



Student Life and Interest Committee

November 3rd, 2017
Union EG8o

Roll Call

Dakota Crowell-Present
Zen Johnston- Present
Blake Washington-Present
Liz Papandria-Present
Joshua Meyer-Unexcused
Abbie Johnson-Excused
New guy-Excused

Call to order at 4:16PM

I. Reports

II. Open Forum

a. *No members wishing to speak*

III. Approval of the Agenda

IV. Approval of the Minutes

V. Special Orders

a. Election of Vice Chair

i. Motion by Washington to elect Papandria to the position of vice-chair, seconded by Johnston.

1. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote

VI. Old Business

a. None

VII. New Business

a. Freedom of Speech

i. We have been tasked by SA Senate to plan a response to the recent board of regent free speech policy.

1. Crowell is concerned that the policy is hypocritical and may infringe on free speech and also that "disruption" is not clearly defined.

2. Member of the public, John McCune is concerned that the policy may limit free speech.

3. Member of the public McAdams agrees with McCune that the definition of disruption must be well-defined

4. Johnston mentions that student constituents should be prioritized over wants of administration.

5. Crowell agrees with Johnston that students, particularly minority students who may be affected by speakers like Milo Yianopolous, should be prioritized by SA

6. Papandria feels that students should be prioritized over people that come to the University.

7. Washington points out that the legislation feels right-wing politically biased. Washington elaborates that this university has all members of the political spectrum, and far left-leaning politically oriented people tend to be more open-minded than right-leaning people.
 8. Papandria understands where Washington is coming from, but if we don't want a hypocritical response, then if student orgs want to bring the speakers, it is their right.
 9. McAdams mentions that the institution is bound by rules of neutrality.
 10. Singh says administrators must look at what all students want, and reminds that neither side of the political spectrum is without fault. Speakers must also be held accountable for endangering students' safety. There should be some consequence for disrupting an event.
 11. Washington points out that protestors will often freely accept consequences, and that suspension in college is often more devastating than a suspension in high school. He also feels that the punishment of expulsion or suspension doesn't fit the crime.
 12. Johnston reminds that action must be taken and discussion alone will not be productive. They suggest the possibility of a resolution in opposition to the policy's lack of definition to disruption, and unreasonable level of punishment.
 13. McAdams is curious for the possibility of asking other students and orgs for their opinions.
 14. Singh agrees with Johnston's ideas for a resolution
 15. Papandria feels that a statement would be more impactful than a demonstration like a march.
 16. Washington feels a statement may not be pressuring enough. He feels that the resolution must have demands.
 17. Crowell sees value in the resolution, but also wants to make sure that students are informed, possibly via an event or demonstration.
 18. Johnston moves that SLIC draft a resolution in opposition to the Board of Regent Policy 10906, specifying that we as students understand the necessity for neutrality from the administration on controversial speakers, that we desire a clear definition of disruption, and that we feel the policy's punishments are not fitting of the transgression. Seconded by Papandria
 - a. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote
- b. Union Referendum letter
 - i. The executive board wrote a letter that will be shared on the SA website, union marketing will likely share it. The executive board has been signed by all members of the executive board
 - ii. Papandria mentions that she has heard positive feedback from students.
 - iii. Crowell says most students that he has met with don't want their fees to increase but recognize the necessity.
 - iv. Singh reminds us that people don't necessarily see the problems with the union.
 - v. There are also videos with the bandaids available online
 - vi. Crowell also clarifies that budget restructuring may need to happen regardless of the referendum.
 - c. UW-System Merger
 - i. Board of Regents will vote on this on November 9th, but the UW System Reps are working to get that vote pushed back.
 - ii. UW Waukesha has reached out to UWM SA to open channels of communication

- iii. Johnston feels that the merger going well will require a level of cooperation, communication, and willingness to listen that they have not come to expect from the Board of Regents or President Cross. Additionally, the manner in which the news was disclosed did not inspire confidence.

VIII. Questions/Concerns

- a. *None*

IX. Adjournment

- a. *Johnston moves to adjourn, seconded by Washington.*
- b. *Meeting adjourned at 5:20*

Submitted respectfully by Zen Johnston on Friday November 3rd.