Minutes: Sunday, October 4th, 2015

7:00 PM

I. Attendance


Absent: Senator Han

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Senator Edwards: I mentioned in the last meeting about a way to make it more sensible for the CCI and that is to video tape it, but that was not in the notes from last week.

Senator Chen: Motion to amend the minutes
Second Singh: Seconded.
Abstentions: Senator Rainey and Senator Bhakta

Motion passed.

Senator Rizal: Motion to accept minutes
Schulman: Seconded.
Abstentions: Senator Rainey and Senator Bhakta

Minutes passed.

III. Announcements

President Gratch: There are no new announcements, but I would like to welcome the new members in the room, including: Senator Rainey, Senator Bhakta, Senator von Platen, and Senator Parikh. You will also find a binder that has all the updated information about SGA in front of you. Director of Membership Fisher will update us about the committees.

Director of Membership Fisher: The committees are now finished and I'll briefly go through the list of all the people in each committee. We will also ratify them today.

Publicity
Lily Watson, Chair
Emily Beneroff
William Schwartz
Nick Jaczko
External Affairs
Hiruy Ephrem, Chair

Constitution
Amari Simpson, Chair
Meiry Amaral ’19
Daniel Buchman ‘18.5
Nick Delehanty ’17
Robbie Faselt ’16
Margot Graham ’18
Nitya Mankad ’16
Daniel Peña ’16
Trisha Singh ’18
Terrence Smith ’18
Baolin Xu ’16
Vick Xu ’19

Institutional Affairs
Nikki Lantigua, Co-Chair
Graham Shaw, Co-Chair
Anna Parker ’17.5
Ethan Brady ’18
David Anderson ’19.5

Athletic Affairs
Nicole Caci, Chair
Caitlin Carroll
Hannah Grotzinger
Jared Keyes
Jenny Melcher
Joey LaLiberte
Maddie Kinker
Shannon Hutteman
Geovany Martinez

**Educational Affairs**
Jiya Pandya, Chair
Daniel Klemons'ki '19
James Ronan '16
Maya Woser '18
Neha Sharma '18.5
Sedge Lucas '19

**Environmental Affairs**
Michael Shrader, Chair
Pyone Aye ‘19
Peter Hayes ‘17
Lydia Fox ‘18
Bennett Doherty ‘18
Jin Xiaoli ‘19

Speaker Gogineni: We will ratify all the committee members as a bundle.

   All aye.

Director of Membership Fisher: Approximately 100 people voted in the Feb election and 100 people voted for the Atwater election. Approximately 300 voted for the freshmen election.

**IV. Old Business**

Speaker Gogineni: I spoke with the CCI and in terms of the CCI Seminar, Peggy Burns believes there should be a stronger connection between SGA and CCI. Peggy Burns suggested having a group of students on the SGA to be on a standing committee with the CCI to get feedback on how to improve on the CCI.
Senator Chen: I asked people in the Brainerd commons and someone suggested something that has been done in the past. Maybe they could hold hours at night in certain dorms. It was well attended and well regarded a few years ago. It maybe a bit too early for freshmen but we may be able to have it at Gifford or Hepburn and other upperclassmen dorms.

Speaker Gogineni: I can forward that to the CCI. Peggy also would love to hear it from us and I would like to make an ad hoc committee.

Speaker Gogineni: Now we will vote for an ad hoc committee.

    All those in favor of creating an ad hoc committee: All aye.  
    Abstention: Raber (proxy)  
    Passed.

Speaker Gogineni: I would love to have people form this ad hoc committee with me.

    Members of ad hoc committee: Senator Sohn, Senator Edwards,  
    Senator Rainey, and Senator Chen

Senator Boyle: In terms of forming an ad hoc committee for clubs sport, I was wondering if we would go about with that.

President Gratch: We have an athletics affairs committee and the club sports would be something they would talk about.

    President Gratch: Motion to move onto new business  
    Senator Sohn: Seconded  
    All Aye

V. New Business

a. Bill F2015-SB2: The Ridgeline Perch—Brandon Gell

    Gell: Thank you for having me. I am currently a senior and architectural studies major. I have spoken with some of you on this and it is a project I have been working on for the past two years. The Space Committee and the Administration have approved this project. Ron is also one of the supporters. This project came about two years ago when I found out there was once a tree house on campus. The purpose of my project is to have a singular public space on campus that every single student would feel comfortable in. It doesn't serve
just one singular group. Especially with the mental health topics on campus in the past year, The Perch is a place for people to escape to and remove themselves from academics. I’m here because I think this is a great opportunity for SGA to address mental health issues and be at the forefront of the issue. The timeline as of now is that once we get all the funding we will construct it in the spring and I’ll finish it hopefully before I graduate, but if not it would take about two weeks to complete. There’s a path that accompanies Perch and it’s an architectural path that leads to it and also to the TAM trail. The structure is made of steel and the seeder performs really well outside. It would be open from dawn to dusk for organizations and they are able to schedule when to use the space. The other times would be opened for everyone else. Budget: $53,842.33. I would like to ask the SGA for approximately $5000 for funding. The money to The Perch is allocated back to each and every student as individuals. It is a one time investment for all and it’s ready to go immediately. We are all prepared to move forward once we have funding. Permitting is simple also and I have spoken with the administration, pub safe, and Space Committee. This project follows: “By the students, for the students.”

Senator Edwards: What is the capacity?

Gell: It would comfortably fit about 12 people because of the circular bench.

Senator Rizal: In terms of budgeting, how do you plan on hoping to get the rest of the money?

Gell: College advancement and alumni. I’m here because I want SGA to be part of it.

Senator Boyle: Is there a chance you won’t be able to reach your fundraising goal?

Gell: Yes, but I feel so confident about it because I’ve spoken to multiple alumni who are very supportive of this project. I want to work with college advancement first, but a lot of wealthy alumni seem to be very supportive of this.

Senator Boyle: How tall is the lock entrance?

Gell: Approximately 6 ft.

Senator Allis: What is your design inspiration?

Gell: Since it is like with the canopy of trees, it is almost like a “nest”
Senator Allis: You mentioned mental health aspect—is there anyway we can put a plaque or just let the space speak for itself?

Gell: I don’t think it’s my place to name it, but I’m supportive of it.

Senator Allis: I think Brandon is very capable of handling a project like this.

Senator Bhakta: Is there a roof? What about snow?

Gell: There will not be a roof, because it’d make permitting more difficult. Also, the point of it is to be amongst the canopy of trees, so the roof would take away its design purpose. The Perch would be used mostly in the fall, spring, and summer.

Senator Rainey: I’m currently a freshman and I am not familiar with the comparisons you made. Do you mind clarifying?

Gell: Gamut room is kind of like a music space. Organic garden is to the west of campus and is an organic garden. The Lodge is near the cross country coarse area. All are awesome public spaces, but all have same groups of people using those spaces. It does not give everyone else a chance to use these space comfortably.

Senator Schulman: I just want to comment on how great this is. Gamut room is for creative art. While the organic garden is for everyone, there is no enclosed space. If there are 12 people in The Perch, it sets a precedent of respect that everyone can use it quietly.

Gell: Yeah, I agree. You can’t have ownership of a quiet space. It’s inherently for everyone.

Senator Boyle: I think it may have the chance of being dominated by people who live in Ridgeline though.

President Gratch: Please keep the questions to Brandon, and we can save further comments for executive session.

Senator Chen: Thank you for the presentation. I have two questions – 1. Could you break down the timeline? 2. In terms of the maintenance budget – what do you predict would be the maintenance/who will be in charge of maintaining the space?

Gell: I can’t pay a structural engineer until I have all the funding. That being said, it won’t take very long for the engineer to produce those
documents. The town requires structural documents and it’d be a quick turnover. In terms of welding the metal, we can’t put it into the ground until the snow thaws. It’ll be built in a shop and then brought to the site. It would take me only two weeks to build. Also I’m graduating but there are students who aren’t. We are thinking of starting almost a club and would want to dedicate it to the space. For example, if the glass cracks or wood breaks, the people who are on the team currently will set as a precedent for people down the line. 25live would keep track of who is using the space also.

Senator Sohn: In order to go to The Perch, how do you get there?

Gell: Along with The Perch, there will also be a newly built architectural path.

President Gratch: Would our funding be useful if the funding come in July?

Gell: Not useful, because I can’t tell someone I’ll pay them 5 months after.

Senator Schulman: Do you need the total amount to begin?

Gell: Most of it, besides the $7,000 contingency that I don’t technically need. However, most projects have some type of contingency in case something goes wrong or something is miscalculated.

Senator Schulman: When is the point of no return?

Gell: I will push for the next month or so. If it doesn’t happen, then it’s not meant to happen.

Chief of Staff Brady: You said the space holds 12 people. For performances, is there a space off The Perch?

Gell: There’s a space underneath the perch where people can use for performances.

Chief of Staff Brady: How many people do you think it can hold?
Gell: The space in front of the Perch can technically fit approximately 30-45 people. We may cut down two dead trees. If we want to build a continuation for more space, I am for this idea.

Senator Boyle: You said something about the integration with the town?
Gell: Yes, there will be a path that will continue into town.

Senator Rainey: What group deemed its safety? What’s the environmental impact?

Gell: The Public Space Committee and also people who are part of facilities. In terms of impact, we are cutting down two dead trees. In terms of space, it’s only taking up 2 ft. by 3 ft. What we are doing is making space in a place where there are no spaces. For example, there’s a cliff there and that space wouldn’t have been used anyway. If need be, we can relocate the baby trees because their bulbs are smaller.

Director of Publicity Wilson: In terms of performances, I know groups perform and even practice at night. Would you open it at night with public safety’s approval?

Gell: There are also lights in The Perch and they act as a notification to public safety that people are using it. They are very supportive of this idea.

Senator Rizal: There are a lot of talks about performances, but I don’t know if that’s the goal or argument of this structure. I think it’s a potential but I don’t think The Perch is designed for that. Please keep in mind that’s not the goal of this project.

Senator von Platen: I think it’s important for people to go there if there are performances.

Senator Edwards: How do you reserve?

Gell: Individuals cannot reserve, but groups can. This is a type of space where we will hopefully have good social media coverage so everyone would know about it.

Chief of Staff Brady: Can you provide with more tangibles from people or groups who have come forward about donations and support, because you seem to be very confident. Do you have names of people who are willing to commit?

Gell: Robert Youngman is one of the people who are supportive of this idea. He told me to contact him once it’s up and running. College Advancement is also giving me a list of donors to reach out to.

President Gratch: Can you elaborate on the FFI amount? Did you go for more?
Gell: I did go for more, but that’s all I got.

Senator Chen: Have you worked out something with pub safe about the sitting area?

Gell: This is one of those things where we would work on with the club we’re developing. I’ve been thinking of starting a fund with the contingency fund where maybe someone can look after it. The actual structure will stand way longer than supporting something like this. When students take ownership of this space, the goal is that students will respect that.

Parikh: Are the seeder spaced out? How thick would it be for people to climb?

Gell: They are 8 in apart. You can put your hands on it, but the next step would be to put your leg on the other 6 ft structure, but it wouldn’t support your weight. There would be hidden metals around the structure but these are all design logistics that I can work on.

Speaker Gogineni: Would it be better for you to come back later or is having SGA support this some type of symbolism/ representation?

Gell: I’m familiar with the budget and I know the longer we wait, the less chance we’ll get the money.

Director of Publicity Wilson: Could individuals check online to reserve the space?

Gell: Yes

Senator Singh: Going back to maintenance, can custodial be extended?

Gell: It could be a possibility seeing that it’s so close to Palmer. It is definitely something we can work on.

President Gratch: Thank you for your presentation. Are there any other new businesses?

Senator Rizal: I have two ideas that I’ll throw out. A few of my constituencies talked about the way Papercut works. It’s money we get for free, but once you graduate you don’t get the money back. They were wondering if there’s something we can do about the money transferring—maybe transferring from one person to the next.
Senator Allis: I brought up a similar issue two years ago and I was told this money doesn't actually exist.

Senator Rizal: Exactly but what fails is that they’re depleting their own funds after using all the money in the Papercut and then having to put actual money into it. This is especially the case for students who print out a lot.

Senator Rizal: The second idea is that I have talked to someone about mentorship. In some clubs, they get a mentor in the club. Maybe we could have some type of mentorship to connect underclassmen with upperclassmen.

Senator Edwards: We have first year mentoring program for students who are first generation college students.

Senator Rainey: But don’t we have FYC and CRAs who are friendly mentor that’s rather informal?

Senator Rizal: That’s a good point, and I think they do a good job of that but I was thinking of having more of a 1 to 1 mentorship.

Senator Rainey: I’ve heard there are some programs that are being implemented and I think it’s best if we can work on making sure these programs are stable.

Senator Boyle: I really like to comment on the FYC thing and I personally think it’s their job and they should be doing it. Besides that, I think a very small percentage of upperclassmen would want to do that. I think if the upperclassmen were interested, they would have already joined something that’s already readily available.

Senator Rizal: I think this is an idea we can talk about, but I like the idea that we should strengthen what we have. But let’s try to make sure it’s not just a club that’s doing it, but more of a "global" program for everyone across campus.

Moved to executive session (8:03 pm)

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: All aye

Meeting is adjourned at 8:35 PM.