- Legislator Fox said, “I don’t see anything in the Bylaws about being removed and not being able to follow the Incumbent and Perspective Legislator track. When it comes to living issues, for example, legislators that lived nine hours away or lived out-of-state [are excused], but when it comes to work, it’s technically a controllable circumstance” and unexcused.
- Legislator Ishaque inquired as to why Legislator Poppe isn’t excused from general body meetings because he is currently living in Dakota.
 - Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Ishaque, saying that he moved there for a summer work opportunity, but it’s not actually his location of residency.
 - Ms. Merogi inquired as to whether the legislature could vote “no” on the removal of Legislator Poppe, and instead, have a conversation take place between Legislator Fox and Legislator Poppe about Legislator Poppe resigning. Legislator Fox said that this could possibly be an option.
 - Ms. Mishack said, “I just pulled up the Incumbent Legislator Bill, which didn’t get updated into the Bylaws, but it actually says that “the aforementioned application process will not pertain to legislators who have been removed from the legislature”.”
 - Legislator Ishaque said that someone shouldn’t be put up for removal because of work circumstances, especially when work is far away.
 - President Thomas said that we have rules outlined within the Bylaws and Constitution that need to be adhered to and followed. Additionally, regardless of work circumstances, we are still an elected body that has a duty to serve the students.
 - Legislator Chande inquired as to why Mr. George, who is also working out of state, is excused from attending general body meetings, but Legislator Poppe is not.
 - President Thomas said that Mr. George is working out of state for the PS 458 internship, which is a four credit class.
 - Legislator Ishaque said he doesn’t see the fairness of removing Legislator Poppe because he is currently living out of state, even if it is for work purposes and not technically his residency.
- Vice President Engnell reminds the Congress that there are discussion limits per person, which he feels have been exceeded at this point.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion

- There was no further discussion
- Roll Call Vote
 - Legislator Chande, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea
 - Legislator Nasry, nay
 - Legislator Saadat, nay
 - Legislator Sanders, nay
 - Legislator Harris, nay
 - Legislator Ishaque, nay
 - Legislator Rourke, nay
 - Five yeas and two nays
 - The motion fails

IX. Discussion Topics

- Budget Updates, *Zack Thomas*
 - President Thomas said that he would like to reaffirm and reiterate that this isn't a budget crisis, but we do have some unexpected expenditures from the last administration that we're currently having to fix. Within the zip file sent out prior to the meeting, the first spreadsheet has a list of invoices that were unpaid from the last administration. Thus, "we're at about \$18,000 in the hole from unpaid expenses from the last administration that we're calling "floating invoices"".
 - President Thomas continued onward to describe the problem by saying that when Vice President Engnell and he were first elected, they had to very quickly assemble a team and a budget. To aid in this process, they tried to obtain the budgetary information from the last administration (which President Thomas has proof of in a multitude of emails), but "it was not given to [them] by the past Financial Affairs Director, or the past President." He continued onward to say that the "previous Vice President Kubinski was very helpful and tried to help us with [obtaining the budget], so please don't assign any blame to her."
 - President Thomas said that even though they received the account information, it isn't always completely up to date. Thus, based on the last expenditure indicated on the account, they actively went to all E-Board members and accounted for any expenditures made after that date. After doing this, Mr. George and President Thomas budgeted conservatively, and took \$5,000 off of the figure that they received.
 - President Thomas then said there was "roughly \$20,000 that wasn't accounted for in the last administration, [but] we're only about \$5,000 in the hole, given our first and second SAFAC allocations. [Thus], we're looking at damages of about \$5,000 to take out of uncategorized."
 - President Thomas continued onward to discuss the Readership Program, which does fall under our administration, but not as an unexpected expense. He said that from the previous Financial Affairs Director, "we were given a figure of about \$500.00 (and I have the summer budget from last year, too, and it wasn't included on the last

summer expenditure, so we wouldn't have known [the cost]). We were going off of the information we were given, and he told me [that] \$500.00 would be the maximum cost of the program; it actually ended up being over \$1,700.00." The remaining cost of the Readership Program was taken from general marketing.

- In concluding the budget issue, President Thomas said, "I assure you that we were operating on the best information that we could have and I think that although it makes me very uncomfortable to assign fault or blame, it clearly isn't on us. I have all the documentation sent to you, or in this binder right here, and I can give it to you if you need anything." He continued onward to assure that this problem will be avoided in the future through Mr. George keeping a regularly updated budget, and this budget will be handed over to the next administration at due time.

- Moving onward to general budget updates, President Thomas said that he sent a budget to all of Congress, although this budget doesn't account for the second SAFAC allocation or the "floating invoices" from the last administration. No budget cuts will have to be made, and we're still operational. Overall, we have been pursuing accessibility heavily; we've been trying to expend the \$25,000 that we were given to use on accessibility projects. However, administration has been a little hesitant on letting us expend this money, but, fortunately, they're been expending on accessibility projects themselves. So, in the worst case scenario, we're looking at \$25,000 rolling over into the fall budget. Nevertheless, this money has drew attention to the issue, and in a best case scenario, we're able to still spend the money and facilitate change, but it looks as though administration already has dedication to that.

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion

- Legislator Fox said that although he finds President Thomas and Mr. George to be entirely capable of completing accurate accounting, in the future, there may be individuals who hold these positions that "will not be as capable." He continued onward to say that it might be beneficial adding to the Bylaws a standard accounting procedure, to ensure that these budgetary issues don't repeat themselves in the future. This way, the President and Financial Affairs Director would have to account for the budget in the same way, which would enable accuracy and ensure that we always have an updated, accurate budget entering into the next cycle of administration. Additionally, Legislator Fox inquired if we could potentially look at using the \$25,000 to make it easier to report barriers on campus, since the barrier report form is quite difficult to currently locate.

- Legislator Chande inquired as to where the \$25,000.00 would end up going if it isn't spend in the summer. Vice President Engnell replied that the money would roll-over into the fall budget.

- President Thomas responded to Legislator Fox's concerns, saying that standard accounting procedures can be discusses together in the interim. He continued onward to say that he is currently working with Legislator Kubinski about making it a clear requirement in the Bylaws that

a budget needs to be given to the next administration, prior to the termination of the previous administration. However, even with the Bylaws, several rules were not followed, which comes to an administration accountability and there being disconnect amongst the entire staff. Thus, there needs to be accountability for the staff. He continues onward to encourage anyone who has a question regarding budgetary matters to please ask Mr. George or himself about it, because he would rather be about to identify/expose an error right away because the goal is to avoid repeating any of these budgetary mistakes/issues.

- Advisor Miller said that she agreed with Zack in that some of budgetary issues in the past occurred partly because of administration issues within the actual Executive Board itself. She mentioned that one, or more, individuals on the Executive Board [last year] made purchases without informing and communicating with other Executive Board members, and that's part of the reason for all of these floating invoices.

- Advisor Miller continued on to say that SAFAC money was deposited to the account today, and this amount is \$15,625.50.

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion

- There was no further discussion

C. Student Organic Farm, *Zack Thomas*

- President Thomas said that earlier the Student Organic Farmers approached OUSC will fear that their farm was going to be under an impending move to a less fertile location, and that their advisor was going to be laid off. So, a task force was formed to get a petition out there. At the most recent task force meeting, it was determined the overall outcome is that the coordinator was laid off because his position was a special projects onetime fund, so it's wasn't the administration laying anybody off maliciously, they simply ran out of money and they weren't able to incorporate the farm under one department. However, it doesn't appear that the farm is going to be undergoing an impending move.

- Legislator Fox inquired about how well administration has been communicating with the task force regarding the Student Organic Farm.

- President Thomas replied to Legislator Fox, saying, "I don't want to make any accusations, but I know that there was some secrecy involved; however, there were also a lot of administrators that were really helpful, but there are some administrators who are afraid of student and administrator interaction, and so, in that way, there is definitely some room for improvement."

- Legislator Fox said, "I understand nothing malicious, but needless to say, I don't know how much the yearly salary was for that, but considering costs of school and everything just seems to be going up every year, you would think that they could possibly afforded to keep a fella in charge of a farm. From what I understand, Student Organic Farm helps with research, as well, so it helps increase the research output at the university, which probably would help us out in the future for a few different majors, but, I guess if administration doesn't think that such a position is necessary, then whatever."

- Vice President Engnell said that there were more complications to the matter regarding the coordinator position.
- Advisor Miller said that the biology department and other faculty members were supposed to look for funding outside of the university to help cover the expenses of the coordinator. Also, there was some complication regarding their coordinator's educational background, due to the fact that he isn't officially trained in the area of organic farming. Ms. Miller continued onward to remind Congress that the Organic Farm was started by students, and it's still operating as a student organization, which was what it was originally intended to do. Additionally, she mentioned that "the biology department and other faculty members who are passionate about this [the Organic Farm] had [a chance for] grants and all other kinds of opportunities for money supplements, but [...] they relied solely on onetime funding and that onetime funding no longer exists."
- Ms. Mishack inquired as to why the Organic Farm isn't being funded more by the university because it's an academic organization, in which there are several classes and labs offered that deal with the farm.
 - Advisor Miller replied to Ms. Mishack, saying, that's a question that she needs to take to the biology department because every year all of the departments have to submit budgets; they had the opportunity to include money for the Organic Farm, so Ms. Mishack should inquire as to what prevented them from budgeting to help sustain the coordinator position and the Organic Farm itself.
 - President Thomas said that those budgets are public information that he has access to. However, he can only view the overall budget, not individual line items, but that's information that we could obtain. Additionally, he continued onward to say that the coordinator's salary was \$60,000, with benefits.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
 - There was no further discussion

IX. Legislative Updates

- A. Updates related to Legislative Projects and Initiatives
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
 - There was no discussion
- B. Questions Related to Legislative Updates
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
 - There were no questions

X. Executive Reports

- A. Student Body President - Zack Thomas
 - President Thomas said that Mr. George and he have been working on resolving the budget issues left by the last administration to ensure that everything is documented, and that these problems are avoided for the future. Additionally, he had been working with Ms. Mishack on the Student Organic Farm initiative, which was great because it allowed for increased collaboration by letting the students know that we've redefined ourselves as an advocacy organization and that we're here to amplify the students' voices.
- B. Student Body Vice President - Anders Engnell

- Vice President Engnell said that the E-Board Retreat is going to be this Saturday, and due to some members not being able to make the event, it will be shortened to 2:00p.m.-10:00p.m. This will include six hours of work, and then two hours of team bonding. Additionally, in August, we're going to have general body meetings on August 1st and August 22nd. Finally, the legislature retreat is scheduled for August 20th.

C. Updates related to E-Board Projects and Initiatives

- Advisor Miller said that she has a candidate who is looking for a position, so she needs members from OUSC, SAFB, and SPB to meet the candidate on Friday. This should take no more than an hour.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to any further discussion
- Ms. Merogi said that at the last meeting she passed out a map of proposed blue lights, and we have received almost double to amount of the blue light poles. Additionally, at the last meeting a document titled The Legislature Index was handed out, which divided legislatures into colleges. An updated version will be emailed out to Congress, so if any of the legislators have any complaints about their department, they need to let Ms. Merogi aware of this as soon as possible.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further updates
- There is no further discussion or updates

D. Questions Related to Executive Reports

- There were no questions

XI. Comments from the Gallery

- Ms. Hock said that she is going to try to attend all of our general body meetings so that she can give us updates from the Board of Trustees and the Student Program Board, since she serves as a student liaison to the Board of Trustees and the President of the Student Program Board. So, from the Board of Trustees there's an open meeting on August 8th at 2:00p.m. in the Elliot Hall Auditorium. From the Student Program Board, they are having flooding in their storage closet, and there's still not a definite source of where it is coming from. In the meantime, they have temporarily moved all of their equipment into the shared conference room. Ms. Hock assured that she is looking for a more permanent storage space until their items can be returned to their storage room, but in the meantime, the CSA has a conference room that can be reserved, as well as other locations in the Oakland Center may be reserved for conference room space.
- President Thomas said that he thinks it's awesome that Ms. Hock is going to attend nearly all of the general body meetings because it shows her continuing support and dedication to OUSC, and it is important for collaboration.
- There are no further comments from the gallery

XII. Announcements

- President Thomas said that he will be available after the meeting to answer any questions.
- There were no further announcements

XIII. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.