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## MINUTES

Student Senate of University of Southern Maine

**Friday, September 13, 2019**

Time 1:00 PM EST

Location 133 Wishcamper  
University of Southern Maine  
96 Falmouth St., Portland, Maine 04103-9300

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1. Call to Order

A. Pursuant to the Rules, Mr. Alexander R. Holderith assumed the Chair and called the Senate to order at 1:03 PM EST.

2. The Chair instructed the Clerk of the Senate Senator Joseph to collect the roll of the regular meeting September 13th, 2019.

- a. The Clerk collected roll and determined that the following members were in attendance; Senators: Bertrand, Carlow, Courbron, Duarte, Gross, Holderith, Howell, Joseph, Marino, Reed, Sciulli, Soucy, Whiting. The following members were excused: Senators: Eneeva, Hess. The following members were absent: Senators: Omar, and Woods.
- b. Senator Kyle left early.
- c. Senator Marino arrived late.

The Clerk informed the Chair that a quorum to do business was present.

3. Acceptance of the Agenda

MOVED by Senator Carlow and SECONDED by Senator Reed, to accept the agenda.

VOTED: Yes, unanimously.

- I. There was no last minute approval since this was the first meeting of the semester.

III. Ms. Whittings, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Worden and Mr. Gross, who's appointments to the Senate were approved after this section, were present during and throughout the meeting's extent.

4. Public Comment session

There were no members of the public at the beginning of the meeting elected to address the Senate.

The Chair gave privilege to a student from the Dean of Business School to address the senate in respects to the predicament facing bayside village resident hall and the current ongoing crisis, urging the Senate as well FP to look into the matter so as to find a possible solution, standing up for citizens and our fellow students.

5. Guest Speakers

There were no guest speaker elected to address the Senate.

6. Swearing in of the Student Body President

Swearing in of the SBP Varney was carried out by the Parliamentarian Senator Carlow.

7. Report from Chair

There was no actual Executive Board meeting report from the chair since they are yet to meet. But The Chair did explained goals and visions for the ongoing semester as to better represent our students and moving the Senate forward as well as restructuring to better leads and be part of a reputable community. He made reference to the email he has sent prior to meeting and urging all senators to do their best.

8. Reports From Student Government Association Officers and Committees

A. **Executive Board:** Ms. Shepherd

a. There was no report.

B. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Reed

a. The Treasurer reported that they have an agenda and a standing committee ready.

He also reported a piece of the meeting they had and responded to the SAF which was raised towards the end of last semester and got approval for, but the University financial office forgot to add it to the student bill for the fall 2019 semester. He expressed his concerns as this will disrupt the 2019/2020 budget and asked the senate to decide a cause as to better address the issue.

The Treasurer also mentioned that the revenue generated in the school year 2019/2020 compared to the fall/spring semester 2018/2019 is about \$200,000 to \$190,000 last year and would recommend that a solution to rectify this should be put into place to better help students organizations.

**C. Public Relations Committee:** Mr. Joseph

- a. The Clerk reported his ongoing effort to establish a well founded relationship with the student body as a whole on both Portland and Gorham Campus to help create and strengthen the relationship between SGA and its students. He also requested that materials for the Gorham campus should be put into place in the case of future events.

**D. Student Body President's Office:** Ms. Varney

- a. The Student Body President reported that they met last week and are currently working on executing several projects. She also reported that are office was allocated \$15,000 for the 2 hours library textbook project. But are currently working on getting cheaper resources so as to reduce textbook expenses and how much students spend on textbooks. The office is currently working with OER at the university library in order to facilitate cheaper or free books. This is an ongoing investigation of which, herself is a part of a committee member of the OER so as to enhance reducing cost of textbooks and class materials.

**E. Representative to the Board of Trustees:** Mr. Carlow

- a. The Parliamentarian reported that a new chancellor was appointed (Chancellor Malloy) over the summer to the UMaine System. Also reported that the proposed name change from USM to UMP has been approved by the BOT and it's now in the final phase of approval which should be taking place sometime in October.

9. Reports of Student Government Association Boards and Entities

A. **Board of student Organizations: Mr. Long**

a. He reported that they are currently working with clubs to know which entity is active and which is not. He also said that, they have approved the total of \$407 worth of clubs proposals in an executive board meeting of which one of them was suicide awareness.

B. **Commuter Student Association: Mr. Perez**

He was absent.

C. **Gorham campus Activities Board: Mr. Thompson**

a. Mr. Thompson sent representative from GCAB Ms. Az and Ms. Liz

They both reported that the GCAB had two events (Pingo and Tye dye) of which both were successful and there was a great turn out of students at both events. Ms. Liz also said, there is a game night organized by the gaming club coming that night and urge students to attend.

D. **Outdoor Adventure Board: Ms. Janelle**

a. She reported that they had a strong start so far with hiking events and looking forward to a great semester with lots of outdoor adventure. She also said that they had an off-shore fishing coming up as well as trip planned for future weekends. But still looking into the budget for the school year so as to know how to better organized for future events. Mr. Reed replied to her comment in respect to the budget that the senate had approved \$23,000 for the school year.

E. **Student Communication Board: Ms. Hoyt**

a. She reported that the SCB is yet to meet, but they do have their first meeting coming up Friday 09/19/19. She also commented that the meeting is open to the public.

F. **Leadership Development Board: Ms. Bernier**

10. New Senators

A. Joseph Gilbert

I. Mr. Gilbert expressed his interest to join the senate. Although Mr. Gilbert being an early aspiration student said, joining the senate will be of great interest.

a. Senator Soucy inquired about Mr. Gilbert if EAS paid the student activity fee.

b. Mr. Carlow then concur Mr. Gilbert is qualified, after he had made every necessary enquiry before the senate was asked to cast their vote.

Mr. Gilbert expressed his enthusiasm as an EAS student and his experience in IT as to help manage the senate database and protect every information in senate interest.

VOTED: yes, Unanimously.

B. Cameron Worden

I.

C. Jade Whiting

I. Ms. Whiting informed the Senate of her involvement on campus and herself being a resident as well as her involvement with the ROCC and how to better represent the ROCC most especially giving the students' voices.

VOTED: yes, Unanimously.

D. Justin Gross

I. Mr. Gross informed the Senate of his goals and his experience has a member of the senate from his High school.

VOTED: yes, Unanimously.

11. New Business: Nomination to business appointments.

A. Appointments

I. Classified Staff Senate: October 2nd, November 3rd, December 4th

**Senator Soucy nominated Senator Carlow and Bertrand, and both Senator Carlow and Bertrand decline the nomination. Nomination to the classified senate was moved by the chair and seconded by Senator Soucy and Reed.**

- II. Professional Staff Senate: September 17th, October 8th, November 12th.  
**Senator Soucy nominated Senator Sciulli, and Senator Sciulli accepted the nomination.**
- III. Faculty Staff Senate: Fridays October 4th. November 6th  
**President Varney nominated herself as part of her regular business from the president office, Senator Carlow said to go as her regular business meeting, but the Senate still need a member of the Senate to be present as a spectator.**  
**Senator Soucy nominate Senator Marino, Senator Marino declined the nomination.**  
**Senator Carlow nominate Senator; Whiting and Gross.**  
VOTED: yes, unanimously.
- IV. WMPG Advisory Board:  
Jim informed the senate, of the meeting dates and that volunteers from other radio station as well USM representatives are currently working on a long term plan towards registration and other outcome issues. Although, they already have a five years plan in progress, as well as the potential to relocate in the new student center.  
Senator Reed informed the senate of the beneficiaries of the WMPG meetings and how important and significant it is.  
**Senator Sciulli nominate Senator Marino, Senator Marino accepted the nomination.**  
VOTED: yes, unanimously.
- V. SCB: Friday September 20th, the meeting holds once a month 11 Payson Smith.  
**Senator Reed nominated Senator Courbron and Duarte, Senator Courbron and Duarte declined the nomination. Senator Reed nominated Senator Carlow, Senator Carlow accepted the nomination.**  
VOTED: yes, unanimously.
- VI. Culinary Council: SBP informed the Senate that Mr. Stone is yet to communicate meeting date, despite reaching out multiple times. This business was moved for appointment until the next meeting.  
**Moved by Senator Reed and seconded by Senator Courbron.**  
VOTED: yes, unanimously.
- VII. BOV: Fridays; October 24th, December 18th.  
**Senator Gross nominated himself and retract his nomination.**  
**Senator Duarte nominated herself.**

VOTED: yes, unanimously

VIII. PRB: The Personal Review Board overview was given by the chair being a former member of the committee.

**Senator Reed nominated Senator Howell, Senator Howell accepted the nomination Senator Courbron nominated himself.**

**Senator Howell retract his acceptance, after a motion was moved to table the appointment until Senator Omar properly resign from the position of the PRB chair. Senator Gross nominated himself. The chair asked the two senators to make their case.**

Senator Courbron makes informed the senate of how he was able to carry on his duty has a senator in his high school and kept the SGA from disbanding after the school authority decided to terminate the senate activities.

Senator Gross informed the senate of his experience as a member of senate in high school and his vital position and role.

**Senator Reed moved the motion for 5 mins recess, was seconded by Senator Sciulli, after which both left the meeting to allow the Senate discuss the best candidate for the position.**

**The Chair called the house back into order, after the recess.**

Senator Carlow then said, executive are confidential, and asked if either of them has an experience in handling confidentiality.

Senator Gross informed the house that he handled sexual harassment and conduct and kept the cases confidential without anyone else knowing.

Senator Courbron responded, he handled code of conduct, rules and policy in his high school and that each cases that occur was kept confidential.

President Varney informed the senate that though he doesn't know Senator Gross that well, but vouched his ability to adapt, learn and perform well in the position of a PRB chair.

**Senator Reed asked both candidates to explain to the senate's if they have ever overcome a largest struggle, and how they handled it if any.**

Senator Gross explained growing up in a family that's opposite of himself and bean bale to triumph over every circumstance.

Senator Courbron explained while trying to make sure the SGA in his high school does not get disbanded was a very difficult situation and seems so impossible as all odds were

against them. But he was able to find a solution to resolve the situation and kept the SGA in place until date.

**Senator Soucy moved the motion for a roll call.**

**Senator Courbron, VOTED:** Yes, Unanimously.

B. Presidential Cabinet Nominations:

President Varney informed the senate of her four newly selected members of the presidential office cabinet and their willingness to executive projects assigned to them.

i. Kirby Kellog,            ii. Kyle Long,            iii. Hussein Maow            iv. Samantha Myers.

C. Committee Assignment

i. Finance Committee

ii. Public Relation Committee

iii. Constitutional review Committee

D. New Constitution and Rules Documents

The parliamentarian informed the senate of the newly draft SGA constitution and conduct is readily available on the drive for review and any necessary commentary by before it can be voted on. He also said that the whole idea of the new constitution is to make the rigorous SGA constitution more concise and easily understandable.

The Chair also added that the constitution was amended as a result of the complexity of the previous constitution. This to allow us to keep a record of things and that there are various processes towards approving the constitution. He urged the senate to go through it and that if there's anything that needs to be added or removed that notification or commentary should be made in order to re-review and make every necessary adjustments.

E. Endorsing OER committee

President Varney presented her case to the senate in respect to endorsing the OER committee. She explained that the OER was set in place as a result of reducing cost of textbooks of which majority of students complains are very expensive. The OER are

working alongside with the Faculty staff to generate resources which can be used to teach in the class that will also serve as a form of hands-on replacing student textbooks. The president informed the senate that she's an official member of the committee after being asked by Senator Reed.

Senator Reed moved the motion to table the subject, Senator Carlow expressed his opinion of tabling the subject might result in not moving on the president wish to endorse the matter.

Senator Holderith moved the motion for 5 minutes recess for discussion on the subject, seconded by Senator Reed and Carlow.

**The Chair called the meeting back into order at 2:55 PM.**

**Senator Carlow moved the motion to vote on the subject, Senator Reed disagree but the motion was granted.**

VOTED: Yes, unanimously.

F. PO 31820

Senator Reed informed the senate of the PO which was approved for the removal of waste and unwanted material in the SGA business office this past summer.

He said inorder to approve the PO  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the senate vote is needed to pass the PO. so as to pay for the removal services. The cost of the PO was \$250, and that the waste and unwanted materials were removed prior to August 21st which is now pending senate approval.

Senator Carlow responded that the PO was already in the budget and it going out of the senate account.

**Senator Soucy moved the motion to vote on the PO, seconded by Senator Bertrand.**

VOTED: Yes, unanimously.

G. Proposals

I. Textbook

President Varney informed the senate of her \$47,000 budget which includes the library reserve textbooks was cut down \$15,000.

The Treasure informed the senate that the SBP proposal is great and it has been approved by the finance committee. Unallocated funds of \$45,000 and the SBP budget is \$9,000.

**Senator Bertrand moved the motion to approve the SBP proposal, seconded by Senator Soucy.**

VOTED: Yes, unanimously.

12. Old Business

The Chair informed the senate that revenue for this semester was between \$155,000 - \$175,000 was what was allocated as a result of financial service error for not including the SAF increment in the new bill for this semester that was signed in the memorandum last semester. He also said that every necessary measure is being put into place to rectify the issue. There will be a meeting with Vice president David Russell and the student financial services.

13. Announcements

Commentary on office hours, and committee meetings all members were to ensure they complete their weekly office hours and attend their committee meeting.

14. Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:11 PM until Friday September 27th, 2019.