Senate Meeting – 20 February 2013

Agenda

17th Student Senate Meeting

12:10 – Call to order and agreement agenda.
12:15 – Introduction Amendment on behalf of Judiciary Committee Chair Alex McAnneny by GSC Vice President (Dave)
12:45 – Announcement USC President (Patrick McDermott)
13:00 – Social Committee

    - Old business + New Business.
   – Announcements and Adjournment

Minutes
Taken by Stephanie Dissette (USC Communications Director)

Meeting begins (12:18PM)

1. Sven (USC VP): Welcome
   a. Sven (USC VP): Stephanie Carmen Brugos has resigned – she sent an email to both VPs announcing her resignation
   b. Sven (USC VP): Stephanie Galy is excused today to be in departmental meetings
   c. Sven (USC VP): does everyone agree with the agenda? yes.

2. Sven (USC VP): calls forward Dave (GSC VP) to present for Judiciary Committee (to be attached)
   a. Dave (GSC VP): (reads out a note from Alex (JCC) about his request for me to present)
   b. Dave (GSC VP): if you have any questions, please direct them to Pat, Stephanie (IBA), or Laura (ICP)
   c. Dave (GSC VP): (reads out amendment proposal)
   d. Dave (GSC VP): any amendments on the floor?
   e. Darcee (MPL/MPPA): moves to accept amendment on the floor
   f. Ryan (MCT): seconds
   g. Rene (MAGCS): so these class reps generally cover these projects?
   h. Dave (GSC VP): yes, we don't really have an equivalent in the grad student council – e.g. Thanksgiving, World's Fair, Graduation Gala, etc.
   i. Rene (MAGCS): does that make a big change right now from what is currently what they are responsible for?
   j. Dave (
   k. Loraine (GC): so there is no career fair anymore?

l. Patrick (USC President): that is up to you

m. Sven (USC VP): any motions on the floor?

n. Laura (ICP): I would like to move to previous question

o. Sven (USC VP): put to a vote

p. Amendment approved by a majority

3. Patrick (USC President): brings a proposal to the floor

   a. Patrick (USC President): this pertains to your Senator budget; we know that some of you have used it, some have not; the SGA exec team has discussed another option for that

   b. Patrick (USC President): we propose that the remainder of the funds usually allotted to each Senator (100 euro budget) be combined into one "pot," which allows senators using their budgets to have more funds at their disposal

   c. Patrick (USC President): I would like to open this up to a debate

   d. Rene (MAGCS): so generally speaking, if a senator needs more than 100 euros, how would they receive it?

   e. Michael (Junior): so where does this come from?

   f. Max (Econ): I don't see the point, as we can request more money from the general student budget

   g. Laura (ICP): I would generally agree, as we can still request money from the Senate – certain senators may not even get money

   h. Sven (USC VP): I will momentarily hand the position as Chairman to Dave, so I can present this for the SGA, as it was my initiative along with the SGA

   i. Sven (USC VP): we are encouraging a sort of competition – asking you to present your ideas more to the Senate; this will hopefully encourage you to be more eager to use this money; increasing motivation, competition, creativity; and for the students that have great ideas and need more money, it will be more easily accessible

   j. Rene (MAGCS): I see that the incentive is that people will take advantage, but I think it's better that the money remains allotted to each Senator, because it allows you to do something on your own without requiring approval; perhaps a system where you help assist, a list of recommended events for example; I think better to educate than to make it part of a competition

   k. Patrick (USC President): reiterate, we have no stance, just wanted to create a conversation

   l. Loraine (GC): do you have statistics on how much of the senator budget has been used in the past?

   m. Kevin Fore: in the past, the majority has not been used, and so that has gone instead into things like student scholarship; on average, five to eight senators use that budget, and not even the full budget

   n. Laura (ICP): I haven't used my budget yet, for example, but my intention is to use it for an end of the year dinner; so if it gets moved to a common pot, I can't access my funds at the end of the year

o. Jay (Freshman): offering a different solution, for example, I do think it's important that all senators have the option to use their 100 euros; however, if someone needs more money, can't they ask the other senators during meetings? I think it is important that we do not fight over a pot.

p. Sven (USC VP): I will leave discussion on the floor.

q. Loraine (GC): I think your idea, but perhaps we can change our allotted funds to 50 euro, and put the other half in a pot

r. Togzhan (Senior): the 100 euros is a sort of security, if we did have a pot, it would be difficult to plan… perhaps we have senators all come up with a proposal for their allotted budget, so that the Senate knows what their intentions (even for the future) are, that way we also have an incentive to consider using that budget too

s. Dave (GSC VP): any motions?

t. Rene (MAGCS): so if an event comes up, it's more need-based; it won't restrict us, but starts us thinking – I think Toki's idea is a good motivation; as I am knew to this, I have never done student government, I like the idea of educating through this opportunity; I look forward to talking with my constituents to ask what they want; perhaps having a guideline would help; did you all have an idea already?

u. Togzhan (Senior): I would recommend asking your constituents within your program; what I propose is that bringing a plan would also give incentive to senators who don't already have one

v. Laura (ICP): I have a question: if this were to be changed, wouldn't it have to go through the judiciary committee?

w. Patrick (USC President): I do not think the constitutions binds senators to this specific budget.

x. Darcee (MPL/MPPA): I like the idea of our keeping our 100 euro budget, as it is the one thing we do not need approval for; last semester I, like Rene, did not have any major ideas about this; perhaps in the future we could have it presented to senators at the beginning of each semester, even presenting ideas used in the past

y. Rene (MAGCS): part of it is that we also want our ideas to be innovative – there may be possibilities for something new, we could brainstorm and put together something separate from the past, or something students can only do here, in Paris, or access to only certain speakers, etc.; I am thinking that something refreshing, new, alluring – having more guidance would help

z. Jay (Freshman): if having more activity in Senate is the goal, keeping our 100 euro budgets, as opposed to fighting over it, will be more motivating

aa. Loraine (GC): is there a rule right now that allows senators to request budget from each other?

bb. Patrick (USC President): you can just make a request from senate?

cc. Jay (Freshman): I still think it's important we maintain our 100 euro budgets

dd. Carol (Visiting): perhaps we could all give in just 10 euro of our 100, a compromise

ee. Jay (Freshman): the only problem I have with that, is that 100 euro is already pretty small

ff. Laura (ICP): I think we should just reject the proposal, and keep things as they are, as we now understand we can request funds from the Senate if need be – I don't think any of us would reject

gg. Laura (ICP): I move to reject this proposal.

hh. Ryan (MCT): second

ii. Sven (USC VP): all those in favor of discussing Laura's motion?

jj. Majority voted in

kk. Rene (MAGCS): perhaps we should look into moving something into place a month before the end of the semester?

ll. Sven (USC VP): that does not change the current motion, Laura (ICP) can you please repeat?

mm. Laura (ICP): (repeats motion)

nn. Togzhan (Senior): move to previous question

oo. Motion is rejected by a majority

pp. Elisabeth (Psych): what happens to the money allotted to vacant senate seats?

qq. Dave (GSC VP): since those senators can technically be voted in any time, we need to reserve those funds.

rr. Loraine (GC): when do we stop allowing in new senators?

ss. Sven (USC VP): there is currently no time limit, you can make a proposal along those lines

tt. Patrick (USC President): Remember that you can always request this from the other senators

uu. Loraine (GC): I like this idea; perhaps we should propose that if there is no senator by x-date, we can move that money into a pot.

vv. Rene (MAGCS): I don't think that's the problem, I think putting a deadline is more important, as there are senators currently on the senate not using their funds - Kevin Fore, would you have a suggested date?

ww. Kevin Fore: it would be around April

xx. Rene (MAGCS): so around April.

yy. Laura (ICP): If I heard correctly, the money not used goes into student scholarship

zz. Kevin Fore: must be used by the end of this fiscal year, so that money would go into student scholarship

aaa. Laura (ICP): so that money will go into scholarship

bbb. Rene (MAGCS): giving it to scholarship is a good idea, but we need an active Senate, with initiative

ccc.   Laura (ICP): just to be clear, I think we should use it, however, if there are excess funds, that is a good place for it; or another senator can request the money

ddd.   Elisabeth (Psych): I think maybe we should come back to this discussion if there is anyone who later thinks they need more than 100 euros

eee.   Darcee (MPL/MPPA): I move to table this discussion until someone has a an amendment or something concrete

fff. Laura (ICP): seconds

ggg.   Laura (ICP): moves to the previous question

hhh.   Motion passed unanimously

4. Sven (USC VP): invites Social Committee forward
    a. Camilla (SC) and Nora (SC) present themselves again; make sure all the new senators know who they are
    b. Nora (SC): this year, two initiatives: Mona Bismark International student cocktail – currently have the Sorbonne, but we want Science Po as well; and we are working with Freya on the Cultural Program Show and Tell
    c. Freya (CP): the last one was in the fall
    d. Nora (SC): we want it to be bigger now
    e. Camilla (SC): we are also assisting with the World's Fair, and anywhere else you may need us; we will meet Luka (USC Social) for the first time after this meeting too
    f. Freya (CP): Show and Tell on Tuesday, April 9th – I did one in the fall, which had a lot of students submitting photos, but not attending; 200 euros prize money to student that gave the best submission from fall and from the spring, and an additional 200 euro to the best multimedia submission – it's a refund on your trip, on your student account
    g. Loraine (GC): what about with trips that happen after April 9th?
    h. Freya (CP): we will probably do the Spring photo after April 9th; that money, again, goes back to your account – you can use it as you please
    i. Camilla (SC): it's good because it shares the experience
    j. Freya (CP): it invited faculty who went on the trips, etc.
    k. Nora (SC): the submissions will be published and recognized on the 7eme
    l. Loraine (GC): I am the editor in chief of the 7eme, and we haven't heard about that yet – let's have a discussion
    m. Freya (CP): of course, we still need to discuss it – we are still in the planning phase of all this
    n. Nora (SC): any questions about any of our events?
    o. Camille (SC): 8-10PM on April 17th will be the Mona Bismark event; the dance company you already voted on will be there performing, there will be drink; the idea is for it to be a nice, free cocktail event

    p.   Freya (CP): it's not in their main exhibition area, but beautiful rooms

    q.   Camilla (SC): it's a great location – after spring break we will advertise it further

    r.   Freya (CP): we are looking for students to help

    s.   Darcee (MPL/MPPA): I will be starting work there soon, so I am happy to help

    t.   Camilla (SC): other questions? No.

5. Sven (USC VP): old or new business?

    a.   Loraine (GC): tomorrow, 8:30AM there will be a panel on Social Media week; Stephanie (USC Communications) sent out a link in the Monday email – sign up there

    b.   Togzhan (Senior): I've been working with Danielle Savage (Careers); and she will be holding a weekly office hour in the Clubs room – this should start in about two week; I will ask your help in promoting it; it's unofficial and informal, so you do not need to set an appointment

    c.   Loraine (GC): AUP is hosting a global talent catalogue – they are doing professional resume photos today (C-12)

    d.   Laura (ICP): can we adjourn the meeting

    e.   Sven (USC VP): are there other comments

6. Sven (USC VP): Announcements

    a.   Stephanie (USC Communications): new senators please send me your bios and photos for the SGA website – I sent a mail to you Monday at your senator email accounts about this already; I would like these no later than 12PM on Monday – thank you.

    b.   Sven (USC VP): how many of the undergrads have seen me already to discuss individual goals? Okay, all but two of you – I would like you all to have concrete ideas by next week; remember to talk to your constituents if you need more ideas; please send me some specific steps so that you are prepared to discuss this next week in Senate

(Meeting adjourned 1:06PM)