SGA Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2016

I. Attendance

Members Present: Proxy Murphy, Senator Raber, Senator Toy, Senator Sohn, Senator Boyle, Senator Rainey, Senator Parikh Proxy Espino, Senator Grandas, Senator Aaron, Senator Edwards, Senator Singh, Senator Chen, Co-Chair Chang

Members Absent:

Senator Rainey arrived an hour late.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Proxy Murphy: Motion to accept or amend last week’s minutes?

Senator Toy: Motion to accept.

Senator Sohn: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: The minutes have been passed.

III. Announcements

President Gratch: Hi everyone. Welcome to senate. Thank you all for coming. There are some snacks. We have a packed agenda tonight.

Proxy Murphy: There’s no old business tonight. Moving on to announcements to end. We will be starting with new business for the finance committee budget announcements.

President Gratch: Before that a quick announcement. We need to select 3 senators to sit on the selection committee for SLSCEA (the student liaison to the SGA on endowment Affairs). We need to pick which candidates come before the senate. We will convene at some point probably Thursday this week. Are there three senators who are interested? (Senator Raber, Senator Gogineni, Senator Aaron).

Proxy Murphy: Moving on to the finance committee budget proposals.

IV. New Business

Aaron: I will present the overall budget and give an overview of what we have done with the budget this year. Then we will go down to the $10,000 plus budgets. We will go through them one by one. We have a recommendation set and will give a rundown as to why we decided what we did. There are 16 budgets of $10,000 so keep your comments to bringing new info to the table. Again we want to discuss these thoroughly and we want to get through the budget in a reasonable amount of time. The final vote is next week so at
the end of each budget that is presented – we will vote to table not to actually vote on that budget.

Senator Raber: Should we see what groups are here?

Aaron: I let all the groups know the order. People were invited here so if the Senate wants to call on them to comment on budget that is why there here. They have already presented to us so this is not to rehash their whole presentation.

Proxy Murphy: If you would like to speak it’s the senators’ responsibility to yield time to the club member. If you think someone wants to add a comment yield time.

Aaron: For the general budget: so this is 2016-2017 budget. We’re going through what we’ve done this year and how we’re looking going in to next year. We will first go over the overall budget and then the budgets that are 10K plus. I have our newest members in bold and a couple members abroad in italics. Next year Kevin will be the chair of FC. This year was a tight year for us. We received 1.4 million in requesting and allocated 1.5 million. Last year Middview was a big strain, Burgin Memorial Cabin was also a big strain however we did reduce the cost of yearbooks – we saved $22,500 but we did spend 44K more than we had to. It’s ok, that’s why we have reserves but we cannot do that again next year. The Middview funding does free up 100K but its not as big of an increase as we think because of the 44K over from this year. We want to put a bigger focus on things going on on campus. Just for review, the guideline changes were we’re no longer funding hotels or flights. We saw the formation of the Midd intercultural leadership coalition. That’s a big cluster org and they’ve done a lot of work to get 19 orgs. Organized. Again this is working on having everyone understand the role of cluster board. The goal is to have more decision making power for a cluster but also to not have to make tough budgetary decisions about individual orgs ourselves. The club sports funding reform will go into effect for next year’s budget (2017-2018). This will be a big convo going forward into next year. We’re looking into other non-budget steps in fundraising/cost reduction to lessen the impact. We met with 86 orgs. That is slightly lower than last year but one of those orgs being MILK which has 19 student orgs under it. It’s important to meet in the spring so that when you come in in the fall you have money to spend. All these orgs will be up and running as soon as they’re on campus. We allocated 9997K. The amount we’re projecting to spend is 33K less than we have. We had to minimally fund a new money fund which was an unfortunate situation. This surplus is great to allow new clubs to come in with good ideas. Only 33 active clubs in 2015-16 have not received a budget and only 3 over 3K failed to sign up for a spring meeting. So looking at the budget in percentages – an overview of types of requests we’ve gotten and how money is being allocated. Notably cultural orgs saw a percentage bump about 10K. MCAB funding stayed constant. We made small changes here and there but it’s similar to the last few years. There’s more info in dollar amounts on the next slide. Again some of the heaviest hitters are the performing arts, MCAB and club sports. Again this will be sent out to everyone to look at numbers before next week.
Moving on to the 10K overview. These are the 16 items that are over 10K. Some of them we won’t discuss like Kaleidoscope (yearbook contract/can’t do anything with). Notable increases were YouPower with a 201% increase, religious life saw a 4% decrease, commons pool saw a 2% decrease. Everything else was kept constant except MILK which increased by 22%. We will go through each budget. As you will see we have made recommendations so you can go through each one and see what thoughts are. From an efficiency point of view looking at big items works better than looking at a $5-line item.

Aaron: Starting with MCAB. There’s a slight increase over last year. The request is much higher than last year and we allocated 346K. Last year we allocated 340K. Noticeable things is MCAB concerts being last year they got 100K. They’re looking to attract bigger names which costs more. Other increases are in requesting speakers for student orgs and small concerts. If you’re not familiar – small concerts is any concert that any student or org wants to bring to campus. You can apply to MCAB small concerts. Also MCAB speakers has gotten requests. They requested a 10K increase and a 5K increase for small concerts. We gave the same amount for small concerts as last year and half the increase for speakers. MCAB concerts asked for an increase of 20K and we gave them half. We need to realize this amount of money puts a big strain on the rest of budget. And we took away $2500 from MCAB traditions – all of that is for t-shirts. MCAB sells t-shirts at a loss and $2500 is a very well funded small org so we wanted to open doors there. We made a 10K increase for concerts and increase of 5K for small speakers. As you look at this we have reps from MCAB. This is an increase over last year but not at the magnitude requested.

Senator Toy: I yield my time afterwards. Last years allocation was 100K and now we’re raising that by 10K. I think it could go to a lot of other things. We are in Middlebury and I don’t feel like we could attract a good concert with 100K don’t know if 10K will make a difference.

Catherine Brown: Hi I’m the concerts exec. We want to bring big concerts but we’re really getting hit by production costs. We’ve been spending 100K since 2006 but we’re not keeping up with inflation. So you’re right we can bring shows for 100K but the quality and name will decline in the next few years without that increase. The reason we asked for 20K is because we made an inflation calculation. We wanted to spending money on stage instead of talent.

Aaron: When they presented. The last 2 concerts; Børns and T-Pain. Børns we sold 1200 tickets and T-Pain we sold out with 2000 tickets.

Catherine Brown: The difference in prince was 20K. In terms of production costs. In 2006 it was roughly 12k for show and now it’s 16K for a stage.

Senator Gogineni: In terms of the expenditures for groups of MCAB. You can allocate specific expenditures but the club can spend it on what they want?
Aaron: They have a big org given the budget. I’d imagine if something is under budget it’s used for something else.

Senator Boyle: The Small Concerts Initiative. In terms of attendance. Are you looking for a minimum attendance? And how successful have those been? Yield time.

Catherine Brown: When we’re approving a show we max of 2K-3K per show. These are small events but we think about a price per head. If we have a 2K show but expected attendance is 20 that’s pretty bad. But if ticket price is $5-10 bucks/head that’s a show we would want to put on. We don’t have a number to hit but a cost effectiveness we require. In terms of success we’re thinking about that a lot. In the 14-15 year we spent a lot of time reviewing apps and rejected 3. This year we got 57 and had to reject 23. We’ve marketed more but that makes decisions harder. We didn’t have the funding to cover the interest in the same way.

Co-Chair Chang: Between now and next meeting could we see a breakdown of how money was spent for this past year?

Aaron: A committee breakdown is available. You will all have access to these budgets and take a look. One last comment TedX. That’s just something that doesn’t have a home. It’s not really a student org. but we need to pay for it the year before so it’s a weird item that sits in MCAB’s budget that goes to putting on TedX so we don’t discuss it as much. It’s a successful event.

Senator Toy: Motion to table

Proxy Murphy: All in favor: everyone.
All opposed: none
All abstaining: none

Proxy Murphy: Thank you MCAB.

Aaron: The next budget is ICC: intercommons council. Do we have reps? Again as you discuss you can call on reps. The ICC came to us last year. They received 40K and $2,200 new money requests for a total of $42,200. This is a slight decrease. The flex fund is a new thing this year. It allows for more flexibility in running ICC as a cluster board. Part of that has worked well with commons Olympics /intercommons events. As you will see we cut each individual request by 20%. We recommended funding 80% of each request. Rationale: because commons have received a traditional budget each year. Sometimes we feel like the events are tailored to the budget as opposed to thinking of an event and figuring out how much it costs. Viva Ross Vegas is exceptionally expensive. If it wasn’t a historically funded event, we wouldn’t fund it that much. Bite of Brainerd has amazing attendance but it’s buying a lot of free food for people. Given events other orgs try to put on if we squeeze the budget a little bit we would get better funding breakdowns for events. Atwater gave their funding to MCAB because of a booking problem. We were upset because they had all spring semester to put an event on. MCAB
already has a budget for Midd Mayhem and having a commons pool – each commons is putting on their own event. 41K is good funding but it’s a little lower to see more efficiency with their budgeting. Really thinking about making their money go as far as possible. That’s our recommendation.

Senator Toy: Yield to Taylor. ICC funding this year. Last year they did it equally. I’m not on ICC but I did it last year. The commons each do things independently right?

Doug: For clarification. Division for this year: the budget was reduced from 45K to 40K. Each event costing excess of 8K. The commons decided reviewing each allocation. All in excess of 8K they would try to give an equitable amount. That money was added to 2K left over from Atwater and that was why we could have the field day yesterday.

Senator Toy: Next year are they doing the same things?

Doug: No. So this is the first time FC and ICC has met for budget. Initially their budget was allocated from MCAB. In this case the ongoing discussion is going to be more like cluster boards and division of funds will be for fall semester. And that’s why we did an equal cut general theme around all events.

Senator Gogineni: The success of the Intercommons Olympics. Externally, they didn’t seem that successful and how based on success will it be done next year? I yield my time.

Senator Boyle: Atwater divides up ICC attendance so I miss some parts of meetings. Talking about ICC from what I’ve seen through the Chopped style event in Ross and Intercommons Olympics. And then yesterday the field day had a decent amount of people, similar to what we were expecting. This intercommons Olympics was planned later in the term and was a little disorganized because of time commitments.

Senator Edwards: I would venture to say that Bite of Brainerd gets more attendees than the Bluegrass Festival. The way the current model is set up cook commons could allocate some to Bite of Brainerd?

Aaron: Once we give $41,200 to the commons they are able to split it up however they want to. And when I talked to them I reiterated that it’s concerning when the budget is received and it’s divided evenly. There are events that see 800 people whereas bluegrass not as many people go. That has been communicated and hopefully next years ICC will do that. It’s tough because regularly student org has some type of transition. But ICC is 100% turnover each year which makes it difficult to put good practices to use.

Co-Chair Chang: Is there a breakdown of programming – how they spent money this past year?

Aaron: Last year Viva Ross Vegas was 13-14K because alcohol was sold. In general, any student event with alcohol requires increased security. It’s expensive. Unless it’s Senior 100-200 days where everyone can drink it’s just restrictive. Atwater transferred 6K to
MCAB. Wonnacott spent $8,100 on their events. 10K was spent on the bluegrass festival. Again because it’s a separate org we don’t get the spending breakdowns I get for any other org.

Co-Chair Chang: If there’s a 5K event FC asks them for a breakdown. Is it possible to get a breakdown for next week? Commons events feels ambiguous but I don’t have a lot of friends that attend those events.

Aaron: Given this year’s ICC is not next years ICC I don’t think we’ll get that breakdown. That breakdown will come next year when they’re planning those events. We don’t ask for specific breakdowns because we know if one event costs less, money can be allocated to another event.

Senator Chen: When you mention an event like Viva Ross Vegas the commons budget will step in to subsidize. Money from another budget will be pulled in. If we see a decrease here allocating money will decrease. There are factors that are fiscally concerned outside of this image.

Senator Gogineni: Motion to table.
Senator Raber: seconded

Proxy Murphy: Those in favor of tabling? Everyone

Proxy Murphy: Thank you ICC. Next is WRMC. Kara will be presenting.

Kara: So WRMC is seeing a 3K increase from last year but they asked for the same amount both years. This increase is stemming from an increase in their publication fees and subscriptions. We’re giving them $1000 more for that. Gary has said that it’s necessary to keep playing music they need these subscriptions. They’re buying a 2 year as opposed to 1-year subscription. Facilities, studio maintenance are things that stay the same. Supplies and printing is the same. Postage, papercut etc. Music and content is streaming services. They’re looking to host digital library and last year they asked for $2500 for printing. They were denied but they made a publication anyway. We’re giving them $200 more for printing because their publication was really successful. Same amount for concerts as last year. With the SMJ marathon – this is something they paid for out of their gift account. It’s this conference where bands, students, musicians and booking agents go. Here they can connect with other college radio stations but we’re not paying for lodging.

Senator Toy: What’s the difference between studio and plant?

Co-Chair Chang: The tower?

Doug: Plant is the tower.

Senator Toy: the CMJ marathon – is this the amount just for registration?
Kara: And transportation.

Senator Chen: Gift account? What is that?

Kara: I don’t know if we have that info.

Aaron: Every club has a gift account. Any fundraising they do goes into their gift account. Types of things not funded by the SGA but fundraised can be paid for by gift account. Men’s rugby has 60K plus whereas other orgs are much more moderate in their gift account numbers. It’s a funnel for clubs to have funds carry over from year to year. Last year WRMC requested to do a magazine. Because they’re not a publication org. we ask any first issue be printed online and they put one out. This year we saw it and said we would like to help out with that.

Senator Grandas: Motion to table.

Senator Toy: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: All those for tabling discussion: Everyone. Ok it has been tabled. Thank you WRMC. Next up is crew.

Aaron: Crew came in and requested 40K last year they got 32K. we said we would fund everyone similar to last year. This is crews budget. Practice and storage, gas, registration for trucks, safety equipment, lake Dunmore dues. These are bare minimum things that need to be funded. We start by saying ok now what can we look at. The biggest costs are racing. Race entry fees and bus rentals. Crew has enough people so it makes more sense to be chartering a bus than 15 person vans. That would be for 5 races. And we felt that 80% of races they requested was a reasonable amount. About the same they got last year. We don’t want to choose which race they get but we suggested funding 4 of those. General maintenance costs: last year crew got 2K for maintenance and we think that an increase is warranted but 7K is a huge increase. We don’t feel comfortable doing that. Boats, for us we’re not been funding boats but it’s in our interest to preserve them for as long as possible. Boats are really expensive. This is our total proposal. Crew has 40 active varsity and 35 novice members.

Senator Aaron: As a follow up what will budget look like next year of what would be cut on proposed funding?

Aaron: If crew maintained 75 people – they would receive 31K so about the same however I’m not sure if crew has 75 active members at a time. That seems on the higher side but if that was the case that would be the maximum they could receive.

Senator Toy: Motion to table.

Senator Grandas: Seconded.
Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone.

Aaron: Next up is sailing: Will is presenting.

Will: MCSC. So this year there were currently 30 members and next year projected 40 members. There has been an increase in life jacket and helmet costs. $80 per jacket. And a $1000 increase in water house marina fee. Last year it was $5500 now it’s $6500 for a year. To offset these increases, we recommended to fund fewer regattas. There are 15 fall and 6 spring. That’s a total of 22 and you only need 5 in the fall and 2 in the spring to rank in the league. Decreases in transportation costs reflect this. In terms of totals sailing club received $16,700 and this year we recommend $17,500 which is a $1000 increase to reflect this increase membership. One final item requested was boat cradles. With a one time cost of ~ $2500 and they do have a gift account of $1200. This would make the budget $1900-2000. A 3K increase is hefty for one year. We decided not to fund that. They could use money in their gift account to pay for those.

Senator Toy: The gas is at $0.

Aaron: Gas for one external fil-up. The vehicle office has enough vehicles for them to have a gas card in each of them. So gas is included in 40 cents a mile equation.

Senator Sohn: Motion to table.

Senator Toy: Seconded

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone in favor.

Aaron: Next is equestrian.

Peter: Good news is it is a .1% increase from last year’s budget. The main cuts were an additional practice per week. We decided because membership is around 14 for varsity members that the added practice would cost $750 just to get there. And more for money for the coach. We also decided championship entry fees were above and beyond regular fees so cuts we made reflect costs to additional practice, and championship registration. Then we also cut entry fees. That’s pretty much it. Tryout and welcome event we cut from $200 to $150. $150 represents renting the day at the barn.

Senator Raber: Scholarships? How do those work?

Equestrian Rep: We deposit money we get. Each member pays $700 for lesson fees. We understand most students can’t shell that out so we have people come to us with financial scholarships. Depending on how many there are we offer partial or full scholarships. That being said the majority has to pay $700 out of pocket. We are working with the school to alleviate some of the cost burden.
Senator Raber: Is it normally 3 riders who get it?

Equestrian Rep: Last year we accounted 2 but had 3. So we gave partial to all.

Co-Chair Chang: Have you considered money for additional scholarships?

Equestrian Rep: My co-captain is responsible for that and she’s abroad. They told us we’re maxed out.

Peter: This final allocated is $715 per rider allocated to SGA with additional $700 from personal fees.

Senator Toy: How many inexperienced riders do you get per year?

Equestrian Rep: A few per year. There are some who ride but don’t compete. Many are beginners but we have a few competitors each year. 3-4 that are new to competition.

Senator Edwards: Do you have a gift fund?

Equestrian Rep: It’s about 10K-11K. We just bought saddles which cost $800. I cut the amount we allocate for team equipment because we did use gift account.

President Gratch: Do you do advertising to campus about scholarships?

Equestrian Rep: We didn’t do a ton this year but we’re creating a media chair for next year to have more of that. We have a big show in the fall. It’s a 20-minute drive so it’s hard to attract students regardless.

Senator Grandas: How many per year?


Peter: The way I understand it is it gets the barn and renting horses and most of the money goes to entry fees for shows. Those are only for varsity team members and most of the personal contribution is for lesson fees. So yes they’re part of the equestrian team but they’re not really club members as far as funding goes.

Equestrian Rep: I would love to make a point about having team practice a week. We do compete with varsity teams. Lots of big schools with their own barns. Although we’re not trying to be those teams it is very hard to be a competitive team when our riders only ride once or twice a week. It would be beneficial to get on a horse more often.

Senator Toy: Have you had fundraising efforts?

Equestrian Rep: We start planning for our home show in early august. As captains we are overwhelmed so we haven’t though about fundraising. We sent out letters to alumni
office. They told me they would not help me because we’ve asked alumni for too much money this year. They told us to do a phone a-thon. With new chairs part of the responsibility will be fundraising but beginning of the year it is a lot to take on.

Peter: Holistic note. Fundraising has been drastically cut back. A recurring theme for club sports. It’s difficult to get times to fundraise on campus. When budgeting we’re more looking at what we need to fund to keep club continuing.

Senator Boyle: To clarify the school doesn’t pay coach so coaches budget comes from the SGA allocated budget?

Equestrian Rep: So we have regular lessons every week and when we have a show we have team practice on Friday. They are funded by the school. Our coach is getting more than $150 for regular lessons and only charging the school $150 for a team lesson. But regular lessons in spring j-term and fall is what the $700 out of pocket is for.

Senator Toy: Motion to table.

Senator Raber: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: All in favor of tabling: Everyone. Moving on to the yearbook.

Senator Aaron: The yearbook costs 20K per year.

Senator Toy: Motion to table.

Senator Grandas: Seconded.

Aaron: Senior committee. Before we begin I will say we should focus on moving through and if there is a concrete change let’s focus on that.

Daniel: We have an increase of $700: is an increase in event items. Work orders and entertainment are straightforward. That security feature is new. Those who are seniors might know some people got drunk and attacked a bar tender. Therefore, we now need security at events with alcohol. The size of next years’ senior class is higher. Costs going up this year but we want to fund this. This is the only student org that can fund alcohol and security is necessary.

Senator Gogineni: In terms of staffing. Can we get students to work these events?

Daniel: I believe they have to hire contractors.

Senator Gogineni: Students would lower costs.

Senator Raber: Motion to table
Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone.

Proxy Murphy: This has been tabled.

Kara: Ok Dolci. We funded Dolci in full for this year. They are having 7 dinners a semester for $800 per meal so that’s around $9 per person. They had a really successful year last year. They’re doing a great job.

Aaron: They wanted to focus entirely on serving food. One thing they have is a lot of silverware, etc. beyond what is used as a dinner in Atwater etc. Instead of requesting money for that they held a banquet for the ski team and fundraised money to buy silverware etc.

Senator Toy: What’s the increase over last year?

Kara: $1300.

Senator Grandas: Motion to table?

Senator Sohn: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone. Moving on to the Middlebury mountain club. Isabella is presenting.

Isabella: Ok MMC. They’re doing a great job and we gave them an increase from last year. We couldn’t give the full amount however. They requested $29650 but we are giving them $28650. Dunmore days, couple big events. It’s their centennial year so we wanted to give them a little extra to celebrate. They do maintenance of the TAM and are building a cabin which is going well. Gas is calculated differently from other clubs because they use more personal vehicles. Van maintenance: damaged – working to repay what was spent to fix it. Grocery costs are high – they pay for food for each trip. This makes the trips free for everyone and very accessible for everyone. Training and certification – for people who want to become a guide. A certain amount of overnight and day trips is required to get certified. This would give them more people who can get certified. Boating costs – only 1 trained guide but there is huge demand. 21 people went out over 3 days so amount for that is increasing.

Senator Rainey: How many guides do you have and how many people express interest?

Joe: As far as guides we have 22 winter hiking guides. Overall we have 48 guides. People seeking guide ship – 16 people for warm weather and 22 people wanting to become guides for winter. Couldn’t certify people but coming winter we could get more guides certified. Student wise we’ve had just over 500 different students this past year.

Senator Sohn: What constituents a decrease in venture grants?
Isabella: Proposed increase from last year because people come with a group and say that they want to do a trip/where they’re going/why etc. MCC decides if they will give that guide. It runs on an honor code basis that they only apply if they really need the funding for that trip. Confident they had to reject proposals just maybe make smaller adventure grants.

Senator Toy: Motion to table.

Senator Rainey: More money for venture grants and guides?

Joe: Grant adventures that are not led by mountain club guides.

Senator Toy: Motion to table.

Senator Sohn: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone.

Aaron: Abby will be presenting for Midd intercultural leadership coalition.

Abby: Midd Intercultural Leadership Coalition. This is a new cluster board of 19 cultural orgs who self selected to be in this org. It is a cluster board like SCB and religious life. It operates as its own mini finance committees. They are trained to meet with different orgs and the cluster board looks through each specific budget and creates a master budget we look at. This is first year MILK is going into effect. They’ve done a great job. Working with Jennifer Herrera. We talked about every club and they justified each increase. Some reasons were higher membership, more programming (queers and allies has trans affinity group now), similar things in other clubs. Why we say overall increases - 15% increase while last year we didn’t have a cluster board – we had one org that’s no longer in existence and 2 that didn’t contact cluster board so they only received discretionary. What clubs need to operate is why increases exist. At bottom we have continuing programs – Asian spring barbeque – here many orgs would come in and ask for money. It was hard to see how they’re working together. It’s great that it’s now one item. MILK welcome barbecue. Now DMC is working with other orgs on that. This gives more power to cultural orgs on campus and work well together with funding. They have a flex fund of 5K so whenever a cultural org needs more money they can go directly to leadership.

Senator Aaron: What is Sputnik?

Abby: An eastern European org.

Senator Toy: Did you fund everything in full?

Abby: yes

Senator Toy: What does leadership look like?
Senator Rainey: Essentially each board elects certain members to serve on actual board of clusters and two members as oversight. Including Jennifer Herrera, Miguel Fernandez. They act as facilitators. There is no president or treasurer. Everyone has an equal say. There are also student officials that serve as mediators. They are working with SGA and go off of that information but everyone has an equal vote.

Aaron: There are two cluster coordinators that are hired positions. They run the show. The orgs have reps but they are the ones that are coordinating things. There’s no official treasurer because each org has a treasurer.

Senator Boyle: What did we vote on for conferences?

Aaron: We will cover conference entry fee and ground transportation. Not airfare. Black solidarity conference for example— we cover entry fee and transportation there.

Abby: Just no food or lodging.

Senator Raber: Motion to table.

Senator Toy: Seconded.

Aaron: Religious life council. Aaron currently we have 5 left and that includes SGA budget and our final announcement

Daniel: The Religious life cluster – they are doing a good job recently. We’ve had problems in past with leadership and money but they have redone their leadership structure since then. Miriam Kahn has done a great job setting up a platform for next year. We funded everything in full because given their operations we would like to fund them and it’s a 4 % decrease from last year.

Senator Raber: Motion to table.

Senator Toy: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone

Aaron: Moving on to the SCB. Really the only change is they didn’t request a discretionary. We gave them one and removed $200 from their flex fund to call it discretionary. That’s why it looks like a $200 decrease. Small increase over previous years. This is the first cluster board and has been the model. Within service cluster board covers any service oriented org. student orgs on their own and continuing initiatives driven by individual people which is great but after their there for four years they fluctuate. This is why they don’t jump to student orgs. They’re doing a great job with budgeting. Flex fund is helpful for them. Overall very helpful with proposal and no reason to cut it.
Senator Toy: Why flex fund for them.

Aaron: It’s a requested increase and they have the demand. Orgs or initiatives. Because of the add hoc nature of community service. A few years ago when a couple friends entered midd chili festival we got a grant from the flex fund and ended up winning. No serious concerns here.

Raber: I yield time.

SCB Rep: Flex fund has two parts: to allocate additional money to current orgs and continuing initiatives. John graham shelter added a Wednesday programming. Normally they do Friday dinners. Wednesday there was a need for homework help. John Graham budget for this year couldn’t give that so she asked for a flex fund. Second, individuals on campus who want to do a service. Maybe they found something in town and they can propose money form us to fund that. We also want to be able to fund that initiative. Sometimes comes out to something they want to do on a regular basis and hopefully push to official org status. This year we had requested 7K but only had 5K.

Senator Raber: Motion to table.

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor: everyone.

Aaron: Daniel doing YouPower. This is the biggest proposed increase.

Daniel: So this is a 201% increase. YouPower how it started was a spin classes that then generated energy. After having technology problems – it didn’t really work. They decided to switch gears and make you the power of your own health. YouPower a venue for spin classes and a sudo-professional spin studio. They requested new bikes. After a lot of deliberation, we offered them 3 bikes to see how it goes. 30% of all YouPower classes have a waitlist. Especially at peak times. 3 bikes would free up 129 spots per week. They asked us fro 10 cases of water in the studio. We felt that was the responsibility of people taking the classes. They also asked for batteries for the microphone but money for that could come out of discretionary money. They did justify an increase – how their mind body platform works is important. We see the impacts of service. Gave us testimonials. I have never seen a budget defense as good.

Senator Toy: What are the wind screens?

Sarah Fossett: They’re for instructor bikes. It’s a sanitary thing and goes over the microphone so that they aren’t spreading germs that way.

Senator Chen: How long do new bikes last?

Sarah Fossett: It depends on how much they are used. We’re using them up to 42 hours a week but we hope to get 8 years out of each bike. Something to look into is a
depreciation fund the same way MMC does. We have the same maintenance guy as the guy that does the gym bikes.

Senator Aaron: Is it the same group of people that come or a larger group?

Sarah Fossett: Over 1/3 of the student body are part of the online platform and 15% are usual users (come once every 60 days).

Senator Sohn: Motion to table

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone. Moving on to the campus.

Aaron: The Campus. Reps from the campus? Other than campus correspondent. The way the campus works – fair amount of revenues. Subscriptions being papers off campus. Basically the way it works – revenue of 5k goes to payroll and capital expenditures. That’s out of their gift account. Most things – web hosting is the biggest increase – they used to spend a lot less. Their website crashes so I urge them to work on this. Printing-you see an odd decrease there. The way printing works is the first 8K is what one issue costs. And every subsequent issue is 9 cents. It’s part of having a relationship with the printing company. So this would decrease their printing by a third. We though this was a necessary thing to do. There’s no punitive aspect just increased popularity of on campus platforms. Decrease in subscriptions – print media is being less and less utilized. Last year this came up – every time I look at the number of campuses from previous weeks in dining halls. Cutting printing by a third would still be 1000 issues a week. This is enough to still distribute across campus. Increase of 1K stemming from increase in web hosting.

Senator Toy: But you didn’t cut by a third?

Aaron: 8k by a third. So cutting 500 issues per run – 25 issues times 500 times 9 cents.

Senator Rainey: Motion to table.

Senator Sohn: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Everyone. This has been tabled.

Aaron: Last budget is the SGA budget. I left this as a more open ended budget. This is not presented to FC. This is for the senate to see. Overall last year’s senate got 54K. There’s a late new money request but we can discuss that later. General cabinet is 6K. Big increase here is midd courses. We budgeted for 100 but it actually costs 1500. That was not budgeted right. Work orders for events. NESCAC conferences etc. Newspaper Subscriptions. That is between NY Times, USA today and WSJ. This is insanely high. I believe every student has access to NY Times and WSJ online.

Senator Toy: WSJ has 40 users per day.
Aaron: This is unpredictable because we don’t get charged for those that are unread. Based on how many issues are delivered and then returned that’s how much we get charged. This is where we should have a discussion and set a budget for it. And that will guide next year’s presidential staff so as how to spend that.

President Gratch: We only pay for what we read. But that only applies to the Sunday NY Times. It’s not a big cut.

Doug: And USA today.

President Gratch: That variability is small.

Senator Boyle: Can we start a discussion about newspapers. One thing I noticed. I think they’re read. Generally, there’s a pile of NY Times and then when you can’t find the crossword you can find everything else. No one touches USA today. That’s really weird. There’s no crossword only? That’s what NY Times is being used for.

Senator Chen: We talked about this. It might be worth photocopying a ton of crosswords. USA today is a package deal. Do they count those?

President Gratch: Yes, they do.

Senator Sohn: Is there a committee in cabinet in charge?

President Gratch: Yes, the institutional affairs committee. They serve as the contact at each newspaper. They set all the contacts. And then someone else to deliver.

Senator Sohn: Do we advertise that we can access online?

President Gratch: We don’t actively advertise that.

Senator Aaron: That’s what I was going to say. Maybe try for one year. And can be accessed online.

Senator Boyle: It’s a package deal we can’t eliminate one?

President Gratch: USA today and NY Times.

Senator Boyle: And we could drop WSJ?

Senator Grandas: Can you do online crossword?

Proxy Murphy: No. You can do a free mini one and three that change each week.

Senator Toy: USA Today delivers NY Times. They have the staff to deliver NY Times. Sunday paper is hard enough to do that. They also do the buyback program so we don’t
pay for them. I would love to propose a number. We’re doing contracts this weekend. So we can figure out where to keep them. I agree $1750 is way too much. Crossword is a big deal. You can access this online.

Senator Raber: WSJ if we were going to decide for one and not the other. For some Econ classes it’s a requirement to read the WSJ each day. If it’s limited to 40 online per day that’s a problem. What do you mean by choosing a number? How do we do that without a breakdown?

Aaron: last year it was budgeted at 10K but cost 17K. Setting a number – how much are we comfortable spending. Then Senator Toy would know I have up to 10K to work with. If we table that and no one does research, then we didn’t really do anything. How much do we think this service is worth?

Senator Raber: If we say 10K that’s what they said last year but it cost 17K.

Aaron: Buy less, buy less subscriptions.

President Gratch: We didn’t change our contracts from last year.

Senator Aaron: Can I ask what the foo cost was?

Aaron: FOO happens every year. It’s an agreement that we subsidize FOO even though we don’t pay for Middview anymore. It would be good if someone would renegotiate that.

Senator Toy: I will be talking to Derek about that. But we can’t do that right now otherwise FOO will not happen. We can ask them to take it on happen in the next couple years.

Senator Singh: How much would it cost for just WSJ?

Proxy Murphy: And NY Times online?

Doug: This past year your 30-week WSJ was 4K.

Senator Boyle: We can cut down on the number of issues? If the econ department wants to read that the econ department should pay for that?

Senator Grandas: We don’t cover books for people.

Aaron: The Econ department cannot fund that.

President Gratch: I would poll interest in the student body - having another perspective in dining halls than NY Times.
Aaron: I know that at 9 o’clock everyone can leave. We have a very important announcement to make. Further comments on the newspaper? Someone really take it on. By next week will have detailed reason to propose change.

President Gratch: Someone start a survey.

Co-Cahir Chang: Can you explain the ACTR?

President Gratch: We subsidize ACTR.

Co-Chair Chang: Many people don’t know where it goes, why it goes.

Doug: 7 years ago Riley O’Bourke worked with ACTR to expand – 40% expansion. He started Saturday busses to Burlington and made the Snowbowl shuttle free. It’s considered a local match and is matched by local government. 90K by government is matched to our 9K.

Co-Chair Chang: Note to senator Toy: other schools have funds for other students to participate in student govt. started funds for students on financial aid for students giving up money on payroll. Instead if you want to open up room in your schedule to be on SGA. This would make more socioeconomic diversity in SGA.

Senator Toy: I think it would be interesting to see if that exists. Then yes I would be interested. I’m planning a J-term workshop fund but I don’t personally think paying leaders is the right way to go about it.

Senator Sohn: Could we have the institutional affairs heads come in? Do you have numbers on per week? I’ll talk to you afterwards.

Senator Raber: Motion to table.

Proxy Murphy: All those in favor of tabling: Proxy Murphy, Senator Raber, Senator Boyle, Senator Rainey, Senator Parikh Proxy Espino, Senator Grandas, Senator Aaron, Senator Edwards, Senator Singh, Senator Chen, Co-Chair Chang All those abstaining: Senator Sohn All those opposed: Senator Toy

Aaron: This past week we had to make a 2K new money request to SGA committee budget because of unapproved expenditures made by index code. As a reminder all expenditures much be approved by us before hand. The First year committee spent over 2K of which we were not made aware of or had budgeted before until earlier this past week. Our budget was overextended and had to transfer money in. This had a substantial impact. It’s very important to have a system to better control spending. Now that we know this could happen we are putting a new system in place. That is something to consider because unapproved expenditures need to be approved. The FYC did this- we don’t know what attendance was like etc. Thankfully it was only 2K and not more
because there was no budget ever given for the first year committee. Our budget is in a good position for next year but the first year committee needs to consider. I didn’t intend for this to be a discussion just announcement. Thank you for listening to the budget.

Senator Rainey: Can I propose a new announcement. In terms of what happened. Moving progress forward. I think why this error happened due to a lack of communication coming in before the first committee had started. We were not told that we needed to get approval in terms of making decisions in terms of allocations of funds. We were told we had a budget including past fist year senators. So I do think a miscommunication happened in terms of who they were supposed to be allocated to. And we were given a number of $2500 that we were supposed to spend. I think for the FYC it was a surprise that we didn’t have a budget and I think that’s an important thing to put out there. I think in the future better communication.

President Gratch: Everyone should know. If anyone is ever unsure about anything and it’s at the expense of 2K. or even $100 or $20 just ask.

Senator Toy: Ask myself or Kevin next year.

V. Adjournment.

Senator Raber: Motion to adjourn.

Senator Toy: Seconded.

Proxy Murphy: Meeting has been adjourned. Meeting End 9 PM.