I. Attendance
Senator Cohen sent a proxy.
All other senators are present.

II. Acceptance of the minutes
Senator Pustejovsky motions to accept the minutes.
The motion is seconded.
17-0-0
The minutes from the previous week are accepted and recorded.

III. Announcements
Senator Fleischer introduces himself to the Senate. He is the new feb senator and
describes himself as “very much an activists” and specifically illustrates himself as very much
involved in “environmental activism.” He states that he is excited to work with the other senators
in the upcoming months.

Senator Wilson also introduces herself to the Senate. She states that she is also, “excited
to work with everyone.”

President Toy states the winner of last week’s election including the feb senators: Senator
Aaron and Senator Fleischer, and the junior senator: Senator Pustejovsky. She also states that the
next election campaigns and meetings will begin around spring break, and that every single seat
in the Senate will be open except for the feb senators. President Toy asks if everyone is also
receiving the emails, she states if a senator is not then they should contact her. Also if a senator
does not have permission to send an email to their constituents, she is working on every senator
to get permission.

President Toy presents the data from the Financial Aid survey, which she states was “a
big part of my campaign.” While it took a while to get the data back, because of working with
Institutional Research and compiling everything. There was a “pretty decent response rate” of
thirty-one percent, which represents around ten percent of the student body. The data also shows
Financial Aid data and the comparison between first generation students and non-first generation
students. Now there are open conversations about what to do with this data. Including Financial
Aid activities during orientation also making sure that first generation students meet with Student
Financial Services.

President Toy then presents the data from the Student Life survey. The document is big
and President Toy states that “we don’t have to discuss it now” and that she will give the
senators time to look at it. She urges the senators to come up with bill ideas for the spring as
many of the bills introduced in the fall were sponsored by President Toy. There are a lot of
responses that discuss how to improve student life here on campus. The senators look at some of
the data including how many people know or don’t know their senator. She urges the senators
one more time to “take a look at the document” and then possibly write a bill.
President Toy also brings up a lunch the SGA is invited to with the College Board on March 17th at 12:15 to 1:30. If anyone has any topics to discuss President Toy, President Toy asks for the Senators to present their ideas.

Senator Pustejovsky asks what would be the format for the lunch. She also states that one of the topics should be about the grievances about the lack of serious discussion on campus.

Senator Goldfield states that there should be discussion about greater transparency especially when it comes to financial investment decisions.

Senator Hayes check-ins by stating that the first year dinner at Atwater had about two hundred people show up and it was very successful.

Senator Fleischer asks about speaking to someone about the endowment.

President Toy states that Colin Mackintosh would be the best to get a “rundown” and have a conversation with.

Senator Wright discusses that during the lunch there should be discussion about carbon neutrality because it does not get talked about a lot. There was an open forum about carbon neutrality but Senator Wright questions if there was any outcomes. Also, he would like to discuss Res Life and the Commons System, and reiterates to bring up the conversation about transparency. He also questions that there are no longer going to be blocks in Hepburn and many of his constituents are upset at this because they weren’t informed.

Doug Adams replies to Senator Wright’s comments and states that the decision was actually made by Brainerd Commons.

Co-Chair Sanderson reiterates that the discussion with the board should be centered around transparency. He also states that socioeconomic diversity is an essential topic to discuss too. He wants to make sure the senate has a discussion about this essential topic and preserve financial aid and make sure it is not decreased in the upcoming years.

President Toy says that she will draft an email of these topic suggestions to the board and they will sent an agenda. She states that the conversation about res life and commons might not be connected to the board but she will put it on the list and see what they say.

Senator Fleischer states that he would like to talk about investments in fossil fuel and administrative salaries.

President Toy states she will add it to the list.

Senator Andrews brings up the conversation about 10 o’clock Ross and states that many of her constituents want it to come back. She argues that it is a “great meeting place for first years.”

Senator Ou states that his constituents from Atwater started that keeping 10 o’clock Ross is not a necessity.

Senator Wright states that his first year constituents “aren’t too motivated to bring it back.” However, many sophomore febs value the importance of 10 o’clock Ross.

Senator Pustejovsky seconds Senator Wright’s point and states that many of her Junior constituents aren’t too concerned with having it stay open or closed.
Senator Wilson reiterates these points but points out that if it weren’t for the distance then many people would have a reason to go.

Senator Goldfield reiterates that it is an important meeting place for first years. Also, it's a great option for students who cannot afford the other late night food options on campus.

Senator Wright asks how much, in percentage, is paying the Ross monitors out of the budget.

President Toy states that she does not know on the top her head. She asks Kevin if he knows and he states that it is apart of the account that does not factor into their budget. He states that it is probably less than 400 per semester. President Toy also proposes an alternative that would have snack in Proctor Lounge around 10 o’clock. She has not spoken to Dan Detora about this because he is on vacation.

Senator Pustejovsky questions how much space that would allow.

President Toy states that it would be for about 40 people showing up. President Toy urges the senate to talk to their constituents about this proposal and to continue the conversation until 10 o’clock Ross is opened again.

IV. Other Business

The first bill discussed is the SGA Finance Committee Policies. President Toy asks if there are any questions, comments or concerns.

Senator Wright motions to vote.

The motion is seconded.

16-0-1

Senator Cohen’s proxy abstains.

The senate will now vote on the bill.

17-0-0

All in favor and the bill passes.

The second bill discussed is the Club Sports Funding bill and Kevin introduces it. He states that after reaching out to all the club sports only two clubs had concerns and these were: men's rugby and cycling. They started that their concern was about new money requests they were going to have later in the spring and how that would account for these averages. Kevin states that “the caps aren’t finalized at this point” and that they will adjust the clubs accordingly as long as it's not too much of a significant increase. He then states that there has been nothing but a positive response from all club sports. He also states that there will be addition of power in the senate as the senate will be responsible if a club sports asks for more money than their cap.

The additional paragraph added to the bill is about club sports having the ability to appeal their cap allocation so they must contact the Finance Committee Chair and then then their allocation must be approved by the Senate.

Senator McCarthy motions to vote.

The motion is seconded.
The senate will now vote on the bill proposed.
17-0-0
All in favor and the bill passes.

President Toy begins the discussion of the open forum by stating that she was pleased to see most of the senators there at the meeting. She asks if any of the senators could give a brief summary of the forum.

Senator McCarthy gives a summary from her point of view. She states that there were conversations about finances, the meal plan and the CRA decision. The conversation centered around anger about the lack of transparency. The answer to the lack of transparency was that “this is why we are having a forum.” There were a lot of comments about people not understanding the swipe system. The whole thing was “interesting.”

Senator Duran reminds the senate that there is still no decision on the meal plan.
President Toy also reminds the body that the swipe system is just to gather data and that the conversations about the meal plan are continuing. There is still the option of choosing an unlimited plan.

Senator Lantigua questions why even have a meal plan if we get unlimited. Senator Pustejovsky also questions how this would change student’s daily lives. President Toy states that the meal plan will have “literally no price different.” There would be no monetary difference. She also states that getting hannafords and shaws would benefit the student body and would change the conversation about the meal plan.

Senator Fleischer questions if the meal plan in the future could create a divide with people with less money.

President Toy states that's a “good point” and that we should “draw the line” before that happens.

Senator Aaron states that that we should make sure the meal plan “does not get out of control.” She also states that it’s important to be transparent.

Co-Chair Sanderson states the positive of the meal plan by allowing students who aren’t as financially secure as others to have more dining options and these options would be open to a more diverse community.

President Toy states that “there’s going to be a meal plan.” She states that the student body has been paying for many different people coming into the dining hall for free. She states that we are “feeding another 30%” of people.

Senator Lantigua questions this data and states that the number could be “skewed.” She supports her argument by stating how she went to Atwater lunch twice in a day.

Senator Pustejovsky changes the conversation to the CRA program.

Senator Wright states that there is “no real update” and that the job description is up and that's going well. There will be interviews on campus soon.
Senator McCarthy states that there is a committee that is coming up with potential questions to these applicants to the job. She says that the values of the community is going to be one of the most important in making the decision for the program. She also bring up the idea of a “Senior FYC” position which she states people have had a very mixed reaction to.

Senator Duran states that the idea was proposed but it has not been passed or finalized. Senator Wright continues by stating that the Senior FYC would take on more responsibility since the CRD wouldn’t live in the commons.

President Toy changes the conversation to college finances and the cut backs which will effect how many students they can accept next year with financial aid. She says it will not change the need blind status of the school but the admissions knows about what regions have more money. Also, President Toy urges those who are on financial aid to write thank you letters to the donors of financial aid.

Senator Lantigua states that the writing a thank you letter “is kinda out of the blue” and that there’s no real communication on why they should write a letter and that it also shouldn’t make poor students feel obliged to thank donors.

President Toy states that she will continue the conversation and move forward with the SLG on Wednesday and debried with them.

Senator Aaron states that she hopes that this conversation will urge others to come to more open forums.

Moving to the SGAFC, Kevin states that this is an “awesome committee” and they decide on who the new committee members are. They are looking to add minimum 2 new members and then maximum 5 new members.

Senators Lantigua, Wilson, and McCormick volunteer to be on the committee.

Finally, President Toy urges for senators to advertise to their constituents to apply for the oversight committee.

There is a motion to adjourn.
The motion is seconded.
17-0-0
The meeting is adjourned.