

## Oct. 19 General Meeting

1. Roll Call at 9:18 p.m.
  - a. 43 present at the time, 2 late.
  
2. Officer Reports.
  - a. President's Report.
    - i. Announcement that Dean MGK will not be joining us this meeting because of a personal emergency.
    - ii. President and Provost Fund Opportunity.
    - iii. Bar/Bri hosting an LLM information panel tomorrow.
  - b. VP.
    - i. Halloween party, mad scientist pre-party in Lenfest Café, 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm.
    - ii. Party will be at Marquis, Thursday Oct. 29th.
    - iii. Call for volunteers, and to spread the word about the Facebook group!
  - c. Secretary.
    - i. Blood Drive, Drapkin Lounge. Nov. 2nd, 12 to 5:30 pm.
    - ii. Call for volunteers.
  - d. Treasurer.
    - i. Nothing to report.
  - e. Parliamentarian.
    - i. Talked about the web site and getting involved in the Google site to provide feedback.
    - ii. G-Drive, call for volunteers to help out with the project.
    - iii. Khalil suggested to broaden the search to non-Senators because a lot of people probably have great ideas and helpful skills.
  
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Standing committees:
    - i. Grad Committee held their first meeting today, currently planning but nothing to report.
    - ii. Housing will have its first meeting next week.
    - iii. IT will have first meeting soon.
  - b. Faculty committees:
    - i. Journals met and decided which journals to review this year.
    - ii. University Senate working on getting a H1N1 vaccine that's already out.
    - iii. Started construction on the Mind and Brain building in Manhattanville.
    - iv. Vacant seat on the Housing Committee, asked for any interested candidates.
  
4. Resolution to Create Senate Constituencies.
  - a. Co-sponsored by Khalil and McCormick.
  - b. McCormick briefly talked about the resolution. Divide the student body and assign them particular Senators who will be the point person to talk with students and bring concerns and feedback back to the Senate. Discussed the new Amendment proposing for a rough bullet points style, talking points memo to everyone, a standard form that would be passed on to their constituents.
  - c. Move into 5 min of Q&A.
    - i. Leslieann asked what the difference was between sending out a general newsletter versus individualized emails. Khalil said that there has been past experimentation with office hours, etc. but it didn't prove to be that effective. Wanted

to provide an avenue that would allow for more personal contact and encourage students to get to know their Senators.

- ii. Jae asked if there were any other ways to connect with constituencies, beyond this. McCormick said definitely, though the assignments would be random, opportunities exist to get to know new people more. Khalil brought up previous criticism that Senate has been seen as helping only their friends, and this would change that perception.
- iii. Mike Anderson asked how this would be enforced, could be a wide range of people to blow off the responsibility vs. those that actually put a lot of effort into it. Khalil noted that there aren't a lot of enforcement mechanisms, maybe cc the Senate E-Board on these emails. McCormick said that the time commitment was only 30 seconds to a minute and was not worried about that so much, given Senators had already made a commitment to serving on Senate.
- iv. Soo asked whether they were replacing general e-mail announcements or supplementing it. McCormick said generally it was supplementing it.
- v. Shana asked about how to present controversial topics, given personal feelings one way or anything.
- d. LDP asked to extend Q&A by 3 min, seconded. Call for consent, no objections.
  - i. LDP asked about any provisions to allow students to opt out, given previous concerns about too much email spam. Also, how to address the possibility that all of a senator's constituents choose not to receive it. McCormick said that this had been meant to address all the spam, a personalized email would be much more likely to be read by people instead of massive flyers. Khalil said that in the emails, people could include a line saying that constituents could opt out. McCormick did not envision all 30 constituents choosing to opt out.
    - ii. Eric asked how it would be divided by. Khalil said by class lines, 1L, etc..
    - iii. Amaris asked whether it was just email notification, or beyond to a lunch or dinner. Khalil said he had thought about getting a budget to pay for these social events, but this was a first step, though that could potentially be offered.
- e. Jessica extended Q&A by 2 min.
  - i. Leslieann asked for further clarification about assignments. Khalil said by class year, every person would get 30 people.
  - ii. Chris asked if there was enough information flow out of senate meetings to justify an email after every meeting. Khalil said yes, relatively important information comes out during these meetings. Also noted that it was easier to respond to one Senator instead of the general Senate, though he did understand the concern.
- f. Move into 5 min of debate.
  - i. Mia said that the idea was really good, but the email system as it is would be flawed, and explore other options to connect to people.
  - ii. Mike said it was well-intentioned, but the resolution wouldn't accomplish the objective, problems with enforcement. Said he was elected by the people he knew, problems with advocating positions they did not agree with. Student apathy, most students want to be left alone. Said that they could send an email to people to let them know about their Senator. Said the Secretary could just send an email himself.
  - iii. Soo said maybe this purpose could be served by a one time email but not a regular one after every meeting. Khalil said that he would be open to an amendment to change the email provisions. Soo said she really liked the idea.
  - iv. Amaris said that it seemed like a good idea, trying to get non-Senators more interested. Make it a competition, assign points to people for going to Open and Notorious, go to see Dean's roundtable.

- v. Ryan McDevitt said that engaging students is a great idea, though this might not be the perfect form to do it. Noted the student apathy, and didn't see the need to force people to do it. Said we should spend more time perfecting it trying to make it right.
- vi. Ron said that actually have a group that a senator is responsible for would be a beneficial thing, even if done by email or not. Having the general plan is a good idea.
- vii. Art said that he liked the idea because it gives the students a "face" to the Senate, instead of an amorphous body. Reach out to more Senators, not just their friends. Wasn't worried about 5-6 emails a semester, every 2 weeks.
- viii. LDP said he agreed with Anderson, in that it was well-intentioned, but didn't think constituencies would solve the problems. Said that most people already know a senator and that this was a solution in search of a problem we didn't have. McCormick said that the communication between the Senate and student body varies wildly year to year. Said that there are people still unaware of their Senators. Khalil said issues with integrating the 74 transfers, etc.
- g. Nick said that the people who don't know a senator are still out there. Moved to strike the email provisions. McCormick and Khalil accepted that as a friendly amendment, and the language was stricken.
- h. Jae made a motion to reamend the proposal saying that if the resolution didn't have an action component (sending emails), it wasn't much of a resolution. Said that an email after every meeting might be cumbersome, so maybe less frequent but still wanted the email component. Khalil and McCormick said it was friendly, preserving the email component, changing the wording to "reasonable frequency."
  - i. Nona asked if the Senate will still be updating people by the general email. McCormick said that it would not change. Nona then asked what information would be provided. Worried about inconsistencies, and enforcement mechanisms. Khalil said that reasonable frequency would be determined over time, but not zero. Concern about inconsistency was noted.
  - ii. LDP asked a point of procedure saying that the clock should be paused when someone not debating a point was speaking. Gradman noted the oversight and reset the clock to 4 minutes.
  - iii. Chris said it didn't achieve the goal of the constituency, since 30 random people did not constitute a constituency.
- i. Ron said that Nona's point about enforcement was valid and motion to strike the email component and work out later how to address the problem. Said he still thought 30 people did constitute a consistency and the idea was valuable.
  - i. Erik had a point of order, asking whether one to create a committee to address this problem. Made a motion to commit to a committee. Khalil asked how far the disagreement ran, if the issue was just about the email, we should just vote on it. Erik withdrew his motion.
- j. Q&A session on the amendment by Ron, since it was held unfriendly by McCormick and Khalil.
  - i. Erik asked whether they had been emails sent on this issue, and McCormick and Khalil said there had been good emails but did not make any substantive changes.
  - ii. Art asked whether there was a big disagreement since most people would be expected to send at least one. Ron said that having the ambiguous language for reasonable frequency should either be cut out or made less ambiguous, but he thought cutting it out was the better approach.
  - iii. Eric asked whether the language could be changed to zero emails, and leave it to the discretion of the senators.
- k. 3 minutes of debate.

