**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**September 7, 2010**

1. **ROLL CALL**

President Shull called the meeting of September 7, 2010 to order at 8:45 p.m. Board members Bombatch, Gau, Noorbaksh, Paiewonsky, Petrone, Rezaeian, and Stieber were present. Committee Chairs: Academic Affairs – Zimmerman, Allocations-Grau, Elections-Wickenden, Environmental-Schroeder, Judicial-Krzywonos, Public Relations-O’Leary were present. Governmental Relations Chair Jennings was absent.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of April 20, 2010 were approved.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Shull reported that the *Simplicity* program, which was his program when he was running for office, is up and running. All Allocations submissions will be done online in the future. However, for the next few weeks, submissions will continue to be done the way they have been in the past until everyone is notified. He encouraged all student groups to become familiar with the R-25 website.

Over the summer, there has been discussion amongst Board members over *The New York Times* issue that he informally proposed to the Board last semester. A formal proposal will be made next Tuesday and they will have a vote the following Tuesday, following a discussion with students.

He also worked on the Pittsburgh Student Government Council this summer, which is a coalition of the city of Pittsburgh’s student governments. They have a direct connection with PCHE, Pennsylvania Coalition on Higher Education, which Chancellor Nordenberg and presidents of other Pittsburgh universities belong to. They have now incorporated the Pittsburgh Student Government Council into the Pittsburgh City Code, so that anytime issues arise that directly affect students, we can go to the commission for consultation and they will speak directly on behalf of the students. Today at the City Council meeting, the Pittsburgh Student Government Council worked with Council members Dowd and Harris and approved unanimously a proclamation to name September as Student Civic Engagement Month. This effort should aid in registering as many students as possible to vote before the October 4th deadline. At the Student Activities Fair, more than 400 students were registered to vote.

1. **SUBMITTED AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Submitted Agenda Items.

1. **BOARD REPORTS**
2. **Zachary D. Bombatch**

Board member Bombatch stated that he will be the Board member who is the contact person for *Paint the Panthers* program this semester. Applications will be due on September 24th. Decisions on what organizations get to paint a panther will be made within a few days after the deadline. The panther statues will then be made available to those groups and they will need to be painted and completed in advance of Homecoming. Also, regarding Homecoming, he encouraged students to come to him with any ideas they may have or if they need assistance with any Homecoming related ideas or questions on *Paint the Panthers.*

1. **David Gau**

Board member Gau reported that he will continue on his Community Outreach Program from last semester, where Board members would come to meetings to learn more about the student groups and their needs. Emails on this will be sent out in the next week or two. Last semester, he also introduced a Residence Hall Swipe-in Program. He has been in contact over the summer with a consulting firm about a program which would allow students to swipe in their guest rather than sign in on paper. Expect more on this subject to follow.

1. **Ali Noorbaksh**

Board member Noorbaksh stated that over the summer, he had been thinking a lot about Student Government Board. He said that he determined that his heart is not in the Board position anymore, and because of some of the things that came up during the spring semester and the summer, he has decided to resign from the Board. He did not want to speak about the reasons for his departure at tonight’s meeting.

1. **Laura Paiewonsky**

Board member Paiewonsky stated she will also be working with Board member Bombatch in the Homecoming projects if anyone needs assistance. She will also keep everyone up to date on the Food Committee meetings with Sodexho and when it will take place in the next couple of weeks. Both she and Board member Rezaeian are the SGB contacts for the Food Committee meetings.

She reported that she is also working on the Board On-line Syllabus Bank, in which students can submit questions or ideas to her office mailbox or email to onlinesyllabusbank@gmail.com

1. **David Petrone**

Board member Petrone reported that the production of *The Pitt Compass* is behind schedule due to being away during the summer. He will be meeting with Public Relations Committee Chair O’Leary and Kyle Murphy of the Telefact office who will be assisting with this project this week.

1. **Sam Rezaeian**

Board member Rezaeian reported that he is working on the Living Panther Photo project which is similar to what the students did with flashlights that spelled out Pitt at the start of the semester.

President Shull added that this is the 9th anniversary of the *Living Panther Photo* which had a few hundred students in it. We are now looking to do at least 1,000 students in a new photo. If anyone is interested in being involved in this project, he encouraged them to give Board member Rezaeian their name and contact info. Board member Rezaeian is collaborating with Athletics and, hopefully, can get the football team, cheerleading squad, basketball team, dance teams, Pathfinders, and Blue and Gold involved in this project.

1. **Molly Stieber**

Board member Stieber reported that if anyone is interested in finding out if their textbooks are in, they can go to the Book Center’s webpage on the Pitt portal which is [www.pitt.edu/~bookctr](http://www.pitt.edu/~bookctr). It has comparison price lists for new vs. used books. She is meeting with two managers of the Pitt Bookstore to set up a Student Advisory Committee to learn what students want to see in the store.

She also reported on the Green Fund. She is picking up some things due to the departure of Board member Phil LaRue. She met with Kenyon Bonner on Friday to discuss where the administration is coming from and is planning on bringing that info to the Board at their next planning session to discuss where they want to go from there.

President Shull added that he will report shortly on how they plan to fill the two vacant Board positions in the next couple of weeks.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Chair Zimmerman reported that his biggest project this semester is working on the College of Arts and Science Undergraduate Council. They deal with academic policy issues, etc. He will provide more details after the meeting to whomever wants to learn more about the projects they are working on. He is also working on *The New York Times* issue.

1. **ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chair Grau stated *Simplicity* is coming for Allocations. Groups will be able to see their budgets and the money that is in their group account. They will soon be able to submit paperless requests and, hopefully, receive faster notification. There will be a round of Business Manager training sessions scheduled once *Simplicity* *Allocations* comes out. He will be sure to keep everyone in the loop. They are planning to use it for fall budgets.

1. **ELECTIONS**

Chair Wickenden is finalizing the Elections Code for this year. There are rules and regulations for those running for office. Hopefully, she will present it to the Board next week and have it up for vote in two weeks. It will be posted on line for public view once it is approved. She is also working with student leaders in the hopes of getting out the word on how to get involved in SGB and running in the November election. Tentative dates are: packets available around September 24th and due October 20th. The election, hopefully, will be held on November 18th, with the presidential debate on November 16th. Thanks to all who emailed her regarding joining the Elections Committee or shown interest in running for a position.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Chair Schroeder reported on the Green Fund which supports funding for sustainable projects on campus. She is looking for students to get involved. Students can get involved by serving on a committee or allocating money to sustainable projects. Students are encouraged to see her after the meeting if they are interested.

President Shull added that they are looking at space near Nordy’s as a small place for gathering and storing sustainable products, e.g., batteries, etc. They will continue to meet with Kenyon Bonner in this effort.

1. **GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Committee member John Hasley, who is filling in for Chair Jennings, gave the report. The Committee has been working continuously over the summer. He reported that GPSA, the Office of Governmental Relations, Student Affairs and Student Government Board are co-sponsoring a Student Civic Engagement Month campaign. It will be a multi-initiative project designed to politically activate the Pitt campus, e.g., Student Vote Coalition with registering students to vote. Their mission it to change how Pitt students interact with their community, municipality, state or the nation. He thanked all the organizations who extended their help thus far. Additonally, there will be a training session on re-energizing the vote at 7:00 p.m. in Dining Room “A” in the WPU. They will also be around during the Bonfire and Pep Rally on Thursday evening.

1. **JUDICIAL**

Chair Krzywonos had no report.

1. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Chair O’Leary said his main effort this month would be the launch of the new SGB website which will be finished by the end of this month. He also reported that he has a swiper that allows for Out of the Classroom Credit for attending SGB public meetings and if anyone wanted to utilize it, they should see him after the meeting.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

**Allocations Recommendations:**

**#6349 Circle K International - $600.00**

A motion was made to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6359 Lady Panther Lacrosse - $911.22**

A motion was made to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6360 Hillel Jewish University Center - $1,734.00**

A motion was made to deny in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6361 Hillel Jewish University Center - $2,498.24**

A motion was made to approve $2,248.24 and deny $250.00.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6362 Biomedical Engineering Society - $1,988.00**

A motion was made to approve $1,151.00 and deny $837.00.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6364 Parliamentary Debate Organization - $744.00**

A motion was made to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6365 Parliamentary Debate Organization - $810.00**

A motion was made to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6366 Women’s Fastpitch Softball - $1,150.07**

A motion was made to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

**#6348 Black Action Society - $3,150.00**

A motion was made to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

1. **OPEN FLOOR**

A marketing intern for the Career Development office talked about a couple of things their office has to offer throughout the school year. They have extended their walk-in hours from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Thursday and Friday, hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On October 6th, there will be Academic Rush in the WPU. Future Links is also up and running and located on the right side of the home page for my.pitt.edu.

Board member Noorbaksh thanked everyone for a great year. He noted that students have a great Board this year and he spoke highly of their dedicated effort to bring about positive change at Pitt. They have done a great job of mobilizing Pitt students.

Board member Stieber spoke briefly about the Allegheny County Community Service project called “Sleep in for the Homeless” which will take place from 6:00 p.m.to 6:00 a.m. on Friday, October 8th through Saturday, October 9th. Registration is $25.00 per person which can be done online.

1. **PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

The Pittsburgh Public Student Government Council meeting will, hopefully, be next Monday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in Nordy’s. The topic of discussion will be student civic engagement.

Applications for Board positions will be available starting tomorrow, Wednesday, September 8, 2010 in the SGB office, 848 WPU, and completed applications will be due by Friday, September 17th. There will be public interviews with the candidates on Tuesday, September 21st during the SGB meeting. They will make the two Board member appointments on September 28th.

During the summer, President Shull worked closely with Student Affairs, Student Life, and the Cross-Cultural and Leadership Development office so they could put on a Panther Gold Leadership Retreat for students who handle the most amount of money at an off- campus location to work in collaboration with each other. There were some students who did not participate who should have been in attendance. They are enacting a budget freeze for the month of September for those organizations who were invited and did not attend without an excuse. They are required to have a mandatory meeting with the Allocations Committee chairman, himself, and Mr. Kenyon Bonner who is the SGB Advisor and Director of Student Life, to discuss why they missed the conference. If their absence from the Retreat is deemed excusable, then funds will be restored. If not, they will look further into their budget to remove external conference monies or off-campus funding. Most Board members and Allocations Committee members are in agreement in the execution of this policy. If anyone has an issue with this policy, they should see him.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

cc: Student Government Board Members, Student Government Board Committee Chairs,

K. Bonner, K. Humphrey, J. Giangarlo, T. Milani, L. Williams-Moore