

39 U.A.S. 13 (Emergency Meeting)/Continuation of 39 U.A.S 12

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2008

9:00pm-12am

Senate Chambers (W20-400)

1. Steve motions: "to suspend rules of Suspend the Rules, as enumerated by Article VI, Section 1 of the Senate Bylaws, with the intention of allowing any outstanding motions that the Senate wishes to entertain to be brought forward as if this were a regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate; and That this Emergency Session be treated as an extension of the previous meeting, as per the intention of the Senators present during the meeting May 5, 2008, rather than as a new meeting altogether."
2. Jason: Will be continuation of UAS 12
3. Motion to previous question: all in favor
4. Vote: all except 1

5. Senate considers Alex Alford for UA Finboard (continuation of Chair nominations)
 - a. Introduction
 - i. 2nd year on FinBoard, Class Treasurer first year
 - ii. Commitments: School, fraternity
 - iii. New set of policies deciding which groups get funding: improve communications between Finboard and group, partly through website changes
 - b. Q&A:
 - i. Riley: thoughts on rolling appeals?
 - ii. Alex: great idea but hard to implement
 1. Didn't work this year
 - iii. Hans: how to fill spots?
 - iv. Alex: try to get undergrads with better publicity
 1. Get Treasurers to find people
 - c. Closed discussion
 - d. Motion to vote: passed
 - e. Vote: 13 in favor, 0 oppose, 1 abstention
 - i. Approved

6. UAS 12.3 Bill to Clarify the Campaign Rules
 - a. Dennis: are any of these controversial?
 - b. Ainsley: just clarification
 - i. Biggest change is proof of registration
 - c. Bennie: Registration is a pain; can we do this electronically?
 - d. Ainsley: this has been a problem in many elections
 - e. Akash: what about people who are going abroad and running for office
 - f. Ainsley: up to constituency

- g. Kelch: can be removed from office
- h. Hans: what about students running from abroad
- i. Ainsley: that's fine if forms are submitted
- j. Paul: example - Kat Thomas who left, new Senator elected, not a big deal
- k. Kelch: Write-in calendars don't fall under category s.t. forms need to be filled out
- l. Motion to vote: passed
- m. Vote: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstention

7. UAS 12.4 Bill to Clarify the Election Code

- a. Motion to have Senators read to themselves for 2 minutes: passed
- b. Ainsley: membership section is how it's been done for at least 3 years
 - i. Reviews changes
- c. Bennie: does Senate have to appoint all 8 members of this committee?
 - i. Can we just do it like Finboard? We pick Chair and VC and they pick the rest of the people?
- d. Martin: this year we presented a slate
- e. Motion to amend to present a slate by UA President and approved by Senate
 - i. Hans: want to make sure we only slate non-Chair and VC
 - ii. Bennie: that's what I meant
 - iii. Motion to amend amendment: present slate of chair and vice chair and then separate slate of other six members approved by JudComm super delegates: passed
 - iv. Steve: generally disagrees w/slate b/c we need more granularity, one person could be the problem
 - 1. Motion to amend: slate may be approved or modified by UA Senate: passed
 - a. Hans: we can reject one person of the slate and suggest someone
 - v. Cyril: thinks one by one selection would be better
 - vi. Hans: plenty of oversight
 - vii. Bennie: believe in oversight but remember our Monday meeting where we were here until 3am
 - 1. Maybe change to 3rd meeting from end so we're not burdened w/so many nominations
 - viii. Martin: there needs to be a level of oversight but we don't need Senate to do nitty gritty stuff that makes meetings longer
 - 1. We shouldn't redo work of NomComm and ElectComm
 - ix. Motion to extend debate for 2 minutes: passed
 - x. Steve: no reason to codify to limit ourselves in the future
 - 1. Senate can choose to view candidates as slate – all they have to do is make a motion
 - xi. Martin: do we need this amendment?
 - xii. Motion to vote (approve for 2 slates): Senate will approve ElectComm in 2 slates: Chair and VC & 6 others, Senate can modify second slate
 - 1. Vote on amendment: 6 approve, 7 oppose, 1 abstention

- f. Hans: should make JudBoard get on the ball
- g. Steve: like this b/c creates Election Commission as all-encompassing body
 - i. Checks & balances in place
- h. Motion to amend to ½ in last that clause: not passed
- i. Friendly amendment to drop last that clause
- j. Bennie: Section 1, Article II, E: gives Judboard too much power
 - i. Should be able to decline list, but can't add people to list
- k. Motion to strike word "modify" from Section 1, Article II, E
- l. Motion to extend debate by 5 minutes: not passed
- m. Motion to postpone until next meeting: 11 in favor, 2 oppose, 0 abstention

8. UAS 12.5 Bill to Modify the UA Constitution

- a. Bennie: ex-officio
- b. Discussion on ex-officio motions
 - i. Steve: Ambiguous in Constitution if ex-officio members can put forth motions
 - ii. Hans: can make main motions but not amend bills
 - 1. In past, not allowed to second motions
 - iii. Motion to change name to "Bill to Update the UA Constitution to incorporate Election Commission selection process changes"
 - 1. Vote: 11 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
- c. Motion to table until next meeting: passed
 - i. Vote: 10 approve, 1 oppose, 0 abstain

9. UAS 12.6 Bill to Disband the UA Committee on Information Systems

- a. Bennie: Don't need committee, if Evan needs committee he can find people
- b. Motion to table until next meeting: passed
 - i. Vote: 13 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

10. UAS 12.7 Bill to Create a VP for Orientation

- a. Bennie: easier to have fewer committees and this one is not doing much
- b. Hans: support of this, should include something in bylaws including position duties
- c. Bennie: will add this and email out before next meeting
- d. Kate: there's more to Orientation than Rush, Dorm events
 - i. Shouldn't disband committee just b/c people in past years haven't done anything, have been helpful in past
- e. Martin: Noah and Bennie trying to restructure and perhaps this is small part of bigger picture
 - i. This year, Akil was Martin's point person and basically did everything
- f. Steve: might be one of those committees that needs 1 person for a couple of years and then a committee for another (manpower needed in waves) – maybe give person power to create committee if needed but not standing

- g. Bennie: wants this person to work w/existing Orientation Committees in other bodies to oversee (DormCon, IFC, Panhel)
 - h. Motion to table until next meeting: passed
 - i. Vote: 10 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
11. UAS 12.8 Bill to Disband Committee on Orientation
- a. Martin: same debate we just had
 - b. Motion to table until next meeting: passed
 - i. Vote: 9 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain
12. UAS Bill to Disband Housing Committee removed from table
13. UAS 12.9 Bill to Create the UA Committee on Planning
- a. Bennie: Dining Committee no longer on this bill
 - b. James added as sponsor
 - c. Ali: Sustainability Committee doing great job, don't want them disbanded
 - d. Bennie: don't need to come to weekly exec meetings, still think they're valuable
 - e. Steve: can't use first person in legislation
 - i. Need to have charter to create this committee
 - f. Friendly motion to strike third that clause
 - g. Bennie: can someone else comment
 - h. Kate: Space Planning and Sustainability are not related – why do this
 - i. Bennie: committees can remain independent but 1 person come to meetings for issues
 - j. Martin: BYU has 6 VPs (Committee Chairs), Directors report to VPs (more coordination); would be adding an additional layer
 - i. But doesn't make sense to just combine 2 committees
 - k. Bennie: Exec doesn't touch Sustainability and Space Planning – don't tell them what to do
 - i. Don't need to report to us directly
 - l. Motion to extend debate by 5 minutes: passed
 - m. Hans: this doesn't do anything
 - i. Reducing committees increases chance of failure
 - ii. Just don't ask them to come to exec meetings
 - iii. This should not be administrative committee, only policy committee
 - iv. Motion to amend: Remove moving UA Planning Committee so that it's standing policy; Move Sustainability, Space Planning from list of UA Standing Policy Committees
 - n. Steve: not a good idea to just let these committees do whatever they want
 - i. Condensing down will make you blind to what they're doing b/c you'll never see them
 - o. Bennie: will just rewrite this in a different way, constitution
 - p. Noah: doesn't want to create a duality (some groups have to report every week, others don't)

- q. Cyril: might be doing overlapping work
- r. Kate: probably want to know what they're doing – want to stay in touch w/what they're doing
 - i. Won't complain if you tell them they are more autonomous
- s. Martin: maybe just create positions or find ways to make people coordinators of these committee
 - i. More direct person can be executive administrator
- t. Motion to extend debate by 5 minutes: passed
- u. Paul: don't see point in making 2 into 1 committee; just have them communicate better
 - i. Subcommittees might not feel as motivated
- v. Hans: don't want to add more layers between committee members and President
 - i. Recommends we vote this down at this committee
- w. James: just b/c 2 committees might overlap doesn't mean we should join them
 - i. Most committees on exec should work together
- x. Bennie: withdraw bill from table
- y. Motion to postpone bill indefinitely: passed
 - i. Vote: 10 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

14. UAS 12.10 Bill to Create Executive Representatives to the Dormitory Council, the Interfraternity Council, and the Panhellenic Council

- a. Bennie: UA has no interconnectivity with these organizations, a major reason that admins don't listen to us; it's easy for them to ignore student government if they can claim that it's not representative
- b. Steve: It's this way because UA is considered supreme governing body. I can't see making these people executive officers.
- c. Bennie: What should we call them then?
- d. Steve: We haven't consulted these bodies, so we can't just create these positions.
- e. Noah: We're not trying to impose these positions on these respective bodies. Rather, we want to get an infrastructure in place to allow them to get more involved with us.
- f. Ostro: Most EC people think the UA doesn't get anything done and that DormCon is awesome.
- g. Ains: Don't they already have ex-officio reps to Senate? Don't send Senate to them, get them to come to us.
- h. Bennie: We want to take the first step in getting them involved. We want communication between these bodies. If they start coming to our meetings on a regular basis, we can dissolve these positions.
- i. Martin: It's a good idea to improve coordination. For procedure's sake, you should send this bill to the relevant bodies so that they can consider it.
- j. Hans: Add the LGC to this list.
- k. Noah: I spoke with IFC. They just don't respond to e-mails.
- l. Steve: Why are we making such a heavy constitutional change to make these positions? Why not do something on a trial basis?

- m. Bennie: There's no redundancy because their reps don't come.
- n. Steve: But some of them might not even be aware that they're expected to come. There's a fundamental communication problem.
- o. Paul: I support the intent of this bill. My main concern is that there's already some mechanism for the UA, IFC, Panhel, and DormCon to interact. We all know that that interaction doesn't happen with the exception of Sarah and Ostro. That might change next year with the new administration. I hope that Noah and Bennie will e-mail these organizations' presidents to get their thoughts.
- p. Noah: I spoke with them during campaign process. They were reluctant about showing up to UA meetings, but they really wanted UA reps to come to their meetings.
- q. Riley: Some people in these governments don't recognize UA power.
- r. Motion to postpone until next meeting: passed
 - i. Vote: all in favor

15. UAS 12.11 —Bill to Eliminate the Assistant Vice President for Resource Development

- a. Hans: when created, people concerned this could be undermine UA legitimacy if position falls in bad hands
- b. Bennie: also in favor in eliminating standing committee on this?
- c. Hans: yes
- d. Noah: maybe instead put forth motion to task person w/more direction
 - i. Person who has been appointed has skill sets to do this job
- e. Ali: agree that committee didn't do well this year, but has a purpose
 - i. If increase in enrollment, we will need to seek outside channels
- f. Hans: maybe unclear of what side of corporate partners they will be standing on
 - i. Should be about getting money – not about facilitating networking w/corporations
 - ii. Position just lends itself to corruption
- g. Steve: at least 3rd time this debate has come up, has not done well; there's no real practical purpose to this position
 - i. UA has plenty of money, need to better use what we have
 - ii. Kaplan is only corporate agreement we have, arrangement makes us send email to undergrads@mit list
 - 1. What is to stop other agreements like that to be made; we should work w/administration to free up channels of funding not go outside
- h. Noah: Resource Development role is to have someone who is interested in cultivating outside relationships (e.g. Compton lectures)
- i. Motion to postpone until next meeting: passed
 - i. Vote: all but 1 abstention

16. UAS 11.5 Bill to Create the UA Alumni Relations Committee

- a. Tabled last time
- b. Hans: risks detachment of large network of support and revenue unless we form better connections w/alumni, ultimately administration

- c. Martin: one of ideas we thought about would be to task Resource Development w/this
 - i. Maybe develop new name and charge for RD Committee and include them
- d. Cyril: student ambassadors? Work closely w/alums
- e. Hans: but student ambassadors not part of UA, UA should have strong communication w/alumni
- f. Steve: what does PR Chair if not reaching out to people and telling them what UA's doing
- g. Martin: has a lot on their plate w/other tasks
- h. Noah: PR chair will have a lot to keep track of, would like to create position where that person would reach out to those w/alumni connections
- i. Bennie: hope is to make a couple of very strong committees, can see them getting off-track
 - i. Unless calling alums, maybe combine w/History Committee
- j. Steve: agree there's no future
- k. Hans: needs to happen, has not happened
- l. Bennie: sometimes alumni support would be nice, but don't need entire committee for this; hard enough time to keep track of other committee
- m. Motion to vote: passed
 - i. Vote: 2 approve, 5 oppose, 2 abstention

17. UAS 11.6 Bill to Increase UA Financial Security and Responsibility

- a. Hans: prevent bad spending
- b. Paul: last that clause?
- c. Hans: right now there is imbalance of Senators needed to increase/decrease
- d. Steve: Reserve should never be spent b/c intended to not be spent
- e. Motion to vote: withdrawn
- f. Friendly motions to amend:
 - i. include Senate bylaws to 2 that clauses: "Subsection 4/4c of the UA Senate bylaws"
 - ii. Change last that clause to "Invested Reserve in its current state"
 - iii. Sun: why include Next House?
 - iv. Hans: should include a specific incident
 - v. Vote: 6 approve, 0 oppose, 2 abstain

18. UAS 11.8 Bill to Create UA War Committee*

- a. *Hans: open to change name, was a temporary name until we came up with a better one
- b. Jason: is this Martin's group?
- c. Martin: last year we passed bill that created adhoc Committee on Student Involvement
 - i. Make permanent?
 - ii. *Friendly amendment to change "UA War Committee" mentions to "Committee on Student Involvement"
- d. Cyril: sounds like PR committee → overlap?
- e. Martin: this is strategic planning, how to better communicate administration
- f. Ainsley: recommend Senators go to Task Force Committee meetings
- g. Motion to vote: passed

i. Vote: 11 oppose, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

19. Motion to reinstate bylaws: passed

a. Vote: 7 approve, 4 oppose, 0 abstain

20. Motion to adjourn: passed

a. Vote: All in favor