**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**April 3, 2012**

1. **ROLL CALL**

President Landreneau called the meeting of April 3, 2012 to order at 8:45pm. Board members Armstrong, Genus, Hallinan, Louderback, McGrath, Murdoch, Rothenberger, and Samudzi were present. Chair members Stavrakos, Mallampalli, Brown, Crawford, Beecher, Held, Meyer, Nites and White were all present.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of March 27, 2012 were approved.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Landreneau reported that the Board will continue working on the 1787 Advocates Letter Writing Campaign for the next two weeks. They chose the name 1787 which represents 1,787 total letters they hope to be sent by April 19th, since that was the year Pitt was founded. They are trying to incorporate that into the 225th anniversary year into their letter writing campaign in any way they can. As an incentive, if you write a letter, your name will automatically go into a drawing to have lunch with the Chancellor. He is looking for additional prizes that will be announced at Dean’s hours on April 19th which will also be the day when the 25-30 students will be selected to have lunch with the Chancellor. If anyone wants to meet with any Board member or committee chair to see how they can get involved in this campaign, please see any of them after the meeting. The Town Hall Meeting was held prior to tonight’s public meeting and he believed they increased their numbers with about 25 students coming in to write their letters. He announced they finally have a Webmaster named until mid-summer when they will need to find someone else since she will be graduating. If there are dates you would like to see on the SGB website or if you’d like to see any new designs, let him know. A pitch on the SGB liaison program that was implemented last month: Everyone on campus who is S.O.R.C. certified, should now have an SGB liaison. He is the SAG group liaison; the formula groups, Rainbow Alliance, as well as a couple of others too.

As he mentioned at the Town Hall Meeting, he encouraged everyone to keep aware of what is going on with the bomb threats. Today marked the 12th time we received threats on campus. It is not something to take lightly but he suggested that students should treat it as the first threat. Stay in tune with Richard White’s campaign, “If we see something, say something.”

1. **SUBMITTED AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Submitted Agenda Items.

1. **BOARD REPORTS**
2. **Olivia Armstrong**

Board member Armstrong spoke about getting the allocations requests online. As soon as budgets are finished for next year, we are adding everyone’s group information online to their SORC account so there will be an option in the future for groups to apply for funds online. Also, be on the lookout for the “poll of the week” which is on the Pitt SGB Twitter account. If anyone has any ideas for “poll of the week” please let her know. If students are interested in taking SafeRider, please be aware that it does operate into the wee hours and picks up at a lot of convenient places. She met with Penny Sewalk in the Career Services office about a project she is working on. In the space between the Cathedral and the William Pitt Union, she said she would like to see that area be all grass, which would mean closing Bigelow Blvd. to traffic. If anyone would like to get involved with this issue, please let her know. She mentioned that tonight was the installation of the Greek University Chapter.

1. **Halim Genus**

Board member Genus reported that Transportation and Safety Chair White had a proxy meeting for him with Scott from the university. They went over more details about the marked shuttle stops, and they are making progress.

1. **Julie Hallinan**

Board member Hallinan first encouraged everyone to sign the four petitions that Rainbow Alliance has been circulating. One was for a more progressive bathroom policy, one was for housing, one was for athletics, and the last was asking administration to write down and clarify these policies. Next, she emphasized the seriousness of the string of bomb threats. She assured everyone that they are doing everything they can to help the administration, as they also want to help students adjust to as regular of a routine as possible. She also encouraged students to refrain from making jokes about the current situation, as these threats are being taken very seriously by the administration and Student Government Board. She made a point to state that the individual(s) that are responsible for this do not represent the University of Pittsburgh, but that we students who honor the Pitt Promise are the University of Pittsburgh. These individuals will be found and punished to the fullest extent of the law. If anyone has any concerns or questions, they are welcome to come to the Board.

1. **Gordon Louderback**

Board member Louderback spoke about the Food Committee meeting last Friday, March 30th. The last meeting will be held on April 10th. They are trying to have a barbecue outside in the Schenley Quad on Tuesday next week, right before the next meeting. He is also working with Wasi, the RSA President, on the wireless internet project. They have a meeting set up on April 18th with Jinx Walton and Dean Humphrey, and he will have an update after that meeting.

1. **Megan McGrath**

Board member McGrath reported that for the Traditions Committee, she and Board member Louderback have broken down the committee into smaller sub-committees to work on specific projects. Hopefully, they will see the results of these in the next few months, before the football season. They have been having a couple of special meetings this week with people from Athletics, who have been very receptive of working with them. Also, she and Board member Rothenberger have been meeting with Shawn Ahearn and they are looking for some more outdoor advertising options.

1. **Alex Murdoch**

Board member Murdoch reported that he had five or six different meetings with five or six sports clubs. He is waiting to hear back from them, and wants to get their input to see where they could potentially be moving down the line.

1. **Natalie Rothenberger**

Board member Rothenberger reported that the Student Events Calendar is officially on the My.Pitt website. On Wednesday, April 4th, she will have a meeting with Vice Provost Dejong and Debra Fyock from the Book Center, to talk about textbooks and see how far along we are coming. She also met with Kenyon Bonner recently, and they came up some potential new ideas for SGB. There might be an SGB Connect, which would allow them to text students about events. They also talked about opening up the patio right above Nordy’s outside.

1. **Zoé Samudzi**

Board member Samudzi reported that today was the Senate Library Committee meeting, and they discussed the open access policy that professors are supposed to have to journals. They also talked about extended library hours, and so they will have a meeting with the head of Library Services soon, along with Chair Stavrakos. She is also working with the Alpha Phi Alpha chapter fraternity on campus, to discuss some programs that will help with black unity next year. Wednesday, April 4th, she will have a meeting with Seth Bush and former Environmental Chair Schroeder about the environmental network, and see how they can apply it to the humanitarian groups. Also, they are continuing to compile information for the Resource Manual for next year. She then told everyone to be careful crossing Forbes and Fifth Avenue, because recently someone was hit by a charter bus.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **ALLOCATIONS**

Chair Nites reported that the last Allocations meeting will be April 12th, so students are to bring in their requests before that day. They will resume their hearings in the Fall.

President Landreneau added that this means there will be two more Board meetings this semester.

1. **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Chair Stavrakos reported that his committee has had a lot of progress with some of their short- term projects. They will be meeting with someone in the Academic Resource Center this week to talk about helping them set up a system where students who go there for tutoring can be put in contact with each other to set up study groups. Additionally, their library survey was a big success. They had over 100 respondents, and they will be setting up a meeting with the head of Library Services sometime, hopefully, before the end of the semester. In regards to their long-term projects, he has been working closely with Board member Samudzi, and they have a meeting coming up regarding Green Day and the Academic calendar.

1. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Chair Mallampalli met with Kenyon Bonner on Friday, March 30th about PMADD. They are beginning the planning process for PMADD 2012, and the date is set to be on October 20th. She asked that if anyone has any questions or suggestions for ways they can improve the program, then they are to come and talk with the committee members. She also met with a couple of student leaders and they went to the Good Neighbor Luncheon that occurred last Saturday, March 24th. They talked about some of the feedback they received from residents and directors from Oakland Planning and Development. They will be working with the Office of Off- Campus Housing to help bring some of the programming that the office is already doing. She then added that March Service Madness has concluded, and congratulated everyone who participated. They had over 14,000 hours of community service done during the month of March. The winning organization was Habitat for Humanity, which had over 2,400 hours of community service, and they won the $500 service grant from Student Volunteer Outreach. She congratulated the organization for their work.

1. **ELECTIONS**

Chair Brown had no report.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Chair Meyer reported that her committee is still working on the handbook and the EcoReps project. She also informed students about the Student Sustainability Symposium, which is next Friday, from 8:30 am- 4:00 pm, in the William Pitt Union. She also had a meeting today with Dr. Humphrey’s assistant to talk about Dean’s Hour on April 19th.

1. **GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Chair Beecher reported that his committee has a draft letter for moving the polling location, so they will finish that and get it approved by the Board. He is confident that for the general elections, students will be able to vote within the William Pitt Union. They are still looking for any organization that is interested in helping them out with the Student Vote Coalition. Finally, he talked about the letter writing campaign, which President Landreneau mentioned earlier. He encouraged students, if they had not done so already, to meet him in the back, and also get placed in a drawing to win a free lunch with the Chancellor. They will also be there in the Union on Thursday, April 5th, for FeelGood, so he asked people to tell their friends as well.

1. **JUDICIAL**

Chair Crawford had no report.

1. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Chair Held reported that her committee is working on finalizing the first rejuvenation of the SGB newsletter, which should be coming in next week.

1. **TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY**

Chair White condemned the recent bomb threats that has been happening on campus. He announced an initiative that is something students can do to combat these threats, which is the See Something, Say Something campaign. If any student sees something suspicious, then they are encouraged to call the campus police. He added that if any student is not signed up for the Emergency Notification System, then they can sign up on the My.Pitt portal. He then noted how this afternoon Pitt had its 12th bomb threat at the Cathedral of Learning, and he again emphasized that it is up to the students to help the police by reporting any suspicious activity we see or hear about. His committee will meet tomorrow night to hash out further details for the campaign, at 6 pm in the SGB office.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **Allocations Recommendations:**

**#7135 Model United Nations - $1,180.00**

Allocations recommendation was to approve $1,180.00.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7136 Theta Tau - $1,775.00**

Allocations recommendation was to approve $1,691.22 and to deny $83.78.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#7137 Students for Nuclear Energy - $897.20**

Allocations recommendation was to deny $897.20.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**B.**  **Other New Business**

A motion to approve Pitt Dance Marathon request of $29,630.56 was passed.

1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Resolution 008 was tabled in light of the busy week the University of Pittsburgh’s Police has had.

1. **OPEN FLOOR**

Board member Armstrong spoke about the Letter Writing Campaign. She stated that she received an email back today from a letter she had sent out before. She stated that the email included some really great information on the topic. She encouraged everyone to write letters and stated that it was a really easy way to be active in this topic.

Darren, of Rainbow Alliance, thanked Board member Hallinan for being such a great sport through everything. He stated that, as she said, they have four petitions. Three of them directly relate to transgender policies including equal treatment for bathrooms, housing, and locker rooms. The fourth petition is a general transparency. Pitt runs on a lot of unwritten procedures and they are trying to have those written down for them to stay in line and know what those lines are. He also spoke about Rainbow Alliance’s Celebrating Pride Week, which is this week. They have flyers which lists all of the events. Their two biggest events will take place on Wednesday April 4th 2012, and their second will be the Drag Show which will be held on Friday and starts at 8:45 p.m. in the Assembly Room.

Ben Robinson, who is a Board member for the Student Honors Activity Council, stated that they are reimaging their mentorship program, which puts upper-classmen students in mentoring positions to help incoming freshman. If you are interested, you should email shacacademic@gmail.com for more information.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

President Landreneau encouraged everyone to move forward with the 1787 Advocates.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

cc: Student Government Board Members, Student Government Board Committee Chairs, K. Bonner, K. Humphrey, T. Milani