



SUNY Cobleskill  
Student Government Association  
General Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Attendance:

Senators:

Cheyenne Matulewich, Zyere Molinaro, Alex Smith, Kyliene Philips, Julia Rainville, Angela Armstrong, Daniel Koerner, Bennett Ashley, Innes Belshe, Eric Mariano, Alex Allen, Emily Arnold, Christopher Parker, Kai Sochocky, Elizabeth Schum, Adam Meyer, Kristen Schmelzle, Samuel Kilpatrick

Guests:

Anna Post

Greek Life:

Brittney Davis

Advisors:

Matt LaLonde, Christina Pratt, Anne Hopkins Gross

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** Called the meeting to order at 12:34

Open Floor:

Approval of Minutes:

March 10<sup>th</sup>

**PR Kyliene Philips** motioned  
**Senator Innes Belshe** seconded  
Vote:  
All in favor  
0 opposed  
**Senator Eric Mariano** abstain



March 31<sup>st</sup>

**Senator Angela Armstrong** motioned

**Senator Emily Arnold** seconded

Vote:

All in favor

0 opposed

**Senator Eric Mariano** abstain

### Exec Board Reports:

### Committees:

#### Affiliations

Wednesdays at 2:00pm

- **VP Ashley Reinoso** stated that her committee meetings will be changed to Wednesdays at 3:30. Will be sending invites to talk about further steps and new things coming up. Last committee meeting went well shout out to Sam Kilpatrick and **Senator Alex Allen**.

#### Finance

Thursdays at 4:00pm

- **Treasure Alex Smith** motioned that Finance Committee went well and is still working on a system with budgets. **Senator Alex Allen, Senator Kai Sochocky, Senator Emily Arnold, and Senator Christopher Parker** attended. If you are interested please contact me individually and if you can't make it, we can work something out.

#### Spirit

Thursdays at 2:00pm

- **Senator Kai Sochocky and Treasure Alex Smith** attended. Talked about how we have to put a hold on the dinner until we find out what our budget is going to be. Also talked about brainstorming for fundraising next semester.

#### Election

Fridays at 4:00pm

- **Treasure Alex Smith** attended. Talked about whether we should allow more people to join in the run for officer positions and also discussed when elections would take place.

### Old Business

#### Electronic Meeting Bylaw

**VP Ashley Reinoso** discussed the importance of having this in place when it comes to special circumstances and in case anything like this were to happen in the future. Also discussed the importance of meeting quorum and how it is basically the same as a regular meeting, it is just electronically.



Vote:

**Senator Angela Armstrong** motioned  
**PR Kyliene Philips** seconded

Vote:

All in favor

1 opposed

**Treasure Alex Smith** abstain

## New Business

### Proposal for Student Activity Fee Refund

- **Treasure Alex Smith** presented on the Student Activity Fee Refund. Talked about how refunds are being given across the board such as parking passes, room and board and etc. There is a list on the website you can use as a reference. Exec Board and Advisors have been in discussion for a few weeks on what we should do as a refund, and we currently have three options.
  - No Refund at all
    - No budget cut
    - Online programs for clubs that would be recorded and posted online for students to access
    - Club funds would roll into Fall 2020 Semester
  - Refund full-time students \$15
    - Based on 2,000 assumed full-time students
    - Currently \$126,605.19 left in budget
    - \$56,633.00 needed for fixed expenses; \$69,972.19 left to pull from
    - Refund \$2,000 students \$15, then 30,000 will be taken out of budget leaving \$39,972.19
  - Refund full-time students \$30
    - Based 2,000 assumed full-time students
    - Currently \$126,605.19 left in budget
    - \$56,633.00 needed for fixed expenses; leaving \$69,972.19 left to pull from
    - Refund 2,000 full-time students \$30, then that is \$60,000 taken out of budget. After the refund, \$9,972.19 is left in the budget

### Discussion:

**Senator Eric Mariano** asked, for the \$15 that is the medium to pay off our insurance lines but also to give the students back at least half of what they have on the tuition? If you get what im trying to ask, I'm just a little confused.

**President Cheyanne Matulewicz** responded saying that right now students pay \$95 per semester for their student activity fee. The \$30 would've been their prorated refund for the remainder of the 6 weeks left in the semester. We wanted to do half of that because we are still doing programming online and we are still in session for SGA and clubs are still able to meet via Microsoft teams if they choose to do so.



**Senator Eric Mariano** said he understands



**VP for Student Development Dr. Anne** stated, going back to option 1 it was a little confusing because regardless of any of the options the clubs can meet online. I just wanted to make sure that was clear.

**Treasure Alex Smith** responded, thank you for the clarification

**Senator Innes Belshe** said that its such an insignificant amount

**Senator Daniel Koerner** stated, if we went with option #1 and any money that isn't spent on the online programs does that get carried over into next semester?

**Treasure Alex Smith** responded I'm not positive on SGA we have only discussed club funds getting rolled over

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** added, if we don't do a refund right now all our lines will stay stationary. We are trying to advocate for it to roll over but for other lines it would go into additional funds, then after a year go into retained funds but you will be able to access.

**Senator Daniel Koerner** said we should keep no budge cut because \$15 isn't a huge amount but is also going to improve our college experience this semester through the online programs and in the next semesters to follow

**Senator Eric Mariano** said he is still not completely understanding this. Would the \$15 be added to the refund check that students get?

**Advisor Christina Pratt** responded saying that as of now there is money in the budget to support a refund. I would encourage you all to think of the whole student body and not just yourselves as individuals. Even though it does seem like a small dollar amount they might be receiving there are a lot of students struggling with this situation and are still looking for refunds

**Senator Eric Mariano** that's what I was getting at because I know that there are people who are in unique situations.

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** stated that it is not just student government giving a refund it is everyone. I feel that if student government doesn't give a refund a lot of students might disagree with that and there are students who need that money and \$15 does go a long way.

**Senator Angela Armstrong** asked isn't this just concerning the Student Activity Fee?

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** responded saying yes.

**Senator Emily Arnold** asked, how long will it take for people to receive a refund?

**Advisor Matt LaLonde** responded saying that the reason it is taking a while to figure out the structure for the refund is because this has never happened before. Somewhere in the near future there will be more details shared. Once everything gets ironed out the campus will start issuing refunds.



**PR Kyliene Philips** motioned to vote on option 1 (No Refund)  
**Senator Daniel Koerner** seconded

Discussion:

**Senator Julia Rainville** said that going off of what everybody said, option 2 seems more realistic coming from my experience right now. I was supposed to do an internship and it is cancelled right now and I have to pay for another semester of school. Even though \$15 is a small amount I could still put it towards books.

**PR Kyliene Philips** stated that her worry was that if we do that refund it's a big budget cut for us and we already had one this year and being in charge of spirit committee and wanting to create all these programs I'm worried we won't have the means or money to be able to do the club dinners and etc. for next semester and ultimately won't be as important as I want it to be. I think these funds would help create programs for these students.

Anna Post asked, if option 2 was chosen would there be any way we could do fundraiser

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** responded saying that both Alex Smith and Kyliene Philips are passionate about this and wanted us to do more of that. We are looking to take a lead on that next year and make it more of a priority.

**Senator Innes Bleshe** asked, students are still getting larger refunds from the school, right?

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** said that it differs from student to student, but every department has been ordered to give a type of refund.

**Senator Angela Armstrong** stated that it is hard for her to decide between option 1 and 2. I'm worried that people will claim that the amount isn't enough. But also, in the long term there is a possibility that people won't be able to afford to come back to campus next year. I think that we should think long term for everybody rather than just giving them money back because that's what we think they deserve or what they need.

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** responded saying that right now we only have a \$95 fee, so even at the prorated rate (\$30) that would be all they could get anyway because that's all that would be allowed after the 6 weeks. That's why we thought \$15 would give us leverage by having money in the budget but also saving grace with the students.

**Senator Alex Allen** asked, have we thought about how much time and effort they are going to have to do to give back the money?

**Advisor Dr. Anne** responded saying the college is issuing refunds no matter what and I want to point out that the fees that are being refunded, that's about 40% of what's remaining in people's budget which is a significant amount.



**Senator Daniel Koerner** mentioned, what the college is refunding us will be significantly more than what SGA would be refunding us whether it be \$0, \$15, or \$30. Knowing that, why is it the SGA's responsibility to issue refunds on behalf of the school? Why is our budget being affected because the school is either not giving us enough or is not giving us the proper amount?

**President Cheyann Matulewich** responded saying the SGA is in charge of the Student Activity Fee, the college is not. It is up to us regardless. The college isn't putting it on us it is our decision and the college has given us guidance on giving a refund because the departments across the board, beyond SUNY have been giving refunds. Just to put in perspective, every Student Government has been giving refunds. Yes, SUNY wants us to give students a refund because students aren't capitalizing on these programs.

**PR Kyliene Philips** mentioned that wellness isn't giving a refund and is continuing their services online fully.

Option #1

Vote:

9 yes

4 opposed

**Alex Smith, Ashley Reinoso** abstain

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** said that she strongly urges those who voted yes, to attend committee meetings that are being offered as one of our services.

**PR Kyliene Philips** mentioned that she is excited to start working on these programs with people within her committee and ultimately try lifting people's spirit during these hard times.

### Concerns and Announcements

See you next week... virtually

**President Cheyanne Matulewich** adjourned meeting @1:24pm