Minnesota State University Moorhead

Student Senate Agenda

December 6, 2012

I. Call to Order (5:05)
II. Roll Call
III. Approval of the Agenda (Danielson, Frericks)
IV. Approval of the Minutes (Danielson, Peck) (11.29, 11.15)
V. Public Hearing
   a. Jean Hollar – Student Payroll Discussion

   Hollar: Proposal for student payroll from last week. The requirement for student payroll to be direct deposited, want to begin implementing it at that time. We know there may be times when a paper check is still necessary and we can mail those to student homes. But long term we want to move away from that. In MN, direct deposit has been required for state employees since 2003. For students, we've been doing DD since 2000. This proposal came because last October, students can now access pay stubs electronically. Only about 9% of students currently on payroll get a check- about 120-130. Wanted to look into how many checks were still in the main office. As of yesterday, there were 110, 60 were from last Friday. 50 that date from last pay period, maybe even August of this year. 1168 students processed through student payroll since July 1st. About 1400 in the average fiscal year. 850 at any given period during the academic year. We haven’t looked into and do not intend to look into reloadable debit cards. Affinity Plus is on campus with a variety of services at no cost to students. They are non-profit and have a mission of helping young people establish/re-establish financial credit. We have decided that if the Affinity Plus Credit Union would deny students, we would then print a paper check and mail it to the students address with the Records office. This wouldn’t necessarily save lots of money, but would streamline the process and save time and energy. It helps balance the budget by reallocating staff time to work on the University stuff. There are money management modules on the financial aid website. There are also personal finance classes. Students were asked questions when picking up checks how they felt about switching. There were a variety of answers.

   Ferguson: I have a question. I had the number 15%.

   Hollar: I had included that, but Lonnie calculated that annually.

   Beneke: You mentioned student checks would be mailed to physical address. Are they able to choose an alternative address to send them to? Is there an option for an on-campus pick-up or alternative address?

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-Steve Jobs
Hollar: We’d prefer not to have the on-campus pick up. We’d prefer to send them to an address. We can look at mailing to local addresses.
Beneke: I had an issue where I changed DD over but got a physical check. Would those students get it sent?
Hollar: It’s up to Lonnie and they’d probably have it sent.
Tomko: If this is implemented, will students who want a paper check be able to opt-in or would it only be an extreme circumstance?
Lonnie: That would be an extreme circumstance conversation.
Hollar: As I said, if Affinity Plus denies membership, then we would do the paper check.
Peck: Will this negatively impact any international students? I know some can get accounts here, but will it impact them negatively in anyway?
Hollar: That’s a good question. I spoke with someone and she didn’t believe it would affect them negatively.
Schwartzwalter: Is Affinity Plus a fairly common bank?
Hollar: Yes, they have them all over and they have 33 ATMs in FM area, over 18000 around the country. 0$ minimum balance requirement, 10$ minimum on savings accounts.
McFarren: For the students that are on the paper payroll, how were/are they notified of this change?
Hollar: They haven’t been yet because we haven’t made the final decision to implement yet.
Lonnie: We can request a list of all of these students and we’ll just email them directly and we’ll post it on the DragonNews.
Ferguson: McFarren- Something you might want to do if we do support this is to add a stipulation that we include workshops when they sent out the info.
Schwartzwalter: How easy would you say it is to get a membership with them?
Hollar: I was stopped short of saying they’d give a membership to everyone, but they exist to help their members. It really seems to me that I think there would be few if any cases where a student would be denied, but that’s when we would make the exception. Students won’t be required to use Affinity Plus.
Beneke: When it does bounce back, what is the turn around time for a physical check to be prepared?
Lonnie: As soon as we’re notified from the bank, as long as the key people are there it would be that day. What takes time is being notified by the bank.
Hollar: Often it will be the student who says their DD isn’t there and they follow.
Lonnie: I’d say 75% of the time we know about it before it ever comes back from the bank.
Sauvageau: I think the answers were well rounded and I’m pleased with the response. I feel much more comfortable this week.

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-Steve Jobs
Schwartzwalter: Yeah, me too. Because I bank with Wells Fargo and I don’t want anyone else to have to go through that.

Ehrlich: I feel more comfortable than I did last week when we heard about it. It seems like all problems that are there, people would have to deal with anyway if they were getting paid.

Awosika: My worries were eased as well.

Danielson: I like the idea that it’s being not only sustainable, but it’s also saving the school money to do it that way.

b. Karen Mehnart Meland – Student Fee Discussion

Mehnart-Meland: Activity Fee- some of you are new members since this discussion. So we’re only going to talk about FY13 and then we can come back to FY14. Do the new people want a little summary of that.

Hollar: The document starts with FY12 as the basis in terms of fees students pay. Based on work of SAFRC and Senate in 2012, these are the numbers we came up with. In FY13, there was a bit of unprecedented activity. SAFRC met and did their work and made their proposal. That came to this body and Senate made a change to what was presented. Senate made a change in the Academic Engagement Fee. Administration sends this request to MnSCU Board of Trustees. The system office said that what we had wasn’t acceptable so we had to make adjustments. We weren’t informed until academic year was over, so we took out the Academic Engagement Fee because it hadn’t been recommended by SAFRC and the Athletics Fee. Part of the Event Fee included Athletics. System Office said to take out that fee as well. We were at a 10% increase but that was approved.

Mehnart-Meland- MnSCU policy has lots of different fees. To simplify it down, the campus has different fees, some with caps. What’s important is that MnSCU really looks at student fee consultation occurring. We added some new fees last year. When you add the fees, you are really discussing “Is this important, is it a priority?” and what it means to students in the long haul. This spreadsheet really shows, this is where we came in/ this is where we ended up.

Beneke: The Wellness Center Fee isn’t set at a cap, is there a reason why it’s grouped with Health and Wellness fee on the bill?

Hollar: I think there’s a finite amount of detail that can be on that bill, so some things are combined because they are viewed as related.

Ferguson: When SAFRC brings their recommendation to us, do they bring this or is it more broken down?

Mehnart-Meland: This. When you start to look at the budgets, you can really get bogged down in the detail. That’s SAFRC’s jobs.

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-Steve Jobs
Hollar: In any one of these budgets, the student fee dollars may be only one part of the revenue that’s available to that operation. In other cases, this is the only revenue for that.

Mehnart-Meland: The one that has changed since last year- The Student Life Activity Fee was something really talked about last year. A couple of fees together make that up (Athletics, Activity, Events, some others).

Ferguson: Who decides the caps?

Mehnart-Meland: The Board. So this format, you’re starting to get this, right?

Ferguson: Yeah, I think so.

Hollar: I think if there’s ways to help or make a better format, let us know.

Beneke: The Reserve Fee, I we still looking at a similar drop in credits?

Hollar: Let’s talk about the Reserve Fee for a minute. We have it now at $2.13. Because there was a drop in enrollment but we guaranteed the budget, we depleted the reserve, so we now had to raise that fee. Right now, each student pays this to help us replenish that reserve which is required by the Board.

VI. Advisor Boschee’s Report

This is my last meeting for this semester. (Lots of Boos!) Oh, stop! Becky has agreed to step in as advisor. The nice thing you should all be commended in is that they’ve really enjoyed working with the Senate this year. Beyond that, in my absence, SABC Chair will be Aaron Lund. I don’t know if anything has been brought up about the last weekend in January. Nadin has been a point of contact and will be an ambassador. We have 30 reservations covered based on our sponsorship of it. And in the end most of it is paid for if not all. The paperwork to sign up is in the ODI. I encourage you to do that early because there will be a deadline.

Danielson: If you go to the ODI, Hollerman has them, but that’s until the end of this semester. The front desk, ask for it.

Ibrahim: If you do want to go, hurry up because there were a lot of people at the informational session.

Ferguson: How would you say we proceed as Senators with the fee discussion and our role with fees?

Boschee: Well I think Karen eluded to that, but some of you are part of lots of different committees, so I encourage you to become really aware of those things. So maybe it’s every other meeting you have a fee update from each area. Especially last year, we had some unprecedented things we had to undertake and this year will be the same. Those of you that are representatives on those Fee producing committees, get well informed and be the experts for that?

Schwartzwalter: What’s your first duty for congress?

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-Steve Jobs
Boschee: Well as someone with a background in higher education, I will be serving on the Agriculture Committee. Those of you involved in MSUSA, 20 minutes before the governor gave his address, we read that MN has a deficit equal to it.

VII. Officer Reports
   a. Secretary Bernier

   Office paper- please don't do so much personal printing, we've gone through a lot since I bought it. The office was cleaned, please keep it that way.
   Danielson: They do have it set up now, so you can cloud print from the office.

   b. Treasurer Danielson

   Our current balance is $12,748.48. For spring, we’ll have $3000 to spend. That’s after salaries, stipends, committee supplies, elections, and the banquet. Next semester, I’m going to be looking into fundraising and volunteer opportunities for Senate. For fundraising, I think it’s a good idea to subsidize the student fee cost that goes into senate. Whenever we spend money its student fees. I’d like to be as transparent as possible and take some of the burden off of students. So when you are improving bills and stuff, keep in mind how that affects the student body and your constituents in general. Consider, will your constituents really benefit from it, and if they won’t do you want to approve it? If you have ideas for fundraising/volunteer opportunities, email me. Also, I brought in some ornaments so if you want to decorate the tree, feel free.

   c. Vice President Beneke

   A couple things- I made a flawed decision for the gala event. I will send out a new doodle to those of you who responded for a schedule with spring semester. Exec met this week and decided we are going to be more formalized in what we are focusing on. I am going to be working on the alumni gala, planning the next retreat, find some fun activity, and maybe look at off campus sites we can utilize, and then focus on alumni outreach and trying to build a network to carry over. A note to chairs- I’d like to do an initial check on transition manuals in February so you aren’t writing it during your finals. Also over winter break, after we do the goal setting activity, Exec will take that over winter break and establish a checklist for each chair to accomplish for next semester. We’ll do 1-3 meetings with cabinet members. We did it with Flo last week and she found it helpful. The idea is to give everyone on Senate an individual task. But it will be up to the chairs decision how to break up the tasks. Hopefully within the first week we’ll get this done. Another thing I want to work on is working with people who are new to Senate, to help them out and figure out what’s going on, what they can be doing as a senator to do more. One thing I’ve found that other campuses do is (Metro) a far more intense mentorship thing for new senators.

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-Steve Jobs
d. President Ferguson

Meeting with Advocate tomorrow about us possibly taking over the DragonDigest. I’m just telling her we haven’t made the decision. There are a few members that are excited but the body hasn’t come to a conclusion on it yet. I have meetings with Edna in the upcoming week. I’ll touch on my responsibilities and goals. We decided I would reach out more to NDSU and Concordia and maybe forming a Student Association to really connect the tri-colleges, Open houses in the Senate Office, Meetings with the administration. Also wanted to thank everyone who tabled this last week. It was fun and great. Thanks Ehrlich for setting that up. Thom worked especially hard and I worked with Clay and Yannis for a bit. Thom helped with the computer thing in Maclean, and IB. Thank you for your efforts.

Schwartzwalter: Earlier they said you Thom and Flo are on SAFRC. Can you tell us what happened?

Ferguson: I didn’t make it, but it was basically an introduction and such. The next meeting is next Wednesday.

Ehrlich: I think connectedness with Tri-college, I think it’s important we point out that they’re not the enemy. The thing where they had the comedy event, I think half of that was us poking fun at NDSU and Concordia. When you get here, that really marks how you feel.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs Chair Newhouse

Hi, um, so AA, I was going to bring some advising stuff from the survey I got. I’m going to make that info available as soon as possible. I sent out a second survey on something else and I got those numbers mixed around so it wasn’t as many as I thought it was for the survey. We talked about what we want to do for the rest of the semester. I don’t know if we’ll be able to have a committee meeting with the lead in the ASC, we’ll do that and make it known there is tutoring available to those students. Also, I am in the process of figuring out meeting times with Anne. I’m going to try to set up another meeting by end of semester and then in the spring, too. Schwartzwalter ahs a meeting set up with tri-colleges next week.

b. Diversity Chair Ibrahim

Next we have the study day even co-sponsored with MSUSA for students to write down an issue that students have with Diversity and we’ll put those up on a poster. If you want to go to the Power In Diversity Conference, let me know and I’ll get you a sign-up.

c. Leg IA Chair Anderson

So, Russel was going to talk to Blackhurst about K Lot so I emailed her today. She sent it to Jan Mahoney to have someone get it figured out. Secret Santa-

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Nadin is last person to get a name. We'll have the party Wednesday at 5. We have lots of soda and dessert so far but not many main dishes. It’s a dessert party. There’s hot dish, but we don’t know what that means. I want this to be as enjoyable for everybody. Maybe I’ll get little things so that if you guess who it is you get a prize.

Beneke: Should we leave our gifts under the tree?
Anderson: Give it to Frericks or Pope maybe since they didn’t sign up.

d. MSUSA Coordinator Bernier
We’re doing a study day event next week. Lobby Corp, come help if you can, from 11-1 in the CMU. There is no bill from Diversity to cosponsor so it's just us right now. I’m sending my Diversity Specialist to the Diversity Conference. We have a Board Conference in January and Delegates in February, which I want folks to attend. I need to get a picture of campus for the office in the Cities. I'm also doing evals of my committee. Don't forget about Rally Day! More information to come.

Tomko: Where are we tabling?
Schwartzwalter: When you were talking about the Conference and Rally Day, were they the same?

e. Public Relations Chair Schaunaman
This week Neo has been sprucing up the facebook page. We’re doing favorite quotes for every Senator. We’re working on fixing up the info board by the CMU main entrance. We’re changing the logo and going to put the minutes or snapshot there. Neo will pass around the sheet for your favorite quote.

Danielson: When you say favorite quote, what do you mean?

f. Student Affairs Chair Sauvageau
I didn’t send out a weekly committee for the week. I’ll be doing my manual over break. Went to Steering committee meeting today. We talked about our vision and they’ll be bringing it to the Senate when they have it more formulated.

g. Election Chair Ehrlich
Elections ended today. We have to vote on that. There’s a motion to make a subcommittee for the ones for write-in candidates.

Anderson: If a write-in candidate won, you don’t need a subcommittee.
Beneke: There were ties so we need to do something about it.
Ferguson: I forgot to say this in my report. Unfortunately, Jordan and I haven’t communicated very well while she is in the hospital. We’re going to look for an interim chair. We need to be prepared in case she doesn’t come back. We need someone to step up and lead the CA committee. This isn’t set in stone. Once we learn more from Jordan later, we’ll have to make that decision.

IX. Old Business
X. New Business

“But innovation comes from people meeting up in the hallways or calling each other at 10:30 at night with a new idea, or because they realized something that shoots holes in how we’ve been thinking about a problem.”

-Steve Jobs
a. Appointments

Thom Beneke to Tech Fee committee.
Prospective Senator Ashton, SLHS, Ed Human Services, I’d like to be on PR or Student Affairs for MSUM.
I’m a big time communicator. I have a very hard work ethic. I’m a good voice for others. I would like to be more informed about what each of the committees entails. I’d like to hear from others what problems they have with what’s going on campus. And be more informed of what everybody else thinks.
Schaunaman attempts to ask witty question about transition manuals. Doesn’t work. Lots of laughter. My favorite part about Senate is everybody having opinions. You guys have fun still, it’s not too tense. I like how everybody is concerned, too. I was first nominated by the chair from my department. I’m a senior, looking for grad schools. I’m looking for leadership opportunities. PR is really important to me.
Ashton Lee appointed to Education and Human Services.

b. Planning Workshop

c. Ballot Approval

Beneke: We need to approve the results. Due to write in candidates, I feel the sub-committee is necessary. I did GPA checks and verified residency of those write-ins. Review of ballot.

d. Study Day Diversity Event Bill

Ibrahim: Promoting Diversity- handing out free soup to students who will write down what diversity means to them or an issue they have with diversity.
Peck: Soup is awesome. I love it. I’ll get as much as they’ll let me.
Tomko: I think the idea is great. It’s already been proven that events with free food are successful.
Peck: I’m assuming the biggest expense is the soup.
(Call to question Roll call- Danielson, Schwartzwalter) Pass

Beneke- Yes
Danielson- Yes
Bernier- Abstain
Ibrahim- Yes
Anderson- Yes
Johnson- Yes
Neupane- No
Struxness- Yes
Frericks- No
Peck- abstain
Valdex-Delgado- Yes

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e. Scorch Jam t-shirts

Beneke: This is an activity that Senate has traditionally done. It’s for our name to be included on the t-shirt and help to fund the event. We have some things we do traditionally and we like to keep those up and build recognition.

Danielson: We may be able to amend that to a lower cost. I found a bunch of tie-dye today. Everyone seems to like to get a free shirt and tie-dye it. It’s nice we’re involved with it, being one of the larger orgs on campus.

Valdez-Delgado: How much supplies do we have from last year?
Danielson: There were 5 bottles. Last year we bought like 12 altogether. So we’ll still have to buy some more, but not as much.

Tomko: How big is the Senate’s fund and where is it on the shirt?
Danielson: It’s on the back, it’s pretty big. It’s as big as all the rest. It’s our actual logo that goes on there.

McFarren: I’m curious, how is the attendance?
Danielson: Pretty good.

Amendment to make on campus mall

Thurston: Last year it was done on the Holmquist Slab because there was a noise violation. We really wanted it on the campus mall.

Danielson: I wouldn’t be opposed to be the one to go talk to him about it.

Tomko: If we do sponsor the event, does our funding go away?

Ferguson: I would send an email and say, we’ll do this, provided it’s on the campus mall. She’ll tell us or not and what the process will be. We’ll be respectful so we don’t burn any bridges and we can always write a new bill if we have to.

Call to question (Schwartzwalter, Peck) pass
Call to question by roll call (Danielson, Peck) pass

Beneke- No
Danielson- Abstain
Bernier- Yes
Ibrahim- Yes
Anderson- No

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-Steve Jobs
Johnson- No  
Neupane- No  
Struxness- Yes  
Frericks- No  
Peck- Yes  
Valdex-Delgado- Yes  
Tomko- Yes  
Ehrlich- Yes  
Lee- Yes  
McFarren- Yes  
Thurston- Yes  
Schwartzwalter- No  
Awosika- Yes  

**f. Motion to approve mandatory Direct Deposit for Student Payroll**

Beneke: I was originally a very very big naysayer of the idea of automatic direct deposit, but I feel like of the concerns I have they were answered. My biggest concern was sending the check to a physical address, but hopefully those will be few and far between and there will be some accommodations.

Danielson: It’s a fine motion.

McFarren: amendment

Amendment Discussion (McFarren, Bernier)

Call to Question (Schwartzwalter, Danielson)

Schwartzwalter: I was also kind of wary about it and it seemed unnecessary. She even said direct cost isn’t going to be a big deal and with the deficit the schools in, it doesn’t seem like it will do that much. If it’s gonna help speed things along, and if there isn’t a big problem it causes for students, it’s okay.

Ehrlich: It definitely seems that they’re really going to look out for those one person who may need it.

Bernier: Gives impassioned speech in opposition :p

Danielson: I was very surprised at how well the data was broken down for us. I think in all of my time on Senate, this is the best I’ve gotten for data given to me, they told us down to every single response of the naysayers. I bank at Affinity Plus. It bothered me that they were advocating for Affinity Plus. I didn’t like that. However, I don’t mind the direct deposit proposal in general. I think that it’s more efficient to do it that way and I like it.

Beneke: I’m going to disagree with a previous speaker. Just because we’re not a business doesn’t mean we’re not a university too. It’s still a job in the work force. Just because it’s on a college campus isn’t a differentiation. The fact that

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it is a growing trend is helpful. It pushes students to do that. As long as those resources are provided to students.

Schwartzwalter: There’s parts I like. I like that they have Affinity Plus there. They say it’s a free option for students. However, it doesn’t seem, the more I think about it, necessary or like it’s a big issue. There are bigger budget proposals you could be focusing on and why is it on the backs of students to do that. Need to address why students aren’t picking up their paychecks. I’m probably going to abstain. I don’t think it’s an issue that needs to be addressed right now.

Anderson: I am opposite of others. I haven’t been shown that there’s a need for it. Sure there are checks sitting in a drawer. I can understand having to mail them out, but that’ll be an option for some students anyway. Looking up addresses isn’t that difficult. And it’s already on the check, in an envelope. Lonnie Carlson has a job to do and I think it’s just trying to make it easier, I can’t fault her for it, but I don’t see a point to it at all.

McFarren: If those students who are getting the paper checks go into the world and require the direct deposit, what better place to learn about it than at the university level.

Beneke: The benefit that’s getting over looked is that it’s not just so she doesn’t have to do work, but so that her work hours can be redistributed within the business office. Not only is this an effort to streamline, but reallocate employee hours. I think it’s a lesson in life that just because you don’t want to do something doesn’t mean it has merit. If there’s one hold out, that doesn’t mean the idea should be ignored.

Awosika: I think it’s kind of like, after they came, my worries were eased. They answered some key things we had problems of before. After what’s been said, it is getting us towards more of what businesses are doing. I’m wondering, why is it so important. I can see good for it because it could be good. There’s always going to be someone who has a problem with something. The people that don’t want to do this don’t necessarily have a strong reason against it. Maybe they just prefer to get checks. Unless people have a strong reasoning, I don’t know.

Frericks: Out of those 129 students, 86 said they would go over with no problem or concern. That dwindles the number further. Those that said they wouldn’t want to, it was because they like a paper copy which they can print on e-services. It just seems like they’re being stubborn to me and don’t want to print it off themselves.

Johnson: I’m confused why they have to mandate it.

Danielson: Each individual department doesn’t cut the check. The business office does it for everyone.

Anderson: A few things with having to do it for a job anyway. A lot of students here make like $8.50 an hour which I don’t think is preparing them that much

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for a career. It’s like what Johnson said, why can’t it be an opt out thing. I still don’t see a need for it. If you have 5 students that want paper checks, is that really a big deal? I didn’t really care before but now I don’t see a point and it’s wasting time.

Ehrlich: I think workshops are important for people to know how to use them, but they also have to know how to use paper checks. When you get out of college and during, you’ll probably go where you get paper checks and once you get to those bigger ones you’ll be older, smarter, and wiser. Paper checks are a part of banking.

Johnson: Since we’re moving fast into this vote, most jobs you’ll get right out of college won’t mandate direct deposit. They encourage it, but don’t mandate. There’s a huge difference.

(Call to Question, Roll Call- Bernier, Danielson)

Beneke- Yes
Danielson- Yes
Bernier- No
Ibrahim - No
Anderson- No
Johnson- No
Neupane- Yes
Struxness- No
Frericks- Yes
Peck- No
Valdex-Delgado- No
Tomko- Yes
Ehrlich- Abstain
Lee- No
McFarren- Yes
Thurston- No
Schwartzwalter- No
Awosika- Abstain

Chair and Senator of the Quarter
Nominations
Call to question (Bernier, Danielson)

Points for the Good of the Order
Sauvageau: My cousin is Miss North Dakota, she is going to Miss America. Her name is Rosie Sauvageau.

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Schwartzwalter: I don’t want to be the mom, but when we have longer meetings like this, we know they’re going to be longer. It gets frustrating when we are trying to have a conversation and people get antsy and frustrated and are laughing and such. Please keep it in mind. You signed up for this but complaining passive-aggressively doesn’t make things go faster.

Schaunaman: Can we have some sort of response time next time?

Ferguson: The only thing I can really do is to make it less fun and limit the jokes we make. But if we take those away, nobody is going to like coming here. It gets long, but being self-conscious is important but so is getting your point across.

Anderson: You can limit conversation on stuff.

Awosika: I feel like there’s a middle ground for fun to serious ratio.

Struxness: While discussions are going on, there’s side stuff going on and that’s what’s slowing things down.

Danielson: If anybody wants to limit discussion, they can do that. Other thing is, yeah when people are talking, when public hearing is here—you need that same respect for each other.

Beneke: I’m going to make this change. I’m probably the worst at this. From now on, I noticed the number of cell phones on the table. A focus on the meeting will help. That’s a goal for myself. To limit my need.

Ehrlich: With conversations going really really long, it went back and forth between a lot of people talking. It’s important we allow people to voice their opinions. If someone cares enough to talk about it, we should foster that.

Schwartzwalter: I want people to have fun here, but the body should be able to voice its opinions. I don’t think that it was. This is something new for us and longer meetings are foreign to us. This body shouldn’t be rushing things because people are impatient. I don’t think it will be a problem but it should be addressed and we should keep an eye on it. Senates aren’t supposed to be efficient, they’re supposed to be dysfunctional.

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment (Schwartzwalter, Beneke) (9:13)

“But innovation comes from people meeting up in the hallways or calling each other at 10:30 at night with a new idea, or because they realized something that shoots holes in how we’ve been thinking about a problem. “

-Steve Jobs