

SUNY Orange Student Senate Meeting

Zoom: 935 2393 7276

November 4th, 2021

Minute Taker: Brittany Siegel

Meeting Called to Order: 11:03 A.M.

Members Present:

Gerianne Brusati - Guest, VP of Student Affairs

Ryan Demarse - S (P)

Christine Staley - S (VP)

Kira Pedicini – S (T/Student Trustee)

Brittany Siegel - S (S)

Austin Marin - S (Absent, excused)

Adrienne Victor - A

Steve Harpst – A

Motion to approve minutes by Kira, Second by Brittany, Approval of the minutes vote: 4-0-0

President Report: Ryan Demarse

- Introduction of Gerianne Brusati, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Brief overview of budget allocations, activity fee dispersal, and SUNY guidelines on reserve funds
- Reserve funds of \$350,000 based on enrollment fluctuations, cannot keep a savings account, but the college is allowed to have roughly a years' worth in 'reserve'
- Activity fee covers cost of clubs, organizations, and activities deemed critical for student support
- Activity fees were still collected during the COVID-19 shutdown, which has resulted in about a \$150,000 surplus, the college currently has \$503,000 from collected activity fees
- Reserve spending proposals:
 - Student Emergency Fund: Requested \$25,000 for student support, this fund helps struggling students who are faced with tough financial situations such as paying their rent or electric bill. There was a 3 year pilot program SUNY Orange participated in and last year, funders notified the college they would be pulling out because they had given the college the steps they needed to move forward on their own as well as seed funding to be able to raise funds through the foundation set up and through applying for grants, the \$25,000 would be used as a cushion
 - Food Pantry: Requested \$15,000 for purchase of \$25-50 grocery gift cards to give out when pantry is not enough
 - Wellness Center Improvements: Requested \$25,000 for a wider array of services
- Total amount requested for proposals totals \$65,000
- Brittany asked if there is \$150,000 more than the \$350,000 needed for reserve, and only \$65,000 being requested, could the remaining \$85-90,000 be used towards halving the activity fee charge for the next academic year as an incentive for enrollment to help remedy the 13% drop in enrollment experienced this academic year

- It was explained that in using those surplus funds to lower the activity fee for the next academic year, there may not be enough money for things such as club trips etc. and it would cause difficulty moving forward after that year because the fee would need to be raised back up
- The Senate will use this week to think about proposals, form any questions, and discuss at next week's meeting
- Motion to approve Ryan Demarse as Student Senate President by Kira, Second by Brittany, vote: 4-0-0
- Nomination of Christine Staley for Vice President of Student Senate
- Motion to approve Christine Staley for Vice President of Student Senate by Kira, Second by Brittany, vote: 4-0-0

Vice President Report: Ryan Demarse

- We will be having a guest from the SUNY Orange Foundation at next week's meeting, 11/11/21
- No updates on SAGA, need a representative from the Senate for Nov. 17th meeting, Kira

Treasurer Report: Kira Pedicini

- Nothing to report

Secretary Report: Brittany Siegel

- Nothing to report

Student Trustee Report: Kira Pedicini

- Nothing to report, Next meeting is Nov. 17th

Advisor Report: Steve & Adrienne

- Steve mentioned the idea of the creation of safe space and will discuss at next meeting
- Steve gave an update on the Title IX training email that will be going out this week and needs to be completed by all senators, club officers, and voting members by Dec. 3rd.
- Adrienne will be going on maternity leave until March, last meeting will be Nov. 23rd.

Old Business: Anyone

- Kira asked about status on Middle States
- Brittany explained Middle States does not have a set meeting time for student representatives as of yet and are contacted on a case-by-case basis as questions arise and drafts are completed

New Business: Anyone

- Nothing to report

Open Forum: Anyone

- Nothing to report

Motion by Kira to adjourn meeting, Second by Brittany, Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting Adjourned: 11:45 A.M.