



Minutes for Senate Meeting 9-8-09

5:15 p.m., Call to Order: Tara McLellan

- **From the Field Report: Sandipan Datta**

From the department of Pharmacognosy: They look at anti-cancer drugs using natural products.

- **Budget Report: Camp Best**

The budget that was adopted is in the left hand column, middle column is what has been spent, and the left column is the balance. Some areas have gone over, but there are some areas that we are going to be able to use to balance out. If you would like a copy, then Camp will be glad to email it to you.

Otis Pickett made sure to thank Mary-Elizabeth and committee for a job well done at the Fall Picnic

- Introduction of Officer Elections Amendment: Otis Pickett

The amendment presented tonight is not a final draft; the elections committee will be meeting later on this month. This is not a formalized amendment; therefore it can be presented before the GSC without any issues. Sandipan discussed the fact that the new committee's are headed by Executive officers, however the

election committee is not. However, Otis was chosen last year to head this committee, so that's why he is able to keep this seat. We will have a special debate session on Thursday October 22nd, from 5:15-6:15, to specifically debate the Officer Elections Amendment. In the past, the Senate has elected the GSC Executive officers. An application process chooses the director's. There were some who felt that there should be an open election for the Officers, in order to include the graduate students and to make sure that they understand who the candidates are. The constitution has to be amended, in order to change.

Sandipan stated that the vote last year that a committee was formed just in order to investigate changing the amendment. The minutes did state that, however, a motion was made by Jermaine in order to extend the authority of the committee to actually create change the constitution. Otis Second.

11, 2 opposed, 2 abstention

The motion passed to change the authority of the committee.

We entered a period of debate – Sandipan stated that the committee was supposed to investigate the change to the amendment, not to the constitution.

Baumann motioned to move to previous question, seconded by Otis, received 2/3 vote.

- **Plus/Minus Grading System Discussion & Vote: Tara McLellan**

Presented the new grading scale, which has to be approved by the Undergraduate and Graduate Council, faculty senate is really pushing for it. The graduate council stated that this doesn't seem

like it would affect graduate students, and that it just didn't matter. Tara would like to discuss what everyone thinks about it since she has a vote, and would like the Senators to bring it back to their department and find out what they think as well. Make sure to bring your comments to your representative on the Graduate Council for your school. There will be a vote in November to see what everyone thinks, and that will be Tara's vote in the Graduate Council.

Pickett: If they pass it when will it go into effect?

Next year

Smith: They are already on a 7 point grading scale, how will that affect you?

All will be required to switch to the minus and addition scale. However, it's up to the prerogative of the instructor.

Jermaine: It doesn't affect the scale, it affects the absolute scale, so the 7-point scale wouldn't change, and they would just have to assign the A-/A/A+.

If the professor chooses to not do that scale, what would happen to the scale?

If they chose not to change to that scale, it will remain the same as it is now. So if one class does it and one doesn't then the grading scale would be different.

Ram: Are they not going to declare the criteria beforehand?

They are required to put the grading scale on their syllabus, so if they didn't want to do it then you would be informed beforehand. The only thing graduate students are bound to is the number of hours that we take, not the grading scale.

Smith: The resolution doesn't mention what the grade would be; do they plan on including it?

They are forming a committee to investigate what would be the scale.

Mary-Elizabeth: why is the whole university not voting this on? The professors are the one who makes policy, not the students. ASB formed a piece of legislation to create a committee that would be the voice of the students.

CAMP: Can it be adopted for undergrad and not grad? No, it would be university wide.

Fake: Isn't it possible that for B students, it would actually help? Yes, one of the benefits is that they would be able to diversify the grades.

Chris: Is there anyone we could talk to that would adopt it differently? It's going to be an across the board system, it's not going to be any different for the different student bodies. Dr. Sufka might be the best person to talk to.

Smith: If this is adopted, is there a way to petition the graduate school to make a 2.7 ok to stay in? Definitely, Dr. Eftink said that we would have to evaluate the minimum GPA that is required to stay in graduate school.

Otis: Is there anyway to make a motion to say that since we haven't heard from grad students, we might be able to have a panel of students talk to the graduate council? And maybe we should make a resolution to not be in favor?

Yes it is possible; Tara could motion the council and see what they have to say.

- **Senator Responsibilities: Tara McLellan**

1. Attend each monthly meeting, and if you can't attend please chose your alternate to attend for you. If you don't have one than you should elect one in case you can't attend.
2. If your not sending out reports on the GSC to your departments, we would ask you to do so. Let them know what's going on-social events, grading scale, elections amendments.
3. We appreciate those involved in a committee, we really appreciate it, but if you have not we really need people to participate
4. The publicity committee wants suggestions for the name for the newsletter.
5. Please encourage people to submit grant applications, due by Friday 26, to Ramsankar. Please spread the word because some people may not have received the emails.

- **Philanthropic Events: Mary Elizabeth Garner**

We had a great picnic. Our next event, off the grove tailgate, at the graduate house, homecoming weekend, there will be a TV, if you don't have a ticket, please come and watch the game!

Rock the Bus, October 23-24, Friday at Wal-Mart on Jackson Avenue, and on the 24th, during the Arkansas game at the graduate house. Going to require a lot of publicity, so any suggestions that you have for that would be great. She has a radio station, some press releases, but anymore it would be great. May need help in supporting the supplies. November, kind of like hanging out with a band, at the square, so that's in the making.

There was a motion to end the meeting by Fyke, 2nd by Tipton, meeting adjourned at 6:14