



Meeting Minutes
Oakland University Student Congress
Thomas-Engnell Administration
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Monday, October 3rd, 2016
4:00 P.M.



- I. Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order on Monday, October 3rd, 2016, at 4:04pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
 - Legislator Fox, present and voting
 - Legislator Kubinski, present and voting
 - Legislator Mabrouk, present and voting
 - Legislator Nasry, present and voting
 - Legislator Poppe, present and voting
 - Legislator Sanders, not present
 - Legislator Rourke, present and voting
 - Legislator Seeger, present and voting
 - Legislator Harris, present and voting
 - Legislator Walton, present and voting
 - We had quorum
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 26th, 2016
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to amendments, additions, and/or subtractions to the Meeting Minutes from September 26th, 2016
 - There were no amendments to the Meeting Minutes
 - Show of Hands Vote
 - The Meeting Minutes from September 26th, 2016, were unanimously approved
- V. Comments from the Gallery
 - Ms. Hock, President of the Student Program Board, and Mr. Foe, Diversity Director of the Student Program Board, took the stand
 - Ms. Hock said that there are several events taking place within the month of October. This Friday, October 7th, at 5:00pm in the athletics dome, there is a going to be a bubble soccer tournament, in which students are going to be placed in giant bubble suits and play soccer. On Thursday, October 13th, at 7:00pm they are doing a drive-in movie double feature in P35. The movies playing are going to be Finding Dory, followed by The Purge: Election Year. Finding Dory will begin playing at 7:30pm.
 - Mr. Foe said that on Monday, October 17th there is going to be a wheelchair basketball tournament in order to spread awareness about the students on campus that are in wheelchairs. OUSC is going to come and speak about some of our accessibility initiatives prior the event taking place. Each athlete will be provided with a free water bottle, and the winning team gets a \$500 cash prize.
 - Ms. Hock continued onward to say that on Friday, October 21st, there is going to be hoe down, consisting of country music, flannel wear, hay barrels, and a barbeque. Then, on Saturday, October 22nd, is the Cedar Point trip for Hall-

O'Weekends. Tickets are still available for \$40 at the CSA window. Additionally, since the shared conference room fridge is getting "gross", she will be cleaning it on Wednesday, October 5th, at 5:00pm.

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions or comments
- President Thomas thanked Ms. Hock and Mr. Foe for coming to the meeting, and continued onward to remind Congress that the fridge is for daytime use only and only overnight for one night; it is not to store food in for the entire week.
- There were no further Comments from the Gallery

VI. No Guest Speaker

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. C.B. 17-07 Campus Life Survey Bill, *Elijah Sanders*

- Legislator Sanders could not make it today due to family circumstances. Vice President Engnell spoke on his behalf.
- Vice President Engnell said that Legislator Sanders and he have spent the summer researching campus life and what other universities successfully do to keep students on campus. So, as a part of that research, they launched a survey through surveymonkey.com. They received so many responses, though, that in order to analyze all of the data, they need to purchase a yearlong subscription to the website, which is approximately \$300 and would be added under the Presidential and Vice Presidential Budget. Utilizing the results from this survey, they hope to organize a masterplan to present to administration; they are putting together a task force to focus on campus life, as well.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- Legislator Fox inquired as to whether this is a competitive price for a survey site. He continued onward to ask if this subscription would be able to be accessed and utilized to legislators, as well as E-Board members.
 - Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Fox, saying that the price is competitive, especially for all of the additional features that it offers and the multitude of surveys that can be created within a short period of time. He continued onward to say that anyone with the OUSC login for the website can utilize surveymonkey.com, create surveys, and then analyze the results. Thus, in a way, it would be similar to having an OUSC survey account.
- Legislator Kubinski inquired as to who is on the task force for the campus life initiative.
 - Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying that currently the task force is composed of Student Congress members, an individual who has been highly involved in orientation, Ms. Hock, and additional individuals from relevant positions around campus. The goal of this task force is to propose a masterplan of improving campus life to administration.
- Legislator Kubinski said that if the task force needs any help, she would be more than happy to offer any assistance. She continued onward to

inquire on how they will push for this masterplan with a new president transitioning into the university, after President Hynd's term is up.

- Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying, "Interestingly enough this plan actually works really well with the transition that will be coming in a year because if we had gotten to know President Hynd and had given him some basic information on our campus life masterplan, that'd be great; he'd be able to get it to carry on [because] he would know it. But, in the transition, if we didn't have a solid document with all of our survey results recorded and all of our ideas nailed down, we wouldn't have had as easy of a transition. So, this campus life masterplan will actually work really well with the incoming president next year, and helping him understand what we have been pursuing, what we're going to pursue, and what we would like to do over the next few years."
- Legislator Kubinski said that she really like this idea and fully supports it
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions or comments
- There was no further discussion

IX. Discussion Topics

- There were no discussion topics

X. Legislative Updates

A. Greek Council Representative, *Vicki Harris*

- Legislator Harris said reminded Congress of the following events:
 - TKE's Push-Up Challenge: The event will take place at the clock tower on October 6th from 9:00am to 4:00pm. There are two buckets, one for TKE and one for OUPD. For each dollar donated into one of the buckets, the group will do that amount of push-ups. All money raised will go towards St. Jude Children's Hospital.
 - Sigma Puppies: On October 7th at 11:00am there will be therapy dogs at the clock tower. There will be a dog kissing booth, a puppy photo booth, and play pens. Furthermore, shirts and bracelets will also be sold and all money raised will go towards Canine Companions Animal Shelter, in Clarkston.
 - October 10th there will be a Pie a Pi event at the clock tower from 10:00-2:00. You'll get a plate of whip cream and get to "pie a pi"
 - AST Boston Fundraiser: It will take place October 11th from 4:00-8:00 at the Boston Restaurant in Shelby Township, off of Hall Road. This event is to help raise money to send to a sister of Alpha Sigma Tau to convention.

B. Updates related to Legislative Projects and Initiatives

- Legislator Fox said that he has been working with Ms. Goldwater, Ms. Mishack, and Mr. Queen on a Student Health Campaign, in which we will educate students on some health related issues, including stroke and heart disease, which are becoming more prevalent in young children. The specific health issue will be changed every two weeks.

- Legislator Kubinski said that she will be setting up one-on-one with the legislators.
 - There were no further updates
- C. Questions related to Legislative Reports
- There were no questions
- XI. Executive Reports
- A. Student Body President, *Zack Thomas*
- President Thomas said that we are continuing to push voter registration, both through tabling and TurboVote. Earlier today, Ms. Polsinelli had her Rock for Rights Event in collaboration with the Mobile Secretary of State. We were able to get about 93 people registered to vote today. “Also, following proper housing procedure and proper solicitation procedure, we went through housing in order to have voter registration forms slipped under the doors of on-campus residents, mainly targeting the freshmen students, because they’re more likely not to be registered to vote, yet.” We’re going to continue voter registration efforts until October 6th/October 7th because we’ll be approaching the end of registration on October 11th and we want to send them in in a timely manner. He continued onward to say that there are individuals from the Hillary for America Campaign located on campus that are registering people to vote, which we’re in support of them getting people registered to vote. However, OU Policy 415, which is the solicitation policy, dictates that people cannot, from any outside organization, solicit within residence halls, or within certain buildings on campus, including the Oakland Center. We’ve been encountering some issues regarding these individuals adhering to this policy, and we have ensure the privacy of our students, so if anyone sees anything, please let him know, at zmthomas@oakland.edu or ousc@oakland.edu. He continued onward to say that President Hynd’s contract is not getting renewed, and that he will finish out his term and a new president will enter into the university next academic year. There have been ambivalent reactions towards this announcement, with people speaking both positively and apathetically towards the news. He continued onward to say, “I personally have mixed feelings about this, because I don’t agree with the model that we have [of] pursuing unsustainable growth.” However, he went on to say that President Hynd also enabled us to raise the minimum wage and implement the preferred name policy, so it’s important to regard this announcement from both perspectives. Vice President Engnell, Ms. Hock, Mr. Foe, and he are trying to ensure that there’s student representation for the president search committee.
- B. Student Vice President, *Anders Engnell*
- Vice President Engnell said that he had a meeting regarding parking with former Legislator Chande, Advisor Jurva, Chief Gordon, and Kunselman today. The university is at capacity a majority of the days on campus, specifically on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This is different from years prior because usually the capacity tapers off around the second or third week of September, and we are within the fifth week of classes, and we’re

still at full capacity. Thus, administration is looking into some possible solutions in order to reduce this parking congestion. There is a lot of talk regarding paid parking, either for premier places on campus or university wide. There is also discussion regarding directing students to the south side of campus to park in those parking lots, closing off some of the major roads that lead up to those lots, and then using Bear Bus to take people to their classes. “The Bear Bus would then be able to travel up Library Drive, clear of traffic, making two minutes trips each way. So, essentially what would happen is that we would direct people to lots on the south side, clear the roads so that the Bear Bus would have an easier path, and then take people from those lots to buildings, it would actually be quicker than walking.” There is also discussion about incentivizing carpooling by providing front row spots in P1 and P2 for people to apply to carpool with other students/staff members. Thus, what this means, is that everyone who carools saves another spot or two, depending on how many people are within that carpool. This carpool program would start small, with only five or so spots, and then eventually expand, if it proves to be successful. Then, the long term solution is to eventually build another parking structure, most likely in Oakview or P1. Additionally, there is discussion about not allowed freshmen residents to have cars on campus. A campus-wide parking survey is going to be launched by October 17th to gauge student opinion on these various types of parking solutions. Thus, by gathering student input, it will help up direct our movements in the future. We should have the full results of the survey by mid-November, so starting in the winter semester, some of these changes should start to be implemented, including expanding lots, optimizing the Bear Bus system, and incentivizing carpooling.

- C. OUSC Advisor, *Stephanie Jurva*
 - Advisor Jurva said that the parking meeting was informative, and she believes that we’ll be able to find a good solution about parking, hopefully for the rest of this schoolyear.
- D. Updates related to E-board Projects and Initiatives
 - Mr. Queen said that instead of utilizing table tents to promote Grizz Art, he decided to create brochures instead, which will be placed in Kresge Library, the OUSC Office, and by the exhibit itself. He also received more submissions recently.
 - Ms. Polsinelli said that her Rock for Rights event was today and it was extremely successful. We were able to get 415 people pledge to vote, and 93 people registered today alone. Thus, we have about 420 people registered to vote thus far.
 - There were no further updates
- E. Questions related to Executive Reports
 - Legislator Fox said that he thinks that we should try to get the First Year Advising Center to push for voter registration and keep forms in their office, since freshmen tend to be the population that isn’t registered to vote. He continued onward to say that he notices the permit spots and

parking meters in P2 are often not utilized. He said that he understands the need for such spots, but he is inquiring as to whether there is any way in which we can access the usage of these spots and potentially cut down the number of those permit spots.

- Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Fox, saying that he doesn't know that permit parking program too well in that area, and he will make sure to contact Chief Gordon and ensure that we're efficiently utilizing those spots.
- Mr. Queen inquired as to whether a certain number of individuals need to be in the car to be considered carpooling, and if there's any way to ensure that the people who are utilizing those spots actually carpooled with other individuals on that day. He continued onward to inquire as if we can get rid of the parking meters in P2, Oakview, and elsewhere on campus because those spots are frequently left empty. Furthermore, he asked if tuition will be raised in order to accommodate a new parking structure.
- Vice President Engnell replied to Mr. Queen, saying that they have an enforcement idea in mind for carpooling, which he will speak with Mr. Queen about in further detail at a later time. Additionally, carpool would be considered two or more people, at least as of right now it would be. He continued onward to say that those parking meters are necessary because we have individuals who are visiting campus and need to stay only for a short period of time. Thus, it's necessary to have some temporary parking available to accommodate these individuals. The parking structure would be paid through two things: either tuition in the general fund, which would be factored into a normal tuition increase that would be below the cap, and/or any paid parking revenue that's generated either through premier parking or campus-wide parking. He continued onward to say, "As a note on that, since we're sending out the survey, we are collecting student opinion on paid parking. If the student body, more than not, wants paid parking, we are not going to because of our personal prerogatives stand in the way of the student opinions. So, we will continue to look at this, and we will be open minded about it."
- Legislator Kubinski said that she first joined Congress, she made it her mission to get rid of those permit parking spots and the meter spots on campus. However, she was told unreservedly that if anything were to happen in P2, unless it was to do with premier parking, they would make all of those spots in the lot permit parking. Additionally, she was told by a former president that the medical students have some permits for these spots.
- Legislator Nasry said that a carpool initiative would be difficult to implement on a school-wide basis because people live in different areas and everyone have different commuting times, from 5 minutes to over an hour drive. She continued onward to say that everyone also have different work schedules, and a carpooling system wouldn't be fair to those students

who work far away from campus, and the drive would be inconvenient for someone else apart of the carpool. Thus, she said that it wasn't realistic to have approximately 25,000 students carpool.

- Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Nasry, saying that the goal is not to make carpooling a university-wide initiative. Rather, this would start off small, with perhaps 5 front row spots in P1. Students would then be able to find other students with similar class schedules, and carpool with them. This would then help the congestion, because these students would then have only one car on campus, rather than two. This carpooling would start off small, maybe 10 spots at most, at first.
- Advisor Jurva said that medical students don't get permit parking or any special parking privileges. Some of those permits are distributed to physicians who visit campus to give a lecture for one hour, once a semester. The university is currently looking at not giving those permits away, or at least cutting back on the amount that they do give away.
- President Thomas said that he appreciated all of the feedback and that these concerns will be relayed to the administration. He continued onward to say that there has been a reduction in the number of high school students, and thus students entering into university-level education. Thus, he said, "maybe we should focus less on recruitment efforts and more on our retention rate, and maybe this would lower the congestion that we have, because we're [currently] at capacity."
- Legislator Fox said that we should perhaps look into creating parking lots for resident students only. In this way, the residents would have a place to park, which is close to their housing, as well as reduce congestion in the lots that are primarily utilized by commuter students.
- Vice President Engnell said, "we will see a dramatic change in those kind of lots with the new housing complex on the south side of campus."
- Legislator Nasry said that five spots reserved for carpooling isn't going to substantially improve the parking problem, and that we should move our efforts to something more dramatic, like a parking structure. She continued onward to say, "I feel like the effort put in would not equate into the outcome that you would expect."
 - Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Nasry, saying that a parking structure would not be economical for three to four years. However, "if we're able to start a carpool program, and if it was successful, so much so that people everywhere wanted to carpool because there were optimum spots available, we could eventually expand that to say 50 spots in P1. If that happened, that would be 50 extra spots saved, 50 or more. If we were able to expand to the lots on the south side, I'm sure only 25 to 50 spots would be created." He continued onward to say that when we compile all of these ideas, which are cost free, we could be saving hundreds of spots, which would dramatically reduce the issue.
- There were no further questions

XII. Comments from the Gallery

A. There were no further Comments from the Gallery

XIII. Announcements

- Legislator Kubinski said that Tyler Oakley is coming on Wednesday, October 5th. The door to the O'rena opens at 6:00 and the lecture begins at 7:00. He will be signing his book afterwards.
- President Thomas said that he will be available after the meeting to answer any questions or concerns regarding any of the matters brought up today in meeting. Vice President Engnell will be available during his office hours.
- Mr. Queen said that he would like to meet with any prospective legislators after the meeting.
- There were no further announcements

XIV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm