

# Senate Meeting Minutes

## November 17th

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

R: Now we have Judith Greiman, the Chief Deputy to the President) and Dean Ecklund to talk about SUNY2020 and Tobacco-free policy.

Judith: Hello, everybody! Today we have two issues to talk about: Tobacco free and SUNY2020. Hopefully, everyone has heard about Tobacco free. We are going to be a tobacco-free campus after Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. I just want to give you some background: about 2012, SUNY has a solution about urged campus to be tobacco-free. I think most campus at that time were smoke free, which means you cannot smoke in the building and numbers of feet outside the building, but you can smoke on campus. So now, campus should be moved to tobacco free and campus did things to figure out how to get it out. There were a lot of conversations, meetings, and research done in couple of years to figure it out what happened on campus. In the beginning of summer, there was a working group containing student, faculty, employee and people coming from different areas and also we need the preventatives from GSO. We need several meetings to see how to answer different questions. All the things will be go to east campus and west campus. And research shows that the best way to move campus to tobacco free is to do it across the academic year. So for this first semester, we make plans about it and in the next semester, we are tobacco free and have the ability to face the problem we might have.

Senator: What action will you take if you find students keep smoking?

Judith: It will take time to be true tobacco free, but everyone should notice that we are tobacco free at that time. So it's helping if we can have conversations with people about it.

Ecklund: I think we will use encourage than correction, and see how it goes. We know about our campus, there're a lot of people who smoke and they should be rule-followers. But there will be some people who won't follow the rule and continue to smoke. We don't want to spend too much time on such a small amount of people. We just want to know how it goes and build whatever need to build over there. That's will be the energy where need to be placed.

Senator: When you say tobacco free, does it contain E-cigarettes and other whatever?

Ecklund: Yes. All other kinds of cigarettes are not allowed either. It doesn't mean that people can't purchase tobacco on campus, but it means that they can't use they on campus.

Judith: This policy is not saying that you can't smoke in your life. It just says that you can't smoke in Stony Brook University. And there will be some resources out here you can find to help.

Senator: Two questions: Can we students say that we are agree or not? And how about those students live on campus and are smokers, do they have to go out to smoke?

Judith: Yes. If you live on campus, work on campus, or are visitors to campus, even if you come for football game, you have to go off campus to smoke.

Ecklund: I think it's good point to discuss about the rights. The thing is we heard from students and faculty for a long time that there are numbers of who has second-hand smoke, and they have allergy, asthma, and other issue with smoke. It's really a right for those people to live in a health area without smoke.

Senator: Does this rule affect people like professors? What about professors don't care?

Judith: It will be period conversation to be truly tobacco free. We have a lot of employee policies that we hold people to the regular procedures. And this is just another policy.

Senator: I am west-campus student, and our campus is already smoke-free. My question is do we have the same resources for west-campus students?

Judith: Yes, they are available for all the resources.

Senator: While you say that it's period by period, I don't think it makes a big difference to the campus. It's really hard to monitor to make sure that the campus is tobacco free. How is this policy really enforced?

Judith: Some of you have to respect the student's expectation that people want to smoke. Not everybody follows the rule but we do have the communication that everyone should follow the rule.

Judith: About the New York 2020, it was passed by the governor in the beginning of 2011, and it was a five-year plan about the tuition fee so that you know that your tuition fee will increase during this five years. And it allows school to increase the number of grad students and the number of TA, RA, and faculty ratio. So in our case, we hired 22 and 46 new faculty and we have 19 academic programs. We move our faculty ratio from 28 to 24.1, we increase research funding for students and we have faculty take courses that students need to go through in years. It gives predictive ability to protect students in turns of students' tuition fee and enhance the campus in terms of what we are able to do with that money. The time period is from the end of this academic year, and the goal is that to extend it to 2020. Some of things were done for grad students: TA stipend increased. And something come with SUNY2020 is that we didn't get some money from governor for salary increasing so that some of the stipend flow for the last few years. That's why we need SUNY2020 standard. I don't think that we can get much more money from the state. We have other serious issues, we have serious problem across SUNY system. So SUNY2020 offers us all the things we are trying to do and give us some building, money to fix them up. I hope you guys will join in this party and help us to finish this, and we can talk more detail after we make it.

Senator: The academic fee increase by 15%, if I'm not wrong. It used to be in the webpage to explain what's the fee used for, but this webpage was taken down. And I was told personally by

Charles Taber that he doesn't know it any more and he just told me something related about SUNY2020. So all of us have paid over \$1000 per semester and we have no idea about the reason. Can we know?

Judith: SUNY2020 allowed two things, one is \$300 tuition fee increasing every year, and the other one is that increase the academic fee every year. So everything I just said comes from the both straight way.

Senator: So what is this?

Judith: I don't have it here, but I can find more information for you later.

Senator: Students don't know what the school did with the increasing money.

Senator: Can we just make things more transparent? Students want to know what you did with the increasing tuition fee. It's kind wired if you don't know what you are paying for.

Judith: I can provide you all the things we did with that money, but I just don't have it here now.

Senator: It's hard to advocate all this information to students as you present in the senate meeting. But it's good if we can have more communication and discussion with people about what's SUNY2020. To have the web page or lectures so that we can attract people and make them know what's going on.

Judith: Yes. It's a big document but it will help you to understand what's going on in our university.

Steven: I agree that we should have our tuition fee more transparent, but some of the problem is on you. Last spring, there was a meeting with the Chief financial officer, Dean Taber and all the officers related to fee increase, but in that meeting there's just president, VP and me, none of you showed up. So it's very straight that they should have the meeting and we need to go.

R: Thank you very much! The next will be the president report.

V: Hello everyone, thanks for coming to our third Senate meeting of this semester. I'm going to give you some information about what has been going on since the last Senate meeting. The first one is about UCAFE. We will have UCafe next semester. We were told that Ucafe will be closed sometime in the spring, but this is not the case any more. We will have access to the UCafe next semester and it will close down sometime during the next academic year. Nobody knows the exact time when it will be closed down. Since we will have the Ucafe next semester, you should encourage people in your department attend our events. Attendance is every important. Two weeks ago, Dean Ecklund came to Ucafe to visit and see how many students were there and how our event was. We had Karaoke night, and it was good to have him there. We had a lot of people at the event. So it's very important to show the administration that Ucafe is important for graduate students . We are working with Dean Ecklund to find a replacement for the UCafe. If he comes to Ucafe and sees that there are just 4 or 5 people, it's not a good sign. So please whenever you have time, stop by and encourage people in your department to come too. We want to have a committee of 4 to work with Dean Ecklund and us and help us find a replacement for UCafe. You have already received an email from Linrui in this regard. We have talked about different options we have for Ucafe, but Ucafe is such a unique place. It has

equipment for music, concerts, alcohol so it is hard to find a similar place. The UCafe committee will meet next semester so that we can find a good replacement as soon as possible.

About committees: please be an active participant in your committee meetings. We are all working with administration but we want you to be involved too. At the meetings I attend, people mention name of the students who are actively involved in the committee. Please make sure that you attend all the meetings and participate in the discussion and voice your opinion. If something comes up at the committee that you have no idea about, for instance if it's about a college, department that you don't have any information about, you have to let us know and we can reach out to people in those departments. But if you don't tell us what is happening in the committees, we have no clue and we don't know what's going on in that committee. And one thing we talked about at our last meeting is that you should send us a summary of your meetings. We have not received any report yet. The summary doesn't have to be fancy. It should be just a brief summary of the location, time, who attended the meeting, what major issues were discussed, etc.

About housing committee: we had a housing committee meeting last week. Joe, Ramiro, Camilo and I attended the meeting. As you know, we have limited housing on campus, so a lot of students have to commute from other places. Building an apartment on campus is very expensive and we are trying to build apartments off-campus in Port Jeff station, which is much cheaper. The Student Affairs office is trying to negotiate with private contractors to see how this is going to work. So, they are making a survey for students to figure out how much students are willing to pay for rent, and other questions related to housing. So if they have the data, they can give it to contractors, and based on that, they can build the apartments. Please watch out for the survey. The survey will not be sent out to everyone, they are going to send it on a random selection basis. In 2011, they had made a survey, which was sent to students in East and West campus. However, the result of the survey showed that grad students are willing to pay \$1800 for rent per month. We have objected to the result since our monthly stipend is currently about \$1500. We hope that this year, we will have a better result from the survey. Please ask students in your department to answer the housing survey.

V: If they provide housing in Port Jeff station, they will provide transportation so that students can commute easily. .

Senator: Why don't they give all the students the survey?

V: I suggested that. The answer was that they can't do it because there will be too much data since we have about 10,000 grad students and their second reason was that the school can't ask all students to fill out all surveys all the time.

V: We gave them a lot of comments about the survey questions and they are going to revise them. So, the survey is not ready yet, and that's why we are discussing it now and I would like to hear your comments and suggestions.

Senator: Why don't they compare the price with the rent of housing in that area?

V: I totally agree but this survey shows how much you can pay since we want students' opinions about how much money they are willing to pay. They want information from our students so that they can give it to the contractors.

Senator: Have you seen the questions on survey? Is it good enough to distinct the answer we want? I think it's better to hire someone to make this survey.

V: Believe me, there were four of us at the meeting and we were not just sitting there and listening. We looked at all questions and gave them a lot of feedback.

R: We will find a way to make it a good survey. It's just in process and it's not finalized. If it is useless, we will not use it.

Joe: A part of the purpose of the survey is to show the contractors that student in Stony Brook University want to get the housing off-campus if the rent is reasonable. In this case, they are more willing to build the housing for us.

V: Ok, let's move on. We are going to host the regional NAGPS (National Association of Graduate-Professional Students) in April 1-3, 2016. And we will host the national one next November. We will give you more information about the April conference next semester. I just want you to know about this and get ready for the conference.

I'm proud to announce that Joe, our Treasurer, is elected as the Director of Finance for NAGPS.

V: About professional development workshop: tomorrow we will have a workshop on how to get funding to conduct research abroad. It will be at 1:00pm in E4340 Melville Library, and this is open for all students. Please make sure students in your department are aware of this workshop and encourage them to attend it.

Senator: Is it also for international students?

V: There are two kinds of scholarships: one is Fullbright, which you need to apply from your own home country. The other one is DAAD, which is available for all students.

V: We will have the last StonyBrooklyn Concert at Ucafe on Thursday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, and a Karaoke night on Thursday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. And all the information are posted on website. You can check our calendar for events, which we update regularly.

Senator: Do you know how many people were there at the last Karaoke night?

V: We had a lot of people, the place was packed.

Joe: It was probably 100.

Senator: About the events, my opinion is that we should work more on that about what we are doing and what we are presenting. And if any event is empty, it seems that the advertising is a failure.

V: You receive a lot of emails from our Secretary about events and please forward the email to your department. As I have said before, don't just forward it, but add one sentence in your email saying what the email is about. Otherwise, people might ignore the forwarded email.

Senator: We don't receive the newsletter of November.

V: We don't have a newsletter for November. The newsletter should be done by the media relation. However, because of some issues, our media relation hasn't done it.

Senator: Just curious about what's going on in Ucafe. Do you keep track the attendance of every event in Ucafe?

V: We don't have a sign-up sheet for everyone to sign. But we do know in what events we had 100 people, and in what events we had 50 people.

Senator: Just a suggestion. Sometimes we get the email about events but it's too late. For example, there was a basketball event on last Friday, and the email was sent out on Thursday. I didn't check my email until Friday and the event is already on.

V: For the Basketball event, they contacted me on Monday of that week, and you got emails on Monday. You were asked to RSVP by Wednesday midnight if you wanted to attend the game but I didn't receive any emails from our senators. So I made tickets available to all students. I put it on our FB page and asked people to send me an email if they wanted a ticket. We had 25 graduate students at the game. So, the Thursday email was a reminder.

R: Now, we will have Helen Jolly taking about Peace Corps.

Helen: Hello. Many of you may have heard about Peace Corp as Federal agency that sending US citizens overseas. Most Peace Corps' programs are 2 years and 3 months. I am talking to you about Peace Corps because many of you are TAs and GAs, and also some of you don't know what you are going to do until you get your PhD. When the plans coming from professors, you realize that this is not what you want to do. So I'm here to let you know that I am on campus, and I'm in Career center from job hours. If you do want to discuss with the Peace Corps for you own personal wise strict you or for students you have, I am interested in any diversity events or diversity programs you might want going on after you grads. There're resources for you, for your students, and actually for yourselves. Have you ever been in Peace Corps? Since I'm interested in having you on my events.

Senator: You talked about diversity, so how can you help us? How do you track people from different country?

Helen: I'm interested in tracking a diverse number of candidates. So Peace Corps want to attract volunteers from other background, like people in math major or people are not white. That's what I mean by diversity. To the students looking for gap opportunity, or who didn't entirely set his career path, or who wants to do with international development should definitely come to me.

Senator: Do I have to be US citizen?

Helen: Yes, you have to be US citizen.

Senator: What's the Peace Corps?

Helen: It's US government program to send US citizen students overseas to work. And after 3 month of training, you can work. Partner countries require sectors that are educated to teach their own language. You can be the teacher of teachers, you can be the teacher of yourself and you can teach math and science. And the second matter is helping, help those who have HIV or other problem. So this are programs aid on how to teach people how HIV spread this kind of things. There's huge umbrella so people can find what he interested in here and get start with the training. You can find me in the career center and I will left something with all the information, if you are interested. Thanks!

R: Our next speaker will be Alyssa Adamson & John Martin and they will explain what's Graduate Queer Alliance.

John: Hi. I'm the president of Graduate Queer Alliance and I'm also the school's employee so there're other places you might know me from. So about GQA, we are graduate program offering community and open states for those who questioning students' going on campus. We meet every Tuesday at 7pm in the math tower 4125 and we have four series topic, sometimes we just quick talk and sometimes we watch public resources for universally comments, we also have ballgames and kinds of staff. And we also have the field trip twice a semester. Now we have our office, it's SAC 226 C. You can find tons of what we do, our programs on Facebook page, and for the coming semester, we will have office hour for students.

Treasurer's Report

R: I want to talk something about DTA. Monday is the last day to submit applications, and we have round 40 people applied for DTA, and we are going to go through it from now on. As the members of the DTA committee, we need to meet in the next week and review all the applications. I will organize all the applications and send them to the members of DTA. For this year, DTA will become to the most transparent as we can do.

Adjourn