

SUNY Cobleskill  
Student Government Association

SGA General Meeting  
October 8th, 2019

Attendance:

Senators: Cheyanne Matulewich, Ashley Reinoso, Alex Smith, Kyliene Philips, Sage Blackmar, Ryan Luffman, Bennett Ashley, Alex Allen, Eric Mariano, Kristen Schmelzle

Guests: Joshua Burdick, Zyere Mollnaro, Mikara White, Paige Winks

Greek Life: Addison Randall, Tyreek Alicea, Brittney Davis, Alan Rhem

Club Delegate: Ben Cuppett, LeeAnne Sellick, Mark Whittaker, Melissa Keller, Christian Akpan, Karin Walker, Joshua Kline, Angela Armstrong, Angela George, Julianna Ciccotelli, Zane Every, Gianna Bevilacqua, Ryan German, Daniel Koerner, Emma Rogers, John Frey, Brittany VanDuzer, Laura Littrell, Ryan Morgan, Logan Chenier, Allie Eastman, Rebecca Olsen, Drew McArdle, Shane Gulliksen, Jeff Smolka, Nick Carozza, Joseph Perry, Joe Wolf, Hannah Morrill

Advisors: Matt LaLonde, Dr. Anne Hopkins-Gross

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by **Cheyenne Matulewich** at 12:30 p.m.

Open Floor:

**Bennett Ashley** has an idea of riding club delegates and having senators be the representative at the club meeting instead. **Cheyenne Matulewich** responded that the representative cannot speak on behalf of clubs if they are not members of that club.

**Allie Eastman** (Society of Conservation Biology) asks about what time we are leaving for Camp-O and does the winner of charity volleyball pick the charity? **Cheyenne Matulewich** responded with based on when everyone is available to leave that Friday and yes.

**Julianna Ciccotelli** (Drama Club) advertises for her club's fundraiser to support type 1 diabetes. They are looking for other clubs to work with. For more information contact her or their advisor, Dr. Grant. **Cheyenne Matulewich** asks if any plans made yet and **Julianna Ciccotelli** said no, they are waiting for other clubs first.

**Paige Winks** asks why is there applications for secretary, but not PR? **Cheyenne Matulewich** responds that she appointed a person to the PR role already who had applied as soon as the position opened.

Reading of the Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting are presented by **Angela Armstrong** and **Ryan Luffman** seconds.

No corrections.

No objections. **Alex Smith** and **Bennet Ashley** abstains. Minutes pass.

Executive Reports:

Introduction of Kyliene Philips as the new PR officer (she has a PowerPoint prepared) and what plans she has for SGA: new social campaign (snapchat and Instagram) and new recruitment campaign. Any questions for Kyliene? No.

Committee Reports:

Affiliations (Ashley Reinoso): Working on policies into bylaws.

Finance (Alex Smith): If you are interested in the money that goes behind SGA, come to the finance committee!

Hospitality (Kyliene Philips): Changing the name to Spirit; working on the tabling events for getting signatures for faculty evaluations (informational); walk-out in two weeks to advocate for faculty evaluations (walking around campus); making picket signs for walk-out (Monday night before walk-out); tabling tomorrow at CANR and Prentice starting at 12:00 p.m. and dinner time at Prentice at 5:00 p.m. for faculty evaluations signature.

\***Cheyenne Matulewich** spoke about how powerful the role of Senator is outside of the SGA meeting time

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Cheyenne Matulewich and Brittany VanDuzer have a Resolution for Faculty Evaluations

\*Resolution is a formal way to advocate and ask for change

Motions: **Angela Armstrong** and **Sage Blackmar** seconds

Discussion:

**Bennett Ashley:** This is just a resolution, not an event **Cheyenne Matulewich:** yes.

**Karin Walker:** When would this be implemented? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** Not this semester, but hopefully by next year.

Clarification on difference between faculty and staff? Faculty are educators.

**Ryan:** Is there a way to get a technology version instead of paper? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** Yes, it is in the resolution already.

**Alex Allen:** What do you mean by evaluate? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** It depends on what the college wants to implement, but based on past and other campus', it is based on performance in the classroom.

How is this going to affect professors with tenure? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** Even if they have tenure, we still want them to be held accountable for their actions.

**Angela Armstrong:** The evaluations are not a form of punishment, correct? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** Yes. If faculty are doing great, we want to recognize them and award them, but if they not doing so great, there will be a way to help them better their performance.

**Josh Kline:** Has the negotiation with the Union happened already? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** No, but it will have to happen with us pushing for this change.

**Bennett Ashley:** It doesn't seem necessary to go through all this trouble to implement this.

**Cheyenne Matulewich:** Do you feel safe to tell your professor criticisms? That is why we want this change to happen. **Bennett Ashley:** Then why can't the student go to person above the professor? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** Students have done that, and nothing has really changed.

**Angela Armstrong:** What are the repercussions for those professors that do rate low? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** That is up to the college to decide what happens.

**Josh Kline and Allie Eastman:** If students have gone to the Dean and nothing has changed, then how will this make any difference? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** We are holding the Dean/Chair and students to accountability.

**Joseph Perry:** It sounds like it is not just the teachers that are not doing anything. So how is a piece of paper going to change that? **Kyliene Philips:** It is a piece of paper that has power if the Dean does not change anything, then students can take that record and show higher members on campus to show the low rating of professors. **Josh Kline:** If these are records, who are holding these records? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** Non-tenured faculty get evaluated, not tenured at the moment in time. We can urge the President to hold these records, but right now it is the supervisor who would hold the papers.

**Rebecca Olsen:** Has there been multiple incidents that this as happened? **Cheyenne Matulewich:** There have been other incidents, but it was not spread by word of mouth.

**Alex Allen:** How are students identity protected with this and what about the union? They are protecting the teachers. **Cheyenne Matulewich:** The evaluations will be anonymous, and with enough push and fight, we can get this change.

**Bennett Ashley:** At Hudson Community College, we had 10,000 students and the mandatory evaluations given to the Dean and nothing ever changed. Plus, I think the walk-out should not be used to promote this. **Julianna Ciccotelli:** Do not use past experiences at other colleges to determine what is going to happen here. What is the negative of this resolution?

**Joseph Perry:** Fight for evaluations on Deans/Chairs too. **Cheyenne Matulewich:** We can fight for that on a different resolution. **Dr. Anne Hopkins-Gross:** Why don't we try having a civil

conversation with the Deans and Department Chairs to get their perspectives. **Joseph Perry:** Not every Dean and Chair, just reprimanding those that are not doing anything, but awarding those who are doing a good job. **Dr. Anne Hopkins-Gross:** We only have two Deans.

**Cheyenne Matulewich:** Urge you to ask your faculty members about if they would participate in the walk-out. If they do not want to, ask if they would divulge into why they do not want to.

**Bennett Ashley:** We should have gone through the Deans first instead of making the resolution.

**Cheyenne Matulewich:** The Deans have no part in this resolution.

**Cheyenne Matulewich:** Remember, we are only voting on the resolution, we do not vote on how the college will implement.

**Rebecca Olsen:** If there are outliers, how do you decipher if it is an issue, or if they just got a bad grade?

**Brittany VanDuzer:** Quantitative and qualitative in the evaluations.

**Kyliene Philips:** There might be a common theme among the outliers and the majority.

**Alex Allen:** It feels like we are jumping ship very fast. We should have a meeting with the Deans before the walk-out. **Cheyenne Matulewich:** We are trying to go through the right hoops with the right committees, but we are hitting road blocks, thus the walk-out. **Addison Randall:** We have faculty behind this movement. We went through the handbook and there is no mention of evaluations.

**Bennett Ashley:** If we are not implementing this, then it needs to be revised. **Kyliene Philips** and **Cheyenne Matulewich:** We are trying to get conversations to discuss getting this implemented, but no one wants to have this conversation who can make that change at the higher level. **Josh Kline:** We are not implementing this, we are waving the banner of war to make noise.

**Cheyenne Matulewich:** Professors are scared of speaking about this topic against those in charge because those in charge can hold their tenure above their head.

**Alex Allen** requests to table this motion, **Angela Armstrong** seconds.

No meeting next week (10/15). Next meeting will be on 10/22.

**Bennett Ashley:** You need a vote to table the motion.

**Bennett Ashley** opposes

**Brittany VanDuzer, Tyreek Alicea, Cheyenne Matulewich, Ashley Reinoso, Alex Smith,** and **Kyliene Philips** abstains. Motion passes to table the vote on the Faculty Evaluations Resolution.

**Brittany VanDuzer:** I got a question before the meeting about if evaluations were mandatory on campus. They are not not, but if your professor does them, it goes back to that person, not the Dean/Chair of that department.

Announcements:

Camp-O: October 27-29

Blood Drive: November 5

Melissa Ruiz (Swift Kick): November 13, 6:00 p.m. in the Theater

SUNY SA: November 15-17

Charity Volleyball: TBD

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. **Alex Allen** motioned, then **Angela Armstrong** seconds.