

SUNY Cobleskill
Student Government Association
Meeting Minutes
September 10th, 2019

Attendance:

Officers: Cheyanne Matulewich, Ashley Reinoso, Alex Smith, Sharon Restrepo, and Veronica Collazo.

Members: Ryan Luffman, Brittany VanDuzer, Angela Armstrong, Eric Mariano, and Sage Blackmar.

Advisors: Barb Sprouse.

Guests: Alex Allen, Ruben Vasquez, Zyere Molinaro, Melissa Keller, Hannah Morrill, Bennett Ashley, Ryan Lehning, Isaac Rys, Peyton Patota, Toby Riehlman, Kristen Schmelzle, Christian Akpan, Lanz Plaza, Tyreek Alicca, Christopher Parker, Paige Winks, Suzanne McLaughlin, Christina Simpson, Bailey Fifield, Katerina Weingarten, Peniqua Powell, Shenika Mitchell, Christopher Simmons, Shane Long, Katherine Pritt, Michael Congialosi, Matthew Barney, Carter Hoffman, and Joshua Burdick.

Cheyanne Matulewich called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Open Floor

Matthew Barney oversees Greek Life, Community Engagement, and Orientation. After introducing himself, he spoke of upcoming community service opportunities and encouraged students to attend.

Friday, September 13th late afternoon – Popcorn making for the 2019 Sharon Springs Harvest Fest. Students can join faculty and staff filling up bags of popcorn to promote the College at this year's Harvest Fest.

Saturday, September 14th 8:30am – 1:00 p.m. – Out of Darkness Walk in Middleburgh, NY join in the fight to end suicide by volunteering or registering to walk. The Director of this event lost his son four years ago. Mark Atchinson was a Wildlife Student in his fourth year when he ended his life. It would be great for students to help in the race or even walk.

Monday, September 16th 3:00pm – 7:00 p.m. – Feed the Needy at the Lord's Table. Students will go to Oneonta, NY to serve citizens that want a free meal.

Saturday, September 28th 8:00am – 12:30 p.m. – Three Van Certified drivers are needed to drive volunteers to the FAM Run 5k on Campus. We also need 20 students to pass out water and cheer on runners. Please consider this opportunity as Fenimore Asset Management has depended on SUNY Cobleskill Students to help with their race that gives back to our community!

Thursday, October 3rd 3:00pm – 7:00 p.m. – Feed the Needy at the Lord's Table. Students will go to Oneonta, NY to serve citizens that want a free meal.

Cheyenne explained that open floor is a place to share any concerns, comments, etc. Angela Armstrong wanted to thank Mike Wacksman for always being in the commuter lot. Ryan Luffman thanked Cheyanne for nominating him for the Personal Safety Committee. He reported that they went over various policies. Once the Chief goes through the paperwork, they will be restricting motorized personal vehicle access to streets only, no sidewalks or public spaces. Also, the sidewalks that were scheduled to be renovated will be pushed until next year. Bennett Ashley expressed that he was kicked out of Prentice because he got a to-go-box and did not immediately leave, to which Cheyanne stated that she is setting up a meeting with CAS to discuss these problems that will be open for students to attend. Angela expressed concern about the eCampus bookstore. Cheyanne advised to go to Jeri Usatch and/or to email to express concerns.

Michael Congialosi, President of Nerd Nation shared that he would like to do a Comic Con on campus. Cheyanne suggested that he come see her to discuss this.

Bennett stated that he is going to be starting an Investment Club. He currently has 35 students that have signed up and is planning on meeting in Warner 110 on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. He explained that this club will be about stocks and the stock market, as well as about ways to invest.

Matt announced that it is Greek Week, and there are different activities all week long.

It was also mentioned that there are no picnic tables by CANR and that students might appreciate having that sort of place to sit down or study.

Approval of Minutes

Angela made a motion to accept the minutes from April 30th, 2019. Ryan seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was passed.

Angela made a motion to accept the minutes from September 3rd, 2019. Brittany VanDuzer seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion was passed.

Executive Board

Cheyenne stated that Bethaney Gulla-Devaney will be holding an Ally training for advisors with regards to the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act that was passed by Governor Cuomo. The relevant topic is that students are entitled to have a hotel room based on identity/gender over biological sex. This training will be held on Thursday, September 12th, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Bouck Theater.

CAS Update – Cheyanne has been attending weekly meetings with Bryan Marhaver from CAS. Topics included low quality of food, no early morning options (some students have barn duty, early childhood, work), limited late night options, and limited vending machines options. To accommodate this, he is allowing resident halls to formulate comprehensive lists to update vending machines. This information will likely be gathered through Hall Councils. We discussed what day/times work for students to have a forum. Veronica Collazo suggested common hour on Thursdays, keeping that some students get out of class at 12:15 p.m. This meeting will be in the

Theater. Angela asked if we could talk about Prentice vs. Champlin, stating that the email that was sent out wasn't comprehensive, just a list of information. There are also no vegan options and limited vegetarian options.

Another SGA initiative for this year is Faculty/Course Evaluations. Usually the SGA President doesn't have a committee, but Cheyanne is very passionate about this topic. She asked that any individuals interested come to discuss this during her office hours as there will be no official committee.

Committees

Affiliations: Ashley Reinoso stated that policies will be transitioning into bylaws, which will be voted in in two weeks. Her committee meeting this week will be Friday at 12:00 p.m., and she will be working on this during that time for any who are interested.

Finance: Alex Smith stated that the Finance Committee meets Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. No one came, and she needs to vote in additional funds forms which cannot happen without members attending her committee meetings. Cheyanne also stated that enrollment has dropped. When we project enrollment in the spring, we align the budget to reflect this. Due to this drop in enrollment and funds, we have to cut the budget across the board. This month we will have to vote on this cut. The estimated amount drop of students is about 300. Every student has a mandatory \$95 student activity fee. The decrease in the budget equals about \$28,500. Everyone, including the Wellness Center, Campus Engagement Board, Brickyard Point, etc. will be included in this cut, not just clubs. This cut will be a percentage, which will be discussed during the Finance Committee. Alex asked that if students are interested but cannot attend the meeting time to see her to find a time to meet. Bennett asked if we could raise the student activity fee to \$300. Cheyanne stated that the highest student activity fee in the SUNY system is \$125. Barb clarified that every student will vote on if the fee is mandatory or not, the student body does not vote on raising the student activity fee amount. The current mandatory student activity fee is \$95 per semester, or \$190 per year. Any possible change to the student activity fee will be discussed at a later date.

Hospitality: Sharon Restrepo explained that the Hospitality Committee will be discussing programming as well as apparel ideas, she is just waiting on SGA's new logo.

Spirit committee member meets with homecoming committee.

Diversity: Veronica stated that the Diversity Committee will be taking on the initiative to be inclusive of international students and make them feel welcome. This was just an introductory meeting, and mission statements will be worked on in the coming weeks. This will also be primarily a programming committee that meets Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Spirit: The Spirit committee discussed a lot of potential programming ideas and collaborations with CEB. Matt Barney also is a part of this committee and helped come up with many ideas. As a follow up to the chicken barbeque idea, the committee decided to hop on board with Homecoming as there is already a bonfire that could be stated with paper mache chickens. Other

programming for the next month includes a possible movie night and a Halloween/spooky themed event. Barb recommended that a member from the Spirit Committee attend the Homecoming Committee to keep everyone on the same page.

Veronica also stated that senators will be voted in through the spirit committee and reiterated that to become a senator one must attend three general meetings and two committee meetings/events under SGA. Seeing as this is the third meeting, there might be individuals who meet these qualifications, so she asked that they stop by for a form. She also stated that once a senator misses two general meetings, they no longer are a voting senator.

Old Business

As per last meeting, Cheyanne explained that instead of Club Council, each club will be required to have a club delegate that will attend SGA meetings bi-weekly. These delegates will also be expected to attend these meetings regularly and will have voting rights. This is an opportunity to empower students and offer more leadership opportunities. Sage Blackmar made a motion to pass the Club Delegate by-law and Ryan seconded the motion. Bennett asked if we could table this vote so that he could vote. Cheyanne said it is very important and time sensitive. Veronica expressed that there will be a lot of time lost if this is tabled. Currently there is no mandate for delegates to attend meetings, and they are only expected to attend bi-weekly to begin with, making this a time sensitive topic. Eric Mariano asked what would happen if a club doesn't follow this by-law. Veronica stated that there will most likely be a budget cut, and that this has not been decided nor voted on yet. This will be voted in through the Finance Committee and then through SGA. Matt asked if Greek Life should have delegates as well. Veronica explained that those currently attending as representatives from Greek Life could be as they'd just have to attend two committee meetings/events under SGA as well. Brittany asked if the schedule that was passed out the dates will change, to which Cheyanne stated that the dates will not change, and the next mandatory meeting is September 24th, 2019. Alex Allen asked if this includes Residence halls, not just clubs, to which Cheyanne said no. There was no further discussion and the vote passed unanimously.

Cheyanne also introduced a revision to our membership policy, introducing it as the SGA Senator by-law. This change in the document consisted of changing the language from members to senators. Ryan made the motion to pass this by-law, and Eric seconded the motion. Ryan asked why we are changing to senator. Veronica stated that most other campuses use senators, and Cheyanne reiterated that in a way we are updating to senator. There was no further discussion and the vote passed unanimously.

New Business

We will be voting on constitution verbiage change in two weeks, will be sent out soon.

Concerns and Announcements

Cheyanne asked if anyone was interested in being nominated for Homecoming King or Queen. Camp Oswegatchie Leadership Retreat – October 25th–27th, 2019.

Adjournment

Ryan made a motion to end the meeting; Angela seconded the motion, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.