

**University of Southern Maine – USM  
STUDENT SENATE MEETING**

~Minutes~

**Friday October 25, 2019**

**166 Upton Hastings**

**Gorham, ME**

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1. The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM.
2. The Chair directed the Clerk to collect roll.
  - The following were present: Senators Bertrand, Carlow, Courbron, Duarte, Gross, Holderith, Howell, Marino, Reed, Sciulli, Whiting, and Woods.
  - The following were marked Absent Excused: Senators Rouillard, Soucy, Worden, and Sheikh.
3. The Clerk informed the Chair that a quorum to do business was present.
4. **Senator Carlow moved; Senator Courbron seconded** to amend the agenda to consider item 12a after item 6.

Voted: Yes, with 8 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, and with Senator Woods abstaining.
5. **Senator Courbron moved; Senator Bertrand seconded** to accept the Agenda.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.
6. **Senator Carlow moved; Senator Gross seconded** to approve the Minutes of 10/11/19.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.
7. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Marino seconded** to amend the Constitution by adding Section 5 to Article 3: "the President shall enforce the rules and regulations of the Student Government Association."

Discussion: President Varney reminded the Senate that she already does this.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.
8. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Whiting seconded** for a reading of the Constitution.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION

**Senator Woods moved; Senator Duarte seconded** to amend the motion so to read "for a reading of the Constitution after the entity reports."

Senator Reed informed the Chair that the amendment was friendly.

Voted: Yes, with 11 in the affirmative and 2 in the negative.
9. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Gross seconded** to recess for 5 minutes.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.
10. The Senate reconvened.
11. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Bertrand seconded** to move section 12a to after the entity reports.

Voted: Yes, unanimously.

12. The Chair of the Senate delivered his report:
  - The administration will put \$75,000 into our unallocated account within a week.
13. Senator Bertrand delivered her report on the Executive Board:
  - The eboard didn't meet. The transportation meeting went well.
14. Senator Reed delivered his report on the Finance Committee:
  - Senator Reed thanked President Varney and Senator Holderith for their work with getting additional funding to make up for the Student Activity Fee shortfall.
  - There have been some financial policy issues with the business office.
  - We have one proposal.
  - Senator Reed is going to audit everyone for everything.
15. Senator Carlow delivered his report on the Constitutional Review Committee:
  - The Committee has not met.
16. Student Body President Varney delivered her report:
  - There will be a Presidential meet and greet on the 30th of October.
  - The professional clothing drive is happening.
  - The President has continued to work with the University to address the blue light situation.
  - Work is being conducted to establish a family and child center.
17. Senator Carlow left, bringing the total attendance to 12.
18. Mr. Long delivered his report on the Board of Student Organizations:
  - The BSO has not confirmed any spending except for one tourism proposal.
  - The Board is reaching out to student groups to bring them back up to tier 2 status.
  - Work is being conducted with the with the SEA to ensure integrity of BSO.
19. Mr. Perez delivered his report on the Commuter Student Association:
  - The trip to Pumpkin Valley Farms is happening. It was sold out.
  - They are trying to figure out how to pay vendors who do not accept checks.
20. Someone delivered the report on the Gorham Campus Activities Board:
  - There will be an escape room event this week.
21. Ms. Janelle delivered her report on the Outdoor Adventure Board:
  - The Acadia trip went well. The storm caused some problems with attendance as well as with the campground's ability to host students.
  - All of the trips for the rest of the semester are fully or almost fully booked.
22. Senator Woods delivered his report on the Student Communications Board:
  - Marshall is the new vice-chair of the SCB.
  - Not much happened at the meeting.
  - The amendment on the number of representatives to the Board was not considered.
23. Ms. Bernier delivered her report on the Leadership Development Board:

- The Board lost its advisor.
  - Work will be done closely with the BSO to get things under control.
24. Mr. Sciulli delivered his report on the Professional Staff Senate:
- There was nothing new to report.
25. Mr. Reed delivered his report on the Classified Staff Senate:
- There was nothing new to report.
26. Ms. Whiting delivered her report on the Faculty Senate:
- The Civility Code policy will be considered next week and all of those who have input should attend the meeting or submit their suggestions to the Senator.
27. Ms. Varney delivered her report on the Culinary Council:
- There was nothing new to report.
28. Ms. Duarte delivered her report on the Board of Visitors:
- Senator Duarte was unable to attend the last meeting.
29. Ms. Marino delivered her report on the WMPG Advisory Board:
- There was nothing new to report.
30. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Gross seconded** to move item 11a until after the BSO
- Voted: Yes, with 11 in the affirmative and with Senator Courbron abstaining.
31. Mr. Long presented a problem with a defunct BSO student group and answered questions from Senators.
- Yes Plus, a meditation group that went on retreats (last active in Spring of 2017), left things in disarray after its members all graduated.
  - A \$2,300 bill for an unapproved conference was sent to school and nobody from the student group can be contacted. The bill was covered by different entities of the University.
  - Sky@USM wants to revive Yes Plus and to simply change the name.
  - If the group returned in said fashion from defunct status, it would need to pay the \$2,300 debt. However, all of its former members have graduated; none of those who propose the revival of Yes Plus took part in its original iteration.
  - If Sky@USM entered as a tier one group, it would need to wait for the duration of the probationary period before it could achieve tier two status. This is what members of the proposed group wish to avoid.
32. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Courbron seconded** to endorse the recommendation that Sky@USM pursue tier 1 status as a student organization.
- Voted: Yes, unanimously.
33. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Gross seconded** to recess for 30 minutes.
- Voted: Yes, unanimously.
34. The Senate reconvened.
35. The Senate discussed and amended the new Constitution.

36. The Clerk read Constitutional Amendments from the previous meeting and the Membership verified the presence of the same in the new Draft Constitution.
37. The Chair opened the floor to nominations for membership of the PRB.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION

**Senator Bertrand nominated** Senator Gross.

Discussion: David informed Senator Gross that he would have new responsibilities under the new financial policy document.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION

**Senator Courbron moved; Senator Woods seconded** to put Gross on the board.

Voted: Yes, with 10 in the affirmative and with Senator Gross abstaining.

38. Senator Reed presented Proposal #48-19-8
39. **Senator Bertrand moved; Senator Whiting seconded** to approve Proposal #48-19-8.  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
40. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Courbron seconded** to strike Section VI from the Rules document.  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
41. **Senator Bertrand moved; Senator Gross seconded** to approve all of the Chair's proposed amendments for the Rules document.  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
42. **Senator Courbron moved; Senator Gross seconded** to amend the Rules section 1.4 by striking "sole" and replacing said language with "primary"; adding "or other role in the Association"; striking the first three commas occurring in the text. The section thus reads "The Chairperson is the Senate's primary representative to the public and shall supervise and provide official direction to the other officers of the Senate in the execution of their official duties and responsibilities, although no such direction may be given to the other officers when they are engaging in activity properly confined to their role as an individual member or other role in the association."  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
43. **Senator Whiting moved; Senator Gross seconded** to amend the Rules by adding Rule 3.5: "The Parliamentarian shall attend meetings of Student Senate entities at the reasonable request of their leadership." and Rule 3.6 - "The Parliamentarian shall be the Parliamentarian of the Board of Student Organizations."  
Voted: Yes, with 10 in the affirmative and with Senator Courbron abstaining.
44. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Whiting seconded** to amend the Rules by adding Rule 1.7: "the chair may only vote in the event of a tie"  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.

45. **Senator Courbron moved; Senator Gross seconded** to amend the Rules by adding Rule 2.4: "the vice-chair shall be responsible for meeting with the Dean of Students once a semester to confirm all Senators are in good academic standing"  
Voted: Yes, with 10 in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.
46. **Senator Woods moved; Senator Whiting seconded** to amend the Rules by adding Rule 3 to Section 2 of the Rules : "A senator is allowed one unexcused absence from regularly scheduled meetings per semester. Upon the second unexcused absence, the Senator shall automatically default off the Senate."  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
47. **Senator Bertrand moved; Senator Courbron seconded** for the Clerk to read aloud the Code of Conduct.  
Voted: Yes, with 10 in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.
48. **Senator Reed moved; Senator Courbron seconded** to recess for 5 minutes.  
Voted: No, with 5 in the negative and 4 in the affirmative.
49. The Clerk read the Code of Conduct.
50. **Senator Bertrand moved; Senator Reed seconded** to table the Code of Conduct.  
Voted: Yes, with 10 in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.
51. **Senator Gross moved; Senator Whiting seconded** to table the Violation Inquiry Document.  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
52. **Senator Woods moved; Senator Bertrand seconded** to accept the Financial Policy Document as amended.  
Voted: Yes, with 10 in the affirmative and with Senator Courbron in the negative.
53. **Senator Courbron moved; Senator Whiting seconded** to accept the Constitution as amended.  
Voted: Yes, unanimously.
54. **Senator Whiting moved; Senator Courbron seconded** to accept the Rules as amended.  
Voted: Yes, with Woods in the negative.
55. The Chair announced that the next Senate meeting would be held November 8, 2019 at 1:00 PM in Payson Smith Meeting Room 1.
56. The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 PM.