

SUNY Cobleskill
Student Government Association
Meeting Minutes
April 9th, 2019

Attendance:

Officers: Cheyanne Matulewich, Allison Finch, Mercedes Hernandez, Jennifer McKenna, and Veronica Collazo.

Members: Stephanie Zacherias, Ryan Luffman, Brycen Franek, Julia Rainville, Adam Meyer, Conor Brinkworth, Josh Foust, Erin Denman, Sage Blackmar, Angela Armstrong, Alexandra Smith, Eric Mariano, and Brittany VanDuzer.

Advisors: Jeff Foote, Anne Hopkins Gross, and Matt LaLonde.

Guests: Kris Criscione, Margaret Konstantinovskiy, Madi Sala, Shana Winchip, Peter J. Kelly, Wendy Gilman, and Carol Vosatka.

Cheyanne Matulewich called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.m.

Open Floor

Wendy Gilman presented an informative PowerPoint, detailing the school's budget. Wendy described all of the broad-based fees and the proposed increase for the upcoming year. This PowerPoint will be available for students per request from Brycen Franek. Throughout the presentation, various questions were asked.

Dr. Anne asked what fringe benefits are. Fringe Benefits are health insurance, retirement, and things like workman's compensation, dental, etc.

Cobleskill's budget has the "Financial Plan" which is funded by state support and tuition, which funds faculty and staff salaries, along with student support services. Another part of the budget comes from residence halls. Wendy detailed the complexity of the system and how there are many different places that collect money and spend them on your behalf.

Charges need to be increased every year to accommodate the unionized work environment this campus has, along with general inflation, while state support remains flat. 2% increase instead of sudden jumps. This is approved by the state.

Following the presentation, Wendy Gilman asked for questions. Jennifer McKenna asked how often technology is updated, and what that line entails. It was clarified that the technology itself must benefit the students. Cheyanne asked what the transportation fee is. Wendy stated that it helps pay for vans for transportation, as two were replaced. Paving the commuter lot also included, along with the shuttle that goes into town, along with mechanics.

Alex Smith asked why she should be paying for the shuttle if she has a car and has to pay to have it on campus. Wendy and Dr. Anne stated that this is an inclusive fee that was combined. Some

students use the shuttle and don't have vehicles, and yet they also pay for the parking lot as well in this fee. It goes both ways to ensure that students have recourses available.

Angela Armstrong asked why the athletics fee is so high, and why it is not optional. Wendy stressed that the success of intercollegiate athletes is essential to the wellbeing of the college as a whole. Dr. Anne also stated that this fee is statewide as well, across the board in the SUNY system.

Charges need to be increased every year to accommodate the unionized work environment this campus has, along with general inflation, while state support remains flat. Tuition increases modestly each year (approximately 2%) instead of sudden jumps. The maximum rate is approved by the state; the SUNY Board of Trustees approves the actual rate.

Angela asked what constitutes a fee to be optional. Wendy stated that not all students are definitely going to take advantage of that. SUNY policy helps dictate what is a broad based fee vs an optional fee.

Approval of Minutes

Alex made a motion to accept the minutes from March 12th, 2019. Eric seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was passed.

Alex made a motion to accept the minutes from March 26th, 2019. Sage seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was passed.

Alex made a motion to accept the minutes from April 2th, 2019. Stephanie seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was passed.

Executive Board

Sage Blackmar, our SUNY SA Liaison spoke about SUNY SA, including the workshops and networking opportunities that were presented at the conference. Ryan Luffman spoke about his favorite workshop which detailed the differences between SUNY, CUNY, and community colleges. Attorney General Letitia James, Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson, and Senator Carl McCall were Keynote speakers during dining sessions. Every school has a voting delegate, so Cheyanne attended the business meetings, and has updates for us that will be shared next meeting.

15 clubs came to Charity Volleyball, and we raised about \$600 for charity. LOGOS won, and the charity selected helps at risk youth to practice art. The organization that they will be donating to is called Art Start.

Committees

Elections: On behalf of the Elections committee, Veronica Collazo asked to recognize Brittany VanDuzer as an official member of SGA. She has fulfilled her obligations to SGA, which included attending 3 SGA Meetings, and two committees/events under SGA. Brycen Franek seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was passed.

Veronica also mentioned that she will be looking over membership absences and reminded members that after three unexcused absences, their membership is revoked.

Affiliations: Allison Finch asked that SGA recognize the Forestry Club to be an official club under SGA. They have provided the necessary documentation and shown consistency with their efforts on campus. They has also fundraised, which helped them stand out as a proactive interest group. Josh Foust made the motion to recognize them as an official club, and Eric Mariano seconded the motion. Kris Criscione spoke on behalf of the club, stating that they are planning on identifying all the trees on campus and in Cobleskill. They are also planning on working with the Bee Club during this semester. They meet at Lower Brickyard Point at 1:00pm on Tuesdays. There was no further discussion, Allison abstained, and the motion was passed.

AAPC changed their name to Block and Bridle, which is part of a national chapter. Alex made the motion to change their name, and Brycen seconded the motion. There was no discussion, Allison abstained, and the motion was passed.

16 members from the Pre-Vet Club fundraised and earned \$37.50. Angela made the motion to accept the EEP form and Alex seconded the motion. There was no discussion, Allison abstained, and the motion was passed.

Finance: Mercedes Hernandez had three requests for budget revisions. The first request was to move \$1337.44 from the Homecoming Weekend line to be moved into Special Events. Brycen made the motion to move the funds, and Sage seconded the motion. There was no discussion, Mercedes abstained from the vote, and the motion was passed. Turf Club asked to move \$200 from their events line to community service. Eric made a motion to move the funds, Angela seconded the motion. There was no discussion, Mercedes abstained, and the motion was passed. Lastly, The Woodsmen Team requested to move \$2000 from their coaching fee into their new equipment line. In case someone was to be hired before the semester ends, the Finance Committee decided on \$1500 as a comfortable number to move. Adam Meyer made the motion to move \$1500, and Josh Foust seconded the motion. For discussion, Eric asked what the confusion was. Mercedes explained that HR had been looking into coaches. There was no further discussion, Mercedes abstained, and the motion was passed.

There currently is \$2000 in a fundraising line that was halted, and after collaborating with various recourses, Mercedes was able to develop a finalized form for fundraising. Mercedes asked for a motion to move that \$2000 into additional funds due to the impending end of the semester. Brycen made a motion to move the money and Alex seconded the motion. Mercedes abstained, there was no discussion, and the motion was passed.

Public Relations: Jennifer McKenna stated that she has been trying to source from local businesses for our meetings. She also stated that she is looking into having a lemonade stand at spring fling.

Old Business

Blood Drive Update – 50 units were collected. Cheyanne thanked everyone for their help tabling.

New Business

Resolutions Update was tabled until the next meeting.

Concerns and Announcements

On Wednesday, May 1st SUNY Trustee Vice Chairman, Dr. Merryl Tisch will be on campus Knapp 203 meeting with students. An email will be sent out as a reminder.

Blood Drive—April 10th

Pizza with the Presidents—April 18th at 5:30pm

Club Council—April 25th at 5:00pm

Adjournment

Conor Brinkworth made a motion to end the meeting; Angela Armstrong seconded the motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm.