

Senate Minutes April 24th 2024

This meeting was called to order by Quinn Margrett at 6:46 PM.

- Roll call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Program: State of the Student Body
 - Our positions are not permanent, must stay focused
 - It is not about what happened last year
 - Why people choose to be a senator is overwhelmingly service to others
 - App, club socials, extra seating
 - Almost full senate, transforming
 - Cabinet weekly meetings
 - Once a week instead of twice of month for cabinet meetings
 - Azhan: Did you assign projects yet?
 - Yes, this is something we are talking about right now
 - Open Forum:
 - Holly Schmitt: sophomore and nominee as co-director of events
 - Planning birthday parties and on time for her and her seven siblings
 - Hard work, driven, and excited
 - FFA state officer, want to dive into event management and gain more experiences
 - We only have one year, I would be excited to help be efficient and everyone involved is contributing
 - Have to leave early for a swing dancing event
 - Chloe Anderson: junior in biology, outgoing IHRA president
 - Director of residence nominee
 - Want to respect IHRA and their campaign
 - Trey Wellman: nominee for governmental affairs
 - Shocked by statements last year
 - Withdrew by himself
 - I am an experienced professional, I will never apologize for being passionate
 - Supporting the bill for pregnant parents, which passed in 2023
 - Tuition freeze
 - Funding for SHOP
 - Helped representative with constituents, I was speaking to legislators as well

- I forgot to write down my office hours, not because I was late
 - I was part of Rules committee, she was not
 - Her actions are why turnover is so high, as people assassinate people's character
 - Disappointed in people's reaction
 - I don't want to have to fight and looked at by a fine tooth comb
 - I want to enjoy my time as a senior and refuse to engage in the fight
 - I had nothing but respect for Senator Larson, and could not imagine saying these things to herself
 - No one has asked questions or gotten to know me
 - Be kind to each other and have conversations behind closed doors
- Gopa: I am concerned about legislator ambassadors
 - This role was not taken seriously, visits to the state capitol were not fulfilled
 - Members were friends, not people that wanted to make a change
 - I think the new nominee will fight for you, not just people who will do the bare minimum
 - Excited for the governmental affair nominee, senate should have more oversight
- Adopting the agenda
 - Moved and seconded
- Approval of minutes:
 - Moved and seconded
- Committee Reports:
 - Rules:
 - Two bylaw bills, one was tabled and another will be seen tonight
 - If you are interested in participating, reach out to the Speaker
 - Finance:
 - Have a finance bill on the agenda
 - Application for those interested in joining, keep an eye out soon
 - PR:
 - Seating a senator and at large tonight, both great candidates
 - Form sent out if you are interested in joining the committee
 - Local Affairs:
 - City council meeting tonight, newsletters will be in the Teams under General and Files, so you will not be getting emails
 - If you would like to join please come see me or contact me on Teams
 - Will tentatively meet bi-weekly
- Comments from Executive Branch:

- Faculty senate last night
 - More committees we can be a part of, we will be getting a spreadsheet so expect more information
- Comments from the Advisor:
 - Welcome to everyone
 - Associate vice-president for campus life
 - It's been great getting to know some of you
 - Wants to see everyone successful here
 - New director who is joining the advising position:
 - Looking forward to meet and support all of you
 - We are here for you on a daily basis
 - We also have book it on the MIS
 - Your last meeting is tonight, but you do not disengage in Student Government over the summer
 - A good time to reach out to help plan and make connections
 - Please be careful when you leave campus
 - Want to see you back
 - Finals are coming up, you are students first
 - Please have healthy study habits
 - Cy's Finals Frenzy
 - Reach out to others about this
 - Mental health and wellness have been on a nationwide decline
 - "Dead Week", stop using this term
 - Stress becomes so large, which is when the unfortunate becomes a reality for some people
 - Better yourself, use the term "Prep Week" please
 - Wellness connotation
- 2024-1-02 SC:
 - As there is a new nominee we will have to make a motion to amend this bill to change the name
 - Moved and seconded
 - Great candidate, very passionate
 - Colby Brandt: sophomore
 - Very excited to serve student government
 - Legislative ambassador last year
 - Great way to get your foot in the door
 - Mental health is a big issue they'd like to emphasize
 - Protective affordability
 - Invite iowa legislators to our campus to showcase our innovation and build our connection

- Azhan: You mentioned you were a legislative ambassador, what are the things you completed that you were proud of?
 - We met with a lot of legislators, gives me a strong advantage to build connections
 - Kammeyer: Do you have any connections on the federal level?
 - This past summer I was selected through Ag Voices of the Future in Washington DC, learned my way around
 - Kammeyer: Would you be interested in getting our senator here as well?
 - Absolutely
 - Holliday: I have worked with Colby over the past year and he has stepped up to go above and beyond, I have my full faith that he will do an amazing job
 - Samatha Jones: If confirmed, what would your first priority be?
 - The event for legislators, as spring is a busy time, and as a way to start to build those relationships
 - Samantha Jones: How would you advocate for out of state students?
 - More of a federal issues, but ensuring that out of state students have access to mental health services back home
 - Gopa: How are you going to figure out what to advocate for?
 - Keeping an open mind and hearing all sides of that
 - Gopa: How many people will you keep on the committee?
 - I want to focus on each major having the opportunity
 - Roll call vote (called by Kammyer)
 - 28-0-0
- 2024-1-07 SC:
 - Health and wellness nominee
 - Adam Harrington: Kinesiology and Health
 - Always found interest in Health and Wellness
 - Goal to become a doctor and attend medical school
 - Volunteer and work in undergraduate research assistant
 - Want to make a difference and impact students positively
 - Wants to execute the proposal done by Sphan
 - Educate members on sexual assault prevention, and wants to go beyond the student government
 - Incorporating new ideas as well as continuing ideas such as Woofs and Wellness
 - What can we do to prevent mental health issues instead of reactions
 - Pursley: Do you have ideas for physical wellness?
 - I want to incorporate Thielen Health Center for physical wellness
 - It gets stressful to balance everything, so making it easier it on students

- Sphan: I wanted to voice my support for Adam and his passion to hit the ground running
- Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-010 SC:
 - Eric Gerdes, transfer junior
 - Attended Iowa Central College previously
 - Served as video production intern for chamber of commerce
 - Reach out to local musicians
 - Create and hang flyers
 - Missed leadership roles from high schools
 - Excited to begin journey
 - Kammeyer: Will you share your ideas?
 - Presentation for incoming freshman, want to create a short video showcasing what we do here
 - Azhan: This is your first semester, I am concerned about you making connections. Will you talk about reaching out to the many organizations?
 - I want to reach out to senators as well as at-larges
 - Momaney: Last year there was trouble getting at large, is this something you would be willing to work on?
 - Yes, that is something I will work on
 - Pelzer: What brought you to Iowa State?
 - I always planned to come here, the issue was I was unsure in my major
 - Pelzer: Were there any gaps in your transition that you would want to work on?
 - I felt that it was an easy transition, the only complaint was that we had to pay for our lunch at orientation
 - Sydney Jones: Are you involved in anything else on campus right now?
 - Not right now
 - Sydney Jones: Outreach is very important, what is your plan to reach out but also know the reasons we are here?
 - Presentation that will send out that message, and setting up tables on campus to create visibility
 - Smaller scale events such as the expo
 - Gopa: I do not think that a lack of experience should deter people, as we all do not have experience in government. For current students what will you do?
 - Tabling and putting on events, but I look forward to brainstorming other ideas
 - Gopa: will you form a separate committee from PR?
 - Yes
 - Samantha Jones: Do you have a specific number of events you want to put on?
 - I will be planning this as we go into the summer

- A couple events per months to increase visibility
 - Kammeyer: Have you gotten a chance to look through the notes from last year's expo?
 - I have not, no
 - Azhan: Director of outreach is very important, so my only concern is that someone with more experience may be in a better fit, so please consider that as we are voting.
 - Agarwal: We have a very good system that helps people learn, and seniority should not be something we consider while we are nominating or seating people. He will be an amazing fit.
 - Gopa: He is very qualified and talked to people to understand the school. You have the perspective of people who do not know much about student government.
 - Momaney: I agree, you know how to pinpoint what you wish you would have known when you got here. Are you afraid to ask questions?
 - Absolutely not, I plan to ask questions and am very adaptive. I served as Vice-President at high school and a student ambassador at my previous school
 - Everheart: Coming into this as a new member is completely okay. Any of the tenured members can become part of an outreach task force. Additionally, he has a unique perspective and should not be taken away from him.
 - Placard vote:
 - 27-0-1
- 2024-1-011 SC:
 - Bob Carver
 - Works at the office of financial aid
 - Knows the ins and outs this school
 - Issues with grants (such as the Teach grant)
 - Bad wording
 - Need to be more transparent with all students
 - Too many complications with student aid
 - I understand your frustrations and want to help each student get their degree
 - I have leadership experience, vice-president of FFA
 - Member of IHRA, understanding of parliamentary procedure
 - Pursley: I appreciate how passionate you are. Are you interested in working with governmental affairs?
 - Absolutely, as a lot of affordability is policy related
 - Udoka: What do you think are the common barriers to affordability?
 - Knowledge, timing, accounts receivable office working with instead of against students, unequal merit awards based on different states

- Samantha Jones: I am an education major and have seen the teaching grant. How do you plan on spreading the word?
 - Creating a form to get in contact with the grant advisor
- Gopa: How are you getting the news out to students?
 - Governmental Affairs, and learning on how to get information out to students such as emails or education expos
- Gopa: Would you be available to continue the efforts such as the shuttle and SHOP?
 - Yes, and even more than that based on my experience
- Gopa: what is your first project you'd like to do?
 - The teach grant outreach as well as the policies between u-bills and accounts receivable
- Peddesani: What are some trends you have noticed in the office of student aid?
 - A lot of it has been based on the FAFSA as well as the tax information and getting signatures on it
- Peddesani: What are your thoughts on the new random deadlines?
 - We understand that frustration. So, outreach is not just current students but potential students
 - The movement to workday has also changed
- Nevenhoven: What are your opinions on working with the states to match instate tuition in different states?
 - It is a big struggle, I would love to start doing more research to learn more
- Samantha Jones: As an out of state student, it was hard as a freshman to understand the terms.
 - I would like to create a document that helps clear the air and creates more transparency
- Agarwal: What do you know about international financial aid?
 - International students is a hard topic, especially because we have to work with I-9 forms
 - Making sure they know how financial aid works
- Momany: Would you be willing to educate our advisors about what they should do with students?
 - There's not much we can do with students who are graduating soon but would love to talk to legislators we can make
 - But, for incoming students I want to create a document that would help to attain your financial aids and create a program of study
- Azhan: Most of the scholarships are available to international students, can you talk about this?
 - We want to make this more visible
- Passed by way of unanimous consent

- 2024-1-012 SC:
 - Chase is unable to be here tonight
 - Previously served as the director of marketing
 - New to student government, but have focused on learning the community
 - Enhance communication and visibility, implementing innovating marketing strategies, commitment and gratitude
 - Holliday: Chase did a great job last year
 - Gopa: We should table this until the next meeting as we want to be able to talk to him and ask questions.
 - This is our last meeting until August, and we have urgent things we need to do over the summer
 - Momaney: I know this is not common, but I think it is worth consideration as he created a statement and has shown himself during inauguration.
 - Samantha Jones: We did talk to him at the inauguration, but I stand behind him.
 - Azhan: I do see where Gopa is coming from, and we have tabled multiple bills because the nominee cannot be there. But, this is the last session and it is important to have a director who can have access to important information.
 - Gopa: The candidate is good at his job but we should not show this precedent as common. We should not skip the procedure, but I understand this is an exception.
 - Momaney: there is no procedure, it is just preferred.
 - Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-013 SC:
 - Issac Meyers: nominee of director of IT
 - Excited by the opportunity
 - Websites are his thing, and want to migrates to Drupal
 - 3,000 of full staff development and leadership roles such as being in charge of 3 interns last summer
 - Pallan: Can you explain how the migration will be organized as well as your previous experience in Drupal?
 - I had not worked with it previously, but have started learning
 - Want to start creating the backend and create different tasks so that it can be converted from WordPress
 - Pallan: Were you planning on having a team?
 - There was talks of 1 or 2 people discussed, but I am fully capable of getting this out on time
 - Peddesani: Can you go into more detail about your past experience with other website developments?
 - A lot of it must be done by hand, the server is easy to set up and we would be adding the content into each page, and it very similar to WordPress
 - Updating styling and adding extra features

- Kwiakowski: You have the technical know-how and I look forward to seeing the new website!
- Samantha Jones: Would you be open to taking opinions from other students?
 - Absolutely, as you have used that website more than I have
- Kammeyer: From a user perspective how do you plan to make this more user friendly?
 - The current issues are either through WordPress and unclear navigation
 - Easier to read and look at
- Gopa: How long will it take you to push the website out?
 - Ideal under two months
- Gopa: Would you be willing to update the WordPress site?
 - Yes, I am planning to work over the summer
- Gopa: Are you planning to do other projects?
 - I would love to work on an app, but would be willing to work on other projects
- Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-00 Y:
 - Sydney Jones: Were changing the name of a director and a committee. I didn't love the title director of events. I am open to changing the name but don't think this is the best idea as it also mimics IHRA. The name that we are suggesting is not the right fit.
 - Azhan: I think it is a great bill as I am confused about the responsibilities, this creates an easier visualization. It is not about mimicking, if it has been done before and done well we should follow it. Did this pass in Rules?
 - Yes, we sat it with no bias
 - Gopa: They work on several projects, I would be open to changing it to "Director of Special Projects" I motion to move it
 - Moved, seconded, objected
 - Sydney Jones: I really like that name, we have an account called special projects so carrying the name over. The name separates us from IRHA and fits the role better
 - Spahn: I think that the director of events is slightly confusing, as the events might be specifically for student government
 - Holliday: I want to voice my support for changing it for Director of Special Projects, such as cookbooks for students
 - Weaver: I think that "Special Events" more so than a project as it deserves more credit
 - Azhan: I want to hear what they have to say?
 - Concert, the big 12 conference, the president outlines it
 - Expand bandwidth to outreach for student expo

- Leadership banquet for more communication
 - Sydney Jones: Outreach is confused with special projects, they are separate.
 - Rowles: I like the title of special events as student initiatives is more an event rather than a project. There might be confusion between the title and the account.
 - Everheart: The title I came up with is “Student Activities and Engagement” which may be a potential better fit.
 - Gopa: I said “Special Projects and Events” and option number is “Student Activities and Engagement” which specify what the committee does.
 - Gopa: Motion to end amendment
 - 28-0-0
- Kammeyer: Anything to do with projects, so that will get confused with outreach, and specific sounds silly. Student events may be a good fit.
- Samantha Jones: I think special events and projects encompass a lot, we have health and wellness.
- Azhan: I am confused about the confusion. The director of events is different from a project, so if we want to consider both parts I am fine with that too.
- Ackigoz: I don't know why we are trying to keep this short, the title should be more descriptive such as “Director of Management of Cyclone Extracurriculars”
- Moved to recess for 5 minutes until 9:03
- Gopa: motion to table until next session
 - Seconded and objected
- Azhan: I think if we add “student ” it does not hurt and personally whatever Martin says we should accomplish qualifies as an event and what has been done in the past are considered an event. We don't need a fancy name, make it easy.
- Kwaiatkowski: 4.4.15.1 it says events in the bylaws
- Everheart: After speaking with a lot of you, the discrepancy lies in what type of events, so what type of events would be put on. I move to add “student” in front of events in the first order lines and the committee clause.
 - Objected by Sydney Jones: it talks about events but it does not encapsulate that they would have to communicate with admin.
 - Everheart withdraws
- Holliday: I think we are getting lost. I think we need to put aside the goals of the current administration. I think we are talking too much about what they want to accomplish. This is compared to what they would want to do year to year.
- Gopa: Let's stop wasting time on this, at the end of the day it is just a name.
- Roll call vote:
 - 11-10-4, motion fails
- 2024-1-014 SC:

- Sophomore in Political Science
- Clerk in Senate since January, want to get more involved
- President of First Year Council freshman year
 - Ran events through that
- Enjoys being challenged
- Nevenhoven: Want to voice support, was vice-president alongside during freshman year. She is organized and dedicated, never one to back down from a challenge, I have no doubt she will rise to this position.
- Kammeyer: Can you talk about your time in committees and collaboration?
 - Have not been on committees, but have worked with research groups where collaboration is needed
- Azhan: What do you want to work on?
 - Concert, expo, getting the word out as well as coordinate events, work with Outreach and PR to create events
- Azhan: what are you excited about?
 - Planning the Big 12 Conference
- Azhan: Are you planning to do the same things as your last directors such as the campus safety walk?
 - Yes, want to fulfill the by-laws
- Rollinger: Want to voice full support, she has a lot of leadership qualities and drive
- Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-015 SC:
 - President of National Honor Society and Treasure of Ecology Club
 - Serve as an at large for the sustainability committee where we have done many projects we are proud of.
 - Wants to improve recycling, get more of the sororities and fraternities involved in this
 - Joined as an at large and wants to get into environmentally friendly programs
 - Loved the community
 - Compostable Cutlery
 - Increase social media and educational programs
 - Azhan: I am in favor of both of these students, they are very passionate about the job
 - Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-016 SC:
 - Emily Bollard, ex-officio
 - One of the first things I wanted to do was master the bus system as a freshman
 - A lot of freshman do not have vehicles on campus
 - Sustainability, expansion, and efficiency

- Azhan: Are you planning to expand the bus stops further, specifically downtown?
 - I would be interested in hearing more about that and the need for that
- Kammeyer: Are there any other things that we should be aware of?
 - Not currently, but I can talk to them tomorrow and get back to you specifically
- Sydney Jones: She is great for this job. She can't change CyRide routes, she can simply voice the concerns of the students.
- Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-017 SC:
 - Sophomore majoring in computer science with a minor in statistics
 - Want to have a vital impact on the Cyclone Community and the diverse population
 - Wants to find a way to voice challenges
 - Momaney: You have a lot of other areas you're involved in, will you have time?
 - Yes, this will not be interfering with things in student government
 - Azhan: Did you talk to the previous directors?
 - I have not had a chance, but I am looking forward to it
 - Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-06 SG:
 - Momaney: Azhan
 - I decline
 - Peddesani: I nominate Gopa
 - I accept
 - Gopa: I nominate Senator Peddesani and Senator Patel
 - I accept
 - Everheart: I nominate senator Rowles
 - I accept
 - Opening Statements:
 - Gopa:
 - Served as part of the ISUPD board
 - Cyride is the only way to get around Ames
 - Add more stops
 - Problems spots to add crosswalks
 - Integrated AmesRide into CyRide's app
 - More funding
 - Peddesani:
 - Uses CyRide daily
 - Sustainability
 - Enhance efficiency and user friendly experience

- Current app is buggy and doesn't give you accurate timing information
- Increase accessibility including those with disabilities
- Expands routes
- Patel:
 - I take CyRide daily
 - Share some of the same ideas such as crosswalks
 - Weekend and night availability is bad
 - 40 minutes in the cold weather
- Rowles:
 - Used to be the 3rd best public transit
 - People have put their passion into this
 - Student lead app would be a good way to push that forward
 - Accessibility, modernization, and sustainability as well as efficiency
 - Wants to work with the ex-officio in the conjunction of Ames and Iowa State
 - Expansion is not a large possibility due to laws
- Question Phase:
 - Azhan: Are you willing to have tough conversations to do something about expansion?
 - Gopa: I am outspoken and communicative so I will fight for them, such as my time with legislative ambassadors.
 - Peddesani: I am outspoken and if I believe in something I will fight for it, such as my run for IRHA president. I want to pick out hot spots to perhaps create a new bus.
 - Patel: I will be able to have these conversations, I take away personal bias and focus specifically on the issue at hand.
 - Rowles: I would not have been a senator if I was not willing to have tough conversations. I think adding more stops would be helpful, but there might be legal conflicts.
 - Udoka: Access to CyRide during the summer is bad, how do you plan to advocate for this to be improved?
 - Gopa: you need someone to stick up for those issues, I am not scared to ask for things and can do the same things I have done previously. I also plan to send out a Qualtrics form.
 - Peddesani: Come down to where the hot spots are, as it would not be feasible to do the same bus routes during the school year.
 - Patel: Non-students could work on the bus and consolidate a smaller amount of buses that have a larger span.

- Rowles: My brother has been a CyRide driver and there have been a lot of issues of employment. CyRide already takes away some routes during the summer and we need to solve the employment issues.
 - Pallan: It is important to understand these routes are here for a reason. They get their funding federally and the routes are there to optimize coverage. How do you plan to keep us updated about this role?
 - Gopa: I want to start a social media for CyRide, so they can be more engaged and give more feedback
 - Peddesani: Always a middle ground for goals we want to reach. I would get the word out there through email or other messaging
 - Patel: Setting the groundwork is what is most important. There are major changes posted on Reddit by a CyRide driver. Posting about it in the Daily or through social media.
 - Rowles: Our previous senator gave an update during the “other” committee update, which I think is a good method. Laying the ground rules and sticking to it is what is most important.
- Debate Phase:
 - Pallan: I would like to speak in favor of Rowles as he seems the most informed about how CyRide operates. I understand the frustration, but I also have seen the other side of things.
 - Samantha Jones: Isint crosswalks out of the range of CyRide?
 - Bollard: Yes that is a city issue
 - Jones: With that, I would like to put my support behind Rowles.
 - Momaney: There are a lot of areas that need work, but they have a formula of who uses what and that's how they determine the route. It would be hard to make leeway about these ideas. Whose voice do you think will carry the best in the room?
 - Azhan: I see where Pallan is coming from, but there should not be someone rigid. I get that there are formulas but unless you push, there will be no change. There are two other candidates such as Gopa and Peddesani who will be more vocal.
 - Holliday: I think Gopa is a great pick. He has done a great job within Student Government, he is a persistent individual who would do a good job sitting on the board.
- Clarification Phase:
 - Azhan: Are you willing to learn the technical nitty-gritty?
 - Gopa: Yes, I am willing to learn
 - Peddesani: I always try to learn as that is my job.

- Patel: I have always been a learner and it is one of my favorite things to do
- Rowles: I wouldn't be in college if I didn't like learning. Your opinion should be serving your constituents
- Udoka: to Peddesani: How do you plan to implement this hotspot plan?
 - Survey to the city and students
 - This would come down to taking an active approach
- Udoka: How do you plan to hire non-students?
 - Rowles: CyRide employs through the city of Ames
 - Patel: there already employ non-students, which enriches the general Ames community
- Weaver: How would you get crosswalks implemented if CyRide does not cover this?
 - Gopa: I would talk to the public safety department and start collaboration
 - Peddesani: I would work with governmental affairs to get to the higher ups into the city of Ames
 - Patel: They work closely with the department of transportation so I could get to the DOT
 - Rowles: From my knowledge, the board of CyRide does not have the power to create crosswalks, but I would be willing to find the correct officials.
- Azhan: Are you willing to have the conversations to have CyRide drivers be hired as international students?
 - Gopa: Yes
 - Peddesani: I am willing to have that conversation to create a plan to enable international students
 - Patel: It is run by Ames in partnership, so I do not think they could work for CyRide
 - Rowles: CyRide is a collaboration so we do not have jurisdictions but it could be potentially collaborative
- Closing Statements:
 - Gopa: You have to have a candidate who can effect change and has experience advocating for others
 - Peddesani: I am somebody who works hard and someone who hounds until something is done
 - Patel: I like public transit, and I want it to be the best bus system it can be
 - Rowles: Working towards making CyRide more efficient and advocating for what students want and having good collaboration and communication is essential to make change

- Roll call vote:
 - 13-4-1-4 To Gopa
- Passed by way of unanimous consent
- 2024-1-09 SG:
 - Previous experience as a senator in PR
 - Momaney: Very dedicated and has full confidence in his ability
 - Passed by way of unanimous consent:
- 2024-1-00 F:
 - We would need to waive first read, and waive a bylaw that says it has to be seen by the finance committee
 - 20-1-3 Motion to waive first read passed
 - Motion to waive bylaw necessary as we do not currently have a bylaw
 - Moved and seconded
 - Roll call vote:
 - 23-0-1
- 2024-1-07 SG:
 - Changes from a floor election to a nomination of two senators by speaker of the senate
 - If you are interested please reach out to me so I can conduct interviews.
 - Passed by unanimous consent