I. Attendance

All senators present except President Toy who sent a proxy and Senator McCarthy who sent a proxy.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes

Speaker Lantigua: Motion to accept the minutes from the previous week.
Motion seconded.
(15-0-1)
All in favor except Senator Aaron who was not present last meeting.

III. Check-in

Senator Lantigua states that the Senate will not meet next week and also opens up the floor for any Senator to share something for the rest of the senate to hear.

Senator Aaron talks about working on the SGA website and having something on textbook prices and working on that. Also, mentioned about building time’s, too.

Senator Wright: I have been talking with the Brainerd commons council about social programming. There was a loud plea from the council about a lack of funding for such programming and to address the pattern of the funding being cut every semester. Also, to make sure we just support these programs. Among Brainerd febs there has been a concern about the system of Feb admissions that the statistics are not being put into the actual admissions statistics. So, it’s putting on a front that this community isn’t as diverse as it admits.

Senator Cohen: I have been talking to a junior about providing free tampons in the public bathrooms. Right now we are looking at who we should meet with and where this money should come from.

Senator Lantigua: I’ve been looking at exploring the realm of study abroad since I didn’t have the greatest experience. Looking to work with the administration to figure out this system and maybe have a pass/fail system when it comes to some class abroad.

The head of the finance committee speaks about the tampon project and “to nail down the cost and shoot him an email.”

IV. Talk with Dan Detora the Executive Director of Foodservice Operations

Senator Lantigua: Yeah so we are going to talk to Dan about the Dining Halls and he will introduce himself and explain this year’s Dining Hall problems and we will give him some feedback after that.

Dan introduces himself as the executive director of foodservice operations of all dining on campus, 51 Main and the snow bowl. He begins by explaining the dining halls having the same menus and the reasoning behind it in three points. Firstly, they want to try and get the best food possible so they need to know how much product they are going to need and it makes it easier when the Dining Halls have the same food options. Secondly, the Dining Hall’s are installing a new menu management system which they have to input the recipes into the system.
and that requires a lot of work to do. They are trying for the information to be digitally ready at the dining hall but it is a large undertaking to do so. Thirdly, they were seeing a lot of food waste in the dining hall and they want to continue to have a better understanding of how much food they will need. Then he speaks about the hours of proctor which shifted up to 4:30 and the biggest reason behind this was that the dining hall was wasting food and they do not have enough time from the closing of lunch to clean the dining hall in a proficient manner. Extending the hours even by thirty minutes allowed for them to clean the dining hall to where it should be.

Senator McCormick asks a question about the advantages of the 4 o’clock time was for athletes to swing by shortly and grab something to eat. Would it be possible to have some fruit and bread out somewhere so athletes could pick something up?

Dan: Yeah. We could do something like that. We would just have to find a location for that, too.

Senator Ou: I am wondering if this is temporary and will it go back to different menus after all the recipes are put in?

Dan: Hopefully by spring term. We need to put the rest of the recipes into the system and then we can go back to the old system of having different menus.

Senator Schoel asks a question about the possible negative impact on labeling the calories on the food would have on students. That promoting the nutritional facts isn’t truly in the nature of this community and on adding the caloric information what that might do to students.

Dan: So we don’t have to post the nutritional information but it will just be available on the digital menu board.

Senator Boyle: About the change to the menu in the grille, is this due to the survey that went out last semester and is it possible to honor old grille options.

Dan: The grille menu was changed and it was due to the survey that went out last spring. We were trying to get better items on the menu. If there is something in particular shoot me an email so we can talk about the change and continue the discussion to get the old items back on the menu.

Senator Pustejovsky asks if it is possible to see the results from the survey so they can compare the campus concerns about grille food. Dan states that he will send the results to the SGA.

Senator Lantigua talks about the concerns about less options and dietary restrictions. There seems to not be enough vegetarian options and gluten free options. “How willing are you to hear different requests from people and how willing are you to work and move forward with some changes?”

Dan: So, I am willing to do that. We will be bringing back the gluten free stations this week and those options will be there too. Also, the new menus will now always have gluten free and vegetarian options available. We are definitely open to more suggestions to the menu. We had a dietary intern this summer that helped us with the new menu and it’s a work in progress.
Senator Duran: Speaking to the MSA about halal food and if it is possible to serve more halal meat available. Could it be possible to provide something like the plain chicken that someone can order in the dining hall.

Dan says that he has talked to a few students and they are adding a halal hamburger and looking for halal chicken breasts right now. So at some point the dining halls should have lamb, chicken and hamburger, too.

Senator McCarthy: Could it be possible to have a position filled by a student to input all the recipes to the system?

Dan states that the position would require the student to know a few things about working in a kitchen to work. It is also a fairly large undertaking.

Senator Pustejovsky talks about a suggestion for more food that isn’t cooked into the sauces and having more plain options.

Dan states that hopefully the new menus will provide more options like that and also the gluten free bar will be back.

Dan: Also, wanted to ask the SGA about possibly closing the grille 5-8 at night because we are averaging 25 dollars for those three hours. It would be beneficial for us to open up at 8 instead of 5. The grille itself would be open for people to do work it just would not serve food.

Senator Boyles asks if it's possible to use those funds to possibly expand the hours of another dining hall or dining service.

Dan: So really we are struggling with staff right now and we are about to open the snow bowl really soon and so it is not productive to have the grille open then and making minimum sales.

Senator Lantigua: So, should we have a vote or continue to talk about it?

Senator Duran: We should see how everyone feels about changing the hours and vote next week on it.

V. Appointing 4 Senators to sit on the SGAFC Committee

Head of the Finance Committee reminds the Senate that applications for finance committee are due on Friday the 14th. Interviews will be held in the three days after we get back from Fall Break hopefully only 2 days of interviews. Also, if Senators could send applications to anyone who will be a strong applicant so the committee can have as wide of a net as possible.

Five Senators will sit on the SGAFC: Senator McCormick, Schoel, Lantigua, Pesqueira and Pustejovsky.

Senator Cohen asks about if emails out should come from commons senators or year senators?

Senator Lantigua states that depending on the content of the email it should be sent out by years Senators.

VI. Black Lives Matter
Senator Pustejovsky: We met on Thursday with the president of the BSU and we discussed what we hoped to do.

Senator Pustejovsky talks about the resolution they wrote and how President Toy had some suggestions and that next time we should continue the conversations since we are running short on time.

President Toy: Ideally, the week people come back from fall break there will be a Black Lives Matter flag and we will also be giving out wristbands that say Black Lives Matter. They will also be doing something like a teach in to give people common vocabulary and speak about issues on race. This will all lead up to the Sean King lecture on November 1.

Senator Aaron asks if there will be a public announcement from anyone.

Senator Cohen: The logistics aren’t set yet.

President Toy: The BSU will put out some sort of announcement hopefully with the support of the SGA, too.

There were questions from Senator Schoel and Aaron about how long the flag will be up and if the administration has been in contact with.

Senator Pustejovsky explains that they have email Katy Smith Abbott and once they finish the resolution we can continue the conversation.

Senator Lantigua states that this will be put in the agenda for next week.

VI. Baishakhi Taylor the Dean of Students

Taylor talks about a lot of things regarding judicial action and is looking for a lot of feedback and suggestions from the SGA. Taylor talks about alcohol sanctioning and how they are rethinking and clarifying. There are rumors about doing a three strike policy but there is no such conversation about this. They are not thinking about changing the policy but are hoping to make sanctioning more transparent. There is a gap in current practice and in regards to federal law and the way the administration reports guidelines so they can maintain consistent and transparent. Taylor shows the Senate the list of prohibited actions involving alcohol as per federal guidelines and state guidelines. There are also a list of prohibited drugs, too. All of these lists can be found in the student handbook or online. They are looking at current policy and about current sanctions and language about this and their primary focus is truly on the health and safety of students. It seems that a lot of actions rely on the Dean and this has been fine but because of federal changes they have to look at changing that policy. The Clery Act has been changing since 2012 and one of the changes involves a requirement for institutions to make their guidelines more transparent and the acts they must initiate and so forth. Also, if it is an informal action the school must report it and this is why you will see a large jump in the statistics from last year. Taylor gives an example about pub safe says something that is informal and under the clery act they have to record these kinds of conversation. So now the institution must look at providing specific sanctions for citations after the third citation that will be transparent no matter what commons you are apart of. Taylor also states that we are a good community here and hopefully
this will not affect our institution too much. Taylor starts to speak about the people who were looking at changing the current policy (people like AJ Place, Barbara McCall) they did a ton of research on NIAA recommendations and best practice from peer schools, too. How the institution was going to look at managing reporting guidelines and to do all this review and make sure that health and safety is on everyone’s mind. Also, the make sure we consult public safety as well as parton but nothing has been finalized. This is an open conversation and we are talking with many different people about it. So really we are looking at what happens after someone’s third violation and how the dean decides what else to do beyond that. We are deciding what we will do for all these after three citation policies. Taylor would love to hear feedback.

oyle: Atwater Commons and Scott and the new

Senator Boyle brings up Atwater commons as an example of the Common’s head having a unique approach to disciplinary action.

Taylor reiterates how the culture relies on unique situations like these and how the institution wants to look at reminding the student body of health and safety methods. The challenge is really hopefully to have little effect on students because of the number of citations one would need to affect someone. Taylor does not want to put students in harm's way and to make sure we have a consistent policy when faced with these situations.

Senator Wright talks about the role of an FYC and how he agrees with making the process more transparent. He also talks about how the online training the school mandates overlooks some parts of health and safety that is important to note. He also talks about how we should be setting up a community that is practicing safe drinking and not to overlook dangerous situations like when an individual is way too drunk.

Taylor talks about how the federal law allows for the institution to separate beer and wine with hard alcohol when it comes to citations and sanctioning. Also the sober friend policy is still important to have.

Senator Wright states that the alcohol curriculum is should be of support and productive rather. That students should work with res life too to help manage these problems.

Taylor appreciates the comments by Senator Wright and states that having reslife will be a good support system for students.

Senator Wright reiterates his comments about having a system that respects the health of safety of these students and to have a system like that.

Taylor references a few actions that they could possibly enforce after a citation. Like a letter and then a follow up with an FYC.

Senator Lantigua brings up the way the institution addresses the various degrees of alcohol citations and how we punish people based really on a matter of luck. Senator Lantigua talks about her personal experience about getting a citation with a closed beer and also have some people have better spaces to drink that would put them out of the way of getting caught by public safety.

Taylor reiterates that they are talking to public safety too on how they cite people.
Senator Pustejovsky talks about her experience of acting as the sober friend but still getting cited for putting her friend’s drink down and how we could look at not giving people citations for a closed beer or acting as the sober friend.

Taylor appreciates all the feedback and will take back it back to administration on how they approach the conversation on closed containers and public safety. She again reiterates that this is government mandated.

Senator Schoel brings up the topic of banning hard alcohol in the wake of the Stanford decision to ban hard alcohol.

Taylor reiterates that there is no talk about banning hard liquor.

Senator Schoel then brings up the idea of having an information session or something that will allow students to know more.

Taylor asks about what the best recommendation for publishing these ideas and states that possibly an article in The Campus would be best to put students in the know.

Senator Cohen talks about possible discussions with public safety about address the most “loud” parties rather than the casual get togethers.

Taylor states that public safety has to address all incidents of alcohol abuse and will try to open the conversation about this.

Senator McCormick asks about the way this will affect athletes and NCAA rules about telling a coach about citations.

Taylor does not know specifically the NCAA rules in regards to citations and will look into this. Taylor talks about how this good feedback to think about when continuing the conversation.

Taylor reiterates that they can no longer leave it up the Dean’s discretion to sanction a citation. They are trying to make everything more transparent. She is hoping that we can build something and make good progress. She will welcome any emails and to come to her office hours and not to hesitate to contact her.

Motion to table the conversation from Senator Cohen.
Motion seconded.
16-0-0. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded.
16-0-0. All in favor.