



Meeting Minutes
Oakland University Student Congress
Thomas-Engnell Administration
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Monday, October 31, 2016
4:00 P.M.



- I. Call to Order
 - A. The meeting was called to order Monday, October 31st, 2016, at 4:05pm
- 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, present and voting
 - Legislator Rourke, present and voting
 - Legislator Seeger, present and voting
 - Legislator Kleinschmidt, present and voting
 - Legislator Thompson, present and voting
 - Legislator Harris, present and voting
 - Legislator Walton, present and voting
 - Legislator Church, present and voting
 - We had quorum
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 24th, 2016
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to additions, subtractions, or amendments to the Meeting Minutes from October 24th, 2016
 - There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes from October 24th, 2016
 - Show of Hands Vote
 - The Meeting Minutes from October 24th, 2016, were unanimously approved
- V. Comments from the Gallery
 - Ms. Hock, President of the Student Program Board and a student liaison to the Board of Trustees, said that last weekend some of her board members and she attended the National Association for Campus Activities Mid-America Regional Conference in Kentucky. At this conference, they were able to view a variety of new talent, as well as interact with other institution's program boards in order to see how their organization structure is laid out and how they interact with other organizations. They were able to pull away many ideas from this conference, some of which will be implemented into the winter semester. Furthermore, they're hosting a Caribbean Paradise event on Friday, November 18th in the Banquet Rooms. Additionally, ticket sales for their Escape Room are going on sale November 16th and will be available at the CSA service window. The tickets cost \$5.00 per person.
 - Legislator Kubinski inquired as to what is an Escape Room.
 - Ms. Hock replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying that students will be assembled in groups of five and everyone is locked in a room and has to solve various puzzles, in a limited amount of time, in an attempt to escape.

- Legislator Seeger inquired about the location for the Escape Room.
 - Ms. Hock replied to Legislator Seeger, saying that everyone will be meeting in Gold Room B and then moving to Gold Room B to complete the escape.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions for Ms. Hock
- There were no further questions for Ms. Hock
- Ms. Hock asked if she could answer any questions about the Presidential Search Committee, since she is the student liaison to the Board of Trustees.
- President Thomas said inquired as to whether the Presidential Search Committee is going to be more sympathetic and flexible to Mr. Fox's and her schedules when planning meetings, since they're serving as official non-voting members on the committee.
 - Ms. Hock replied to President Thomas, saying that they're not really working with anyone's schedules. Thus, so long as there is quorum, their meeting will proceed.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions for Ms. Hock
- There were no further questions for Ms. Hock
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further Comments from the Gallery
- There were no further Comments from the Gallery

VI. No Guest Speaker

VII. Old Business

- A. C.R. 17-02 Sign Language Credit Resolution, *Ryan Fox*
- Legislator Fox said that this resolution simply states that Student Congress supports American Sign Language. He continued onward to say that he personally thinks "that the university should recognize American Sign Language as a secondary language, simply because the amount of time and skill that the student invests into mastering [American Sign Language]."
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
 - There was no discussion
 - Roll Call Vote
 - Legislator Church, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea
 - Legislator Harris, yea
 - Legislator Kleinschmidt, yea
 - Legislator Kubinski, yea
 - Legislator Mabrouk, yea
 - Legislator Poppe, yea
 - Legislator Rourke, yea
 - Legislator Sanders, yea
 - Legislator Seeger, yea
 - Legislator Thompson, yea
 - Legislator Walton, yea
 - Legislator Nasry, yea
 - The C.R. 17-02 Sign Language Credit Resolution was passed unanimously
 - *Legislator Nasry left the meeting at 4:14pm*

VIII. New Business

A. Approval of Judiciary Committee, *Ryan Fox*

1. Tyler Fox
2. Benjamin Olson
 - Legislator Fox said that the Judiciary Committee serves as a mediator between the Constitution and the Legislature and consists of five voting members, in which he is the chair of the committee and has no voting power within this committee. He continued onward to say that Tyler Fox is an extremely experienced individual and is well-versed with Student Congress. Benjamin Olson works for an IT company that travels all across the country and Legislator Fox said that he finds Mr. Olson to be a professional, highly qualified individual.
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion and questions
 - Legislator Kubinski said, "In the past we've always interpreted the [Judiciary] Committee as something that we would assemble if there was an issue." She continued onward to ask for clarification as to why we're forming this committee now.
 - President Thomas replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying that the Congressional Court is assembled when there's an issue and the Judiciary Court assists the Judiciary Chair with various responsibilities.
 - Legislator Fox said that most issues must go through the Judiciary Committee, who then decide if the matter needs to be taken to a Congressional Court. He continued onward to say that issues of Constitutionality will surpass the Judiciary Committee completely, though. Thus, the Judiciary Committee mainly helps the Judiciary Chair with various day-to-day roles, like keeping track of legislator hours.
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
 - There was no further discussion
1. Tyler Fox
 - Show of Hands Vote
 - Tyler Fox was approved as a member of the Judiciary Committee
2. Benjamin Olson
 - Show of Hands Vote
 - Benjamin Olson was approved as a member of the Judiciary Committee

B. Approval of Scholarship Committee, *Erin Rourke*

1. Laith Rafidi
 - Legislator Rourke said that Laith Rafidi is extremely dedicated and a great individual and that she would love to have him on her committee.
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion and questions
 - There was no discussion or questions
 - Show of Hands Vote

- Laith Rafidi was approved as a member of the Scholarship Committee

C. Approval of Steering Chair Committee, *Luna Nasry*

1. Elijah Sanders

- Legislator Nasry was unable to stay for the full duration of the meeting and Vice President Engnell spoke on her behalf
- Vice President Engnell said that Legislator Sanders is an incredible individual, who is leading half of our initiatives or is at least involved with them in some way. He continued onward to say that he would made a great addition to the Steering Chair Committee.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions and discussion
- There was no discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
 - Elijah Sanders was approved as a member of the Steering Chair Committee

D. Approval of Prospective Legislators, *Tamara Mabrouk*

1. Stephanie Hubbard

- Legislator Mabrouk said that Ms. Hubbard is a hard-working, dedicated individual and has a great initiative that falls under Environmental, Health and Wellness.
- Ms. Hubbard said that she is a junior who is studying Criminal Justice and Political Science. Her initiative revolves around electronic recycling, which require special means of discarding so that they don't pose any environmental hazards. Her initiative is to promote e-recycling on campus, encouraging students to recycle broken products and even donate old ones that they don't need anyone. This program could be established through collaboration with Kresge Library or with the Technology Center in the Oakland Center. She hopes to give students an incentive to utilize e-recycling, such as students being entered into a raffle drawing, in order to promote the idea.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- Legislator Fox inquired as to what committee she would be interested in joining if she is approved as a legislator.
 - Ms. Hubbard replied to Legislator Fox, saying that she is interested in the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the Marketing Committee.
- Legislator Kubinski inquired as to whether she has read the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - Ms. Hubbard replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying that she has read both documents.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions
- *Ms. Hubbard was asked to momentarily leave the room so that the Student Congress could have a private discussion*
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion

- President Thomas said that her initiative is a really great idea and that she would make a great addition to Student Congress.
- Mr. Queen said that Ms. Hubbard is empathetic towards students and people in general and he finds this to be a quality that Student Congress would heavily benefit from having.
- Ms. Mishack said that Ms. Hubbard's initiative is wonderful and she would love to work with her on making it a reality on campus.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- *Ms. Hubbard was retrieved from the hall and brought back into the room*
- Roll Call Vote
 - Legislator Church, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea
 - Legislator Harris, yea
 - Legislator Kleinschmidt, yea
 - Legislator Kubinski, yea
 - Legislator Mabrouk, yea
 - Legislator Poppe, yea
 - Legislator Rourke, yea
 - Legislator Sanders, yea
 - Legislator Seeger, yea
 - Legislator Thompson, yea
 - Legislator Walton, yea
 - Ms. Hubbard was approved as a legislator

2. Anushree Jagtap

- Legislator Mabrouk said that Ms. Jagtap's initiative focuses on traffic problems on campus, which she finds to be a particularly relevant issue.
- Ms. Jagtap said that she is a junior who is studying Spanish and Pre-med. Additionally, she is interested in joining Student Congress because she wants to make a difference on campus. Her initiative regards traffic problems on campus, specifically regarding certain intersections, which can lead to increased possibilities of car crashes and individuals getting injured. Therefore, she would like to try to install a traffic light to resolve issues of having to know one's right-of-way or potentially hire a traffic cop to help ease the flow of traffic.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- Legislator Fox said that he finds the traffic issue to be relevant on campus, especially with the intersection at Squirrel Road and Pioneer Drive. He continued onward to say that, "I think it's a problem that many hundreds of commuters face every day, so I think that it's one hundred percent necessary to tackle." Furthermore, he suggested that there is potential in collaborating with the city of Auburn Hills to try to install a traffic light, since one of the problem intersections is at

Squirrel Road. He continued onward to inquire as to what committees she would be interested in joining if she is approved as a legislator.

- Ms. Jagtap replied to Legislator Fox, saying that she is already a member on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, but she is also interested in joining the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee and the Marketing Committee.
- Legislator Kubinski inquired as to whether she has read the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - Ms. Jagtap replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying that she has read both documents.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions
- *Ms. Jagtap was asked to momentarily leave the room so that the Student Congress could have a private discussion*
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
- Mr. Queen said that Ms. Jagtap is a driven and outgoing individual, who is involved within a large variety of other organizations on campus. He continued onward to say that she is an individual who is already highly involved with the students and has a good opinion on what the students want, which is something that both Student Congress and the student body would benefit from.
- President Thomas said that he would like to echo the sentiments of Mr. Queen, for he whole-heartedly agrees with them. Furthermore, he noted that she included citations in her legislator essay, which is impressed with because it shows the dedication that she already has towards OUSC.
- Legislator Seeger said that her legislator essay was highly detailed and showcased critical analysis and planning regarding the issue.
- Legislator Fox said that he's glad that she is going to tackle the issue of traffic because he finds it to be relevant and persistent problem on campus.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- *Ms. Jagtap was retrieved from the hall and brought back into the room*
- Roll Call Vote
 - Legislator Church, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea
 - Legislator Harris, yea
 - Legislator Kleinschmidt, yea
 - Legislator Kubinski, yea
 - Legislator Mabrouk, yea
 - Legislator Poppe, yea
 - Legislator Rourke, yea
 - Legislator Sanders, yea
 - Legislator Seeger, yea

- Legislator Thompson, yea
- Legislator Walton, yea
- Legislator Hubbard, yea
 - Ms. Jagtap was approved as a legislator

3. Herbert Mennis

- Legislator Mabrouk said that Mr. Mennis has been working closely with Vice President Engnell throughout his process of becoming a prospective legislator. Furthermore, his initiative is challenging an academic aspect, which she finds refreshing because lately we have been focusing on how to better the student experience.
- Mr. Mennis said that he is a freshman studying Political Science. He continued onward to say that his initiative involves transforming the costs of textbooks to students, so that textbooks are essentially free of charge. This would be done through utilizing Openstax, which is a nonprofit organized founded by Rice University and has the premise of providing academic environments with books, completely free of charge. This is partly done by working in collaboration with professors of universities, who would write textbooks for courses. These textbooks then can be placed online, through academic portals such as Webassign, which is already utilized by the university, so that students would have access to online editions of their textbooks, with no cost to them whatsoever. Furthermore, Openstax is flexible in that it allows students who want a physical copy of the book to purchase the textbook at a greatly discounted price, usually half the cost of what the textbook would usually cost.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- Legislator Fox said, “Well, personally, I would like to applaud the idea of helping students save money. I think the textbooks are something in which obviously we all are required to have at some point and it’s one of the easiest and simplest ways to reduce costs for students.” He continued onward to inquire as to what committees Mr. Mennis would be interested in joining if he is approved as a legislator.
 - Mr. Mennis replied to Legislator Fox, saying The Student Services Committee and the Research and Review Committee.
- Legislator Kubinski inquired as to whether he has read the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - Mr. Mennis replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying that he has read both documents.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions
- *Mr. Mennis was asked to momentarily leave the room so that the Student Congress could have a private discussion*
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
- President Thomas said that he finds Mr. Mennis to be a motivated individual and that he loves the idea of helping to reduce the costs of

higher education. He continued onward to say that he would make a great addition to Student Congress.

- Legislator Rourke said that she's impressed with him and really enjoyed his legislator essay because his personality shined through within it.
- Legislator Fox said, "I like him."
- Vice President Engnell said that Mr. Mennis has put several hours within the office in order to compile information regarding Openstax and develop his initiative. He continued onward to say that Mr. Mennis is a highly motivated individual who has a great work ethic and is someone who would do incredible work on Student Congress.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- *Mr. Mennis was retrieved from the hall and brought back into the room*
- Roll Call Vote
 - Legislator Church, yea
 - Legislator Fox, yea
 - Legislator Harris, yea
 - Legislator Kleinschmidt, yea
 - Legislator Kubinski, yea
 - Legislator Mabrouk, yea
 - Legislator Poppe, yea
 - Legislator Rourke, yea
 - Legislator Sanders, yea
 - Legislator Seeger, yea
 - Legislator Thompson, yea
 - Legislator Walton, yea
 - Legislator Hubbard, yea
 - Legislator Jagtap, yea
 - Mr. Mennis was approved as a legislator

IX. Discussion Topics

X. Legislative Updates

A. Greek Council Representative, *Vicki Harris*

- Legislator Harris said that all of the new legislator should follow her on Facebook so that she is able to invite them to the events that she discusses in meetings. Furthermore, Theta Chi's soccer game has been moved to Tuesday, November 1st. It will take place at the upper fields at 9:15pm and that all of the proceeds will go to A Mother's Wish Charity. Also on Tuesday, hot chocolate will be sold in the fishbowl in South Foundation Hall from 11:00am-2:00pm.

B. Resident Hall Association Representative, *Blake Walton*

- Legislator Walton said that the Residence Hall Association is having an inclusion and diversity program called Brave Space this week, which will include a variety of events that promote understanding and inclusion.

Anyone who is interested about Brave Space and the events taking place can talk to him after the meeting to discuss the matter further.

Additionally, there is going to be a comedian coming on November 11th from 8:00pm-9:00pm in the Vandy glass rooms.

C. Updates related to Legislative Projects and Initiatives

- Legislator Fox said that if anyone plans on missing a meeting, they need to let him know a week in advance. This submitted absence will then be taken to the Judiciary Committee, who will vote on whether the absence is excused or not, although they will be functioning and voting with regards to what counts as an excused absence in the Constitution. He continued onward to say that emergency situations such as a death in the family or illness are uncontrollable and therefore, absences don't have to be submitted a week in advance. However, the absences will still be brought to the attention of the Judiciary Committee.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further Legislative updates
- There were no further Legislative updates

D. Questions related to Legislative Reports

- There were no questions

XI. Executive Reports

A. Student Body President, *Zack Thomas*

- President Thomas said that, with the exception of those legislators just approved today, everyone was Bcc'd and therefore received the five page letter, regarding the Presidential Search Committee, which was sent to Chairman DeVore and the other Board of Trustee members. This letter outlined why we need student representation on the committee and advocated both a voice and a vote. We received official, non-voting status for two student representatives. Thus, we're grateful that we have two students on the Presidential Search Committee, but disappointed that these members will have no voting power on the committee, which we expressed through our social media portals. Therefore, Vice President Engnell and he are going to continue to push for a student vote on this Presidential Search Committee. Furthermore, last Tuesday Vice President Engnell and he met with President Hynd and Vice President McIntosh, who were supportive about the Presidential Search Committee efforts. However, when the results of the parking survey were brought up, which revealed that students were largely not in favor of paid parking, President Hynd and Vice President McIntosh were still in favor of implementing paid parking, but said that the parking survey results would provide useful material in order to craft a transition plan. In response, President Thomas brought up the growth mindset of this university and how if we limited our growth to 100-200 less students enrolled and focused on retention efforts, then we wouldn't be facing such a drastic parking problem and we'd be able to help increase our academic profile, as well. President Hynd refuted the notion saying that the growth is expected to flat line, but grow again in a couple of years from now. He continued onward to say, "So, I think that whole concept of limiting growth was kind of confounding to them; they

didn't understand the limiting growth mindset." Therefore, the question that needs to be asked is whether growth is always good, because although it generates revenue, it also generates costs and we need to ensure that are able to maintain these costs. Thus, this is where Vice President Engnell's and his efforts will be for the next couple of weeks. Furthermore, he continued onward to say that the election is coming up on November 8th and that we should be educated voters. Thus, one can Google Michigan Voter Information Center in order to see his or her sample ballot, so that he/she can do more research about the candidates that appear on the ballot. Furthermore, he has been meeting with individuals from athletics, as well as a PhD student, in order to work on expanding athletics and graduate representation on Student Congress, whether that's through establishing a committee or through a ballot proposal during elections next semester. He continued onward to say that there was some confusion with regards to the Dean of Students revising the Student Code of Conduct and OUSC's involvement with the process and with the Oakland Post writing about the matter. Therefore, there's a new Student Code of Congress that Mr. Garcia, Ms. Merogi, and he helped to revise over the summer, which can be viewed at www.oakland.edu/deanofstudents.

- B. Student Vice President, *Anders Engnell*
 - Vice President Engnell echoed President's Thomas' concerns regarding having no student vote on the Presidential Search Committee and that efforts will still be made to earn a student vote on this matter. He continued onward to say that although the "meeting with President Hynd and VP McIntosh was not encouraging on parking", most of the decisions regarding parking will be placed in the hands of COO Kunselman, Chief Gordon, Advisor Jurva, former Legislator Chande, and himself. They will be having a meeting later in November to discuss the results of the parking survey and how to proceed forward with the issue of parking, pushing for limited paid parking at worst and free parking with incremental changes at best. An action plan will be compiled regarding parking and hopefully begin to be implemented in January. In addition to that, the Campus Life Task Force meeting was postponed from last week to this Tuesday, so anyone interested in being a part of the task force should contact him for more information. Ultimately, this task force strives to ensure that a major event occurs on campus every weekend, as to increase the campus culture and community. A Campus Life Masterplan will be created and placed in the presidential transition materials that President Hynd is currently making for his successor.
- C. OUSC Advisor, *Stephanie Jurva*
 - Advisor Jurva said that OU Day of Service will be taking place on Wednesday, November 16th, in the Banquet Rooms from 9:00am-9:00pm, if anyone would like to volunteer their time or materials to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which will be distributed to the community.
- D. Updates related to E-board Projects and Initiatives

- Ms. Goldwater said that Jean Ann Miller, our Administrator of the Month, is officially shared on Facebook and Twitter and Instagram and that this initiative is getting a lot of traction.
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to Executive updates
 - There were no further Executive updates
- E. Questions related to Executive Reports
- Legislator Fox said, “So, President Hynd and Vice President McIntosh seemed to think that the paid parking, like limited paid parking, would be a transition to full paid parking? What exactly was their standpoint—do they not care that the students said that they didn’t want that?”
 - President Thomas replied to Legislator Fox, saying that President Hynd and Vice President McIntosh have no malicious intent here, but they simply have a growth mentality and view less enrollment as less revenue, even though more students means more costs, essentially.
 - Vice President Engnell said, “From what we saw, the results of the survey seemed more like a speed bump. So, they wanted the students behind them, but if they didn’t have the student opinion with them, they’d just have to work their way around it. [They do] seem to think that the best way to fix parking is to increase the revenue by either universally making paid parking happen or making it happen in more of a limited fashion. So, from what we see, they seem pretty dead set on paid parking [as] the best solution and they have the mindset that they just have to find their way around student opinion or some sort of compromise that leans towards paid parking. That’s at least what is seemed like. We didn’t get too much feedback from them on it and there’s still a little bit of ambiguity. But, we’ll be clear about it in the meeting in November.”
 - President Thomas inquired as to what the volunteering time slots for OU Day of Service looked like.
 - Advisor Jurva replied to President Thomas, saying that there are various time slots available from 9:00am-9:00pm. Moreover, people can gather up a team of 8-10 individuals and work on a special project during the event.
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
 - There were no further questions
- XII. Comments from the Gallery
- There were no Comments from the Gallery
- XIII. Announcements
- President Thomas said that he will be available after the meeting to answer any questions.
 - Ms. Goldwater said that anyone dressed up in a Halloween costume needs to stay after meeting so that she can take a picture for social media.
 - Vice President Engnell said that we have six new additions to the Legislature and to make it a point to introduce yourself to them because they are a part of our Student Congress family now.
- XIV. Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm