MINUTES
Fifth Meeting of the Eighteenth University Student Senate
Monday, September 10, 2018 | 5:30 PM | The Presidents’ Lounge

I. Call to Order

Speaker Estes
5:30 pm

II. Roll Call

Speaker Estes

III. Prayer

Secretary Mullin

IV. New Business

A. Administrative Presentation

David Beaupré - Vice President of Financial Affairs

5:34 pm

Personal life notes:
• attended catholic schools for his whole life
• previously worked at Loyola (MD), Dusquenne and made the acquaintance of Dr. Reed

Responsibilities:
• facilities
• internal audit
• all budgeting (operating and capital)
• IT

Operating Budget:
• +/- $300 million
• process starts by building revenue (University Leadership Council, University Budget Committee)
• ends with Board approval of budget
• set tuition
  ○ spends a lot of time on this issue
  ○ try to minimize increases as much as possible
  ○ many assumptions considered (how many of each type of student)
  ○ “the days of 5% increases are long gone”
• cuts always need to be made to balance the budget
  ○ departments
  ○ staff/faculty
  ○ to minimize these:
    ■ must become more efficient
    ■ must zero in on what students want
• invest heavily in financial aid, but this puts a strain on the budget, does it anyway because they know it's important
• expenses
  ○ 1. facilities
  ○ 2. personnel
  ○ 3. financial aid
Capital Budget:
• endowment ($300 million)
  ○ grown significantly over past several years
  ○ Committee that oversees it
  ○ outsourced Financial Advisor
Other considerations:
• what improvements does the University need (facilities)
  ○ 114 acres = a lot of upkeep
  ○ priority of maintenance (residence halls > academic buildings > other buildings)
  ○ compare SJU’s projected spending with that of other universities
  ○ Campus Master Plan
    ■ being finalized now
    ■ many different focal points, projects being prioritized
    ■ long-term plan
    ■ once the projects are finalized, their budgets will be finalized
• recruitment and retention of faculty and staff
• SJU’s debt
○ does exist, budgeting always goes to paying that off
○ pricing strategy
  ▪ phase 1 - undergraduate cost report (fees and charges, very complex)
    ▪ compared our tuition to 10 competitive universities
    ▪ 3/10 of these universities are state universities, so SJU’s aid is much more, but so is SJU’s financial aid
    ▪ increase in tuition last year was lowest in university history
    ▪ 2.5% increase in tuition this year, no change in fees and charges (has never happened before)
  ▪ phase 2 - graduate cost report
  ▪ interested in hearing feedback about getting upperclassmen to stay on campus

Feedback from the floor:
  ▪ housing issues:
    ▪ competitive rent prices
    ▪ building new housing closer to campus
    ▪ from hawk:
      ○ what is the plan with layoffs? >
      ○ minimize expenses
    ▪ SJU senior:
      ○ why don’t scholarships increase to the same percentage that tuition increases? > has to look into that more
  ▪ Senator Cox
    ○ explain more about financial aid >
  ▪ President D’Antonio
    ○ are we in an optimal state? if not, what can we do to get there?
      ▪ our debt is rated by two different rating associations
      ▪ S&P gives us A- with stable outlook
      ▪ looks at financial (recently bumped to strong outlook) and soft components
- finances are very strong compared to other universities
- endowment, are there any stipulations the board gives with the endowment?
  - in light of adjustments being made, what needs to change going forward?
  - 50% of the endowment each year goes to the operating budget
  - the larger the endowment, the bigger the budget, taking pressure off of the strain on tuition
  - if there was a year the entire endowment wasn’t needed, it can be left in the endowment to grow
  - this year we needed all of it

- VP Bateman
  - what is the change management process regarding the positions that were cut for faculty?
    - *don’t comment on things like this*

- Just Employment Initiative
  - comment on intense layoffs that took place, should they be expected again?
    - “layoffs aren’t easy on anyone, those are very difficult decisions”
    - no way to tell about future
    - tries to manage them with attention to the SJU family-like community

- Senator Young
  - range of IPS increase
    - public document
    - states have ranges and laws that dictate those

- Senator Ramirez
  - tuition increase, do you see it going up or down for the next year based on trends?
    - different scenarios provided for the board
    - Dr. Reed intent on keeping increases as low as possible

- Senator Sharman
○ what is the sense of job security for similar positions? seniority or merit?
  ■ internal decisions, each department is different
  ■ people often work for universities/non-profits think they have a job
    for the rest of their lives, but now that is changing
  ■ case by case basis

- Senator Lutz
  ○ how are we rated as an organization?
    >
    ■ strong outlook maintained
    ■ public document

- Senator Momo
  ○ how does the Board decide where the budget goes for renovations?
    ■ decided internally
    ■ exhaustive study of residence halls
    ■ prioritized list established in master plan

- SJU Senior
  ○ short breakdown of how students will be affected
    ■ pricing study
    ■ SGA untouched

- Senator Cox
  ○ has university considered a back-up plan for those who are ‘left in a lurch’?
    ■ if there is a change in financial situation, financial aid office deals with it
    ■ there are some ‘emergency funds’ administered through Office of Student Success, but they are limited

6:08 pm
B. Financial Update  
Treasurer Efstration

Timeline:
- April 18 - Treasurer Efstration elected and acquired SBAC Chair
May 18 - Beth and Efstration had discussion about policy change in SBAC, in years past the money has been over spent and it can’t be any more

June 18 -
- President D’Antonio reached out to Jesuit universities across the country
- 10 universities reached back out with constructive input, conversations continue
- SJU layoffs and changes

June - July 18 -
- Senator addressed letters to admin Dr. John Jeffery
  - SBAC funding shortages (that come from student activities fee) ($108,000 needed to support SBAC)
  - Last year’s budget vs. this year’s budget (graphic)
    - the new budgets do not exceed what organizations spent last year
    - contingency = emergency fund for if anyone does not have enough money for something
  - distribution of budget
    - largest - SUB
    - second largest - SBAC
- adjustment proposal on SAF distribution

August 18 - Student Activities Fee (SAF) funded organizations vote on proposal of budget distribution - passed

September 18 - to come
- SBAC Reform Committee to be formed
  - stakeholder groups gathered
  - set up meetings throughout September
  - objectives
    - discuss new policy changes
    - propose new systems and procedures
- Normal SBAC operations to begin October 1st
- Tentative first meeting of SBAC Reform Committee - October 4th
Questions:

- Senator Kloss - when can student organizations who are not recognized start requesting funds?
  - after October 1st, form will become available on website then
  - if they need them sooner, the earliest they could start using the website preemptively would be late September
  - internal budgets must be utilized until then - no guarantees

- Senator Ramirez - has SBAC been overspending? you said that most organizations have not been
  - SBAC - yes, it was the only one that was, hence this issue
  - last year, overspending was sizable
  - delay between allocations and spending
  - redistributions only for this year (we are not being environmentally insensitive - in response to Green Fund’s large hit), cuts not based on importance on campus

- Gallery - where does spring concert fall?
  - SBAC
  - called “spring event”
  - this year it was given $96,000 (from $100,000 base funding)
  - expecting about $20,000 in ticket sales for revenue factored into budget
  - a one pager will be coming out to clubpres alias

- Senator Young - when did the meeting take place? Is the $96,000 part of the $154,800 allocated to SBAC?
  - first thursday of school year was when the meeting took place?
  - $96,000 is additional to SBAC’s $154,000 (SBAC will have $15

IV. New Business (cont.)

C. Swearing In - At-Larges

6:32 pm - Sworn in by President D’Antonio

V. Approval of the Minutes

A. August 27, 2018
IV. New Business (cont.)

D. Resignations

President D'Antonio

6:35 pm - resignation accepted

VI. Old Business

A. Freshman Elections Update

Senator Stevenson and Senator Corbett

● 12 packets accepted
● Speeches at 5:30 in North lounge (come at 5 if you want!)
● Encourage freshman to vote

VII. Reports

A. Secretary Mullin - Ministry

● encourage SIDC representatives to attend meetings in light of August’s resignation
● big changes coming for SIDC
● 3 initiatives in the works, going to be kept up with

B. Speaker Estes - Slack Vote

● Senator Young - different channels, separate people by what they are working on and interested in (BTG and others)

● Senator Ramirez -
  ○ first time using slack
  ○ Groupme is widely used
  ○ Groupme is better on phones, and everyone is on the phone, better to reach people
  ○ communication has been quiet

● Senator Kloss -
  ○ didn’t realize that you have to click #group, Groupme is more visible, Slack is less intuitive

● Treasurer Efstration -
  ○ slack has taken the causal nature of senate out of the picture
  ○ you can’t like things as easily

● Vice President Bateman
past administrations have been fun in Groupme
Slack is professional, maybe it would work if we are getting paid
people were slacking on getting on Slack
important things will come out on email

- Senator Focht
  - easily channels not easily accessed
  - you can have other Groupmes

- Secretary Neece
  - likes slack, but Groupme is better for Senate

6:48 pm

- VOTE:
  - Slack - 4
  - **Groupme** - 21
  - Abstentions - 1

C. Breakout Sessions (Secretaries meet with their Chairs, other Senators meet with President D’Antonio, Vice President Bateman, and Treasurer Efstration) - 15 minutes

D. President’s Report

- student leaders present at the beginning of the meeting = great, this is what we want throughout the year
- continue to support freshman elections - Steven will be sending out flyers
- T-shirt swap will be coming back! Philly Special
- Chairs, reach out to contacts and organizations to present

E. Vice President’s Report

- we will update the Groupme
- get a polo if you don’t have one

F. Director Bradley

- fill out bio form (will come out in recap email)
- interviews for communications assistant coming out now
- continue to support freshman elections
G. Secretary Neece
• apply for chair positions (CDC, Library, Bookstore)
• Registrar Search Committee - Senator Esteves

H. Secretary Jones
• met with Dr. Anderson
• got update on public safety, to presented at Senate meeting with Public Safety

VIII. Advisory Advice
Cary Anderson, Ed. D.
• has never had this role here, but has done it elsewhere. Happy to be back!
• Kudos to Dr. Perry, he hopes to fill her shoes
• wants to help with communication and transparency
• lookout for Saxbys
• good work on the budget piece - no one will be worse-off than they were at the end

IX. Chaplain’s Chat
Fr. Dan Joyce, S.J.
• Father Joyce had to leave!

X. Open Forum

XI. Adjournment
7:12 pm - motion to adjourn Senator Young