

**MINUTES OF THE STUDENT SENATE  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE  
Zoom Meeting**

**Monday, September 14, 2020- 6:00 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Student Senate of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville convened on September 14, 2020, via zoom call. Vice President Akpan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Vice President Akpan, Senator Aslin, Senator Beck, Senator Brimm, Senator Burnett, Senator Childerson, Senator Goren, Senator Ho, Senator Jackson, Senator Jones, Senator Hawkins, Senator Morkin, Senator Obert, Senator O'Dell, Senator Perry, Senator Pruitt, Senator Randolph, Senator Schurman, Senator Sheahan, Senator Shiao, Senator Wheeler and Senator Wensing.

**Members Absent:** Senator Krager

**Quorum was established with 21 voting members present.**

**Others Present:** President Walters, Student Trustee Graham, Financial Officer Dreppard, Internal Affairs Officer Lutz, External Affairs Officer Kyle, Marketing and Communications Officer Ballard, Organization Relations Officer Akpan, Student Diversity Officer Mckenzie, MUC Director Karnes, KSIC Associate Director Laux, Office Support Specialist Ermer

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of August 31, 2020 meeting were approved by roll call vote.

**IV. GUEST SPEAKERS**

**A. Director Facility Management Craig Holan**

Holan spoke about construction projects currently underway. Founders Hall is almost complete, 99.9% complete, 34-million-dollar project to a building that was built in the 1970's. The four towers were completely rebuilt to stabilize the building for potential earthquake. Building will shake now but not fall. Also modernized the building, still need to build a sidewalk along lot A, and exterior landscaping. Lot A was redesigned to offer a safer path for students to get to Founders. Alton Campus, building a 11-million-dollar advanced care facility, having torn down many older buildings that are being replaced with new buildings for better facilities for medicine and some recreation areas for the students. Waster Water Treatment plant is having some work done to fix one of the two pits that had a lid failure, also need some post treatment equipment worked on. Science west project had about 2 million dollars left over which we are using to update the greenhouse, adding a headhouse to that and doubling the size. Health Science complex, 105-million-dollar project, approved last year, bridging documents are being developed to get bids from contractors. The existing building for Pharmacy and Nursing will be incorporated into the new building. Will be the largest single building project that the University has ever taken on, very excited about this. Several little projects on going currently, Starbucks in Library, Pavlos Pizza, LED's are being replaced all over campus, this is a project that pays us back with the money saved. **Q&A Senator Aslin moved to open floor, Senator Sheahan seconded.** Senator Sheahan asked "Is the Founders project over or under budget?" Holan stated, "That the project is within the contingency plan, which was a 15% contingency, and

we are setting at 10% of the contingency, so actually will come out ahead. Senator Beck asked "So what do you plan on doing with left over money from Founders?" Holan stated, "21<sup>st</sup> century funds were used for Founders, which is funding for 6 buildings on campus, so coming in under the contingency budget will allow us to get started on the next of the buildings in the plan, which will probably be Rendallman Hall, hopefully next Spring start the design bidding process. Senator Beck asked, "How many buildings are left in the plan?" Holan answered, "So the buildings are Founders(which we are finishing up), Rendallman, Alumni Hall, Dunham Hall, Lovejoy Library and Peck Hall" Last question asked by Senator Randolph, "When would you estimate the founder hall project to be complete?" Holan stated, "At the end of large projects, there is a punch list, this is when we find what might have been left out of the project that the contract called for so those things need to be brought up to the contract, then there is green certification that we are required to get for every project, I estimate that green certifications should be achieved in 6 to 8 months, but for as use of the building, everyone is back in their spaces." Floor was closed for discussion with a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### V. SENATE REPORTS

**Senator Aslin:** Attending UPBC meetings, which has been going well, and the first graduate counsel meeting is coming up this week, looking forward to that.

**Senator Beck:** We need more people for Finance Board if anyone is interested, and Samuel and I are working on a survey to send out to the students of the School of Business.

**Senator Brimm:** Senator Obert and I are attending Curriculum Council on Wednesday so we can report on that next meeting. Look forward to working with Senator Odell on more common goals.

**Senator Burnett:** Meet with Senator Wheeler last week and discussed ideas and goals that we have for school of nursing, that we hope to get underway soon.

**Senator Childerson:** Attended the UPBC meeting, looking forward to attending External Affairs meeting, and working with Senator Beck on a survey to send out to the School of Business constituents.

**Senator Goren:** Attended the SOAB meeting with another one coming up this week, as well as a Parking and Traffic Committee meeting. I'm mainly working on getting in touch with the Dean of CAS, so that I can send out a survey to my constituents.

**Senator Hawkins:** Also attending the Traffic and Parking Meeting, something to note is that they are going to be offering all students the chance to do a semester upgrade to a Green or Brown pass, since they are not being utilized to nearly the capacity.

**Senator Ho:** There have been some minor issues and inconveniences for the most part the dental students are happy. Senator Morkin and I have been working to gather feedback from the students.

**Senator Jackson:** Still working on doing a poll for the Suicide Prevention Training, if anyone can lend a hand who is more familiar with Teams or a way to do a poll.

**Senator Jones:** Myself and Senator Randolph have created our survey but we have to write and email and adjust a few things and then send it out to the students.

**Senator Morkin:** Senator Ho summed it up well, everything seems to be alright in Alton, still discussing with our peers, but nothing has come up so far.

**Senator Obert:** Senator Brimm stated we have our first meeting with the Curriculum Council this week and looking forward to reporting on that.

**Senator O'Dell:** Planning on reaching out to Senator Brimm this week to discuss our common goals for our school.

**Senator Perry:** September 22<sup>nd</sup> the Graduate School is hosting Graduate School Welcome, I am hoping that someone will come to represent SG and talk about the open committees we have. I also attended the Diversity Council meeting led by Miss McKenzie, where we talked out the upcoming year. Senator Aslin and I are talking about potentially doing a survey.

**Senator Pruitt:** Attended the Committee on Assessment and the Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting, which Senator Hawkins already reported on.

**Senator Randolph:** Have reached out to the Dean of Engineering and the Associate Dean to talk about plans and concerns that they might have this year, and like Senator Jones said we did finish a survey for the Engineering students and hope to send it out really soon.

**Senator Schurman:** Working with Senator Wheeler and Senator Sheahan about a Mental Health week, which will be October 4 – 10, and I meet with Lisa Thompson-Gibson about counseling services presenting sometime that week. Will be attending the Marketing Committee Meeting

**Senator Sheahan:** Like Senator Schurman stated, we are working on a mental health week and I am talking to some professors in the School of Nutrition to do a food workshop, and some professors in the School of English to do a Creative Writing workshop that week, all virtual. I do have some additions to my report, things that came to my attention after the report was submitted; Issues with students getting jobs, they are applying but are not hearing back from the departments, need the contact information for who I can contact about this issue. Also have heard from some of the students that are getting scalded by their professors for not having a reliable wifi to connect during class, students should not be getting reprimanded about things that they have no control over. Also, I looked at the COVID dashboard earlier and it is updated every Friday but it list September 10<sup>th</sup> as the last date updated but September 11<sup>th</sup> was Friday. Other than that, I know students are getting settled in for the freshman class and everyone seems to be doing well it was just those few things that were brought up.

**Senator Shiau:** I would like to highlight all the activities of the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists, we are having our first general meeting tomorrow at noon over zoom,

**Senator Wheeler:** As Senator Shurmann and Sheahan mentioned earlier we are working on a Mental Health week, I am reaching out to a Pan Hellenic Woman who attends U of I to see if she is interested in teaching a HIT class via zoom as part of that week, to get people moving. I have a meeting Friday for SOAB, preparing for that by reading through the constitutions assigned to me and just preparing. Met with Senator Burnett about reaching out to our constituents in the School of Nursing and talking about our common goals, like she mentioned.

**Senator Wensing:** I attended a University Center Board meeting the first of this month and working with Senator Shiau for a Senator Meet and Greet for the School of Pharmacy on October 19<sup>th</sup>, which is after our 3-week rotations, via zoom. Long term goal, have the School of Pharmacy students more familiar with the main campus as over half of the pharmacy students are transfer students, hoping to work on that with this first upcoming meet and greet.

## VI. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

**President Walters:** Highlight the lunch with SG, happening tomorrow and every single Tuesday at noon, everyone is welcome, and the zoom link is on our social media.

**Vice President Akpan:** For the Senators that have already sent me your goals and initiatives, thank you very much, they all look good. If you have any issues or concerns don't hesitate to reach out to me.

**Student Trustee Graham:** Board of Trustee meeting this Thursday and I will be posting the link in Teams shortly.

**Financial Officer Dreppard:** First finance board meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> and talked through the changes that we need to make to the funding manual to accommodate the virtual environment. Our next meeting is this coming Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, if you are interested in joining, we still have some seats available.

**Internal Affairs Officer Lutz:** This Thursday at 7 pm we will be playing Virtual Pictionary as our first bonding event, a sign up will be posted tomorrow. I am also doing birthday cards for everyone, starting with September then going to June and working my way down. If you have virtual office hours you will receive a virtual card, if you have in person office hours you will receive an actual card, all made by me. Are 2 more committees that have been brought to my attention – Strategic Planning Committee – need 6 volunteers. Mike Schultz is developing a committee to work with the Shield testing program, 1 SG student needed for this committee, it is a short-term commitment, let me know if you are interested.

**External Affairs Officer Kyle:** Tomorrow is the SG Meet & Greet on zoom, the flyer is up on our social media as well as in Teams. And we will be tabling on the 16<sup>th</sup> as well and handing out some SG SWAG BAGS – please encourage your friends to stop by. Next Tuesday is National Voter Registration day, so I'd like to see SG promote that a little bit more through our social media and individually as well, we are planning some things for election day.

**Marketing and Communications Officer Ballard:** Officer Kyle and myself are working on some Homecoming marketing materials, will get those done and ready to hand out by the start of Homecoming week. Marketing Committee to meet this Thursday, also sent out a link for the Photo Circle so please join the photo circle and please take pictures around campus especially ones with your masks on, so I have some content to post with information we are sending out.

**Organization Relations Officer Akpan:** Next SOAB meeting is this Friday, the committee does have enough members currently, last meeting we went over the constitutions and procedures. Right now, we are reviewing constitutions and reaching out to the organizations that are petitioning. This Friday there are 6 organizations petitioning and 2 with constitution amendments.

**Student Diversity Officer McKenzie:** Been drafting up a resolution about SIUE stance on Anti-Racism. I am proposing that the Chancellor and other higher administrators translate their actionable goals towards racism to a signed public document made available to students. And, I also would like to add that I hosted my first Diversity Committee meeting today at 10 a.m., where we discussed our goals for this semester.

## VII. ADDITION TO AGENDA

None

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

**A. COVID 19 Updates, presented by Dr. Waple**

Good to see everyone, Senator Sheahan, sorry about the date mix up on the COVID dashboard. Screen sharing the dashboard: Gets updated every Friday but data is through Thursday. Dashboard is all voluntary and self-reporting data and University Testing results. There is now showing current two weeks but also all prior weeks with total positive test and also weekly testing. SIUE is doing screening in the former hair center. We can do about 70 a week so we aren't maxed out yet. See the dashboard for all the data about all the testing that have been done on campus. Our quarantine space is at 95% availability. Not surprised the rate is low, some of the factors is that we don't have a large bar scene in Edwardsville, nor do we have Greek housing, nor do we have a football team, so our large gatherings are limited. Campus police and Edwardsville police reporting that they are seeing very many large gatherings. Testing- Mike Schultz is going to coordinate the logistics of testing, students can get a screening or a diagnostics test for free. If you are symptomatic you need to go on Cougar Care and talk to a health care personnel and they will tell you what the next steps are. Mobile testing – starting next week in all our residential areas and some classes. It is voluntary and there may be incentives to participate. The committee that Schultz is heading up is looking for a student who doesn't have an issue getting up and talking in front of administrators, this committee has a short life span as it is developing a plan for IF we are going to have mandatory testing coming to campus in January. For all who may be on ground, this includes students, staff and faculty. The Illinois Shield Testing Program takes about 6 weeks to get a site set up for this type of testing, this group will be working their way through this process. This committee starting soon and will be done by November.

Q&A Senator Aslin Moved to open floor for discussion and Senator Beck Seconded. Senator Aslin asked "Is there a plan in place in case we have to do a total shut down again like in March" Waple "I don't think we will go back to March, I don't think our Governor will go that direction again, but we have a team working on Thresholds and Mediation strategies, our rates are really low, it could explode but we are looking at all the parameters that need to be looked at with different situations. Only 11% of all classes are on ground. 63% is our occupancy in residential halls. One possible strategy is limiting the gathering even further or the event size. Madison County Health has hired SIUE its own contact tracer, this person will be tracking down all the positive cases, working with Madison County Public Health, and then we are hiring another person who will follow up on those who are close contact, which is something the MCPH is not tracking. Close contact means you are in the same space with a positive individual for more than 15 minutes and not wearing a mask and many other conditions. Other problem is if we run out of isolation space or the hospitals are unable to support us – so lots of factors to look at. Senator Perry "First and foremost, I think the institution is moving in a good direction with mandatory testing, but is it 100% certainty that we are going that way?" Waple, "Plans are in the works, don't leave here and say "Oh, their going to start making us get tested" – Plans are still in the works, if the need is there in January." Senator Beck "If mandatory testing is required, will it include remote learners?" Waple says: This committee is going to work on that, if you are up in Chicago and never come to campus then most likely not but if you live off campus but potentially come to campus for anything then potentially, this committee will be figuring it all out." Basically, if you are physically coming to campus for ANYTHING, then potentially you will be required to

get tested. Senator Beck asked “You stated that there are 11% of classes on ground, do you see this changing next semester?” Waple stated that it will probably remain the same, even if a vaccine is developed before Spring, there will still be a pecking order, not everyone will be getting a shot and will it keep you from getting COVID, who is to say. So we don’t even know what next fall will look like, since class schedules for next fall are due in February so not a large window of time. Director Karnes asked for clarification on the 11% of classes on ground, isn’t there a larger percentage of hi-bred classes? Waple stated, 11% is completely on ground or hi-bred, 7444 students that are on ground for a class and hi-bred. Trustee Graham states that the statistics that he received from President Mahony that there are 42% of students taking classes fully on-line and the other 47% are either hi-bred or on campus. Vice-President Akpan called for a motion to close the floor for discussion. Senator Aslin moved to close the floor and Senator Sheahan seconded.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Oath of Office**

#### **a. Augustus Hawkins**

Vice-President Akpan called for a motion to approve the swearing in of Senator Hawkins. Senator Aslin moved and was seconded by Senator Beck. This passed by roll call vote. President Walters then swore Senator Hawkins in as Senator at Large.

### **B. Virtual Program Funding Request**

#### **b. Cello Club \$100**

Details of this program were presented by Finance Officer Dreppard, this program was approved for an in-person demonstration last spring but was canceled due to COVID, they are now proposing that the Professor do a lecture via zoom on his book on Bach. It will be a 2-hour long lecture with Q&A and all students are welcome to join. They are asking for \$100 fee for the Professor. Vice-President Akpan called for a motion to approve. Senator Aslin motioned to approve, seconded by Senator Sheahan. Approved by roll call vote.

## **X. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS/PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS**

## **XI. OPEN FORUM**

Questions from the live streaming:

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Senator Aslin – Leadership programs** – weekly leadership lunches each week are now over zoom, this month all but the last one of the are facilitated by leadership council and the last one of the month is facilitated by Robin Ermer. Today is last day to apply for Legacy Program which is for Advanced leaders, typically for upper classmen but Sophomores have been known to complete the program. Applications are on GetInvolved.

**Advisor Laux** – Places to be at the E newsletter, for great things happening next week. Also Resource fair and student organization fair videos are still available thru FlipGrid – check out Kimmel on facebook. Check GetInvolved where lots of events are being posted by Student

Organizations. SOLO registration links will go live tomorrow – check this out and any questions send me an email. Cougar Cupboard is open by appointment only, W, Th, and Fridays – their sign-up genius link is on their Facebook page- please share this information with students.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment was at 7:09 pm**