



Student Council Meeting Agenda for March 1, 2017

ATTENDEES: Mohammad Merteban, Andy Liu, Andre Robinson, Will Earle, Sravana Paladugu, Emily Vayda, Liz O'Neill, Ava Bahktyari, Harris Syed, Nik Moring, James Duguay (Via Skype), Niketu Patel (via Skype), Hyunsoo Nom(via Skype), Stephanie Brooks (Via Skype), Paul Baresel (Via Skype) Taylor Wolfgang, Bryce Bludevich(Via Skype), Rebekah Wieland, Catherine Suppan

Absent: Murtaza Bharmal, Chantal Mendes

AGENDA:

I. REMINDER: Time meeting

II. Updates

- a. Announce New Student Council President – Stephanie 1 minute

Hyunsoo is the class of 2019 President-Elect. Congratulations to Hyunsoo.

- b. Update from the Dean – Dr. Zehle 15 minutes

Kiersten: Match week coming up. Prep for practice course for 4th years coming up as well – last 2 weeks of March. If emailing Kiersten about events please open email with some introduction of event.

Administration is looking forward to supporting upcoming student council events.

Taylor: Who is the new learning environment liaison?

Kiersten: Natalie Feldman is the new learning environment liaison. There is also new front desk staff coming to OMSE. There is a new website that OMSE unveiled in the last month. If there are any noticed aberrations please email COMIS.

- c. Community Service Update 5 minutes

Catherine: March we are doing the mardi gras parade.

Emily: There have been lots of sign ups for the mardi gras parade already. February event was outreach at wintervale. May has 2 major events – girls in science day, and then the marathon and St. baldricks event.

Mo: Can you speak more about st. baldricks and the marathon?

Emily: Marathon volunteers and the running team are there to represent LCOM. St. Baldricks is on the same day. Volunteers and donations are being solicited this day as well. Girls discovery day run by many SIGS – volunteers needed on a Saturday for this event.

III. Old Business

- a. Review of “The Big Game” Party – Harris 5 minutes

Harris: Superbowl Party went very well – 40+ attendees, many 1st years and a few 2nd years. Looking forward to maintaining this event for next year.

Mo: Any suggestions for improvements?

Harris: Seems like everything went well, no suggestions for improvements.

- b. Proposal for New Structure to Start with Co2021 – Stephanie 20 minutes
i. See Attachment

Mo: Bylaws subcommittee met 6 times over past month – hour meeting each. We took a 4 page document to 13 pages – massive revision to the bylaws sparked by suggestion through Kiersten. Going into the bylaws review we split up the sections and re wrote them to make them detailed but also simple to interpret and understand. Emphasis was placed on highlighting the responsibilities of individual positions in student council as well as the role of student council members who take time off from the curriculum. Revisions to voting rules the number of members were approached as well. Stephanie played a key role in this.

Stephanie: First step of this revision was to address current issues in student council that needed immediate addressing. This spurred the production of a list of current issues to be addressed. (See documents in commons for list of current issues and proposal). With the push going forward to make social chair and community service coordinator voting positions it seemed like 6 members at each meeting was a bit much – proposal includes a revision to number of active members per class from 6 to 5.

Mo: All of this was also spurred from a meeting with the first year student council members that occurred after the last meeting as well.

Stephanie: First big change proposed is that all student council members receive a vote. Details of this are outlined in the document found in COMmons. Community service coordinator and social chair will also be given the opportunity to run for president. The expectation going forward will be that all members of student council attend all meetings should they receive a vote. There is a another proposal for social chair responsibilities to be absorbed into multiple positions, reducing the number of active members per class from 6 to 5. Details of this proposal can be found in the document on COMmons. 5 new chairs are proposed – Chair of Student Life (Formerly Chair of Admin), Chair of Communications remains the same, Chair of Student Leadership (Formerly chair of SIGS), Chair of Finance will remain the same, Chair of Community Service will remain the same.

Bryce: The Chair of Student life proposal seems to be a lot of responsibility for a single chair.

Stephanie and Mo: There is a matrix (see document) which may help alleviate concerns regarding too much responsibility for a single chair position.

Stephanie: Student leadership lunch monthly will be facilitated and have student council members attending to relay information from the meeting. Chair of Community Service will not be expected to have an event every month – instead 4 events a year. Reference the matrix which outlines proposed subcommittee roles and responsibilities.

Mo: (Explains matrix) This is an example – the matrix would be filled out and chosen by student council members in a future meeting – to alleviate the feelings of being overwhelmed and spreading ourselves too thin.

Kiersten: At recent dining with the deans there was a lot of movement around Community Service and Active Learning. Expect more marriage of these two ideas in the future.

Stephanie: This is a big change and we don't want community service to feel like they are being undermined. 4 events is not a restriction – planning additional events is highly encouraged.

Mo: Let's talk about community service first. What are thoughts on the community service proposed changes going forward?

Katherine: I think this is a positive change. This is likely to make community service more involved with the student body. Maintain the first year kick off event, which would be different from fall event – so actually 5 events if the first year event is involved with student council community service. I'm concerned about having too many people involved with individuals involved and excessive emails/communication – what do others think?

Sravana: I can speak to this. Having planned Halloween dance it seems like this is the natural progression of planning these events.

Katherine: If it seems to work for the social events it would likely work for the community service event.

Mo: Also remember that this would be each community service chair would be planning one event – so you would be busy for that one event but then supporting your other community service chairs during the rest of the year.

Katherine: Through experience I feel as though who were interested in community service were separate from those who joined student council. How will we address this?

Emily: I think there needs to be a different election for community service – I would be fearful of running for student council with interest in community service and not getting it. This is a very specific role.

Kiersten: This could be ameliorated by the revamp to the elections implicated earlier.

Stephanie: In the revisions and trying to grant voting rights to the new positions we have added requirements that would make community service participation in student council mandatory.

Bryce: What about giving voting rights to class historian and community service – when these positions were voted in they did not have a vote. What about a re-vote?

Mo: When we pass the bylaws the student body will need to approve changes and part of this would be giving these positions vote and the student body would be aware and make this decision.

Sean: Community service chairs have talked about how we envision the roles of community service 1st through 4th year. Compromise may be that the 4th year or the last year member who is the most senior member present has a vote, or can only vote on situations that pertain to community service and or bylaws pertaining to community service. Votes pertaining to budget, community service would have votes from community service. Otherwise that position would not get a vote. The other proposal would be that the most senior member of community service gets a vote in all situations but only the senior member would get a vote. Have the 4 events in community service plans be the same 4 years each year to build long standing relationships and then smaller events ad hoc.

Kiersten: Community service chair position was a pilot study. Student council seems to support community service chair as an important part of student council and wants to absorb community service chair into the governing body. This is very different from the sentiments a few years ago.

Sean: We need to continue to support community service events like NICU cuddling – these are not SIGS but also not part of the community service community directly – these often need budget support as well.

Kiersten: This may be absorbed formally into the responsibilities of community service chair.

Mo: In the restructuring of student council we are also looking at defining the structure of community service and we would like active participation of the community service chairs in this change. Regarding the vote issue – by rolling community service into student council as a full fledged position you are a part of student leadership and this should be reflected with a vote.

Emily: I agree with this. I like the idea of major events. I am currently planning 9 events on my own and feel as though the support of student council and the reduction in number of events would really help alleviate some of the issues currently being experienced in this position.

Stephanie: If we keep community service as a distinct role would you be interested in implicating the policy of mandatory meeting attendance and being able to run for president?

Sean: I was under the assumption when running for community service that I was not part of the pool of electorates for president.

Mo: I would like to vote on this right now. Should community service be absorbed, should community service get a vote, and be able to run for president? This is something would be implicated starting co 2020.

Sean: There is a lot of administrative communication and meetings between community service and administration. There is not a lack of knowledge of community service to the administrative protocols and operations going on in OMSE.

Kiersten: I'd like to echo that there are a lot of parallels between the administration's communication and working with community service chair and other council positions.

Sean: The important thing to remember is that by including community service as a full fledged member of student council this will require that student council needs to respect that community service events need to be treated with equal importance as other student council events and more attention given to them during student council meetings.

Mo: We are voting to incorporate community service into a community service chair for the class of 2021 that would be a new position serving under the bylaws with full voting rights. Is anyone not clear what we are voting on.

Motion was made and seconded.

VOTE – 14 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTENTIONS

Vote Approved.

Mo: We are voting on the implication of the matrix in assigning roles during the year for student council members and their obligations to events. The creation of 4 subcommittees and changing the names and roles of the student council members and the absorption of social chair into the responsibilities as detailed by the document in COMmons 2021.

Motion was made and seconded.

VOTE – 14 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Vote Approved.

Mo: We are currently discussing granting voting rights to the current social chair.

Harris: I have been actively involved in the student council meetings and my class and would like that to be taken into consideration when voting on this issue.

Will: I would like to suggest that we grant historians voting rights based on attendance and seniority – there would be 1 vote for all the historians based on the attending members.

Stephanie: Please refer to the section highlighting the responsibilities of general members of student council. Class historian would continue Big Sib and Little Sib, and the role of general member would also apply to this position. Would it be helpful for next meeting to create a list of issues to vote on for next meeting?

Mo: Are we comfortable with voting on this now or tabling it for next meeting?

Liz: I am unsure of why we are voting on this.

Mo: This is something that has come up several times in discussion and in the transitional period this is an important issue that needs to be discussed. Eric and Chantal will be invited to the next meeting to discuss these issues.

Stephanie: It is important to note that general members are able to vote and run for president.

Mo: Talent show will be at Brennan's. There is food for it. It will be the Wednesday of Match week. (March 15th)

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:05PM

- c. Review Revisions Made to Bylaws – Mohammad
 - i. See Attachments

45 minutes

IV. New Business

V. Upcoming Events

- a. Ice Skating – Nik 10 minutes
 - i. Date?
 - ii. Location?
 - iii. Publicity?
 - iv. Food? (Cookies & Hot Chocolate)
 - v. Music?
- b. Talent Show – Liz O'Neill 5 minutes
 - i. Ideas for Judges, **Assign someone to contact them**
 - ii. Prizes for winning?
 - iii. Publicity, **Assign people to post on FB, WeeklyWire**
- c. Match Week – 4th Years 5 minutes
 - i. Any updates or concerns?
- d. End of Year Banquet – Mohammad 10 minutes
 - i. Get all the classes involved
 - 1. Video by fourth years, what are the other classes doing? Who wants to be in charge of this for each class?

VI. Reminders & Miscellaneous

- a. Fourth Year Gifts – Stephanie 5 minutes
 - i. To be purchased by first years for the End of Year Banquet

Total Scheduled Meeting Time: 126 minutes

TASK MANAGEMENT:

Task Manager: Nik

Task	Manager	Due Date	Complete