

U.A.S. 4
November 17, 2008
8:00 PM
W20-400

1. Roll Call. The following Senators were absent:
 1. Cyril Lan X
 2. Eleni Orphanides XX
 3. Shin Nee Wong XX
 4. Hongyou Xiong X
 5. Cody Daniel proxy Ashley Nash
 6. Bill Near XX Gordon Wintrop for Bill Near
 7. Keone HonXX
 8. Kevin Marengo XX
 9. Brandon Lew XX
 10. Anila SinhaXX
 11. Alex Dehnert proxy Yin You
2. Recap of Retreat
 1. Maggie: 16 of us went to the cape and had a very productive time. Lots of new bills were put into action. Talked about role of senior leadership; roles to make senate more effective and the UA better. Every change that we seriously considered we tried to initiate as a bill.
 2. Nelson: We had a lot of discussion about the bills. I don't want to hear too much complaining about it this meeting...need time to consider them in depth.
 - a. Two bill sponsors not present this evening.
 3. Vrajesh: No vice chair on sustainability: I nominate Sammi Wyman. She has done a lot of work with recycling and such. I strongly recommend her. I was the vice chair for the second half of next year. Every else on the committee is brand new.
 - a. Jason: Vote now. All in favor raise your hand.
 - Overwhelming majority voted in favor. Sammi Wyman is now vice chair.
3. 40 UAS 4.3
 1. Bill approved.
4. 40 UAS 4.4 Transparency
 1. Want minutes from TSE meetings.
 2. There is no secretary in TSE.
 3. The language in the first 'that' clause amended to not say "detailed."
 4. All those in favor of the bill: bill is passed by overwhelming majority.
5. Sun added as an author of Bill 40 UAS 4.4. This bill seeks to grant PE points for club sports.
 1. Voting on postponement of Bill until next meeting (24 November 2008):
 - a. Overwhelming majority voted in favor of approving bill.
6. Paul Baranay: Head of Enrollment committee stepped down last week. I will be getting in touch with previous nominations committee chairs.
 1. Mike: Paul approached me about this last week. Paul took over NomComm duties by mailing every member assigned to a committee and in NomComm. He established a large list of individuals on committee. He has been a great member

of this committee. Paul is currently Chair of Enrollment seeking position as Chair of NomComm.

a. Paul has been selected by overwhelming majority as Chair of NomComm.

7. Bill 40 U.A.S. 4.2 proposed: Bill to Create MIT Community Conversations
 1. Difference between this and town hall meetings? Noah: individuals involved are more motivated.
 2. Dorm Council is willing to provide a few hundred dollars to support this program.
 3. Paul: I was thinking of having Rachel Meyer head this committee.
 4. Vrajesh: I think we're going to have to think carefully about UA finance.
 5. Ekaterina: when they come to meetings, Admin. usually talks about life in general.
 6. Bill has been postponed to next week so that it can re-written.
8. Discussion: Jason: allowed so that we can figure out what is happening.
9. Nelson: My idea is to switch Senate elections to spring term.
 1. Senate could be coveted position in community.
 2. People are mostly positive.
 3. Freshmen would not be able to participate, but there will be Senators that are more representative.
 4. Nelson will draft a bill. Contact him if you would like to stay in the loop.
 5. Nelson moves to postpone 40 UAS 4.1 until the next meeting.
10. Bill to Improve Executive Branch Communication of Bill Execution - UAS 40 4.5
 1. Vrajesh: This should be obvious but this makes sure our ideas don't vanish into thin air.
 2. Nelson: I don't want to make this binding, change this to a resolution? Make them recommendations.
 3. Vrajesh: Why do we not want to gear things toward specific people?
 4. Nelson: I don't want to restrict the kind of bills that Senators can write.
 5. Nelson: move to postpone to next week. Most in favor. Postponed until next week.
 6. Vrajesh: Change to each bill? So someone is in charge of following up on that?
 7. Danny: Agree with recommendations, rather than
 8. Bennie: Has Noah been signing bills?
 9. Danny: We need to have flexibility.
 10. Jason: Amendment, change to a resolution.
11. Tim: we want to know what has been happening with bills.
 1. Noah should update us on the status of bills that have been passed.
12. U.A.S 4.6 Senate Office Hours brought to the table
 1. Nelson: We want this bill to have senators set an hour aside to get people to devote to.
13. Senate work and spend time in the office. Lots of complains about the bill, but please discuss.
14. Tim: How does this work with living groups with more than one senator?
 1. Zack: For the semester, year?
 2. Nelson: Effective immediately and indefinitely
15. Ekaterina: what are we trying to fix? I've never had problems communicating with other senators. I think mandating these office hours will not fix these problems; it will be a

waste of Senators' efforts and time. If it were for constituencies, I'd rather hold my office hours at Random Hall. Bill should be worded to indicate it should be for senators who aren't doing another work. I can't get behind this bill.

16. Bennie: Ekaterina, good point. If you are on exec, that is your office hour. Good thing to get Senators to interact with each other on a less formal occasion, adding an additional hour is not an ungodly thing. It's a commitment but it's in the student center. I think the Senate suffers from lack of communication, I could pick two senators and they probably haven't talked outside of the senate chamber. People don't know each other.
17. Caryn: More worried that every senator has their own hours and won't have something to do. I think we should email out and pick a time.
18. Danny: I like communication, how much overlap would there be?
19. Nelson: Don't require specification for when office hours need to be.
20. Paul: Consider being more involved with the UA and UA office in general. Good way of getting involved and connecting with exec members and hopefully other senators. Take that spirit to heart.
21. Vrajesh: Paul, add that it should be a resolution, also communicate better with constituency. Mandate hours with constituents anyway?
22. Keone: Interact with other random people, this is really important. Most people have opinions, can we vote? (no)
23. Ashley: Can they have an open hour if there is interest only? People email you if they want to talk. Infringes on the point of a constituency, responsible for answer to the constituents, not other senators. It is the house's problem if their senator is poor.
24. Alex: It would make sense to have the hour reserved. I don't want to make them come if it's more work. If I know they are there, I'll talk to them. Senators here for constituents, but part of that is ensuring you have a well functioning senate. One must have knowledge of what other Senators think so you know how to best write up bills.
25. Zack: No mandatory office hours. Maybe for constituents in dorms. But not mandatory here. We should decide to make an office hour when there is a relevant issues to discuss.
26. Ekaterina: It shouldn't matter if I hang out in the special UA club. Office hours won't help senators hang out together. This won't fix the problem.
27. Zack: Table bill? Few opposed. Tabled.
28. Closing announcements:
 1. Be sure to follow up on your bills.
 2. Bennie:
 3. We will send out how to use the file system in the UA locker. If you drop something in there it magically shows up on the website. This is for people who don't know how to use the system. Minutes should go up for a lot of committees
 4. Talked to Hockfield's secretary about resuming lunches. She's going to talk to Kirk about it. I'm going back on Friday. UA should be able to have a list of people to send to the meeting. Senate or Exec can determine who goes. Dates finalized in next two weeks. No December date.
 5. Ekaterina: Can there be a public list or account of who is going? Proof exec is being fair?
 6. Bennie: List of who has gone to the lunches. Email people about signing up.
 7. Vrajesh: Status of TSE?

8. Bennie: I can't go. It should have been 4 UA people. Other three governments hasn't been prepared. GSC has their stuff together. Noah is trying to multi task and take minutes for UA. GSC takes minutes.
9. Paul: Can we change TSE?
10. Bennie: If they fail to do their jobs, Presidents are removed as per their agreement. Or if all bodies agree that one or two groups should have the seats. UA is policy body, other governments are more regulatory. TSE should be for policy and made up of UA members.
29. Mail is still in the works. People have signed up, mail is going to SAO, takes time to get things working.
30. Career fair: working with President of GSC to move holiday to career fair day. Martin tried last year but ran out of time. Meeting with Registrar, determine what is most likely for faculty to approve a holiday. Probably Wednesday or a Friday. Hash that out and then meet with chair of faculty Monday, then faculty policy committee, then faculty committee, faculty votes in February. Holiday for Career Fair day in September 2009
31. Dorm Storm this week, going well so far. Take the survey!
32. Senator for the dorms: go to the nearest one to your dorm. Get to see and meet constituents.
33. Elections for IFC and Panhel, they seem competent.
34. Good of the Order
 1. Paul: faculty meeting is Wednesday 3:30-5pm in 10-250. Come and see what it is like. UA P/VP and chair of SCEP can talk. Reports about GIR changes are happening. Changes aren't drastic but important. Find me for more info.
 2. Vrajesh: People in the back that aren't senators! We are glad you are hear. Make name tags.
 3. Paul: Vice-chair/speaker made name tags? Maggie puts finger to nose.
 4. Sun: Sent out a doc about club sports bill. Please send comments, questions, additions.
 5. Zack: DormStorm 7-9 in porter room
35. Adjourn!!! - 10:16pm