



## Minutes: 2/17/2023

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call: President Tolman, Vice President Mcnowelly, Senator Cruz, Advisor Sorenson, Advisor Fiedler, Advisor Boughton  
Absent: Senator Ewing Thornton.
- III. Public Input
  - a. Dr. Brown-Herbst Student course fee changes for Agriculture & Equine pathway. Through an investigation of the budget due to budget irregularities, it was determined that some fees were higher than they should be, and other fees were lower than they needed to be. The proposed fee changes are a result of those efforts to examine their budgeting and re-evaluate their fees.
  - b. Dr. Brown- Herbst and Dr. Koslosky asked the Student Government to pass the updates to course fees to reconcile the budget for the next academic year.
    - i. A question was raised about their certification fee.
      1. Dean Koslosky explained that LCCC has to pay for this cost, which resulted in consistently going over budget year to year.
        - a. Vice President McNowelly asked if these fee proposals, while an increase, would address the issue of over-spending with the budget for BATS.
          - i. Dean Koslosky confirmed and also explained that moving these over to course fees allows students to use their financial aid to pay for these fees. She also elaborated that many of the fees make it possible to pay for the food and care for the animals that are required for the Ag Teams.
          - ii. Vice President McNowelly pointed out that this benefits all students within the ag programs and teams and Dean Koslosky clarified that all students, even students outside of Ag programs can join the teams, but the fees do go towards the Ag Teams.
  - c. Vice President Mcnowelly motioned to approve course fee changes
  - d. Senator Cruz made a 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - e. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Funding Requests
  - a. LCCC Rotaract Re-Allocation of Funds. Advisor Boughton explained Rotaract had excess travel funds due to being unable to attend a conference. They requested that the funds originally allocated for this conference be re-allocated to pay for expensed for the Armenian cultural event the club hosted. Rotaract was not able to request funding for this during the last cycle as they were not contacted about this opportunity until the Fall 2022 semester. This event was open to students and the public.
  - b. President Tolman asked if this would conflict with the SAFAC or any finance policies and procedures.

- c. Advisor Sorenson explained that it did not, and that the re-allocations request process is in place to allow groups to adjust allocated funds for different purposes when unanticipated things occur since requests are submitted so far in advance. Student groups just need to officially request for these changes to happen for SGA to review, which is why this is being brought for Senators to review and discuss and make a decision on whether or not to approve the request.
  - i. President Tolman responded he supported the event, but wanted to double check it fell within policy.
- d. Vice President McNowelly expressed she attended the event and was a great event to bring to the LCCC campus, so encouraged the request to be approved.
- e. Vice President motioned to approve the re-allocation request.
  - i. Senator Cruz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
  - ii. Passed unanimously.

#### V. Executive Reports

- a. President
  - i. Met with Dr. Shaffer and the meeting was focused on the Wyoming Legislation visit he was working on for Senators to join him for a day at the Capitol to observe the legislative process.
  - ii. Attended the February 15 Board of Trustees meeting and reported the bulk of the meeting discussed bills in the Wyoming Legislation concerning Wyoming community Colleges. Expressed there wasn't a lot of discussion regarding student issues.
- b. Vice President
  - i. Discussed Student engagement and the changing needs of student government with Dr. Stutz. They discussed what student engagement looks like and how this has changed.
  - ii. They discussed re-structuring SGA and looking at re-structuring how desk hours work to help accommodate this change in engagement and to help with recruitment and retainment with SGA.
- c. Dr. Stutz expressed she would like to see SGA put in some research and show evidence to support changes like this. Vice President McNowelly expressed she would look into this. Advisor Sorenson expressed this shouldn't just fall on one person and every Senator should contribute to this effort.
- d. Secretary: Approval of the minutes January 27<sup>th</sup> 2023
  - i. Vice President Mcnowelly made a motion to accept and approve the minutes for Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - ii. Senator Cruz made a 2<sup>Nd</sup>
  - iii. Motion passed unanimously.
- e. Treasurer: No Report.

#### VI. Committee Reports

- a. College Council: Next meeting is February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- b. ITGC Committee: Student representation is currently vacant.
- c. Food/Advisory Committee: No report, meeting is scheduled for later in the month.
- d. DEI Advisory Board: No Report.

#### VII. Advisor Reports:

- a. Advisor Sorenson put out a request to send out an email to students for feedback on the transition experience. The deadline was extended to March 10<sup>th</sup>. Senators are encouraged to engage in conversation with students on this topic. Dr. Koslosky used student feedback to alter transition experience in the fall and is looking for more input to further improve this initiative before it is piloted.
- b. Albany County Campus students will be observing LCCC Student Government to develop their role in Student Government. We are exploring incorporating positions onto SGA to represent ACC, so these

students will be observing the meetings, so they can help shape what a student representative position from ACC looks like.

- c. Advisor Boughton announced that E-sports team will be recognized at Sophomore night, and they seem to be improving including E-Sports with Athletics events; recognizing them more and celebrating their accomplishments.
- d. Advisor Fiedler reported the bookstore is likely not pursuing the inclusive access program as they are discussing the impact this would have on the Open Educational Resources initiative.

#### VIII. Old Business

- a. Stipend/senator expectations discussion. There was discussion and exploration of whether it is the time commitment or the money that deters students from participating and committing to Student Government. Advisor Sorenson posed the question: If more money were offered, would this be enough to get students to join, but more importantly be consistent with their commitment and fulfilling expectations of SGA. All Senators present expressed they did not join for the money or solely for the money. Some expressed they struggle with how much time is required and being asked to participate in meetings and events held at times that conflict with their class schedules or with very little advance notice that presents challenges because of their busy schedules.
- b. President Tolman felt like this is a non-issue, and expressed he didn't feel the way Student Government was structured has caused any issues. He expressed he felt SGA needed to focus more on increasing student engagement and SGA's presence on campus.
- c. A suggestion was made to re-visit working on and sending out a Newsletter.
  - i. Advisor Sorenson expressed that he felt it was important SGA finds a goal and focuses on one goal until completion. He expressed this has been an ongoing issue all year and a significant reason why SGA was struggling to follow-through on tasks, because of a lack of focus and seeing things through.
  - ii. He explained they have been discussing the Newsletter since late October, but were unable to produce anything tangible and were relying on the advisors to produce the content for the newsletter rather than contributing content of their own. Advisors should not be creating messaging or content like this coming from Student Government because it creates a conflict of interest, but more importantly the students need to be the driving force behind SGA.
  - iii. He expressed the Student Experience Email sent out was the result of Senators not contributing enough to the Newsletter efforts, but consistently expressing it was important to inform the students about this upcoming change and opportunity to submit feedback considering how significant of a change this was going to be. So, re-visiting the Newsletter didn't feel like a productive route to take and asked what Senators felt was important for students to know about outside of the Student Transition Experience that is prompting wanting to re-visit the Newsletter.
    - 1. Senators struggled to identify any student issues, and a suggestion was then made to inform students about upcoming athletic games.
    - 2. Advisor Sorenson explained the purpose of the newsletter was to inform students about student issues and Student Government's role as their representatives, so part of that role is to communicate what they learn is being discussed about student issues at the various campus meetings they serve on such as College Council, meetings with administrators, etc. He also added, it was also meant to make them aware and invite them to use SGA as a resource to share their concerns and feedback for student issues,

so as representatives, they could share out those concerns and feedback to the campus committees they serve on.

- a. Advisor Sorenson pointed to the example of E-Sports coming to speak at an SGA meeting for Public Input and then the Senators sharing that out with College Council and the administrators they meet with.
3. Advisor Sorenson explained focusing on discussing upcoming athletic events defeats the purpose of what the Newsletter was intended for.
  - a. Advisor Boughton also pointed out, there are already other channels and platforms used to promote the athletic games and agreed that SGA has already gone to efforts to inform students about the student transition experience and if there are not other student issues they have to communicate out to students, focusing on a Newsletter for the purposes of event promotion doesn't seem like a productive area to focus on.
  - iv. Advisor Sorenson expressed that they have been discussing the issue of engagement/recruitment for SGA and discussing stipends and SGA expectations as potential causes behind this decline and exploring adjusting these for most of the semester, yet now they are once again discussing the Newsletter that is a completely separate project that they struggled to contribute to. He pointed out this seemed counter-productive and they need to consider the lack of follow-through on accomplishing tasks between meetings and determine what SGA wants to focus on the remainder of the year and stick to one goal and see it through.
- d. This discussion lead to dropping the pursuit of exploring stipend increased and re-structuring of SGA to shift focus on establishing more of a presence for SGA on campus.
- e. Vice President Mcnowelly motioned to explore creating a bulletin board focused on communication to students to be mounted on the wall by the SGA Desk in order to establish a presence on campus.
  - i. Senator Cruz made a 2nd.
  - ii. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. Tasks to be completed before next week's meeting were assigned to the following:
  - i. President Tolman will measure wall space by SGA desk to establish corkboard size and report measurements in the Teams channel.
  - ii. Vice President Mcnowelly and Senator Cruz will price corkboards of that size to bring and report out on at the next meeting for Feb. 17
  - iii. SGA will vote on a budget for that item at the Feb. 17 meeting.

IX. New Business: No new business.

X. Adjourn

- a. Vice President Mcnowelly motioned to adjourn
- b. Senator Cruz made a 2<sup>nd</sup>
- c. Passed unanimously.