



Agenda
Oakland University Student Congress
Mishack/Shkoukani Administration
Lake Michigan Room, Oakland Center
Monday, September 11th, 2017
4:00 P.M.



I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call,

- A. Legislator Fox, present and voting
- B. Legislator Gaied, not present
- C. Legislator Gunn, not present
- D. Legislator Haneckow RHA representative, present and voting
- E. Legislator Hubbard, Present and voting
- F. Legislator Jagtap, present and voting
- G. Legislator Sanders, present and voting
- H. Legislator Twal, present and voting
- I. Legislator Williamson, present and voting

IV. Moment of Silence for the Victims of 9/11

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 21st, 2017

- A. Unanimously approved

VI. Comments from the Gallery

A. Jean Ann miller shared with the congress event calendars for the month of September. She wanted to share that Oakland is going to be supporting the neighbors to the south. We already planned on fundraising for Houston but now it has been expanded to everyone that was affected by the hurricanes. The money will go to the red cross and will take place at the SAFAC open house this Thursday. Donations will be collected all day long from 9am-6pm in the fish bowl. The donations have to be monetary because they have no way of transporting and storing physical items.

B. Richard Seeger said that last month it was revealed that Oakland University's basketball coach survived a life threatening disease, and this month just so happens to be the month of awareness so that if the Congress would wish to do something, the congress is no aware.

C. Legislator Fox motioned to remove the DACA bill from the agenda due to it being unnecessary

- Seconded by Legislator Jagtap.
- Show of hands vote, unanimously approved

VII. Old Business

A. C.B. 18-11 Tailgate and Archivist Bylaw Proposal, *Stephanie Hubbard*

- Legislator Fox explained the bill and that it has no changes made to it from the first reading.
- Legislators Gunn's presence was acknowledged at 4:15pm, Present and voting
- Roll call vote,
 - a) Legislator Fox, yay

- b) Legislator Gunn, yay
- c) Legislator Haneckow, abstaining
- d) Legislator Hubbard, yay
- e) Legislator Jagtap, yay
- f) Legislator Sanders yay
- g) Legislator Twal, yay
- h) Legislator Williamson, yay

B. C.B. 18-12 Executive Board Compensation Bill, *Stephanie Hubbard*

- There was a noticeable change to the bill. The executive board would have the option to be compensated but it would have to be first be approved by the legislature when the budget is put up for approval at the beginning of the semester.
- Legislator Fox said that he is personally against this bill but he did sit down and help reword it so that it is clear and easier to understand.
- President Mishack said that she is still against the bill but no one is going to judge if you vote one way or another so be sure to vote how you wish.
- Director Queen this bill would give an eboard member the option to clock in, if you feel that is right. He wanted to reinforce that this is a voting matter of yay or nay. As per the bylaws the legislature is the one who decides if the executive board is paid but that power has been taken away from them in the past few years. He personally does not think that it is fair that some executive board members are currently being paid and some are not.
- Legislator Jagtap wanted to clarify that this bill does not necessarily mean that the executive board is going to be paid, it is stating that the legislature will be given the option.
- Ms. Kleinschmidt asked if this would affect Ms. Thompsons wages for the semester
- President Mishack responded with that one person is being paid because of the work that she is doing during the meeting.
- Director Queen wanted to clarify in response to Legislator Jagtap that is it not already in the bylaws.
- Legislator Jagtap responded saying that it was not clear in the bylaws necessarily.
- Legislator Hubbard responded saying that technically the legislature has had the power but only during the approval of the budget.
- Legislator Gaied's presence was acknowledged at 4:24pm and he is voting
- Director Church said that in light of the changes he is now in favor of the bill
- Legislator Gunn wanted clarification that if this is passed today the legislature would be given the power to decide, but in the future there could be another bill stating that the executive board member is the one to decide.
- Vice President Shkoukani responded saying no, if this were to be passed the only way to have the executive board to get paid is by getting it approved when the budget is being approved at the beginning of each semester.
- Roll call vote,

- a) Legislator Fox, nay
 - b) Legislator Gaied, nay
 - c) Legislator Gunn, nay
 - d) Legislator Haneckow, abstaining
 - e) Legislator Hubbard, yay
 - f) Legislator Jagtap, yay
 - g) Legislator Sanders, nay
 - h) Legislator Twal, yay
 - i) Legislator Williamson, nay
- (1) The bill was not approved

VIII. New Business

A. Approval of Prospective Legislators, *Stephanie Hubbard*

- Nathan Roberts is a very dedicated. He was first met by Director Kleinschmidt and Ms. Thompson at the leadership retreat and has been a handworker ever since
 - a) Mr. Roberts began saying that he transferred to Oakland University this year. He came to Oakland looking for two things. An international relations degree and to make Oakland a home. One way he planned to do that by getting involved in various clubs. He is currently in one congress committee and two senate committees, and various others as well as starting his own. He would also like to give back the idea of making OU a home. He would also like to spread awareness of international events. Plenty of people are not aware of what is going on in the world around him and he hopes the congress will consider him as a prospective legislator.
 - b) Legislator Fox said that he is very much a fan of Mr. Roberts initiative. He then asked if Mr. Roberts promised to represent and help the students at Oakland University regardless of Race, ethnicity, culture, or sexual orientation.
 - c) Mr. Roberts answered with yes, he promises.
 - d) Legislator Jagtap asked how would the voting process would work compared to the pass.
 - e) President Mishack said that we can ask general questions with him in the room and then discuss further and vote with him stepping outside.
 - f) Director Nasry said that he has dedicated himself to the congress without even being completely accepted. She highly recommends that he is approved today.
 - g) Mr. Queen said that he has recently joined Mr. Roberts aforementioned club and is impressed with Mr. Roberts and recommends voting yay.
 - h) President Mishack said that he is a very organized and on top of his game when he commits to something and is excited to have him if he is approved today.
 - i) Legislator Fox said that overall he would love to see Mr. Roberts join the congress. He would like to mention however that he did create a social media page in order to help him get signatures and said that he didn't know if that meant anything but it was an interesting point on him.

- j) Mr. Church said that he has only good things to say about him and loves working with him.
- k) Legislator Jagtap said that he has gotten so involved so quickly coming to Oakland before school even started, shows serious work ethic and dedication.
- l) President Mishack said in response to Legislator Fox that she thinks it was merely due to him being new to Oakland and trying to find a way to make new friends and the like.
- m) Roll call vote,
 - (1) Legislator Fox, yay
 - (2) Legislator Gaied, yay
 - (3) Legislator Gunn, yay
 - (4) Legislator Haneckow, yay
 - (5) Legislator Hubbard, yay
 - (6) Legislator Jagtap, yay
 - (7) Legislator Sanders, yay
 - (8) Legislator Twal, yay
 - (9) Legislator Williamson, yay

B. Approval of Diversity and Inclusion Committee, *Luna Nasry*

- There are four who are already on congress and are already volunteering without being officially on the committee. And Amelia Kruse was on the committee in the past administration.
- Nathan Roberts
- Richard Williamson
- Asiana Gunn
- Tyler Fox
- Amelia Kruse

- a) Roll call vote,
 - (1) Legislator Fox, yay
 - (2) Legislator Gaied, yay
 - (3) Legislator Gunn, yay
 - (4) Legislator Haneckow, yay
 - (5) Legislator Hubbard, yay
 - (6) Legislator Jagtap, yay
 - (7) Legislator Sanders, yay
 - (8) Legislator Twal, yay
 - (9) Legislator Williamson, yay

C. Approval of Student Services Committee, *Brittany Kleinschmidt*

- Three new members are going up, and none of them are congress affiliated. They are all super interested in new initiatives and really great people.
- Julie Paula
- Brianna Walter
- Jahnavi Gudi
- Show of hands vote, all vote yay

D. Approval of Steering Committee, *Anushree Jagtap*

- The steering committee exists to approve the agenda before the meeting materials are ready to be sent out. Both of the Foxes are dedicated to congress and can provide an extensive knowledge to how the congress works and would be a great addition.
- Tyler Fox
- Ryan Fox
- Show of hands vote, Majority approved, Legislator Fox abstained.

E. C.B. 18-13 Graham Health Center Emergency Fund Bill, *Anushree Jagtap*

- Director Fox and Director Church met with the head of the Graham health center to see how they could help students better. They have an emergency fund for students who can now pay for the visit or can't or have reasons for not using their insurance. This bill will help grant the Health center more money in order to help more students.
- Director Church says that they really need this money. It would help those who have state funded insurance, they will not be able to use it and that excludes the students who only have access to state funded insurance
- Legislator Williamson asked how quickly the health center goes through the emergency fund.
- Legislator Jagtap said that they don't have the number but because it is only 3000 per year, they are more hesitant to let students use.
- Legislator Williamson said that he supports this but he would like to know if the congress would have a say in how this money would be granted to those emergency students
- Director Church said that it would hopefully specifically help the Medicare and medicade students
- Legislator Jagtap said it would be up to the discretion of the health center and the congress if they ask. She would like to avoid putting such a strict restriction in the bill.
- Legislator Fox that said that he is personally someone who has had trouble with the health center because of his insurance but aside from himself he wouldn't want any student struggling. He would also like to know how much assurance we have that this money would only be used for what we are asking it to be used.
- Legislator Jagtap said that it would mainly be for students under state funded insurance, those without transportation, do not make or have enough money, or have reasons for not being able or willing to use their insurance for valid reasons
- President Mishack shared her support for this bill. She had two questions. The first being if they made sure that they clarified that Student Congress may not be able to provide this money or this necessary amount in the future. Secondly how would students know that they are now able to use the health center, or if there is a marketing system in place.
- Director church said that they didn't want to advertise the emergency fund in the first place, none the less this extra amount in fear that it would cause the money to run out sooner. He also clarified that there wouldn't be posters to market but word of mouth and referral would allow students to learn about this.

- Director Nasry shared her support for this bill but she does believe that it should be marketed. They shouldn't have to hear from a student organization if they would be able to receive health or not. She also wanted to know if there was records that could see how much of the money was used and how quickly so that we make sure our money is being used.
- Legislator Jagtap responded saying that they had not shared any details of the money in the past but they could work something out.
- Legislator Gaied asked if we usually receive reports when we give money to a third party and if we would receive any unused money back.
- Legislator Fox said that currently it is not specified but if the bill was written in such a way that we expect any used money back and its agreed by both parties than.
- Legislator Gunn asked how it would be determined for a student to receive this fund because it is not fair for us alone to decide whether they deserve that help.
- Legislator Jagtap answered with based on the basic criteria and to the discretion of the health center it will be determined.
- Director Queen said that he personally does not believe that this needs to be marketed because all of the pamphlets that the freshmen received at the beginning, they know that it is there so if we just work on marketing the health center and through word of mouth it would turn about fine.
- Legislator Jagtap wanted to reiterate how much this would help the student body. Even if it isnt this exact amount that gets approved it would greatly help the student body.

F. C.R. 18-01 DACA Resolution, *Tyler Fox*

- A member of the student body member approached Legislator Fox about the stance the congress was taking on the DACA rescinded that was recently brought up in the Trump administration. He explained that DACA is a program that was created to help children who were brought here by their parents who came here illegally. This resolution will say that the student congress will take a stance for our DACA students.
- Legislator Gunn said that she is absolutely in support of this and thinks that it needs to be heard. At first she did not know what it was.
- Director Nasry said that she thinks it is important for the students at Oakland University to know that we stand behind them.
- Director church spoke. I apologize that I will be looking at my notes, I wrote a few things down so that I do not forget them. I do not support this resolution.

I feel somewhat obligated to speak on this topic. Those of you who have heard me in the past criticize our use of our platform as Congress members to support an issue that is party-oriented may have known that this was coming. While talking about DACA in our new office, the main argument that I heard is that this is "not a political issue." Or that this somehow "transcends" politics because it is dealing with actual people; actual OU students. First off, let me tell you something, pretty much everything in politics, affects OU students, whether they

realize it or not. Regardless, of this it is my opinion that OUSC should not be taking a stance on political issues.

But to answer that first argument that this is not a political issue let me give a slight history on the passage of DACA.

Obama created DACA in reaction to Congress's "gridlock" over the DREAM Act, an amnesty bill for illegal aliens under 30 rejected no less than 24 times since 2001. Recently, President Trump decided not to defend DACA and let the legislature decide whether or not to pass it. In my humble opinion, this is **the very definition** of a political issue. And there are reasonable arguments against this issue (other than Xenophobia, racism, and dislike of immigrants), I am not saying I am against DACA personally, but there is at least some validity in these arguments.

To take a stance on this issue shows our students that **we** as Student Congress are supporting an issue that has been favored by one party over the other. In my opinion, that is not a stance we should be taking. Regardless of past administrations decision on these issues.

Furthermore, and this is really my strongest thought about this issue, is how we spend our money. Regardless of how much money is actually being spent, I disagree with spending any money to take a stance on a **political issue** that some Oakland University students undoubtedly disagree with. I think it is a slippery slope to start funding issues that are political, and those are the reasons why I stand against what was item G and is now coming from the discretionary budgets of a few e-board members.

- President Mishack responded to director church saying that she understands both sides of the arguments. She asked what the primary job of OUSC. It is to protect the right of OU students. These students came here without a choice, and are urgently facing a threat of being kicked out of the university. She does not believe it is fair to not to defend these students whose lives could be turned upside down. She is open for everyone that has a differing opinion to share but she defends it.
- Director Queen said that per a post on our Facebook page, there was an individual who was sharing the same points as director church had just shared. He is not saying he doesn't support DACA but it is a political issue and we are a bipartisan organization and by passing the resolution we look like we are picking one side and putting money towards one side. It is not presenting a proper image.
- Director Nasry wanted to know if we are only to show support for republicans by not passing this and not that of the DACA students?
- Director Church responded saying that he is not trying to share his own beliefs. But going from one president's decision in one party to the next of a different party it is political. It cannot be avoided; he is just saying that is not student congresses right to spend money towards this issue.
- Legislator Williamson said that he appreciates Director Church's and Director Queens points. We are nonpartisan organization and that's a fact. However, we are not a nonpolitical issue because everything that we do is political in one way or another. As the voice of the students we should be able to have this discussion

openly about supporting our students and all students. With all that being said he said he supports it but would change the wording so that it says we do not support DACA as a policy or DACA as a law but to support our DACA students

- Director fox said that there are several prominent republican members have taken an opposing stance to President Trumps decision. So we not only have the ability but the obligation to take a stance on this matter.
- Legislator Jagtap said that he agrees with Legislator Williamson on changing the wording. In the past administration we did take a stance on a very political issue of the Muslim ban. We will not be able to please everyone but we have a duty to support our students.
- Ms. Dafoe wanted a clarification about what this resolution is stating the congress can do.
- Legislator Fox responded with that it would allow the congress members to wear and promote our DACA students. In addition, that the resolution would go to the board of trustees. The bill that was previously on the agenda would allow us to spend money to buy t-shirts showing our support.
- Ms. Dafoe asked how big of a population was being affected by this.
- Legislator Fox responded with 800,000 people in America
- Ms. Nasry said that we were also approached to participate in a peaceful walk for our DACA students and this would allow us to do so to show our support.
- Ms. Gunn said that everything is going to be political. We may not be able to please everyone but by not trying to stand for our students, she feels she cannot be a good member of congress.
- Director Albright went back to the question of what are we doing to make the DACA feel supported. Will this bill allow us to take further action on that matter?
- Legislator Fox said that this will help us to openly market this but it will be taken to the board of trustees and they have to make a decision about what the stance that the university will take on the matter.
- Director Albright asked again, what else would this do besides provide words of support.
- Vice President Shkoukani said that he knows that knowing you are not alone and having these people standing behind you can provide more help than one may realize.
- Legislator Fox gave a clarification that right now officials could come to a city or a university and ask for the immigrants or DACA students and they could refuse or comply. With the university taking a stance on this we would become a sanctuary university that will protect them
- Director queen said that yes we have taken stances on matters like this in the past but we have always done the marketing and stance we would use a free option by using social media and he does not think our money should be used.
- Legislator fox clarified that the bill was struck and there is no point of discussing funding because it is not relevant at this point in time for this meeting.
- Director church said that it is partisan issue because of the circumstances of which it was originally passed.

- Legislator Jagtap said that even though this resolution is not dealing with money, she believes that even though the bill was stuck this is a monetary item she believes the congress should have say.
- Legislator Fox said that as it stands it would be coming from the discretionary of an executive board member and that money can be used however they choose.
- President Mishack that said she does believe the legislature should have a vote so maybe we should hold of on the order until we see where the legislature stands.
- Director Nasry said that she has already placed the order using her discretionary as per the rules of spending those funds.
- Director Church asked if the legislature allowed to call an executive boards discretionary into question
- Director fox said that there is no way to take that money away once the budget was approved unless there was a bill to remove the money from the board member.
- Director Church asked if there would be a way to check what the money was spent on at the end of the semester.
- Director Fox said that there is three way to checks the use of money and the first would be having the budget approved, then through eboard reports and then through financial statements.
- Director church followed up about whether the budget is public knowledge.
- Director Queen said yes but not at the moment due to it not being uploaded to the website.

IX. Discussion Topics

X. Legislative Updates

A. Updates related to Legislative Projects and Initiatives

- Legislator Jagtap said that her previous initiative form the last administration has finally been completed. IN addition, she has been getting work done with the Graham Health Center.
- Legislator Fox said that he has been busy with bylaw changes and additions. He met with Director Patel today about doing cross SAFAC marketing and co advertising.

B. Questions related to Legislative Reports

XI. Executive Reports

A. Student Body President, *Lena Mishack*

- President Mishack reiterated that the legislators need to make sure to read all of the meeting materials before the meeting in order to help with meeting fluency and having a knowledge of what's going on with eboard and the like. Since the last meeting it has been very busy with moving into the trailer. A large thank you and shout of too Director Patel for the involvement fair and Grizzfest. To MS. Dafoe as well for her tie dye event. She is working with Director Fox with the state funding matter.

B. Student Body Vice President, *Jousef Shkoukani*

- Vice President Shkoukani reiterated the fact that it has been busy in the past week with all the of the welcome week activities. He is excited to see all the people who are interested in joining the congress to provide new perspectives and

ideas to help improve campus. He is still working with his career services date and he will share more when he has more solid results.

C. OUSC Advisor, *Stephanie Jurva*

- The CSA now has a printer banner, and it looks like the weather for the SAFAC open house is going to be good. Which is Thursday at 11-1 and she hopes to see everyone there.
- Director Fox said that he is so excited to share that the room was approved for the student government conference and he will be moving forward with that. He now has all of the bottom five schools in regards to state funding on board to discuss options. Voter registration is going, not as high as he would like but is to be expected but would like it if when tabling or talking to students try to see if they are interested in registering to vote.
- Director Nasry said that tomorrow is the post card pal event kickoff, second there is a donation drive to collect various items until September 30th. Boxes are set up in the office. Lastly there is going to be a fashion show later this semester so if they know anyone interested in volunteering or any organizations please let her know.
- Director Queen said he has been working on lots of projects recently. Firstly, his new letter is officially named the “grizzly record”. He will accept submissions about initiatives and events that we are working on. He is trying to get one finished by

D. Updates related to E-board Projects and Initiatives

- Legislator Williamson asked about how the bike share was coming along
- Director Queen said that it was going great and he actually just got stuff in today for it.

E. Questions related to Executive Reports

XII. Comments from the Gallery

XIII. Announcements

XIV. Adjournment 6:06pm