

**University of Southern Maine – USM**  
**STUDENT SENATE MEETING**  
~Draft Minutes~  
**Friday October 11, 2019**  
**1:00 PM**  
**133 Wishcamper**  
**Portland, ME**

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**1:00 PM Regular Senate Meeting Minutes**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM.
2. The Clerk collected roll and notified the Chair that a quorum was present.
  - The following Senators were in attendance: Senators Bertrand, Courbron, Gross, Holderith, Howell, Marino, Reed, Rouillard, Sciulli, Soucy, Whiting, Woods, and Worden.
  - The following Senator was marked Absent Excused: Senator Carlow.
  - The following Senators were marked Absent Unexcused (though not doubly so): Senators Duarte and Eneeva.
3. **Sen. Reed moved; Sen. Soucy seconded** to accept the agenda.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.
4. **Sen. Bertrand moved; Sen. Gross seconded** to approve the Minutes from 9-27-19.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.
5. **Sen. Reed moved; Sen. Bertrand seconded** to accept Mr. Sheikh to the membership of the Senate.

Discussion: Mr. Sheikh wants experience in the Senate and wants to be in a position to effect change at the University. He worked with GCAB as a freshman.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.
6. The Chair of the Senate delivered his report:
  - The Staff Senate has proposed a new civility code.
  - After the first meeting, the Senate will have a “convention” of sorts on the changes that must take place in order to pass said constitution. The President has a list of amendments which she wishes to have the Senate consider.
7. Senator Bertrand delivered her report on the Executive Board:
  - The Executive Board held a meeting immediately before the Senate meeting and passed two proposals. These proposals were (1) a professional clothing drive and (2) snacks for a Presidential meet and greet. She also reported that constitutional concerns were discussed.
8. Senator Reed delivered his report on the Finance Committee:

- The Committee worked this week on consolidating far-flung rules into a single document of financial policy.
  - The Committee recommends passage of two proposals from President's office.
  - Considered later in the meeting will be a GCAB proposal for funding to attend NACA. A problem with the proposal is the \$250 per student rule.
9. Senator Courbron, authorized by Senator Carlow, delivered his report on the Constitutional Review Committee:
- The Committee considered the MUN policy, the Senate code of conduct, and amendments to the Rules document.
10. Student Body President Varney delivered her report:
- A meeting with Maintenance Head of Facilities is scheduled on concerns about dorm cleanliness.
  - The emergency light situation is being worked on.
  - The President met with the Culinary Council.
  - Hussein is meeting with Student Advisory group to look into what the diversity center needs from what was lost in the flood.
  - The parking committee is collecting student concerns.
  - The clothing swap project is underway. The President is working on getting donation boxes and putting posters up for donations.
  - The President will hold an October 30 meet and greet.
  - The University is replacing Blackboard.
  - A meeting on the Student Activity Fee was attended by the President. An October deadline was set for the administration to determine a solution. They want a list of projects which might have been funded had the increase been implemented.
11. Mr. Perez delivered his report on the Commuter Student Association:
- Commuter appreciation week was good.
  - There were 417 individual attendees at all events.
  - Bayside Bowl had 75 students and guests.
  - The association is planning a corn maze trip.
12. Mr. Thompson delivered his report on the Gorham Campus Activities Board:
- The coffeehouse and jazz night was a success, with 100 people in attendance. They have started to collaborate with Student Events Association.
  - They are planning the first dance.
13. Senator Holderith read a written statement on behalf of Ms. Janelle of the Outdoor Adventure Board:
- The past few weekends have been busy and successful. Activities included paintball, sea kayaking, Baxter State Park, and Mount Katahdin.
14. President Varney delivered a report on the Student Communications Board on behalf of Ms. Hoyt:

- The vice chair resigned, opening up a stipended position.
15. Ms. Bernier delivered her report on the Leadership Development Board:
- Mr. Long is in the process of working to get people on the board. The BSO and her cabinet will work to plan the things that they do.
16. Mr. Sculli delivered his report on the Professional Staff Senate:
- Parking is a problem and work is being done to streamline the dual advisor situation.
17. Mr. Reed delivered his report on the Classified Staff Senate:
- Mr. Reed was unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Classified Staff Senate, but he plans to attend the remaining meetings.
18. Ms. Whiting delivered her report on the Faculty Senate:
- The Tenure review process is being modified. Departments will have more control over what they submit to the provost now.
  - A civility code draft has been proposed.
  - The registrar wants to get inactive students off the “active” list. Usually students are removed from said list after 1-2 semesters, but at USM we wait 5 years.
19. President Varney delivered her report on the Culinary Council:
- There are limited options in the morning for food. There have been efforts to get people interested in culinary council meetings. Additionally, halal options have been slim.
20. Ms. Marino delivered her report on the WMPG Advisory Board:
- There was a successful hip-hop summit despite it being in Gorham. A new listener representative position was confirmed. They talked about the SAF increase--they fortunately did not create their budget with the increase in mind.
  - Beg-a-thon brought in 62,000+ dollars.
  - Oktoberfest begins next week.
21. **Reed moved; Bertrand seconded** to recess for 5 minutes.  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
22. The Senate recessed at 1:37 PM.
23. The Senate reconvened at 1:42 PM.
24. **Woods moved; Soucy seconded** to allow Senator Worden to sit at the table.  
Voted: Yes, with Senators Bertrand, Courbron, Howell, Marino, Reed, Rouillard, Sculli, Soucy, Whiting, and Woods in the affirmative and Senator Gross in the negative.
25. GCAB presented its NACA proposal. The entity’s entire eboard originally planned to attend the conference, relying on the promised increased budget. However, the SAF increase did not happen and they need \$1250 to make up the difference. Reed commented that this breaks the \$250 limit per student (see SGA Constitution Article 13 Section A)

but that it may be appropriate for the Senate to provide them an exemption through a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

26. **Senator Courbron moved; Senator Whiting seconded** to suspend SGA Bylaws 13A.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.

27. **Senator Courbron moved; Senator Soucy seconded** to approve GCAB proposal #48-19-5.

Discussion: Normally this sort of exemption would not be appropriate, but since the budget fell short due to the SAF problem it seems proper. The Chair noted that GCAB is very good about keeping its projects under-budget.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.

28. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Soucy seconded** to table consideration of the Model UN Constitution until someone from the student group could speak on its behalf.

Discussion: Senator Courbron noted that not allowing this group to officially proceed might hamper existing plans to attend a conference late this October.

Voted: No, unanimously.

29. **Senator Bertrand moved; Senator Reed moved to strike “Statement of Policy” from the Model UN Constitution and to replace said language with “Constitution.”**

Voted: Yes, with Senators Bertrand, Courbron, Gross, Howell, Marino, Reed, Rouillard, Sciulli, Soucy, Whiting, Woods, and Worden in the affirmative and Senator Soucy in the negative.

30. **Senator Bertrand moved; Senator Reed seconded** to approve the Model UN Constitution.

Voted: Yes, with Senators Bertrand, Courbron, Gross, Howell, Marino, Rouillard, Sciulli, Soucy, Whiting, Woods, and Worden in the affirmative and Senator Reed abstaining.

31. **Senator Soucy moved; Senator Whiting seconded** to table the matter of endorsing the University name change.

Discussion: David discussed our constituents’ opinions on this matter.

**Subsidiary Motion: Senator Soucy moved; Senator Woods seconded to call the question.**

Voted: Yes, with 10 in the affirmative and 3 in the negative.

Voted: Yes, with 11 in the affirmative and 2 in the negative.

32. **Senator Soucy moved; Senator Whiting seconded to approve PO #31897.**

Discussion: Senator Reed talked about the purchase order, which was missing a signature. He recommended that the senate show some leniency and emphasized the importance of SOOT training for officers of student organizations.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.

33. **Senator Woods moved; Senator Gross seconded to approve PO #31899.**

Discussion: This purchase order similarly was missing required information.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.

34. **Senator Soucy moved; Senator Whiting seconded to approve PO #31898.**

Discussion: This purchase order similarly was missing required information.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.

35. The Chair opened the floor to nominations to the position of Representative to the SCB.

Subsidiary Points:

**Senator Whiting nominated Senator Woods** for the SCB representative position; he accepted.

**Senator Bertrand nominated Senator Marino** for the SCB representative position; she accepted.

36. The Chair directed the candidates to advocate for their election:

- Senator Woods was involved with the Free Press and has an understanding of how things work. He expressed his ability to work with them.
- Senator Marino works with the WMPG advisory board and has media experience from her job.

37. **Senator Soucy moved; Senator Gross seconded to vote by raising hands.**

Voted: Yes, unanimously.

Discussion: Discussed at length the candidates' abilities.

Voted: **Woods**: 6 votes.

Marino: 4 votes.

And with 1 abstention.

38. Senator Whiting delivered her report on the Civility Code:

- The draft civility code has not yet been voted on. Those who created it felt the university needs certain policies in order to have a clear way to deal with problematic disruptions that may occur in classes. A vote on it will be held on Friday, November 1.

39. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.