

Senate Minutes April 10th, 2024

This working meeting was begun by Brad Hill at 6:03 PM

- Brad:
 - Thank you for agreeing to serve your colleges on campus
 - Most important job you will have on campus this year
 - Associate director of Memorial Union and advisor
 - Here to serve you, not control you, and avoid barriers from the university's bureaucracy
 - What it means to sit around the circle
 - Take the job seriously
 - Live casts, the administrations watch this
 - The Daily is here, they have an obligation to report it
 - Everything you do is news
 - What you do outside of this room is also news
 - Have to make sure you are a good representative
 - Be respectful of each other
 - You can disagree with a policy or a stance but that does not mean you have to hate the person
 - Argue the facts
 - Make sure you are actively listening and how you are speaking
 - Make this a priority
 - Meet deadlines
 - Don't wait until the last minute to start projects
- Amanda: director of lectures on campus
 - Faculty senate parliamentarian
 - Welcome to student government
 - Trains GPSS each year as well
 - Turn your placard to ask a question
 - What is parliamentary procedure?
 - Set of rules to help meetings flow smoothly
 - Everyone can speak
 - Consistency
 - Federal -> state -> board or regents policy -> university policy -> constitution -> bylaws -> rules of legislative branch (RLB) -> tradition/custom -> robert's rules (RR)
 - Read the constitution!

- Don't rely on customs, makes the processes difficult to understand for newcomers
- Only one issue can be discussed at a time
- All senators have equal rights to speak/vote/object/etc.
- Chair is always impartial (vice-president)
- Useful scripts to have clear and consistent communication
- RLB has specific guidelines for the weekly meetings
 - 1.7.1
 - 3 minute committee reports, senators get one question each
 - External matters: people that are not involved with student government
 - Internal matters:
 - Special orders: seating/confirming new members
 - General orders: legislation you will vote on
 - New business: legislation you see for the first time
 - Closing announcements are limited to 5 minutes
- Legislation rules:
 - Has to be submitted to the speaker at a specific date
 - Needs two sponsors
 - Will be referred to a committee if needed
 - Can suggest amendments to be considered
 - Vote favorably, no bias, or unfavorably
- Reading legislation:
 - First read is an introduction, not voted on right away
 - Time to ask questions, do research, etc.
 - 5 minutes
 - Single yes or no question can be asked per senator
 - For seating/confirmation there is only one read required
 - Second read:
 - 5 minutes to speak about legislation
 - Chair will open for debate
 - Opportunity to ask questions and state why you are for or against it
 - Limited to 45 minutes
 - 15 minutes to amend something
 - Limited to speaking twice per motion
 - Can be done consecutively
 - Chair can grant additional speaking privileges
 - 5 minutes for closing comments
 - Yielding time:
 - Can give time to someone either in or outside of the senate
 - Cannot force someone to yield time, this has to be voluntary

- Voting:
 - Motions:
 - Roll call, division of the body, unanimous consent
 - Any senator can call for a roll call vote for any vote
 - Unanimous consent is typically for simple matters
 - Can be efficient but also dangerous
 - Use sparingly
 - Not typically for financial or controversial matters
 - Financial Legislation:
 - Has to be done with unanimous consent
- Call to question
 - Requires a second
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote
 - Amendable but not debatable
- Waive first read:
 - Might be done for a deadline
 - Should not be done routinely
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote
 - Amendable but not debatable
- Overriding an Executive Order:
 - Has to be done within two senate meetings
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote of all senators (not just the ones present)
- Motions
 - Begins with a motion
 - If there is no second, the motion dies
 - A second does not mean you support the bill, you support the opportunity to discuss it
 - Open to debate is when amendments can be considered
 - Can ask to have a roll call vote at any time
 - Once the vote is done, there needs to be a record of the result
- Common motions:
 - Main Motion: what you're being asked to debate
 - Subsidiary motion: what is applied to the main motion
 - Amending, extending debates, waiving first read
 - Ajourning or recess
 - Postpone the bill indefinitely: essentially kills the legislation
- Speaking without recognition of the chair:
 - Point of order:
 - Rules violation
 - Appeal the decision of the chair

- Call back to the orders of the day (bring back to the agenda)
 - Rescind or amend something previously adopted:
 - Must be on the winning side of the debate
- Hypotheticals for how rules work in real time
- Senator's duties and responsibilities:
 - Frequent and concerted efforts with constituencies and councils
 - Serve on one committee
 - Online directory up to date and relevant
 - Attend all meetings
 - 1 weekly hour in the student government office
 - No personal use of cellphone or computer during meeting
- PowerPoint will be made available for looking back on
- Do not expect immediate answers
- Azhan: Thank you for presenting, I have two questions. Firstly, can the senate bypass the finance committee?
 - There is a very specific procedures for waiving committee rules
- Azhan: My second question is do we need to have a second after an objection or can it immediately be put to debate?
 - Normally you would not debate to a second
 - There must be a vote, but this is allowed (it would just limit debate)
- Cecil: Rules and bylaws are now in one document together. Just for people looking for them.
 - That means you have to change a rule the same way you would change a bylaw

This meeting was called to order by Quinn Margrett at 7:11 PM.

- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Program: Overview of Documents and Teams
 - Legislative (may be hidden)
 - Bills, Minutes, and Agendas
 - A guide to student government
 - Governing documents
 - Also has templates for bills and agenda
- Open forum: no representatives
- Adopting the agenda
 - Moved and seconded
- Adopting the previous minutes
 - Moved and seconded
- Comments from Judicial Branch:

- Inauguration last night
- One resignation this week
 - Two seats available
- Comments from advisors:
 - Email with instructions about office doors and Teams channels
 - MIS will be ready soon to be updated
 - Make a meeting as needed
 - Looking forward to working with all of you
 - Kristine's office is on the first floor in student engagement and Brad's office is on the third floor
 - Let us know what you need
 - Keep an eye out for links to book meetings
- Comments from executive branch:
 - Mandatory that cabinet members show up to the first 45 minutes of senate
 - Bi-weekly meetings with cabinet members
 - Azhan: Could you talk about the interview process?
 - Full cabinet of nominees
 - Went to polisci club and web development club for outreach
 - 12 hours of interviews
- 2024-1-00 SG:
 - Open the floor for nominations:
 - Gopa: I nominate Senator Everheart
 - Everheart: I accept
 - Rowles: I nominate Senator Momaney
 - Momaney: I accept
 - Cecil: I nominate Senator Gopa
 - Gopa: I accept
 - Everheart: Hello everyone, I am the previous vice speaker in the third session.
 - From a small town in Indiana
 - Junior in agriculture communication
 - With more voices in the room I expect a more vibrant conversation
 - Speaker acts as the rules committee, which I have sat in one or two times
 - I have experience as a parliamentarian in FFA, and experience in Rules committee
 - I am very familiar with the bylaws, via Cecil's wild goose chase
 - 10 hours in the student government office
 - Other than my Monday night sorority events I am free
 - Aims for a warm and bubbly environment
 - We went through five speakers last year
 - Communication is key

- Thank you, ask questions as you'd like
- Momaney:
 - I am so excited to see new faces
 - Junior in global resource system
 - 3rd term
 - I wish I would have known some things sooner within the journey
 - Excel beyond designated responsibilities
 - Establishment of a pathway program
 - Mutual agreement that we should learn our government documents
 - Mentor/mentee program
 - Which in previous years has failed
 - 56 page document (by-laws)
 - Huge document which can be scary for newcomers
 - Baby by-laws
 - An easily digestible version of the bylaws
 - Reference to help people get their footings
 - Wants it to be less overwhelming
 - Build community and comfortability
 - Excited for the opportunities
 - I want to work with and for you all
 - “The future belongs to those who prepare for it today” -Malcom X
- Gopa:
 - Computer science and entrepreneurship double major
 - Two years in student government
 - Experience writing bills
 - Project checklist meetings
 - Talk about ambitions and projects senators want to implement
 - Better culture and team bonding
 - Strength based leadership
 - Mentor/mentee program restart
 - Optimizing office hours
 - Better schedule
 - Collaboration
 - Provide senators with resources
- Margrett: each senators has two separate speaking privileges, each nominee with answer the questions
- Azhan: How confident are you within our knowledge of student government?
 - Everheart: I feel confident in doing my job effectively, my previous role gave me a lot of insight. There is internal conflict resolution and by-law knowledge.

- Momaney: I am very confident in my ability to fulfill the role. I am in good standing with the previous speaker, and I am confident in my ability to reach out. I have great problem solving skills, I will work to be unbiased and make decisions in an unbiased and just manner.
 - Gopa: I am confident to fulfill the role of speaker. I have been in a couple committees and collaborated with other senators. The by-laws are a document that I would read to find the answer people are looking for. I feel that I could stop conflict pretty well as I do a lot of logic based problem solving in my major.
 - Rowles: Speaker is a very time heavy and taxing role. Do you feel you are ready for those duties?
 - Everheart: It is ten hours a week in the office, and last semester I spent lots of time in the office and am ready to continue that. It does take a toll on you, but it is something that I can push through and am able to take that next step.
 - Momaney: My next semesters are a light load comparatively, I enjoy being in the office space already so I have no worries about my ability to be committed to the role. I have experienced lots of events that have made me a stronger person that is prepared for just about anything. I appreciate a challenge and am willing to seek help if my mental health calls for that.
 - Gopa: this semester I took 24 credits, and next semester I am doing 17 credits. I know where mental health resources on campus are. I am quitting solar cars, and student government will be my main focus.
 - Cecil: This role calls for the ability to say no, or to put bills on the agenda you may not agree with. How comfortable are you with being uncomfortable?
 - Everheart: I can personally attest to that with bills I have resigned as vice-speaker. In the end we are elected, and we will abide by our rules. That decision is not for me, it is for the Rules committee and the body as a whole.
 - Momaney: We all have a job to do here. I have been uncomfortable many times, and don't want to be complacent. Everyone should be unbiased, and at the end of the day it is for the senate to make those decisions.
 - Gopa: I work on a lot of engineering projects and have had to say no to them which I am used to. I am in uncomfortable situations most of the day. It is good to have people around you that disagree with you. Disagreeing makes situations better.
 - Azhan: Could you talk about your strengths and weaknesses?
 - Everheart: I have struggled with staying organized in the past. When my desk was cluttered my mind was cluttered. This is something I have made strides especially in college. My strength is

communication. It is my major, I am open and honest, which is why it would be my greatest strength

- Momany: My weakness is that I have so many ideas that it is hard to prioritize. By figuring out what is feasible or making an impact is what is helpful. Trying to pinpoint what I want to do. My strength is that I am flexible. I have an open mind and am willing to listen to people even if I disagree with them.
- Gopa: One weakness was micromanaging. I would want to be involved without allowing others. I have combatted this by letting others be in charge. I would delegate. I am very driven, I have done a lot of tasks and I don't think I have left anything unfinished.
- Kammeyer: All of you mentioned some program or project you want to work on. What is something you are most passionate about you'd like to work on right away?
 - Everheart: the mentor/mentee project, which is something that is crucial with so many new faces. I have a framework of what I'd like this to look like. I was starting to work on this last session, but I would like to hit the ground running with that via a speed dating activity. Accountability within the meetings would also be a priority.
 - Momany: The first year of the mentor/mentee program I was still confused and lost. I will be trying to start a new program to help them find the project they'd like to do. I would use a board as a question and others can write back, which would be anonymous and take off pressure. Also my baby by-laws so it is not so nerve wracking to open the documents.
 - Gopa: My would be the project checklist program. 15 minute meetings would start next week. Feasibility analysis and then connecting people with resources to help get things done.
- Udoka: How would you resolve internal conflicts?
 - Everheart: internal conflict is something that chief officers deal with as a whole, which is something I have had experience with. There are specific measures you can take, you can also refer to the judicial branch, but it comes down to having an open and honest conversation.
 - Momany: As far as Senate issues, those go to the speaker and rules committee. I would make a just choice, and be unbiased and compassionate. My main priority would be being unbiased to make the best judgment.

- Gopa: It is down to bias. I would have no bias, and I would listen to people to get to the root of the issue. We're all adults here so let's be respectful and keep everything on the floor, on the floor. Treat everyone with respect and be as unbiased as possible.
- Debate:
 - Azhan: All of these three candidates are awesome. We are looking for someone that you resonate with. Personally I will be voting for Momaney. Everheart is more creative, and Gopa is more driven towards projects. There are three different classifications. I will vouch for Momaney.
 - Pursley: I think that one of the most important skills is having experience and being level headed. Momaney has the most experience in the Rules committee, and I think she would help everyone with a level headed mindset.
 - Schnieder: I also will be backing Momaney. She conducts herself with next level professionalism and she would do a great job connecting new senators with newer senators.
 - Veirregger: Everheart asked me what question embodies me, which made me feel very calm. She told me I did a good job afterwards, and I think she would be the best choice.
 - Mbuwayesango: Experience is something very important, I think we need someone who has had this experience. I would like to give Everheart my vote, as she has had experience and Everheart can connect with more people when we have challenges.
 - Rowles: I think Everheart is an amazing person who has filled her role very well. She relaxes you and brings you back to Earth when you are new and overwhelmed. She is willing to ask for your opinion and has done a good job as a vice-speaker.
 - Cecil: All three candidates would do a great job. I think Momaney would do really well with the amount of stress put on you in the job. She would not be worried about others opinions and is very strong.
 - Azhan: I have a personal experience with Everheart, she panics when things are last minute and we need someone who is a strong woman who can confidently say no.
 - Pursley: I also think it is important to remember that the vice speaker is more of a friendly face. The speaker is trying to keep us calm and it is a very hard position to do well with a very specific personality.
 - Moran: I agree that anyone we choose will be a good option. I believe that we are in a good position where we can make a difference. Senator Gopa would be a good voice because he will ensure we get things done in our position.

- Schnieder: I think Everheart will do a great job as vice-speaker but I think there is no one better for the job than Momaney.
 - Clarification:
 - Azhan: to Senator Everhart. Can you talk about calmness and what your coping mechanism is?
 - When it comes to conflicts, finding someone that they can trust such as the speaker or the advisor. I am in the process of finding a therapist, and confident in my ability to be calm.
 - Peddasani: to Senator Gopa: How do you plan on getting projects done and ensure they are not being rushed?
 - Have an oversight by being there at the start, and then having a co-author to help them. Making sure that the project is feasible then it will make sure the projects get done.
 - Schnieder: to Senator Everheart: being speaker is a much more stressful position, do you think you will be emotionally and mentally ready to handle this position?
 - I am actively seeking out coping mechanisms. I have become better equipped to deal with this through my experience as vice-speaker. It boils down to effective communication and makes sure everyone is on the same page.
 - Jones: to Senator Momaney: How would you take care of a stressed new senator?
 - I have worked with children before and this has truly equipped me. We will get through things and find a solution. Mistakes are natural, so I would make sure people take a step back and reassure me.
 - Peddasani: to all three: How are you saying no?
 - Everheart: saying no can be difficult but it is part of the job. I have struggled with this in the past but I have had to say no as vice-speaker. Creating a more strict deadline about submitting bills would be something that would help.
 - Momaney: I have worked with kids for a long time, and I have given a yes with each no.
 - Gopa: I have been saying no for a long time and feel I can do a good job as a speaker.
 - Kammeyer: to Senator Gopa: How do you see your proposed meetings going?
 - 15 minute meetings to get to know you better and what projects you want to implement and give a list of resources as well as follow ups.

improve both internal and external communication. Making a list of all of our officials and what they do so that people can access a resource within projects. I also want to tell student's what we do. Improving how we show students what we do here within outreach events and things like that.

○ Questions:

- Azhan: One of the responsibilities is to make sure everyone is welcome. What are the specific activities you will implement?
 - Pursley: I have been a camp counselor and we have done a lot of social emotional learning which I would love to implement in student government. It's about decisions but more specifically where they come from.
 - Everheart: Working meetings of the speed dating activity to better pair you for the pathway program, a know your rights session in order to help you resolve conflict. Also, some retreat ideas that I have discussed previously.
 - Gopa: Social time 15 minutes before the Senate, as well as a shared time table to make sure people can see when you will be in the office. I want to have fun outside together, and play sports with each other to do team building activities.
 - Rowles: Using the retreat as a way to get to know people and find your group. Working meetings as a way to get to know people. It is refreshing to get to know people beyond their last name.
- Nevenhoven: If you were elected what would be your method of keeping yourself and others organized?
 - Pursley: I really like spreadsheets, and I feel that seeing a central place to see what others are working on. This would increase communication and get to know what is important to other people.
 - Everheart: A better utilization of our Teams outlet. I would love to implement a calendar to make sure we are using those resources to the best of our ability.
 - Gopa: I would do everything in calendar format. I would also use automatic notifications about projects.
 - Rowles: Personal organization is something necessary for my major. I had issues with that my first semester but getting to know your limits and your strengths, as well as using your resources (such as Teams) and having a more thought out calendar.
- Kammeyer: What is a specific trait you have that would exemplify this role?
 - Pursley: I have all of Hamilton memorized which I feel is very important for this role because he is the number one go-getter.

- Everheart: I love glitter, and I love to bring this to the organization. I want to shine a light and bring positive energy to the student government.
 - Gopa: I am passionate and stubborn about what I really care about. Passion drives a better functioning senate.
 - Rowles: I am a sponge. I take in all the information I can to better prepare myself and others for the future.
- Debate:
 - Peddasani: I will lean towards Gopa and Everheart as they have a long term standing with the student government. Hearing their speeches it shows that they care and believe in their capabilities.
 - Kammeyer: I want to show my support for Pursley as she can communicate with everyone.
 - Schnieder: You have to be personable as a vice-speaker and I feel that Pursley would be perfect to give that warm feeling. She has an outgoing personality as well as ambition. She would be absolutely perfect for the role.
 - Jone: I felt at ease with Pursley. She is personable as well as very driven.
 - Momaney: They are all qualified. No matter who you elect, it will be a good choice.
 - Patel: You have to be personable and Gopa is one of the most approachable and hardest working people I've ever met.
 - Martinez: The speaker and vice-speaker must work as a pair. Both Gopa and Momaney are both project driven, so having two leaders working to benefit would make everyone's life better on campus.
 - Clarification:
 - Peddasani: to Senator Gopa: your calendar seems pretty full. How do you plan on being more available as well as your other commitments?
 - There are no commitments next year, just student government. I will be a whole lot more free next semester
 - Peddasani: to Senator Gopa: you also specified using a certain application, will you implement that plan of organization?
 - A shared calendar as well as an automated email system, I want everyone to be more organized
 - Closing Comments:
 - Pursley: Make the best decision. I would love to be in this role and I would work really well with Momaney.
 - Everheart: I have sat down with Momaney and talked about what our plan is going forward which I feel is very important.

- Gopa: It is about fostering relationships and genuine service. We have a lot of money to use to better the lives of students.
 - Rowles: There are such great people in the Senate and I want to bring that environment to everyone. I want to help you get your goals done.
 - First Ballot:
 - 7-0-3-8-2
 - Second Ballot:
 - 11-7-2
 - Third Ballot:
 - 13-7-4 Pursley
 - Passed by way of unanimous consent
 - 2024-1-00 SC
 - Previous senior director of communications, and campaign director for Hursh Margrett
 - Azhan: You should vote in favor
 - Gopa: What were your accomplishments?
 - Outreach, we reached much more students especially via voting season this year
 - Gopa: What are your time commitments?
 - I am taking 13 credits next semester, I am treasurer for CALS council and will have much more free time
 - Everheart: If you were to describe yourself in one word what would it be?
 - Passionate
 - Roll call vote:
 - 23-0-1
 - Martinez: Motion to 02 SE up next
 - Moved and seconded
 - Objected by Azhan
 - Cecil: it is fair to see this next week
 - Placard vote:
 - 4-7-13
 - Moved to adjourn and seconded