

**Student Government
Board Meeting
2.29.2012 | 7:30 pm | WAS 3015**

1. Called to Order at 7:31 pm
 - a. Absent:
 - i. Alex (parody)
 - ii. Chandler (Celtics game)
 - iii. Jonny (flooded kitchen)
 - b. Missing:
 - i. Dan
 - c. Tardy:
 - i. Emanuel: 7:39 pm
 - ii. Greg: 7:40 pm
2. Check-ins
3. Student Govt Budget Disclosure
 - a. Dylan: Reasons for opposition of disclosure:
 - i. Not because of the way we spent our money - we didn't spend our money inappropriately
 - ii. Invites a lot of scrutiny - we can handle the scrutiny but it will distract us from our other goals
 1. DOS approves our budget and knows how much we are spending
 - iii. Other orgs may feel they have to disclose their budgets too
 1. Would turn competitive
 - iv. Rachna: It's all or nothing
 1. If we disclose this, it has to be fully informed
 2. If we disclose this, would it be weird to not disclose our minutes?
 3. It's weird to disclose partial information about operation
 - b. Bo: Who requested this disclosure?
 - i. Lisa Ma, Editor of HL Record
 - c. Skyler: There have been a few stories about us
 - i. The Motion to Table last meeting about the budget disclosure
 - ii. Encouraging us to disclose
 - d. Chinsky: Is this worth the hassle?
 - e. Skyler: Our motives are pure
 - i. Putting volunteers under scrutiny - what is the effect of that?
 - f. Victoria:
 - i. You are representing your section or your class. We are leaders, people trusted us. We must be as transparent as we can.
 - ii. If they want to know the budget, we can explain it to them.
 - g. Chas:
 - i. We are volunteering but it's representative government in a sense.
 - ii. The difficulty is not taking it personally. The way the article is written is personal.

- h. Dylan:
 - i. The relationship b/w DOS and SG regarding its budget is loose. We've earned their trust by spending responsibly.
 - ii. One compromise option: a vote to set up a series of procedures whereby budget disclosure would start next year
 - 1. Gives notice of how we expect to conduct things in the future
 - 2. Example: Can disclose the budget twice in the year, like November 1 and March 31 (or maybe March 1)
- i. Rachna:
 - i. We should make clear that our money comes from DOS
 - ii. Wouldn't be surprised if our money is cut if our budget is disclosed
 - iii. Could produce a domino effect
 - 1. They will ask for our minutes and then for open meetings and other stuff after that
 - iv. We are voting on a policy in general, not just this one question about the budget
- j. Daniel: Some of these issues are related to my suggestions
- k. Dylan: motion to finish this issue
 - i. Allison and Lakshmi: second
- l. Dylan: 3 options:
 - i. Put together disclosure materials now for this year
 - 1. Would have to work with SG
 - 2. Would happen before the end of March
 - ii. Pass a resolution saying that we will disclose our budget on a bi-annual basis
 - iii. Don't do any disclosure at all. The SG budget will not be disclosed for the foreseeable future.
- m. VOTE: need 50% majority
 - i. Favor of option 1: 6
 - ii. Favor of option 2: 10
 - iii. Favor of option 3: 1
 - iv. Abstained: 1
- n. Results: SG is committing itself to disclosing its budget starting next year
 - i. First disclosure: November 1
 - ii. All questions about our budget can be asked to us directly
 - iii. What to say to people: unprecedented level of transparency so we need to talk with DOS to get the proper procedures in place

4. Amendment Procedure

- a. Led by Skyler
- b. There's a procedure to get amendments discussed in SG
 - i. Need 5 signatures by people in SG
- c. Tiers of decisions
 - i. Constitution - hardest to pass
 - ii. Bylaws - a little easier but still difficult
 - iii. Regular decisions
- d. Procedure through which you can amend is listed in Article X of the Constitution
- e. After Lina pointed out we weren't in strict compliance, we decided to follow the letter of the law
- f. Both Daniel/Emanuel & Rachna/Chinsky submitted bylaw amendments to discuss. Both failed to meet a requirement.
 - i. Daniel/Emanuel - didn't get 5 signatures
 - ii. Rachna/Chinsky - not 24 hours in advance
- g. Lina:
 - i. In future, cut out some of the things in the Constitution that we don't put into practice
 - ii. An email to everyone would have been helpful - for example, let everyone know that we're going to stick to the Constitution
 - iii. SG needed notice to look to the Constitution for the rules and that the rules would be implemented now
- h. Daniel: Doesn't seem like stuff goes through when a general member tries to submit something
- i. Skyler: Rules were consistently applied
 - i. VP's suggestion didn't go through either
 - ii. Rules were fairly applied
- j. Chinsky: let's move on

5. Bylaw Disclosure

- a. Led by Skyler
 - i. This was the result of a request by Lisa Ma
 - ii. Anytime we pass a bylaw, we don't post it anywhere and we don't email it out
- b. Rachna:
 - i. She asked for the handout of the amendments that were passed. We post our Constitution online, but we've never posted our bylaws online.
- c. Greg: It's in the best interests of everyone to post the bylaws.
 - i. Doesn't mean people will know how we made every decision, but they should know the procedure
- d. Lakshmi: I concur
- e. Dylan: motion to vote
 - i. Seconded
- f. VOTE: Voting to disclose immediately
 - i. Approved: 16

- ii. Opposed: 0
- iii. Abstained: 2

6. Co-sponsorship of the blood drive
 - a. Led by Robin
 - i. Have asked the Republicans if we can co-sponsor with them again
 - ii. They only want to sponsor with us and not ACS anymore b/c they thought ACS did nothing
 - iii. Robin suggested reaching out to HLS Dems
 - iv. Now the Republicans are discussing this suggestion
 - b. Rachna:
 - i. We don't want to look like we're favoring the Republicans
 - c. Dylan: reach out to HLS Dems
 - d. VOTE:
 - i. Cosponsor with them no matter what: 11
 1. Still try to get the Dems
 - ii. Cosponsor with them, conditioned on getting another balancing group: 4
 - iii. Don't cosponsor with them at all:
 - iv. Abstain: 2
7. Closed meetings?
 - a. Currently, meetings are open unless they decide to close the meetings
 - b. Dylan: Would be opposed to having closed meetings b/c that's bad for transparency
 - i. However, I would like a system for something like reporters
 1. Need to know the bounds of what reporters can note down and what they can't
 - ii. Policy of closing meetings is bad
 - iii. Also bad to talk about individual opinions of members
 - c. Daniel: for transparency
 - d. Lakshmi: don't mention specific names
 - e. Michael: we can say that SG said this but we shouldn't use names
 - f. Greg: need to take our time to think about what we want to do if it's going to be memorialized
 - g. Rachna: let's match our own behaviors to the reporter's and not quote people
 - h. Lakshmi:
 - i. We can make rules for publicity, like when a reporter comes into this room
 - ii. But the leak was by someone in this room, so I was just suggesting that for us, we ourselves should not disclose who said what
 - i. Daniel: As a general principle, everything should be open
8. Need volunteers regarding RA
 - a. So we need 7 SG volunteers
 - b. First meeting is March 6
 - c. The meetings after will be once a month
 - d. Rachna will send an email
9. Pre-parody Pub Night from 6-7:30 pm this Friday at the Pub Servery
 - a. We will have more money!

b. Wear your SG shirts!

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm