General Assembly Meeting Agenda

October 29th 2019 - 7:00pm

Commonwealth Ballroom—Squires Student Center

Roll Call Question: What are you dressed up as for Halloween?

1. Call to order
   a. Meeting was called to order 7:03 pm

2. Roll Call
   a. 44 present
   b. Quorum met

3. Adoption of Agenda
   a. Motion passes

4. Reading of Minutes
   a. Jonathan -Motion to amend minutes by adding a phrase to secretary officer reports  Rebecca said - “You mentioned that a few of our members were on official business at ACC Advocacy Day. Was there an application process, or did Adil handpick the members for this trip?”
      b. Motion passes
      c. Motion to adopt minutes
      d. Motion passes

5. Special Order
   a. Public Form
      i. None
   b. Costume Contest
      i. 1st place- Chapman
      ii. 2nd place -SaraBeth
      iii. 3rd place – Adil

6. Officer Reports
   a. Cabinet Report
      i. President– Adil Sageer
         1. Not involved in enforcing attendance policy
         2. Last week went to ACC advocacy day
a. Made a mistake by posting about it only in leg chat and not giving enough time to apply
b. In future will have marketing chair make a flyer that will be on both social media and in emails

3. President’s committee on governance
   a. Will send the draft of the resolution to the body and wants opinion of members
   b. CSA also voted to focus on governance for the rest of the year

4. Governance appointments have been finalized
ii. Vice President– Blake Barnhill
   1. Marketing, events & outreach have filled their committees
   2. Adi has chosen people for his committee
   3. Has been working with Alan on this
      a. Budget cuts will have to be made
      b. Done with advisors and those in charge of sub-portions of budget
      c. Intake form will be sent out later tonight and will be open for a week
      d. Next week a new budget will be formulated and will be presented to leg next week.

iii. Chair– Sadie Faith Andersen
   1. Meetings have no specific time limit
   2. Can’t be promised that they can only be an hour long
   3. Last week’s speaker was very long so speakers will be given 15 minutes to speak and 15 minutes for questions
   4. The email had to be sent multiple times due to the files being too large, in future document will most likely be sent in PDF format
   5. Thanks for coming to clean up

iv. Secretary– Victoria Dashevsky
   1. Doc is in SGA drive with all the meeting times, places, and dates for university governance
      a. Some have not emailed back with specifics but will get updated ASAP
   2. Proxies
      a. Email Sadie and Victoria if you will have one
      b. Include proxies name and email in the email
      c. Let them know how you want to vote
      d. College reps must have proxy in the same college as them
3. Attendance
   a. Judicial Branch in charge of enforcing, secretary just takes it
   b. Dylan will help compile a list of people leaving meetings early and this list will be given to the judicial branch
   c. Claims can be appealed

v. Treasurer– Alan Balnor
   1. Not here

vi. Advisors– Scott Nachlis, Gabby Singh
   1. Scott
      a. Was at ACC advocacy day last week
      b. Members of exec and leadership are trying their best to be transparent and keep people informed
      c. Feel free to reach out to advisors or Gina with any issues
      d. Is sorry for not answering emails, he has been very busy
         i. Feel free to send follow up if needed

7. University Governance
   a. Commission on undergrad studies and policies
      i. 1st reading of resolution to abolish department of communication to turn it into school of communications

   b. Transportation and parking
      i. Scooter safety
      ii. Helmets will be given out

   c. Energy and sustainability committee
      i. Green labs – rating labs on campus for sustainability
      ii. Recycling at tailgates, people can volunteer to help clean
      iii. Students can write proposals until Nov. 8th

   d. Town Gown
      i. Town growth as University grows
      ii. VT foundation owners of the CRC
         1. It is full so they will be building 5 story building where buffalo wild wings was and a rooftop space
      iii. Goal to have 40% students living on campus

8. Committee reports
   a. Academic Affairs
i. Survey will be sent out regarding canvas grading legislation
ii. Please fill out and send to constituents

b. Campus Dev
   i. Met with Spin scooter people
      1. Working to keep program here for good

c. Equity and inclusion
   i. Queer and trans people of color at VT meeting today
   ii. Working on contacting organizations
   iii. Will have guest speaker this Thursday

d. Student health and wellness
   i. Working on sanitation problems in math empo

9. Unfinished Business
   a. None

10. New Business
   a. Resolution to Create Moped Parking Space Near Newman Library
      i. Questions?
         1. Why 5 or 6?
            a. To give parking services more options
         2. Is Parking spot just for mopeds but can cars park there?
            a. It will be specifically for mopeds
            b. Parking services will start to crack down on illegally parked mopeds
            c. Did you do observational study
               i. The campus development committee as a whole did it
         3. Discussion
            a. Motion needed to amend section 8, so it reads representative instead of representation
               i. Motion to change representation to representative
               ii. Motion passes
            b. Jonathan - Motion to change title by adding “on the Blacksburg campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
i. SaraBeth – There are multiple VT campuses, so this is a good comment

ii. Jonathan – it is better to be specific in legislation
   1. Voting – hand vote
      a. Aye -11
      b. Nay – 32
   2. Motion fails

c. Jonathan – Motion to add “the Code of” in first line
   i. Discussion
      1. Stephen – Jonathans edit is the correct way to say it
   ii. Voting
      1. Motion passes

d. Jonathan – Motion to add “The code of the Town of Virginia” in section 2
   i. Discussion
      1. Stephen – The quote used in the resolution is taken from the Blacksburg ordinance so you would use the Blacksburg ordinance
      2. Jonathan – It seems as if it is from the code
      3. Jackson- this conversation should be continued outside of the meeting
      4. Jonathan – Point of Info, are we still in discussion.
         a. Sadie - yes
      5. Jonathan - doing this because he wants to create a good piece of legislation which is what meetings are meant for
      6. Stephen – hopes that the motion will be withdrawn
      7. Jonathan – withdraws the motion
   ii. Reading is done will be brought back next week

b. Bill to Amend the By-Laws and Increase Accountability Amongst Committee Membership.
   i. Questions
1. Stephen – will there be an allowance for excused absences because people can have tests, do you think that 2 absences is too strict?
   a. Jackson – hopes to keep committee members accountable for their actions
2. Jack – do excused absences count?
   a. Jackson - There are no excused absences in SGA, if you get more than 2 absences then Jackson will email you and you have an ability to appeal
3. Jonathan – How is attendance currently tracked?
   a. Jackson – Secretary takes it
   b. Victoria – only takes attendance at GA meetings, on a google sheet in leadership drive. Sanskriti lets Jackson know if people have more than 3 absences. Does not take attendance at committee meetings but there is a sheet in the leg drive that chairs and vice-chairs can add to.
4. Jackson – this resolution was written because committee chairs were complaining about people missing their meetings
5. SaraBeth – This is to keep people accountable and makes it easier for the committee as well as the judicial branch
6. Drew- motion to amend the attendance policy to say that attendance is defined as missing an entire meeting
   a. Scott -cannot be done because to change bylaws a resolution must be written
   b. Victoria – you must write bill to change bylaws
   c. Jack – Is attendance defined in the bylaws
      i. Sadie many things in the bylaws are not fully defined
      ii. Jackson – attendance is not fully defined; it is the secretary’s job to define it

ii. Discussion
1. Drew motion to amend by adding true definition of attendance “an absence is representative missing an entirety of a meeting”
   a. Stephen motion to amend a meeting to “a committee meeting”
      i. Jack - if we do this will bylaws also have to be amended?
      ii. Michael B – let’s do one thing at a time
2. Voting
   a. Motion passes
iii. Discussion

1. Jack - Will a proxy need to be sent to committee meetings?
   a. Sadie - Currently it is set up that proxies are for GA meetings only

2. Scott – I would encourage people to think about if Proxies should be a committee meeting because there are ongoing projects

3. Stephen – motion to add 4th part – “committee meeting absences are defined as a where a member is not there for the entirety of the meeting. Excused absences are when prior notice is given by the member to the chair or vice chair and are approved 
   a. Caroline – This should not be in bylaws the wording does not make sense
   b. Natalie – There are no unexcused absences in the bylaws
   c. Blake – would recommend removing vice-chair as it is not in bylaws

4. Stephen – Will rescind the portion about vice-chair
   a. SaraBeth – this should not be said in governing documents, if committee chairs don’t know what’s going on, they should ask for help

5. Scott – Should this be placed in a governing document? Take some time to think about wording as bylaws exist forever.

6. Dylan – expectations have been made for chair and vice chair

7. Stephen – it is important because we are setting strict rules on absence and it needs to be defined

8. SaraBeth – not the right place for this amendment, it’s possible to create another section for committee specific attendance in the bylaws

9. Gabby – saying excused vs. non-excused opens can of worms
10. Caroline – bylaws not appropriate place to define absence

11. Natalie – does not make sense in current position in the bylaws

12. Jonathan – The definition of absence and excused absence does not line up

13. Stephen – on Gabby’s point, chair should have discretion on excused vs. unexcused

14. Stephen – motion to amend
   a. Scott – you cannot make another motion, there must be a vote on the original motion first or you can rescind the original motion
15. Stephen – Motion to rescind original motion and add lines 4 & 5 to a separate section C in bylaws which encompasses committee specific attendance
   a. Jackson what committees? There are many, standard language would be standing committee meetings
16. Stephen change committee meeting to “standing committee meeting”
   a. Caroline – using “standing committee meetings” is not good because the committees have been ever evolving

c. Voting – hand vote
   i. Aye – 23
   ii. Nay -20
   iii. Motion fails not 2/3 vote
       1. Adil – resolution needs majority vote
          a. Bill need 2/3 vote
          b. Amendments needs majority
             i. Scott – no

11. Discussion
   a. Stephen – rescinds adding a section about “standing legislative committee meetings”
   b. Jackson – if an amendment is made on an amendment, I understand why it is amending the bylaws.
   c. Natalie – we can write a separate bill defining excused and unexcused absences
   d. Caroline – I agree that this bill is not the place to define excused vs. unexcused
   e. Stephen – rescinded motion to give people time to think about the amendments and what edits should be made
   f. SaraBeth -what did Stephen rescind
      i. Sadie- The portion that uses the wording “standing committee meeting”
   g. Jackson – the motion did in fact fail
   h. Caroline – can’t bring it up again in next week’s meeting if it fails and it should not be in the minutes
      i. Victoria – the minutes have a synopsis of everything, and the vote count is written in them

12. Announcements
   a. SaraBeth – course request closes today
   b. Jonathan – working with Sara about how often grades are inputted onto canvas
c. Jonathan – don’t be frustrated if people are discussing legislation, and reminder that you can abstain when voting and ask for clarification from the chair
   i. Sadie – vote as you want to, you don’t have to vote as others do
d. Jackson – elections timeline will be out in 2 weeks
   i. Office hours – Tuesday 10-11 squires room 232
   ii. SaraBeth has best costume

13. Adjournment
   a. Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:53 pm
   b. Motion passes