



## MINUTES

### THE THIRTEENTH DUKE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE

October 25, 2006

8:00 PM

Schiciano Auditorium B, CIEMAS

I. CALL TO ORDER – 8:05PM

II. ROLL CALL

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. CONSENT AGENDA & BUDGETARY STATUTES

a. New Group Requests, **Alex Crable**, SOFC Chair

i. Cuban Student Association (SOFC Recommendation: *Recognition*) – No representatives present. **Tabled until next meeting**

ii. Haitian Student Association (SOFC Recommendation: *Recognition*) – No representatives present. **Tabled until next meeting**

iii. Duke University Lithuanian Club (SOFC Recommendation: *Recognition*)

-focused on Lithuanian culture; talked about traditional foods, culture, Lithuanian dancing; long term goal is to attend the Lithuanian folk dance festival; majority of the group will not be graduating at the end of the year. Only problem was with the Constitution because it did not have a way for expelling an officer.

Questions:

-Are males able to participate in the dance?

Yes.

-How do you see membership for this group?

There are only 4 Lithuanian Americans at Duke, but we have other students who are interested in joining.

-Is this more of an interest group since there are not very many Lithuanians?

Yes.

-What ultimately is the justification for SOFC funding for relatively small groups?

When we are allocating money for an event we look at the value of the event.

**Final Decision: Motion to approve by unanimous consent. Approved.**

- iv. Real Estate Club (SOFC Recommendation: *Recognition*)
  - club seeks to primarily increase networking among people in real estate, not seeking to buy real estate.

Questions:

-Will there be a cap on membership dues?

No, that sheet needs to be updated because we are no longer requiring dues. We can use the programming fund for expenses.

-What are you paying for out of pocket?

Design of website.

***Final Decision: Motion to approve by unanimous consent. Approved.***

- v. UNC-Duke Bennett Millennium Village Project
  - the main objective is education on campus and to raise 1.5 million dollars to build a village in sub-Saharan Africa, but the money is not coming from the students or alumni (already have \$1 million and fundraising comes from outside resources), on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a major event with the director of the Urban Institute at Columbia and advisor to Kofi Anan.

Questions:

-Why was the vote so close?

There was a fear that possibly the group might use room reservation to try to use it to raise fundraising. Also confusing is how much each Duke student would be doing. The group has been given money from a donor and will not need any money from the student activities; the group is just seeking recognition status.

-Have you talked to the Robertson Scholars Program?

Yes, we actually have a core member who is a Robertson Scholar.

-Have you looked to working with NCCU and how are you choosing a location for the village?

Yes we have contacted NCCU and they are very interested in getting involved in the process. Our advisor is Sheryl Brovermann and we are working with the Global Health Institute to find a place in Africa.

-What will your group do after the money is raised?

This is a project that can apply to a broad group of people ex: women's issues, health issues. Currently focusing on poverty, trying to get food and medicine. We have different committees that can apply to a number of different students from policy to PR.

-Does this group violate any of the 7 criteria in order for a student group to be recognized?

It didn't seem that there was a specific activity that the Duke students were involved with. This can benefit Duke students because it raises awareness on campus.

***Final Decision: Motion to call to question. Approved unanimously by voice vote.***

- b. Budgetary Statute: Persian Student Association (SOFC Recommendation: \$2341)

- group seeks to bring a famous comedy group called 'Axis of Evil'

- event is free for everyone

Questions:

-Does SOFC have inclination to provide more money?

No, because in terms of the relative cost of funding for events this is quite high.

-What other events have been funded over \$2000?

The buses for Election Day.

-If they don't come what will happen to the money?

It will go back to the account.

-Could we have an Of Montreal situation if they don't come?

No.

-How many people do you expect to get b/c you could charge people?

This group has never not performed to a sold out audience and under SOFC bylaws we cannot charge for the event.

***Final Decision: Motion to pass by unanimous consent. Approved.***

## VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Dr. Robert Thompson**, Dean of Trinity College and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
  - Chair of the Campus Culture Initiative
  - this is one of the efforts by President Brodhead in response to the events of last spring
  - charge to evaluate campus culture specifically in response to undergraduate life.
  - target is for February to deliver final report.
  - have a steering committee that has 25 members, 5 which are students.
  - How was this committee constituted? We decided to try to have a committee that would be inclusive of various constituency that had the respect of peers and colleagues, that would be able to come to a collective sense, and individuals that would be around and be willing to commit to a several month process. Not a committee that is designed to be representative.
  - We decided that we would work on four issues that would affect the campus to be worked on over the summer and then bring information back to the full committee in the fall.  
Committees: alcohol, race, athletics, and gender/sexuality
  - strategy from the beginning was that there were many existing bodies and we didn't want to reinvent the wheel and recognized that we needed to connect with various bodies.
  - very early on in our processes we realized that our response to the event was very polarized and those lines had to do with race, gender, class, privilege, athletic/non-athletics, and town. We had very divergent held views and were very polarized. As a community we were not backed and we didn't think about ourselves as being that divided and this was very disturbing to us.
  - one of the framing ideas was how to make this more of an integrative community. Another aspect was the extent to which our university is organized in silo types of structures. How can we break down these silos and how do we do this? Third aspect was diversity is something that the university is very proud of, however what you don't see is engaging in

differences. We haven't done a good job in articulating our core values to undergraduate education. We believe that we engage in competition and ideas and we are not maximizing our growth intellectually.

-this is not a campus that is alternative friendly so we needed to see what we could do to embrace different ways of being.

Questions:

-How much does the core value of education have to do with character?

I think that it is really important to articulate the core values and how they apply at different times. Intention is to be a world class institution with an undergraduate college second to none. One of the things we have to make is an appraisal of to what extent we have been equalizing these core values. There is an expectation that this is a type of environment that will elevate the spirit as well as the mind. The obligation is to what extent are we engaged in these processes. So in a sense can we articulate what our mission is and whether people see themselves here. So if we're sharper in the framing of that of going beyond ones own growth, how can we manifest that now.

-Could you address specific and concrete problems that the initiative has come across and maybe sketch some of the positive solutions to these problems?

If we are interested in promoting more community and engagement, we have to look at what are the levels that you can pull on. One of the issues is always how can we work on dining and residence life and housing. We do not have a college model of living which facilitates a feeling of community. Duke does not have facilities that really foster that. We have listened to the dining committee and to their mandate of trying to be profitable which many not necessarily work with promoting student life.

-What mechanism of any are in place that this work does not go to waste and to make sure that it is implemented?

It will depend on the type of recommendations. Many students have suggested more requirements that students must fulfill, this could be in terms of the curriculum or do something extra-curricular such as community services. These decisions then go to another committee who are responsible for curriculum. There is now an undergraduate leadership group and various others that have been set up. If there is a faculty change that needs to be done we need to set up committees for this.

-How fearful are you that some of your recommendations may not be followed?

We are an advisory body and we recognize that. Our job is to frame the issues and make it as compelling as possible.

-What are you doing in terms of the graduate student life?

We have systematically been trying to align a system graduate students mentoring undergraduate students. Also graduates are an integral part of the university as TAs and in research. But the charge is to focus on undergraduate life

-Can students still give input?

You can make suggestions on the website or e-mail Dean Thompson.

b. **Elliot Wolf**, DSG President

-Getting Sh--- Done @ Duke University (aka the orgchart)

c. **Joe Fore**, DSG Executive Vice President

-parliamentary procedure review

VII. RULES

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. REPORTS

XI. ADJOURN - 9:58PM