General Assembly Meeting Agenda
January 28th, 2020 - 7:00pm
Brush Mountain A & B —Squires Student Center
Roll Call Question: How’s your day going, 1 to 10? (10 good 1 bad)

I. Call to Order
   A. Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

II. Roll Call
   A. Quorum met
   B. Attendance: Itiade Adegbulugbe, Jayme Bibbins, Scott Braatz, Conrad Briles, Michael Byers, Dani Chowen, Kaitlyn Cole, Brogan Dineen, Jonathan Falls, Miles Guth, Megan James, Baasim Kazi, Sanaa Khan, Natalie Koppier, Renan Lopes, Drew Lund, Michael Marinella, Reena Meavarapu, Daniel Moran, Osadebe Osakwe, Natalie Robertson, Jack Shebat, Ashley Shebat, Melanie Sherrill, Will Wallace, Sara Wynkoop, Eric Zirkle
   C. Absent: Troy Hoffman, Faris Iqbal, Saachi Khurana, Jacob Labinger, Hayden Marrs, Daniel Moran, Sharan Patnaik, Christopher Reutt, Ester Rivera, Robbert Siemers, Blake Smith, Walt Tatera, Lucas Tuosto, Peter Woods,

III. Adoption of Agenda
   A. Motion to adopt agenda
   B. Motion seconded

IV. Reading of Minutes
   A. Motion to adopt minutes
   B. Motion seconded

V. Special Orders
   A. Public Forum
      1. None

VI. Officer Reports
   A. President—Adil Sageer
      1. Rec sports and cook counseling award will be announced soon
      2. Governance council will meet soon
      3. Search committee- has finalized interview dates
4. More leg confirmations next week
5. Consider applying for BOV position

B. Vice President– Blake Barnhill
   1. Doing hokie effect, there will be more updates soon

C. Chair– Sadie Faith Andersen
   1. Fill out office hours
   2. Please use slack

D. Secretary– Victoria Dashevsky
   1. Please fill out form about serving in university governance
   2. Alan won’t be at leg meetings, budget will be presented next meeting
   3. We have a presentation pointer now, please sign it in and out

E. Advisors– Scott Nachlis, Gabby Singh
   1. Identify goals that you want to work on this semester
   2. There are many other opportunities to get involved outside of these meetings

VII. University Governance Commission/Committee Reports
    A. Strategic budgeting – going over what the state is proposing
    B. Commission on Staff policies – meetings have been cancelled last 3 months
    C. Energy committee – going over green proposals from students
    D. Mental health coalition – having an event Feb. 20th at Deets

VIII. SGA Committee Reports
    A. Academic Affairs
       1. No new information

    B. Campus Development
       1. Natalie is the new chair
       2. Working on structure

    C. Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
       1. Excited to get new members and get things rolling
       2. 4:30 on Wednesdays – tentative meeting time

    D. Student Health and Wellness
       1. No new information
IX. Unfinished Business
   A. Bill to Increase Allotted Absences for Representatives
   B. Questions
      1. Was there time to take a new poll?
         a. No, it seemed irrelevant after last week’s meeting
   C. Discussion
      1. Motion to amend
         a. Strikeout lines 3 and 4 since the poll was not liked
         b. Motion passes
      2. Bill says SGA does better work if more people are present in meetings, if more absences are allowed more people could possibly not be here. Making SGA less productive. Also, with the poll gone there is no supporting evidence
      3. If people are given leeway, then they will feel more comfortable showing up. Also coming late means an absence and that’s hard for members
      4. Some tech companies give employees unlimited vacations and don’t have set hours, and it works fine
      5. Tardiness being an absence, seems like a different bill
      6. This is the best way to deal with the issue, since the Judicial branch has already interpreted what an “absence” is.
      7. Students have other things going on
      8. The issues raised are about the definition of an absence not the number of absences. The issue is one of time management. Also tech companies, people work 40+ hours
      9. Giving another absence helps negate issues with the tardiness issue
     10. Motion to vote
         a. It should be discussed more
         b. If we don’t like it after it is passed, can it be gotten rid off
            i. No, it is not possible
         c. Would like to provide another perspective, delay the motion
            i. Hand count
               i. Nay – 7
               ii. Aye – 19
               iii. Abstain -1
         d. Does this bill help students, or does it help you? There are proxies available to you. Please think about if this is really serving the
students of Virginia Tech. with 3 absences you can miss 20% of meetings in fall and 27% in spring

e. How hard is it to change it from an attendance policy to the definition about tardiness?
   i. It would have to go through a different bill that also mentions quorum.

f. If it is a life issue, then there is an appeals process. If it is a time issue or prior commitment, then you are aware about and it is possible to find a proxy. It is claimed that this bill is for people that are driven in SGA, yet if you are driven then it should be easy to get a proxy

g. How hard is the appeals process?
   i. It is a simple google form, and not just “life issues” are granted appeals. There is precedent for common time tests and many other situations

h. Has tried to find a proxy in the past and it is very difficult

i. Opinions in this room are highly regarded. It is easier to have 3 absences than to explain appeals and proxy process to new members

j. Is it possible to appeal being late?
   i. Yes, it is. Has to do with why they are late

k. 3 absences bill makes no sense, today in slack someone reached out for help about a proxy and a proxy was found for them in a short time. We are hurting the student body by not coming to SGA meetings.
   i. Motion to Extend by 5 minutes
      i. Seconded
      ii. Motion passes

l. Doesn’t want to send a proxy if they are only a few minutes late, doesn’t want to be there if arriving late and being marked absent

m. SGA is an opportunity to represent students. Wouldn’t consider it just a club. Last semester 36 people of the 48 in the body had 2 absences. Hurts to hear that the body does not want to be present, if there are some people putting in 40+ hours a week.

n. You have time to find a proxy in advance

o. Would like to table the bill for a week
   i. Not debatable has to go straight to vote
   ii. Vote on tabling the bill
iii. Aye - 15
iv. Nay - 10
v. Abstain – 2

i. Bill is tabled

X. New Business

A. Confirmation of New Members

1. Lauren Hoyns (CLHS)
   a. Not here

2. Samantha Shamim (CLHS)
   a. Senior
   b. Passionate about diversity, everyone should feel comfortable
   c. More mediation and prayer spaces, especially on academic side
   d. Residential side is not accessible for those with physical disabilities
   e. Questions
      i. Will you graduate this year?
         i. Yes
      ii. How did you hear about SGA?
         i. Seen SGA in squires and knows Sadie

3. Justin Phrampus (Pamplin)
   a. Freshman
   b. Wants to get more involved in campus
   c. SGA can give him an ability to help students
   d. Want to alleviate crowds at Torgerson hall during finals week
   e. Questions
      i. Business camp?
         i. The camp teaches about how to solve problems in a business way
      ii. What are involved with on campus?
         i. Finance club
      iii. How did you hear about SGA?
         i. His roommate

4. Sophia Pentakalos (At-Large)
   a. Freshman
   b. SGA can provide a meaningful way to provide change on campus
c. Wants to tackle sexual assault problems on campus
d. Questions
e. Fav opinion piece
   i. The Syrian conflict
f. How did you hear about SGA?
   i. Reena

5. Michael Chaney (At-Large)
a. Not here

6. Gus Cutting (At-Large)
a. Freshman
b. Was in student government in high school
c. Was given an offer last semester, but had to defer because of the lacrosse team
d. Questions
e. What else are you involved in?
   i. Honors college
f. How did you hear about SGA
   i. Through Gobblerconnect
g. What’s one change you want to see on campus?
   i. Event to get more freshman to meet at the beginning of the year

7. Atticus Rex (At-Large)
a. Was athletic tutor, and was able to see the life of athletes at tech
b. Is interested in SGA, because he wants to help students
c. Questions
   i. What year are you?
      i. Freshman
   ii. How did you hear about SGA?
      i. Expressed interest at gobblerfest
   iii. What specific ideas do you have to better VT?
      i. Doesn’t have any specific ideas, pitched a zero-waste idea in his LLC

8. Discussion over candidates
   a. Likes all the candidates, many have extracurriculars and great speaking points
   b. All had great ideas
c. Very impressed with Samantha S.
d. Concerned about how many freshmen, not sure why there are so many. Could just be a result of who has come
e. Is a freshman and acclimating has not been difficult
f. All candidates were great

9. Voting on candidates
   a. All have been confirmed

XI. Announcements
   A. Congratulations to new members and Natalie for her new role
   B. Next up with change is happening soon
   C. Up with change gets students to answer a question using a ball pit
   D. Looking at funding for next year, what do we want to do next semester?
      1. What type of events?
         a. Less social, more engage with students’ events
      2. Reading day with SGA
      3. Big dance party
         a. SGA should partner with gobblernights
      4. We should do something during earth week
      5. Reach out to other organizations about events
      6. What is status of office access
         a. Has done everything he can, many people are involved
      7. Please fill out form for university governance, this is what it is
      8. Ring dance is big event, but since rings need to be purchased is it hard for low income students to go. So a dance would be a good idea
      9. Ad hoc committee on climate action has met

XII. Adjournment
   A. Motion to adjourn at 8:27
   B. Motion passes
   C. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm