



Meeting Minutes  
Oakland University Student Congress  
Thomas-Engnell Administration  
Oakland Room, Oakland Center  
Monday, November 21, 2016  
4:00 P.M.



- I. Call to Order
  - The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
  - Legislator Church, present and voting
  - Legislator Fox, present and voting
  - Legislator Harris, present and voting
  - Legislator Kleinschmidt, present and voting
  - Legislator Kubinski, present and voting
  - Legislator Mabrouk, present and voting
  - Legislator Nasry, not present
  - Legislator Poppe, present and voting
  - Legislator Rourke, present and voting
  - Legislator Sanders, present and voting
  - 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, not present
    - We had quorum
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2016
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to additions, subtractions, and amendments to the meeting minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - Show of Hands Vote
  - The Meeting Minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, were unanimously approved
- V. Comments from the Gallery
  - Ms. Hock, the President of the Student Program Board said that they determined the programs that they will be hosting next semester and are excited to release the calendar of events to the student body within the next few weeks. Furthermore, the Escape Room is taking place on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Gold Rooms and Casino Night is going to occur on January 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
  - Legislator Fox inquired as to whether Ms. Hock can release any hints or sneak peaks regarding the events that we'll be seeing in the winter semester.
  - Ms. Hock replied to Legislator Fox, saying that the only information that she is able to share is that 10 programs were approved.
  - 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
- VIII. New Business
- A. Approval of Prospective Legislator, *Tamara Mabrouk*
1. Laith Rafidi
- Legislator Mabrouk said that Mr. Rafidi is really charismatic and has an initiative regarding the Oakland Center.
  - Mr. Rafidi said that his initiative regards placing a guitar in the Oakland Center, next to the piano, for students to utilize. He continued onward to say that in order to prevent theft, the guitar will be placed in a specialized “anti-theft system.” Students would be required to give their ID card to the Welcome Desk prior to playing the guitar.
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
  - Legislator Fox inquired about what committees he would be interested in joining if he were approved as a legislator.
  - Mr. Rafidi replied to Legislator Fox, saying that he will be joining the Marketing Committee.
  - Legislator Kubinski inquired if he has read the Constitution and Bylaws.
  - Mr. Rafidi replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying, “Indeed, I did.”
  - Legislator Kubinski continued onward to say that when the Oakland Center expansion is completed within the next few years, Fireside Lounge will no longer be a component of the infrastructure. Therefore, she is concerned that this initiative will lack permanence and inquired as to whether he has any other initiatives in mind.
  - Mr. Rafidi replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying that he acknowledges this concern, but he is passionate about this idea and does not currently have any other initiatives in mind.
  - Ms. Merogi said that she thinks his initiative is a great idea and she would love to help him get this idea implemented, as well as see how the guitar can be accommodated into the Oakland Center expansion, to ensure its permanence.
  - Legislator Seeger said that in addition to the initial cost of the guitar, there would be maintenance costs, as well, such as buying strings.
  - Legislator Kubinski and Legislator Church both assured that replacing guitar strings would be an extremely minor cost.
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
  - There were no further questions
  - *Mr. Rafidi was asked to momentarily leave the room so that the Student Congress could have an internal discussion regarding his potential approval*
  - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion

- President Thomas said, “I think Laith Rafidi would be a great addition to our Congress. I like his idea. I like his enthusiasm. And I like his positivity around the office, it’s very refreshing.”
- Legislator Kubinski said, “I’m just a little concerned that he only has one initiative and that one initiative might run into some trouble with permanence issues, but other than that, I think it’s a good idea.”
- Legislator Fox said that Mr. Rafidi’s enthusiasm is one of his best qualities. He continued onward to say that although he may lack an abundance of initiatives, he has such a willingness and desire to help and be involved.
- Mr. George said that although he only has one initiative now, he is certainly eager to learn more information about Student Congress and the student body, and that he thinks that Mr. Rafidi would be more than willing and able to adapt to a different perspective and idea, if the guitar initiative isn’t possible.
- Legislator Rourke said that Mr. Rafidi is an extremely active member on her Scholarship Committee and frequently texts her for updates. She continued onward to say that he has really impressed her.
- Legislator Church said that he thinks that Mr. Rafidi is a great guy and would be a good addition to the Legislature.
- Vice President Engnell said that Mr. Rafidi has demonstrated a great work ethic, he is always in the office and he is always smiling. He continued onward to say that he has a lot of potential and would make a really great legislator.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- *Mr. Rafidi was 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 Poppe, yea
  - Legislator Rourke, yea
  - Legislator Sanders, yea
  - Legislator Seeger, yea
  - Legislator Thompson, yea
  - Legislator Walton, yea
  - Mr. Rafidi was unanimously approved as a legislator

- B. Approval of Legislative Affairs Committee, *Sophia Polsinelli*
1. Helen Thompson

- Ms. Polsinelli said that Ms. Thompson is extremely hard-working. She has already assisted Ms. Polsinelli during voter registration and that Ms. Thompson would make a great addition to her committee.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- There was no discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
  - 1 abstaining vote
  - Helen Thompson was approved as a member of the Legislative Affairs Committee

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

1. Austin Church

- Ms. Mishack couldn't be present, so Vice President Engnell spoke on her behalf
- Vice President Engnell said, "So, before us we have Legislator Church. He wants to be on the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee. His initiative was about designated smoking areas on campus. Environment, smoking. Environment, smoking. That's all I have to say."
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- There was a brief discussion regarding the size of the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee  
Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions
- Show of Hands Vote
  - 1 abstaining vote
  - Legislator Church was approved as a member of the Environmental, Health and Wellness Committee

- Legislator Hubbard said, "*I would like to make a motion to add to the agenda a discussion and election of the Administrator of the Month for November.*"
  - The motion was seconded by Legislator Harris
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion on the motion
- There was no discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
- The motion was passed
  - Administrator of the Month was to the Agenda under Discussion Topics

IX. Discussion Topics

A. Administrator of the Month, *Ms. Goldwater*

- Ms. Goldwater said that Administrator of the Month is a campaign to show our collaboration with administrators and to recognize an administrator for the awesome work that said administrator does. In these next moments, she would like to open the floor to nominations and choose Administrator of the Month for November. This administrator will have a picture and biography placed on our social media portals.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to nominations

- Ms. Merogi nominated Dr. Harper, the Dean of the Honors College. She continued onward to say that he truly makes an effort to interact with as many students as he can, both within and outside of the Honors College. Additionally, he is currently working with Legislator Rourke on developing a scholarship.
- Legislator Kubinski nominated “Jay-Z” (James Zentmeyer), who is the Director of Housing. She continued onward to say that he has done numerous things for housing over the years and that he is genuinely one of the nicest people that she has had the pleasure of knowing.
- Legislator Seeger nominated Grace Wojcik, the coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Center. He continued onward to say that she is responsible for SAFE Training on campus and has been a great influence on numerous students.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further nominations
- There were no further nominations
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
- Legislator Fox said that he is a huge supporter of Ms. Wojcik. She is “someone who has had such a mass impact on so many students’ lives, especially with recent happenings. She is someone who encourages participation in student government, participation in the campus in general, participation in politics and in all sorts of really awesome things.”
- Legislator Rourke said that she has done tabling with Dr. Harper at the Computer and IT Fair, at which he stayed during the entire duration of the event. She continued onward to say that he makes it a priority to interact with students and is really passionate about his work.
- Legislator Kleinschmidt said that although she has not had the opportunity to work with Dr. Harper, she knows several individuals within the Honors College who speak highly and immensely about him. She continued onward to say that he is really loved amongst the student body.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- Show of Hands Vote
  - Dr. Harper: 9 votes
  - James Zentmeyer: 3 votes
  - Grace Wojcik: 3 votes
    - Dr. Harper was chosen as the Administrator of the Month for November

## X. Legislative Updates

### A. Greek Council Representative, *Vicki Harris*

- There were no Greek Council updates

### B. Resident Hall Association Representative, *Blake Walton*

- Legislator Walton said that the first round of housing recruitment occurs on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The available positions will be resident assistants (RAs), academic peer mentors (APM), and night watch staff. There will be info-sessions December 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30-9:30 in Oakview Lobby and December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00-

2:00 in Hamlin Lobby. Applications go live December 2<sup>nd</sup> and are due by January 6<sup>th</sup>. He continued onward that there will be fundraising events for the RHA choice charity on November 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00 outside of the Vandy Cafeteria and on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-1:00 in the South Foundation Fish Bowl. They will be giving away hot cocoa for any monetary donation.

C. Updates related to Legislative Projects and Initiatives

- Legislator Fox spoke about the SAM Conference that Ms. Polsinelli, Legislator Poppe, and himself attended last weekend. He said the University of Michigan Flint is going to be implementing a phone charging system similar to the one we have in the Oakland Center and that we will be helping them with this process. Additionally, he attended workshops and one of these workshops involved a new organization modeling for increasing student attendance at events, including tabling and clip-boarding. He continued onward to say that he thinks this would be a good idea to be carried out amongst committee members.
- Legislator Poppe said that at the SAM Conference, he discovered that Michigan State University currently has a program that rents out calculators and iClickers to students. He thinks that this would be a good program to implement here, especially since many students are currently obligated to purchase these materials, even though they may only use them for one class. He and few others are planning on possibly implementing a sample-ran for this program next semester and hopefully will be increasing the scale of the program for the next school year.
- Legislator Rourke said that there are two scholarships going on currently: Bucks for Books and the Super Sidekick Scholarship. She has received 39 respondents for the Bucks for Books scholarship and the winner will be chose on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Legislator Fox said that the legislator hour requirement is waived this week, due to the holiday and shortened academic week. Furthermore, the lost and found bins will be distributed to housing either next week, or the beginning of next semester.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further updates
- There were no further updates

D. Questions related to Legislative Reports

- There were no questions

XI. Executive Reports

A. Student Body President, *Zack Thomas*

- President Thomas said that within the past week, he has spoken with representatives from USA Today regarding the Buzz App, which would replace the Readership Program, as well as incorporate news from the Oakland Post and music from WXOU, along with a calendar of our campus events. He also spoke with 911 Cellular regarding the app, 911 Shield, which offers the same services as Companion, as well as additional services. He continued onward to say that all of the legislators have been assigned a University Senate Committee and they are required to attend those meetings. He also attended the University Senate general body meeting, in which several

resolutions were passed, including grade scale changes which will make rounding brackets more accurate for those applying to graduate schools, as well as rounding GPA for all students. “Additionally, the university strategic plan went up to the University Senate and that was presented by Provost Lentini. So, there’s thankfully a focus on retention and graduation rates, instead of just increasing our enrollment at the main campus, which is refreshing because that’s kind of what we’ve been pushing for.” He concluded with mentioning that we have completed all five administration goals: parking solution, administrative transparency and accountability, social justice, amplifying the student voice, and reinventing Student Congress.

B. Student Vice President, *Anders Engnell*

- Vice President Engnell said that within the past week we had a very effective Campus Life Task Force meeting, in which they focused on traditions, events, and marketing for all of these events and traditions. Thus, “we’re looking at integrating commuter life with resident life on campus and then making sure that we’re creating a vibrant campus life that’s really interconnected, so programs building momentum instead of being isolated entities and we have some consistent traditions that students can look forward to every year.” He continued onward to say that he also attended a parking meeting last Wednesday with Ms. Jurva, COO Kunselman, and Chief Gordon, which involved constructing a four-point parking system. Furthermore, due to a clause in one of the university’s faculty contracts that does not allow for mandated university-wide paid parking, there can be no university-wide paid parking program, or at least until that contract is renegotiated in three years. This four point system involves expanding parking lots by 1,000 parking spaces, by Fall 2017. He continued onward to say, “We’re also going to optimize the Bear Bus by retooling its management structure and introducing a point-to-point route system. A key part of expanding parking lots is that for those more distant lots, we have a Bear Bus system that works for the students. This means that we would have a series of buses that go directly from the parking lots that are far away from the center of the campus and would go directly to specific buildings. No circular routes anymore. Point-to-point bus routing that is also reliable, which means that at peak times during the day when traffic is heavy and parking lots are full, we may close off roads to parking lots so that there’s not additional traffic that is unnecessarily blocking the bus from getting students to buildings.” They are also considering implementing a carpooling system next academic year, as well as may implement a slight paid-parking program that could open up more spots, especially overnight, for resident students. “We’re currently working with James, the Director of Housing, to introduce into housing contracts next year a small, value-based, paid-parking program for residents concerning overnight spots. What this would mean is that residents who have jobs and really need those overnight spaces would be able to pay for a permit, somewhere between \$50 and \$100 per semester that would almost guarantee them a key spot when they come back from campus.” So, this program would, in essence, create a value system so that students who don’t need their cars as much would park

farther away from the buildings and students who have a greater need for their car would be able to park closer. We are implementing this with input from the residents on campus, so it's not something that we're just going to "plop" on them. These four things will help to remedy parking and are short-term solutions. The only true cure is, of course, a parking structure.

- C. OUSC Advisor, *Stephanie Jurva*
  - Advisor Jurva wasn't able to be present
- D. Updates related to E-board Projects and Initiatives
  - Ms. Polsinelli said the SAM Conference was really beneficial. She was able to connect Derek with some individuals at Eastern Michigan who are interested in our Grizz Art Program, as well as connect Lena with some individuals at Western, who have a magnificent sustainability program, which includes powering their lawnmowers with grease from their kitchens. She continued onward to say that at the conference, they also voted on a new vice president and passed two resolutions.
  - Vice President Thomas opened the floor to further updates
  - There were no further updates
- E. Questions related to Executive Reports
  - Legislator Fox inquired if there's going to be heated bus stops and waiting stations for students. Additionally, he said that the administration, or perhaps OUSC, will have to look into buying more buses in order to accommodate massive student loads, especially in the winter.
  - Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Fox, saying that a bus warming station will be implemented, as well as perhaps a few other incentives, in order to increase utilization of the Bear Bus system. Furthermore, the new Bear Bus System is expected to succeed and more buses will be purchased, if necessary.
  - Legislator Poppe inquired about how many parking spots we currently have on campus.
  - Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Poppe, saying, "We have about 8,500. So, we're increasing capacity by about 10%-12%."
  - Legislator Seeger mentioned that a better tracker system for the buses should be utilized, so that students can more efficiently and effectively know where the buses are located and their expected arrival times.
  - Vice President Engnell replied to Legislator Seeger, saying, "We've heard and found that the bus tracking system is ineffective. So, what we'd like to do is make the route so clean and efficient that you can see the bus at almost all times."
  - 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
  - There were some non-OUSC related announcements regarding events
- XIV. Adjournment
  - The meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm