Senate Meeting – 28 November 2012

AGENDA

11th Student Senate Meeting

12:15 – Call to order and agreement agenda.
12:15 – Library (Jorge Sosa) to answer senator questions on the library + opening times.
12:30 – Executive Report - SGA Treasurer (Mimi Adrien) giving an update on the
      budget.
12:45 – Committee Report - Judiciary committee to present an update to the constitution
12:55 – Senator update - Global Communications rep (Mae Camara) requests to be made
      vice chair of the Club's committee (and if so, will give an update on Club's
      Committee and Holiday Bash).
13:00 – Senator Report - MEIS and MAIS Rep (Raeesa Hamid) and Junior Rep (Mariam
      Youssef) on their goals.
13:10 – Old business + New Business.
    – Announcements and Adjournment.

Minutes
Taken by Stephanie Dissette (USC Communications Director)

Meeting begins (12:13PM)

1. Sven (USC VP): calls forward Judiciary Committee – Pierre (JCC) and Alex
   (JCC); change in agenda due to tardiness
   a. Present an updated Constitution (to be attached); please
      review and send in comments
   b. Send in edits by next Senate meeting (Dec ???)
   c. Introduce Preamble – sets the tone, hope that it embodies
      everything it should, review together now (read aloud)
   d. Preamble is a first draft; intend to have a final draft by last
      senate meeting of the year (2012)
   e. Content has not been touched on Annexes, only general editing,
      especially with clubs
   f. Annex 4 – clubs and organizations (currently empty) – you can
      refer to older version of Constitution on SGA website
   g. Any questions?
   h. Please send in feedback by next week

2. Sven (USC VP): calls forward Library staff, Jorge and Michael; reviews Senate
   action last year in regard to library
   a. Jorge – invited to answer questions from Senators; perhaps we can
      explain the way library hours are built
   b. Michael holds up schedule – shows density of students at different
      hours
   c. Near end of the semester, overfull; other times, very few students

d. Have 100 seats, not enough at end of the semester
e. Not productive to be open on Friday evenings (for example)
f. Intend to have hours available when most productive for students
g. Study hours/rush hours do not include library staff; only guards
h. Break schedule – 1-6PM, one person at library (over spring and fall breaks)
i. Stephanie (IBA) – for finals week, plan is to close at 3AM; is there a way to stay open until 5AM (instead of having to shift to Grenelle)
j. Jorge – in the past, we've had fewer days of extra hours, but open until 6AM; funding comes from many places, depends on feedback
k. Michael – computer lab (Grenelle) and library try not to overlap extra hours, instead compliment each other
l. Jorge – there's an excel sheet around campus that show the overlap of hours
m. Laura (ICP) – for economic reasons, I understand why we wouldn't want Grenelle (computer lab) to overlap with library, but we use those resources for different purposes; students need the library for studying, the computer lab for printing/groups/etc. We need more library hours
n. Michael – there are all different ways students like to study (home, library, etc.)
o. Jorge – in the past, under request from the SGA, classrooms were left open as "study halls," in place of closed library, which was easier to arrange
p. Madison (History) – I understand the logistics; however, we have to shuffle all over campus to stay with what is open; and with the density of the student population, I can imagine it getting very cramped
q. Michael – if you look at the statistics, 100 people is rare; it's more like 40-50 people, and that does get loud and hot fast in our current library; however, I don't think it's a question of numbers really – max of 40 people after 8PM
r. Laura (ICP) – there's trouble too with students using computers for something other than studying; problem with a study hall is there aren't resources, limits what you can do
s. Jorge – the library has been trying to develop our online resources; our ebook collection is twice as big as our book collection now; you should be able to find more sources without being in the library; fewer and fewer hard-copy reference books, instead developing online resources, with the intention to make research easier; there is a lack of awareness – we need to teach students how to use them
t. Laura (ICP) – you also assume students have their own computers
u. Michael – and if we were to put more computers in the library
v. Stephanie (IBA) – do we already have library hours set for finals? Is it changeable still
w. Jorge – yes, 3AM; very difficult to change now; we met with student representatives (SGA) early in the semester to decide this; this idea of

spreading over more days with 3AM close seems to be working best; we have already hired the company we will use too

x. Michael – we also notice there aren't enough students that stay until 6AM to make it worth paying the guards

y. Darcee (MPL/MPPA) – have we considered opening earlier during exam week? I am an early riser, and the library is quieter and coffee cheaper than Starbucks

z. Michael – we have thought about it, but asking a staff member to come earlier, we'd have to look into his or her contract; at the moment that's not possible; we would need two staff members to agree; this is a longer term goal to be reached; we did change from 10AM to 9:30AM last semester; it's a matter of administrative problems

aa. Jorge – historically, it was about a year ago that students asked for more hours; this is the 10AM-9:30AM shift, this doesn't have a big financial impact on us, but at 9:30AM, there are only one or two people generally; if there were even ten people at 9:15AM, it would be more productive

bb. Darcee (MPL/MPPA) – at 7:30AM, there aren't any classes starting yet, whereas at 9AM there are classes going; students fight over computers at Combes and Grenelle before classes now

cc. Jorge – if you had many students supporting this, we could look into it; depends number; in my career, people have kept asking for more and more hours, it has continued to improve

dd. Laura (ICP) – especially at AUP, students are used to the American system, 24hours access to libraries and larger sizes and more funding; of course, in France, this isn't normal

ee. Jorge – also legislation is different; in France you cannot leave a student responsible for closing a building, for example

ff. Michael – on our wish list, it would be 24 hours, 7 days a week, but with French law, we cannot function that way; Sundays, for example, we cannot have staff members working

gg. Jorge – Michael and I teach first-bridge, and we find many students coming late, instead of 9AM, 9:30AM; we follow the American system here by starting at 9AM; however, I cannot imagine opening earlier would make a difference

hh. Stephanie (IBA) – for us, it is not about how many students are there, it's about having the resource available, having the option; even if you only help one student, it's worth it

ii. Adriana (Film) – it is also that we pay a similar tuition to students in the states, it's just having an available study space

jj. Madison (History) – it's also for students who don't have internet; Starbucks also only gives you 30 minutes worth of internet; how can we use our online resources even? Having the option is a HIGH priority for students

kk. Jorge – we hear you; if you believe what you are saying, than we need (Dave interrupts: can you be specific please?)

ll. Jorge – for example, last year, there was a petition for more hours in the library; however, there was no structure for it; we need something concrete and specific; we linked the student with the SGA to help her present a proposal, and through the Senate's approval, adding budget to library, this worked out; in fact, this year, we included that extra in our personal budget; you need to try and be realistic; we don't have the manpower or legislative power to open like an American university library

mm. Laura (ICP) – maybe we should inform students more about French libraries; they are often open late, have specialized for different subject; it's free; might be an interesting solution

nn. Jorge – there are various libraries that could help; we recommend libraries outside AUP to students for other options; but I believe if you compare our hours to other libraries, we have the best hours

oo. Michael – please keep in mind, we decide on library hours in the first week in the semester; you should have something concrete by the beginning of the next semester; before the first week of the semester if possible; it's not really feasible to change this semester's hours; once it is scheduled it is written in stone

pp. Jorge – again, we do invite the two SGA Presidents during orientation to meet with us and give us feedback;

qq. Stephanie (USC Communications) – just to reiterate

rr. Laura (ICP) – pressure the school to pay?

ss. Jorge – point of clarification; the money we spent last year, we added to the budget this year

tt. Sven (USC VP) - especially those of you who seem particularly interested in this (Madison, Stephanie, Laura, Darcee) perhaps you should get together specifically and talk about this; you will need to act on this

uu. Sven (USC VP) - unfortunately, we need to move on with our agenda now, thank you for coming

3. Sven (USC VP): calls forward Mae (GC)
   a. Here with you today, asking to be voted in as new vice chair for the clubs committee
   b. I have already met with Kevin Fore and Mimi (Treasurer) to discuss this responsibility
   c. I need your approval in order to continue
   d. Laura (ICP) – move to accept Mae (GC) and Vice Chair; Dana (CS) seconds
   e. Stephanie (IBA) – after having missed 3 Senate meetings already, how do you think you will be reliable?
   f. Mae (GC) – I apologize for missing meetings, however, I have always checked up on the meetings that I have missed
   g. Laura (ICP) – Personally, I don't feel this is a big deal, it does not mean we are not involved or don't care, things happen sometimes

h. Sven (USC VP) - point of information, you can discuss this with Judiciary Committee
i. Laura (ICP) – move to previous question, accepted
j. Mae (GC) – voted in unanimously
k. Mae (GC) – passes out informative cards about the Holiday Bash; quick update, happening on December 6th; please come join us; will be back to request budget; idea is to support clubs, plan on having live music; refreshments; requesting a budget of 200 euros; 640 from Alumni Affairs; and 100 euros from Student Affairs
l. Laura (ICP) – is it possible for AUP to get Metro cards to help save money? It's so much cheaper.
m. Sven (USC VP) – point of information, I'm not positive, but I believe you as Senators have the power to work on this
n. Stephanie (MCT?) – it's including Alumni?
o. Mae (GC) – yes, it's a community event, should give clubs a kick start to being even more successful; hopefully, we can be more affective going in the new semester
p. Darcee (MPL/MPPA) – just to clarify, are you asking for us to approve 200 euros today?
q. Mae (GC) – just, sorry Mimi (Treasurer) isn't here today, but the party is December 6th
r. Sven (USC VP) – in the past, clubs have come themselves to request; now clubs committee does a lot of this to help support; Mae (GC) can request
s. Laura (ICP) – moves to approve 200 euro request; seconded by Adriana (Film) and Darcee (MPL/MPPA)
t. Stephanie (IBA) – doesn't feel comfortable without a more concrete request and breakdown, which we are normally offered
u. Mae (GC) – it's only
v. Adriana (Film) – normally, I would agree, but I think this is time pressing and more important, so
w. Laura (ICP) – normally I would agree, but since this is for the clubs committee, with Mimi (Treasurer) and Mae (GC) and Kevin Fore asking, it's legitimate, we can be sure it's reasonable
x. Mae (GC) – I apologize for not having something more concrete, it's a time sensitive issue; I can send a document by tomorrow at the latest for your review
y. Max (Econ) – you mentioned that you get budget from Alumni Affairs and Student Services, what is that money going to?
z. Kevin Fore – point of information; money from them is going to food and wine; we can send a more specific breakdown; extra money would go more to holiday decorations
aa. Laura (ICP) – this event is really important for club visibility, we need this to support our clubs; it's fun, but more important for publicity too
bb. Max (Econ) – last semester, we did this by email later in the day; can we wait until later and vote by email tonight?

cc. Stephanie (IBA) – I would be more comfortable with that

dd. Darcee (MPL/MPPA) – I understand that not having a budget breakdown is not ideal; this sounds like a lot of intense discussion over 200 euro

ee. Mae (GC) – it would be nice to spend my time more preparing for this event than setting up budget breakdown, but I will if you need it

ff. Laura (ICP) – maybe you can just give a general idea after you purchased/had your event to reassure us later

gg. Darcee (MPL/MPPA) – since the money already involved has been spent on food and wine; all we are considering is decorations, and the breakdown would more be about decorations 200 euro

hh. Stephanie (IBA) – I just think it's important to keep formal record, it's the principle that bothers me;

ii. Darcee (MPL/MPPA) – also, just to reiterate the party is next Thursday

jj. Laura (ICP) – yes, the party is next Thursday, clubs have already prepared, administration is involved

kk. Laura (ICP) – move to previous questions

ll. Budget request passes by majority vote

mm. Sven (USC VP) - if you would want Mae (GC) to send an update, that is a separate motion

nn. Laura (ICP) – move for Mimi (Treasurer) to present a breakdown of this budget in the form of a request next week; Mae (GC) seconds

oo. Adriana (Film) moves to previous question

pp. Motion approved by majority

qq. Laura (ICP) – offers to write request

4. Sven (USC VP) calls forward Raeesa (MEIS/MAIS) to represent goals; just to clarify, many departments fall under one
   a. Introduces herself – Middle East and Islamic Studies is program; it's under 10 people and it's a young program; meet in Grenelle always; we don't have an international excursion planned (only graduate program like this)
   b. Three goals:
      i. First, have professionals come to talk to us; it's not an employer-friendly major, ask for some guidance
      ii. Second, plan excursions in Paris, this could include all student body
      iii. Third, tried to plan a trip to Beirut during spring break, depends on political situation more than anything; budget later

5. New and old business;
   a. Adriana (Film) – can I use my Senator budget anytime I want?
   b. Sven (USC VP) – yes,
   c. Stephanie (MCT?) – What exactly is the budget?
   d. Kevin Fore – Mimi (Treasurer) needs to clarify this (50-100 euro)

  e. Laura (ICP) – which SGA member should I talk to about the metro card?
  f. Sven (USC VP) - Mimi (Treasurer),
  g. Max (Econ) – tomorrow 6:30PM, Econ speaker is coming to Grand Salon; I have used part of my budget for this, please come
  h. Adriana (Film) – next Wednesday will be a film night, 6:30PM, student films

6. Sven (USC VP) – calls forward Mimi (Treasurer) to give budget update
  a. Stephanie (USC Communications) – announcements about End of School Party and wearing Red tomorrow for Aids Awareness
  b. Sven (USC VP) – General Student Assembly follow-up next week; Dean Gordon, at least half of the Senators should be present; next Tuesday 5PM; Grand Salon; if you cannot be there, you send to send Sven (USC VP) and email explaining why you cannot be there
  c. Sven (USC VP) - hands out fliers for End of School Party

(Meeting adjourned 1:20PM)