



Meeting Minutes  
Oakland University Student Congress  
Thomas-Engnell Administration  
Oakland Room, Oakland Center  
Monday, November 7, 2016  
4:00 P.M.



- I. Call to Order
- II. The meeting was called to order on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at 4:05pm
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call
  - Legislator Church, present and voting
  - Legislator Fox, present and voting
  - Legislator Harris, present and voting
  - Legislator Kleinschmidt, presenting and voting
  - Legislator Kubinski, present and voting
  - Legislator Mabrouk, present and voting
  - Legislator Nasry, present and voting
  - Legislator Poppe, present and voting
  - Legislator Rourke, present and voting
  - Legislator Sanders, not present
  - Legislator Seeger, present and voting
  - Legislator Thompson, present and voting
  - Legislator Walton, present and voting
  - Legislator Hubbard, present and voting
  - Legislator Jagtap, present and voting
  - Legislator Mennis, present and voting
- V. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 31, 2016
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to additions, subtractions, and amendments to the Meeting Minutes from October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016
  - There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes from October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016
  - Show of Hands Vote
  - The October 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes unanimously passed
- VI. Comments from the Gallery
  - Ms. Hock, the President of the Student Program Board, said there are two events which will be taking place in November. On Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, tickets for the Escape Room will go on sale at 9:00am. There will be available for purchase at the CSA window, with each ticket costing \$5.00. The Escape Room will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Gold Rooms. Additionally, on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm they will be hosting their Caribbean Paradise event in the Banquet Rooms.
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
  - There were no questions for Ms. Hock
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further Comments from the Gallery
  - There were no further Comments from the Gallery
- VII. Guest Speaker
  - A. Bethany Goss and Sarah Klieman

- Ms. Goss and Ms. Klieman were not able to be present at this moment. They will speak at the end of the meeting at the next Comments from the Gallery section.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

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

1. Taylor Fisher

- Ms. Mishack said that Ms. Fisher has already been attending the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee meetings, as well has been working on several initiatives regarding the smoking policy. She continued onward to say that she would love to have Ms. Fisher as an official member of her committee.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
- There was no discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
  - Taylor Fisher was approved as a member of the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee

B. Approval of Nomination of Student Senator, *Zack Thomas*

1. Tyler Parsons

- President Thomas said that Tyler Parsons is a PhD student here at Oakland University, so he represents a diverse voice on campus. Furthermore, Mr. Parsons was the Student Body President at his university in his undergraduate career at the University of South Carolina. He continued onward to think that Mr. Parsons would be “an awesome choice for a Student Senator.”
- Mr. Parsons said that he graduated last year with a degree in biology and a minor in public speaking and is currently pursuing his PhD in biological sciences. He does oncological research and is in a partnership with the Beaumont Research Institute in Royal Oak. Additionally, he teaches an undergraduate laboratory course in biochemistry here, on-campus. He continued onward to say that student government has always been a passion of his and he has been involved within student government since seventh grade, all throughout his undergraduate years. Additionally, he has always held a passion for volunteering and is a firm believer in helping out the community, in order to give voices for those who need to be heard. He continued onward to say that he finds volunteering especially important because one gets to know that there’s a lot of individuals that have ideas, problems, and interests that often just don’t get voiced. Therefore, his campaign slogan in South Carolina “was equality in student representation for all students of all levels and of all majors.” In regards to the Senate seat, he thinks that it would be a wonderful opportunity for himself, as a graduate student, to be able to voice the concerns of graduate students, since graduate students face unique problems that he hopes to work to resolve. He conclude by saying, “I think it’s important to remember that as a Student Senator, I would be

casting my vote as a student, by a student, for student interests. I think that the University Senate would be a perfect opportunity for me to get back involved in student government.”

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- Legislator Kubinski inquired as to whether he has read the Constitution and Bylaws for the University Senate.
  - Mr. Parsons replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying, “Yes, I have.”
- Legislator Fox inquired as to what initiatives he wants to pursue.
  - Mr. Parsons replied to Legislator Fox, saying that “there’s good and there’s bad in the graduate program.” He continued onward to say that one things that needs to get clarified, for legal reasons, is the contracts of graduate students. Furthermore, he wants to work to increase collaboration amongst the students in various departments across campus.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions
- *Mr. Parsons 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 Tyler is a fantastic individual who is acutely aware of issues facing graduate students and is passionate about working towards increasing graduate student representation. Furthermore, he thoroughly examined the Senate Constitution, within a few days of receiving it.
- Ms. Mishack said that she placed Mr. Parsons in contact with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Engnell because he works in the lab right across from hers. Furthermore, she believes that having a graduate student being a representative on the University Senate would provide a fresh perspective and she thinks that having someone tackle graduate issues is important.
- Legislator Kubinski said, “I think that this candidate, Mr. Parsons, is an excellent example for what a student can do when they get involved and I’m just extremely impressed with his background. I think that he’s going to be an excellent addition to the University Senate.”
- Legislator Fox said, “He seems qualified. He’s got things he wants to do. I like him.”
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- *Mr. Parsons was retrieved from the hallway and brought back into the room*
- Roll Call Vote
  - Legislator Church, yea
  - Legislator Fox, yea
  - Legislator Harris, yea
  - Legislator Hubbard, yea

- Legislator Jagtap, yea
- Legislator Kleinschmidt, yea
- Legislator Kubinski, yea
- Legislator Mabrouk, yea
- Legislator Mennis, yea
- Legislator Nasry, yea
- Legislator Poppe, yea
- Legislator Rourke, yea
- Legislator Seeger, yea
- Legislator Thompson, yea
- Legislator Walton, yea
- Mr. Parsons was approved as a Student Senator

X. Discussion Topics

XI. Legislative Updates

A. Greek Council Representative, *Vicki Harris*

- Legislator Harris said that today SAE is having a Chipotle Fundraiser from 4:00-8:00pm at the Chipotle located in the Village of Rochester. On Wednesday, there will be a ribbon sale in the OC from 11:00-2:00. Each ribbon costs \$2.00 and all proceeds will go the Ronald McDonald House. Also on Wednesday, Panhellenic is having a Cool-Yo Fundraiser from 5:00-9:00pm. On Thursday, Alpha Sigma Tau is having a fashion show and dress drive from 7:00-9:00pm in 201 Dodge. All of the proceeds will be going to Dress for Success.

B. Resident Hall Association Representative, *Blake Walton*

- Legislator Walton said that the Residence Halls hosted Brave Space last week and they had a fair turnout, with 80-100 people attending each event. Furthermore, this Friday at 8:00pm the comedian Kevin McCaffrey will be doing a show in the Vandy glass rooms. On November 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-1:00, the Residence Halls will also be hosting a recruitment fair for jobs in housing.

C. Updates related to Legislative Projects and Initiatives

- Legislator Fox said that if anyone is going to be missing a meeting, then he/she needs to let him know a week in advance, unless one must miss due to some unforeseen circumstance. These absences will now be going to his Judiciary Committee who will be deciding whether the absences are excused or not.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further updates
- There were no further updates

D. Questions related to Legislative Reports

- Legislator Fox inquired if the Residence Hall's recruitment fair is aimed towards recruiting students to become residents, or for recruiting students for housing jobs.
- Legislator Walton replied to Legislator Fox, saying that the recruitment fair is aimed towards recruiting students for housing jobs.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions

XII. Executive Reports

A. Student Body President, *Zack Thomas*

- President Thomas said that within the past week, he has been working in collaboration with the Residence Hall Association, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, and Mr. Parsons in order to streamline communication between various student governments across campus. Furthermore, last week, the Oakland Post posted an article clearing up the misconceptions about the Student Code of Conduct, which did have student input from Mr. Garcia, Ms. Merogi, and himself. Furthermore, he has been working with other student governments across campus to revise some university policies regarding smoking and alcohol. Additionally, he has been speaking with a couple of representatives from 911 Cellular, which is a non-profit organization that aims at on-campus safety by providing a mobile blue light pole. He will continue looking into implementing such a system, along with Ms. Merogi.

B. Student Vice President, *Anders Engnell*

- Vice President Engnell said that the first Campus Life Task Force meeting took place last Tuesday. They were able to discuss some of the primary issues that we face when it comes to programming campus life, with the main one being the lack of tradition on campus. For example, there used to be an event called Midnight Madness, which occurred every year. During the first night of basketball practice, the O'rena would be opened so that the basketball team could introduce themselves and have various other little events going on. So, we're looking at recreating the OU identity by bringing back some traditions and tackling other programming issues. Furthermore, later this month, he has a meeting, along with Ms. Hock, with Provost Lentini to discuss the spring break date change. He also will be having a meeting with COO Kunselman and Chief Gordon to discuss parking later this month.

C. OUSC Advisor, *Stephanie Jurva*

- Advisor Jurva said that she recently hired a Greek Life Assistant named Chelsea, who will be starting work next week.

D. Updates related to E-board Projects and Initiatives

- Ms. Merogi thanked Legislator Nasry for cleaning the Student Congress microwave in Kresge Library. She continued onward to say that she has received two student concerns regarding E-Board members not being available in the office during their office hours, as well as not changing the clock on the close sign to the time when the next person will be in the office. She urged us to be conscious of these things and to make sure to change the time on the close sign.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further updates
- There were no further updates

E. Questions related to Executive Reports

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- There were no questions

XIII. Comments from the Gallery

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to Comments from the Gallery
- Ms. Goss said that she is from Student Philanthropy Committee and this month is Student Philanthropy Month, which will focus on GrizzOrgs and Oakland students giving back to the university and to the community, as a whole. She continued onward to say that the whole point is crowd-funding and raising money. Therefore, if

we wanted to raise money for any initiatives, we can visit [isupportou.com](http://isupportou.com), which will direct us to their website for more information.

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions for Ms. Goss
- There were no questions for Ms. Goss
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further Comments from the Gallery
- Mr. Parsons said that he's trying to push for increased collaboration between biomedical PhD students and the OUWB medical school students. He believes that research is extremely important at the graduate level because it is vital for future physicians to have a great understanding of the sciences prior to practicing within their field. Thus, next week, he has a meeting with the Dean of Grad Study and the Dean of the Medical School in hopes of organizing a collaboration between these two graduate programs/schools. Furthermore, he hopes to continue to have formal, monthly meetings with both Deans in order to explain the research taking place and organize for speakers to come and visit the university.
- President Thomas said that he thinks this is a fantastic initiative and he appreciates the "behind the scene" work, because efforts such as this often need to be made prior to presenting anything to the University Senate.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further Comments from the Gallery
- There were no further Comments from the Gallery

#### XIV. Announcements

- Legislator Nasry said that she is working with Dr. Harper, the Dean of the Honors College in order to create a scholarship for Honors College students, who are struggling to pay for their tuition and have demonstrated outstanding performance in their involvement at Oakland University. Furthermore, she is working with the Dean of Kresge Library to ensure that stricter safety measures are enforced so that students feel safe on campus, as well as comfortable to report any incidents that do occur. Moreover, she is going to be working with Chartwells to see if the café in Kresge Library would be able to remain open 24/7, along with the library, or at least remain open the weekends. She also wants to try to provide more options, in regard to food, for students, including healthy alternatives.
- Ms. Merogi said that on November 18<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a university Chorus and Coral Concert. She continued onward to say that it's going to be an amazing concert filled with inspiring pieces of work.
- President Thomas applauded the efforts of Legislator Kleinschmidt and Legislator Thompson for providing their help at a RHA inclusion event on such a short notice.
- Legislator Seeger said that the History Club will be meeting on Wednesday and on Thursday there will be an organic pasta dinner at the apartments, but reservations are required.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further announcements
- There were no further announcements

#### XV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm