



Meeting Minutes
Oakland University Student Congress
Thomas-Engnell Administration
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Monday, November 28, 2016
4:00 P.M.



- I. Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order Monday, November 28th, 2016, at 4:06pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
 - Legislator Church, present and voting
 - Legislator Fox, present and voting
 - Legislator Harris, not present
 - Legislator Kleinschmidt, present 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, 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, present and voting
 - We had quorum
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2016
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to additions, subtractions, and amendments to the Meeting Minutes from November 21st, 2016
 - There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes from November 21st, 2016
 - Show of Hands Vote
 - The Meeting Minutes from November 21st, 2016 were approved, with one vote against
 - Vice President Engnell said, *"I would like to entertain a motion to amend the Meeting Minutes, retroactively. This is essentially amending them from the archives."*
 - Legislator Kubinski said, *"So moved."*
 - There was a second
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
 - There was no discussion
 - Show of Hands Vote to approve the motion to go back into a meeting session to approve the Meeting Minutes
 - The motion was passed
 - Legislator Seeger said, *"The 2014 I want to change to 2016."*

- Vice President Engnell said, “There is motion on the floor to make an adjustment. This is a friendly amendment.”
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further amendments to the Meeting Minutes
- There were no further amendments
- Show of Hands Vote to approve changes to the Meeting Minutes
- The changes to the Meeting Minutes were approved

V. Comments from the Gallery

- Ms. Hock and Mr. Foe took the stand
- Ms. Hock, the President of the Student Program Board, said that tickets for the Escape Room are sold out. Additionally, on January 14th, they will be hosting Casino Night in the Oakland Center.
- There were no questions in regards to the Student Program Board
- Ms. Hock said, “Sean and I also serve as the student liaisons to the Board of Trustees. As I have informed all of you, we’re also serving as student advisors to the Presidential Search Committee.” She continued onward to say that they don’t have any updates at this time, but there will be a Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, December 5th, at 2:00pm in the Elliot Hall Auditorium. At this meeting, Chair DeVore will most likely give updates regarding the presidential search.
- Mr. Foe said that during the last Presidential Search Committee meeting, “I was thoroughly shocked at how receptive the committee members were to student input. They were significantly more interested in our opinion than I thought they would be.”
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- President Thomas inquired as to whether the meeting times for the Presidential Search Committee were being accommodating towards Ms. Hock’s and Mr. Foe’s schedules.
- Mr. Foe responded to President Thomas, saying the committee meetings were scheduled before they were asked to serve as student advisory roles and these meeting times are not flexible. However, these meetings fit perfectly within his schedule, so he is able to attend the meetings.
- Ms. Hock said that most of the meetings work with her schedule.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further questions
- There were no further questions

VI. No Guest Speaker

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. OUSC Fall 2016 Financial Report, *Adam George*

- Mr. George said that everything in red is a purchase that has been completed thus far and everything in purple is an estimated figure, which he projects is going to be the cost for the expenditure. He continued onward to say that the estimated roll-over is currently \$64,436.90. However, he emphasized that this figure is subjected and prone to change.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to questions
- There were no questions

B. OUSC Winter 2017 Budget – First Reading, *Zack Thomas*

- President Thomas said that there is a total estimated carryover from the Fall of 2016 is \$64,436.90, but, once again, this figure is subjected to change prior to the next meeting. Furthermore, the estimated SAF allocation is \$76,000, but, with the population decline, this number will probably drop to around \$74,000. After the minimum balance reduction, the estimated available budget for Winter 2017 is \$135,436.90.
- There were no questions regarding this section
- *Executive Board Compensation:* President Thomas said that his compensation for the winter 2017 is listed as \$0.00 because of a personal financial situation. Therefore, his work as President will be voluntary work, in which he does not get compensated. However, he assured that this will not impact his performance and he will still meet, and exceed, the expectations of the job as outlined in the Bylaws and Constitution. Furthermore, in terms of the rest of the other E-Board and appointed agents compensation, the hours are the same as the ones in the fall semester.
- Legislator Fox said, “I guess to address any sort of malcontent feelings about the President’s financial situation...[I know] the President [to be] someone who has showed not just a lot of success in this position, but also dedication and hard-work in this position... So, I don’t see the president not getting paid for this position as any real concern, simply because of just his prior work ethic, as well as what he has demonstrated to me in the past.”
- There were no further questions or comments
- *Presidential and Vice Presidential Budget:* President Thomas said that \$1,500 has been allocated to the Presidential/Vice Presidential Discretionary line item, which is the same figure as in the fall. The Readership Program is allocated \$2,500, but we are looking into transitioning away from paper copies of the newspapers towards an app called The Buzz. This app would combine the Oakland Post, WXOU, other relevant news stories, and campus calendar of the events taking place on campus. The State of the University address was allocated \$1,000, which is going to be applied towards food and marketing, and other relevant materials for the event. Also, there is going to be a university president town hall meeting, in which President Hynd and other members of his administration are going to host an open forum in Fireside Lounge and answer student questions and concerns. The event is likely to take place on February 17th and is allocated \$700. There is also going to be a campus-wide open forum, which is also budgeted \$700. This gives a total of \$6,400.
- *Administrative Assistant Budget:* President Thomas said that \$6,000 is allocated for operational expenditures, which will be utilized for office supplies and maintenance, the funds for the Scantron program, and for the copier maintenance agreement, with SPB. Furthermore, \$500 is budgeted for an OUSC banquet, in order to celebrate the accomplishments of the administration. Exam Cram, once again, is being allocated \$2,650, which is a three-day event during final exam week, which provides students with good and study materials. Finally, \$3,200 is allocated towards OUSC election

season, in order to purchase food and marketing materials. This gives a total of \$12,350.

- *Environmental, Health and Wellness Budget:* Ms. Mishack said that she budgeted \$2,800 for sanitation stations, which will be utilized to purchase 12 stations, as well as the hand sanitizer and tissues for the stations themselves. Furthermore, \$1,100 is budgeted for mental health initiatives. Originally, she wanted to have a stress free zone in the Oakland Center. However, due the expansion, it is ambiguous as to whether this stress free zone can become a reality. Therefore, she will be getting informational pamphlets about Graham Health Center and the services that they offer for mental health. Additionally, \$1,500 is budgeted for the Pontiac School Health initiative, in which she wants to either build garden beds at some of the Pontiac schools or doing an offshoot of the Student Organic Farm here, on campus, in which the students would have specific garden beds here. She would also like to do little seminars or activities about teaching the children about nutrition and other health-related topics. With her discretionary fund, she is planning to purchase posters and prizes for the smoking campaign. \$800 has been allocated to this line item. This gives a total of \$6,800.
- *Student Services Director Budget:* Ms. Merogi said that she raised the legislator initiative fund from \$500 to \$750 for this upcoming semester, in hopes that the legislators will utilize this fund. Furthermore, she budgeted \$825 for Companion marketing materials. Even though the administration is looking at transitioning towards 911 Cellular, until a new app can be implemented, she believes that Companion is still an amazing app that she would love the student body to continue using. \$1,150 has been budgeted for sexual assault awareness. With sexual assault awareness month being in April, her committee and her plan on purchasing teal yard flags outside of the Oakland Center, as well as are brainstorming other ideas to bring awareness to this issue. \$350 is allocated to student of the month, which will be used to cover the cost of the \$50 that the winner receives. Furthermore, \$1,000 is allocated to cover the cost of marketing materials for the OUSC text suggestion number. Finally, \$1,150 is being allocated towards the feminine products initiative, which would cover the cost of a basket and feminine products. She is currently looking for a co-sponsor for this initiative, but budgeted for the initiative as if she would be covering the costs entirely. This gives a total of \$5,225.
 - Legislator Kubinski said, “So, huge props to the feminine products initiative. I am excited about this.” She continued onward to suggest partnering with the GSC, or perhaps some of the feminist organizations on campus.
 - Ms. Merogi replied to Legislator Kubinski, saying she was planning on contacting the GSC, but she would appreciate if Legislator Kubinski could send her an email with the contact information of the feminist organizations.
 - Legislator Fox inquired if the feminine products would be free of charge.

- Ms. Merogi replied to Legislator Fox, saying, “Free. They’re definitely free.”
 - Vice President Engnell said, “Are you also budgeting for refills?”
 - Ms. Merogi replied to Vice President Engnell, saying, “Yes.”
- *Legislative Affairs Director Budget:* Ms. Polsinelli said that she budgeted \$1,500 for the Student Association of Michigan, which is for the conferences and covers the travel, food, and hotel costs for the duration of the conference. \$9,860 is allocated for OU Day at the Capital, which covers the travel and food costs. Additionally, she wants to provide informational packets, perhaps in bags. Furthermore, she is going to continue her usual tabling, but she budgeted \$700 for small giveaways during tabling, in order to draw students to the table. Finally, she allocated \$800 to a discretionary fund because she wants to do another small event, but she is still unsure as to whether she wants to do another Rock for Rights, or focus on a civic engagement event. Therefore, with the money in a discretionary fund, she will have flexibility to change the event. This gives a total of \$12,860.
 - Legislator Fox said, “I think it’s important to encourage students to get involved, not just with the big level politics, like presidency, but also civic engagement.”
 - President Thomas praised the idea of a civic engagement event, as well.
- *Marketing Director Budget:* Ms. Goldwater said that she in continuing the SWAG campaign and has allocated \$2,500 for the campaign. She is anticipating on purchasing flip-flops, as well as bottle-openers, using this fund. Furthermore, she budgeted \$150 for social media marketing because promoted posts do a wonderful job of attracting people not only to a particular post, but also our social media pages. \$1,700 is budgeted for OUSC Legislature and E-Board jackets, which is an OUSC tradition. Finally, she has \$1,000 allocated for a discretionary fund, which could be utilized for any marketing materials. This gives a total of \$5,350.
- *Diversity and Inclusion Director Budget:* President Thomas said \$800 is allocated for giveaway notebooks, which will be used for tabling and various events. There will also be another International Night, which is allocated \$4,300. The Noor Tagouri event was moved from this semester to the winter semester due to a conflict in the speaker’s schedule and this event is allocated \$3,300. Furthermore, the event Unity through Harmony is an event that’s centered on music from around the globe and celebrating different cultures, which has been allocated \$1,700. Also, \$900 has been allocated towards a cultural movie night. This gives a total of \$11,000.
- *Visual Communication Director Budget:* President Thomas said that \$1,335 has been allocated towards Grizz Arts to purchase various materials. \$250 has been budgeted for future community art projects and \$700 is budgeted for a discretionary fund. This gives a total of \$1,680.
- *Tailgate Chair Budget:* President Thomas said that \$7,000 is allocated towards to the winter tailgate, which is similar to the amount allocated last year.

- *Scholarship Chair Budget:* Legislator Rourke said that \$2,500 is allocated for scholarships. She is continuing the Bucks for Books scholarship, as well as is working with her committee to create some more scholarships.
- *Team Development:* Vice President Engnell said that a total of \$850 is budgeted for team development, which will most like occur in late January or early February.
- *Discrepancy Factor:* President Thomas said that this is a safety net that's an addition to the Minimum Balance and will account for any discrepancies between the estimated SAFAC allocation and the actual SAFAC allocation, any discrepancies between the estimated rollover and the actual rollover, and/or any unexpected invoices from previous semesters or as a part of a continued initiative. By including this Discrepancy Factor, it allowed Mr. George and him to be more exact in the rollover figures from the summer budget, while being fiscally conservative and responsible by making sure that we have money set aside and accessed without needing ex-post facto approval. This fund has a total of \$6,000.
- *General Overview:*
 - Estimated Total Fall 2016 Budget: \$140,436.90
 - Estimated Available Funds (-\$5,000 Minimum Balance): \$135,436.90
 - Total Categorized Funds Fall 2016: \$107,615.00
 - Uncategorized Funds: \$27,821.90
- President Thomas opened the floor to questions from the Congress
- There were no questions
- President Thomas opened the floor to questions from the Gallery
- Mr. Foe said, "Now, I'm going to preface this by saying that I do work for a SAFAC organization and I do understand the benefits of getting paid for a student organization. I don't necessarily agree with the amount of money that you guys are spending on payroll. In the fall semester alone, I just did the math, you guys spend about 25% of your entire budget on payroll. And right now, Cassie and I just did the math, and you're not far off from that number [here] either. That concerns me, as a student, because that is a very, very high number of your budget that is spend on payroll. And don't get me wrong, I understand the benefit of payroll. I love payroll. I couldn't work for SPB if I didn't get paid. I think you guys should seriously, seriously reconsider the amount of money that you're spending on payroll, the amount of hours that you're giving to your E-Board. I think that this is money that was allocated for students. Again, I understand the benefit of payroll. I don't think that the amount of money that you're spending on payroll is necessarily beneficial to the student body."
- President Thomas replied to Mr. Foe, saying, "I definitely appreciate your concern. I'm going to correct one thing. I think we had \$120,000 for the fall. We're estimated to spend \$23,000. So, it's 20%. We find that this year we accounted a great deal of success on our student members having a motivated staff that is able to be compensated for the work that they do. So, we've been able to cross off nearly every item that's on our primary checklist for our administration that we've campaigned on and I think that's a testament to how

successful an E-Board can be if they have a solid leadership, they're compensated for the work that they do, and they have driven focus. And we hold them to that accountability. So, [we're not] paying them because they get benefit. We're paying them because that provides the student body benefit. That's how we're able to justify the expenditures. It's a way to hold people accountable, keep people motivated, both intrinsically and extrinsically and make sure that they're doing good work for the students."

- Mr. Foe said, "I totally agree that payroll is something that will motivate any E-Board and any type of staff. I think that your E-Board would be equally as motivated with a less paycheck." He continued onward to inquire about The Buzz app and how it differs from GrizzOrgs.
- Vice President Engnell replied to Mr. Foe, saying that The Buzz app is designed specifically for smartphones, whereas GrizzOrgs is quite difficult to navigate on a mobile device. It operates on a five button system, which includes Oakland Post articles, national news, WXOU livestreamed, a section that lists all the local events for the semester, and then a settings page. This will allow students to have a way to connect with the major new outlets and media on campus.
- President Thomas said, "So, this is something that WXOU, Oakland Post, OUSC, and potentially other organizations are test running for this next period of four or five months and it allows us to evaluate how the app is going to run. And if it doesn't run successfully, we won't continue it and if it does, we will."
- Mr. Foe said, "I guess from my perspective I see how it's beneficial to the Oakland Post and WXOU. I don't necessarily know how much it would benefit the student body, considering that we already utilize GrizzOrgs and getting students to utilize GrizzOrgs is already an issue, so getting another app might not be the best solution... I'm really impressed with the work that you guys have done and I really like what OUSC has to offer. I think, as a student, there is probably a wiser way to spend your money overall and I would urge the Legislature to really work with the E-Board in trying to figure out what the best way is to make sure that the students' money goes back to the students."
- Ms. Mishack said that GrizzOrgs is focused on student organization events, whereas The Buzz focuses on Oakland Post articles, livestreaming WXOU, and other campus events. She also inquired about SPB's wage and allocation.
- Mr. Foe replied to Ms. Mishack, saying that SPB allocates no more than 15% of their total budget to payroll.
- Ms. Mishack said, "But your budget is significantly larger than ours, so I mean, that means you're spending approximately the same as us, if not more."
- Mr. Foe said, that SPB's student workers do not work as many hours as you guys do and we also do not get paid as highly per hour as your employees do. He continued onward to say that since payroll does not exceed 15% for them, they are able to give 85% back to the students.
- Legislator Kubinski said that \$10.00, at most 20 hours a week, is not enough to provide for basic needs, if the student is receiving no assistance. Therefore, she views this wage and these hours as fair.

- Mr. Foe said, “For some perspective, SPB has less people employed than you guys do, we make less than \$10.00 an hour, and at most, our president only works 17.6 hours, the rest of the E-Board only works 15 hours. You guys have several E-Board members that work 20 hours a week at \$10.00 an hour. So, even just looking at that, you guys are already spending more money than us on payroll. Even though we may have a bigger budget, you guys are still spending more money on payroll than we are and we have highly motivated individuals who are willing to work extra time voluntarily, as well as get compensated.” He reiterated that he is not suggesting taking away compensation, but he thinks that we are spending too much money on compensation.
- Mr. George said, “I have a few figures that I would just like to give you. So, thank you for bringing your comments to the floor. Although I would argue that it’s a pot calling the kettle black. As of right now, we’ve only spent 8.3% of our budget on payroll. That is an estimated figure that we’ve roughly calculated that we’re going to spend. We’ve spent \$15,000 currently, which roughly comes out to 8.5%. If the E-Board members were to continue to work at the pace that they have [been] for the previous weeks of the semester, we would be at roughly 20%. So, assuming that we spend around \$18,000 or \$19,000 or even \$20,000, we’d still be at less than 15%.”
- Mr. Foe said, “So, I would like to follow that up with two points. First, I am here as a student. I’m not here as a member of SPB. So, this is not SPB asking you to decrease your payroll. My opinion does not reflect SPB as a whole.” He continued onward to say that SPB also budgets more money for payroll than they expect to use and because of this, they were fortunate enough to add another E-Board position. However, “what I am saying is because you’re budgeting this money specifically for payroll that’s taking money away that could be budgeted towards other things, such as events for students, such as initiatives. There are a lot of initiatives on this board that I’ve seen throughout my time here that I think are really beneficial to students and I just think less money that got budgeted into payroll is more money budgeted into these initiatives for students...I am just saying that I think, and this is just my opinion, that your compensation is very high compared to some other student orgs. And I think compared to the rest of your budget, I think it’s really high. It’s not an attack at any of you guys because I think that you guys are doing awesome. You guys are doing awesome this year. You guys have accomplished so much and I really applaud you for that.”
- Mr. George said, “And while we appreciate that, I just wanted to make sure that we had the figures and facts to make sure that we’re making an argument that was true and not something that was just based off of what we looked at on the budget without any further explanation. So, I appreciate that and I didn’t take it as an attack. I just wanted you to have the correct information, so that when you make an argument in the future, we know we’re all on the same page, working with the same figures.”
- Legislator Fox said, “Well, first off, the Student Program Board and Oakland University Student Congress are two totally different organizations that have

two totally different budgets and needs. Thus, comparing the two is not necessarily good for either because both accomplish different goals. So, I don't necessarily think that we should be comparing the two, especially to attack the other one's budget at all. But, I think it is very important that we look through the budget with extreme scrutiny, with a fine-tooth comb. It's a budget that's meant to serve the student body. It's a budget that's meant to accomplish a great number of things." He continued onward to say that he would like to look through the archives and see if there has been a drastic spike in payroll, because if there has been, that is something that should be responded to because the student body should always be the first priority.

- President Thomas said, "I think it's very brave and courageous to come up to the podium and to stay there for as long as you did with a dissenting opinion. Dissenting opinions here are welcomed and we represent all of the students, including you, as an individual student, not as a member of the Student Program Board, necessarily." He continued onward to say that his work on Student Congress being voluntary for next semester is reducing the compensation allocation by \$2,500. Additionally, as the state minimum wage increased, the payroll has increased, which will be reflected when looking through the archives. Furthermore, this administration prides itself on transparency and accountability, and has been highly efficient. Four of the five platform goals have been achieved already, in addition to "extra" accomplishments, as well, such as increasing the minimum wage by \$0.75 and implementing outdoor recycling bins. He concluded by saying, "I would just like to touch on that efficiency, keep you reassured that we are reducing payroll over last semester, and that we're trying to do the best we can with what we have. Again, thank you for coming to the stand courageously and offering a dissenting opinion because that's what we thrive on and that's to be encouraged to everybody, not to be discouraged. And with that input, we're going to seek ways to make sure that we're more efficient and giving the most amount of money back to the students."
- Ms. Mishack said, "I think this administration has shown how much we care about not wasting money [by] cancelling our retreat that has been a common tradition. And you know, not bringing up different orgs on campus, but I know orgs like SPB have quite a large retreat."
- President Thomas said, "We highly value the other organizations that we work with, Student Program Board, WXOU, Oakland Post, every member of the SAFAC organizations, and other student organization. So, although we used comparative figures today, we're still great friends and we still value having you here."
- Vice President Engnell said, "In the past two years, winter 2016 and winter 2015, \$36,000 was allocated rather than the \$29,000 that we currently have allocated. That is partly because of the hour decrease that was made mandated over the summer with the new Affordable Care Act regulations being put in place, but we are quite down. Now, is there room for improvement, I would say so. And we can talk about that as an E-Board over the next week. But, thank you so much Mr. Foe for stepping up here and addressing that issue."

IX. Discussion Topics

A. Bear Bus Improvement Ideas

- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to discussion
- Legislator Seeger said that he thinks research needs to be done into how many students are attending classes, how many classes are held on each day, and what are the peak times and location of these classes, in order to develop an effective Bear Bus route. Furthermore, he continued onward to say that since some classes are only offered at connecting Oakland University campuses, we should have a transit system that delivers students to and from the main campus and connecting campuses.
- Legislator Fox said that he agrees with the idea of having a transit system from the main campus to the connecting campuses. Furthermore, he wants to look into the potential of utilizing more green energy sources to fuel the buses, such as used cooking oil.
- Ms. Goldwater said that she thinks it's a really good idea to have a transit from the other locations of Oakland University to this main campus.
- Vice President Engnell opened the floor to further discussion
- There was no further discussion
- Vice President Engnell said that he will be taking all of these ideas to Chief Operating Officer Kunselman and Chief Gordon when he meets with them in December. Although if there are any other ideas that would need to be taken to a different department, he'll do that, as well. He continued onward to say that he does have data regarding the peak class times on campus for fall 2016 and this data will most likely be utilized to determine the Bear Bus routes for the fall of next year.

X. Legislative Updates

A. Greek Council Representative, *Vicki Harris*

- Legislator Harris couldn't be present

B. Resident Hall Association Representative, *Blake Walton*

- Legislator Walton said that housing recruitment starts tomorrow, November 29th. Info-sessions will follow December 1st 8:30-9:30 in Oakview Lobby and December 2nd 1:00-2:00pm in Hamlin Lounge. And those info-sessions will be about round one, which include the positions for night watch, resident assistants, and academic peer mentors for housing. And those applications are due January 6th. In addition, there charity event, Humble Hot Cocoa, will take place on December 5th from 11:00-1:00 in the South Foundation Fish Bowl.

C. Updates related to Legislative Projects and Initiatives

- There were no updates

D. Questions related to Legislative Reports

- There were no questions

XI. Executive Reports

A. Student Body President, *Zack Thomas*

- President Thomas said that last week there were a lot to accomplish; he worked on the budget and financial report. He also responded to any necessary emails and he worked on The Buzz app. In the upcoming weeks, he

will be working with other relevant individuals to finalize the budget, as well as attend meetings in regards to SAFAC and the smoking policy.

- B. Student Vice-President, *Anders Engnell*
 - Vice President Engnell said he's still working on the spring break proposal and the parking proposal. Furthermore, the next Campus Life Masterplan Meeting is tomorrow at 6:00pm.
- C. OUSC Advisor, *Stephanie Jurva*
 - Advisor Jurva said tickets for the Meadow Brook Ball go on sale tomorrow.
- D. Updates related to E-board Projects and Initiatives
 - Mr. Garcia said that SAFB is doing a contest for two pairs of Meadow Brook Ball tickets.
 - Ms. Mishack said that her outdoor recycling bins have been placed outside
- E. Questions related to Executive Reports
 - There were no questions
- XII. Comments from the Gallery
 - Vice President Engnell opened the floor to Comments from the Gallery
 - There were no comments from the gallery
- XIII. Announcements
 - President Thomas said that he's available after meeting for questions
- XIV. Adjournment
 - The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm