Assembly Meeting Minutes

Greencastle, IN
9 March 2014

Walker Chance, President, speaks about upcoming events
- **UPushStart** April 5
- Guest artist **Chanteclier** April 12

Lizzie Hineman, Public Relations, makes announcements:
- Lizzie is here to help you with your PR
- Alex Sroka will be putting together a senior video for DePauw Under the Stars

Cody Watson, VP of Academic Life, speaks about Winter Term changes:
- Winter Term classes will be more focused on providing academic credit
- Student will be able to apply for financial aid during Winter Term
- More to come about how many Winter Terms will be required according to year

Olivia Flores, EVP, invites Senators to present recently passed White Papers:
- **Sustainability** presented by Senators Curt Hardacre ’15 & Charlie Douglas ’17
  - Improving recycling, awareness, and expanding the Campus Farm.
  - Restarting composting, encourage biking
- **Sophomore Experience** presented by Senators Stephanie Grauer ’15 & Colleen Whiting ’16
  - Sophomore Institute — make it more sustainable throughout the year by resume workshops (online), alumni connections, eliminate mandatory Linked-In, improve networking (app), pre-med and pre-law advising staff

Alumni Guest Speakers from Student Engagement Committee: Kelli Davis ’04 and Freedom Smith ’01
- Announced new database to look up alumni and the alumni app through EverTrue
- Asked Assembly for ways alumni can better communicate with students
- Alumni-student events - what would you like to attend?
- Students voiced opinions about field-specific networking events, especially in psychology, communications and PR, and non-profit work
- Major-specific alumni lunches (each table with group of alumni who had the same major while they were at DePauw)
- Networking events at bars (informal settings)

**Marjorie Daily, Parliamentarian, announced Spring Elections:**
- External elections to be held on **April 24th**
- Packets go out **March 31st** and are due **April 9th**
  - Six executive positions (President, Vice President, VP of Allocations, Vice President of Community Relations, VP Student Life, VP Academic Life)
  - Five positions for Allocations Board
  - Senate positions
  - Graduate Member to the Alumni Board
  - Graduate Member to the Board of Trustees
- Campaigning begins **April 10th**
- Presentation of platforms **April 23rd**
- Contact marjoriedaily_2015@depauw.edu with questions.

**Olivia Flores, EVP, present proposed Constitutional Changes:**
- Logistics:
  - Jurisprudence committee meets for a week to discuss changes
  - Then goes to Rep and Senate chambers this Sunday
  - Assembly votes during the following meeting
  - Email Marj at marjoriedaily_2015@depauw.edu with any opinions and/or concerns about the Constitution
- Reasoning:
  - Competing events between organizations, looking for more involvement from students?
  - Reform Representative Chamber
    - **Application Recognized Organizations**: fulfill requirements for existing
    - **Monthly Check-In Organizations**: receive funds from allocations and only have to check in monthly
    - **Chamber Organizations**: exist and receive funding from allocations, required to attend weekly meetings
• **Required Chamber Organizations:** exist, receive large funds, and represent large numbers of students
  • Want to accommodate for differences in student organizations
  • Making standing committees within Senate chamber so they are more successful at combating issues
  • Want Assembly Meetings to be more interactive:
    • Assembly would be changed to Student Forum

• **These are just proposals**

**Student Opinions about changes:**

**Q:** Concerned because organizations with more members get more funding, more right to vote, can be very silencing
**A(1):** Everyone has to be an application organization, then students could apply for funding; required chamber organizations do not get more money from allocations, they already are the organizations that apply for large amounts and need to be a part of organizations that speak for a large number of students on campus
**A(2):** Further answer, If you want to be at the weekly meetings and have a voice you can be at those meetings - your voice will NOT be excluded, you are just not required to attend. But if you receive large amounts of money or represent many members, you ARE required. *Still working out the X amount of money issue — should the representative chamber category your organizations falls under be influenced by allocations?*

**Q:** Requirement breeds apathy, which is why Assembly has issues now. How will new system alleviate this requirement? What if it was a volunteer basis?
**A:** Application process - each organization says which grouping they would like to be in, in the end money does matter. Required Chamber Organizations and Chamber Organizations are equal

**Q:** Should there be a distinction between organizations who receive funding for their events that are only open to their organizations or those who host events that are open to the public?
**A:** Alternative proposals are welcome, including not changing Assembly at all, Incorporating Monthly Check-In Organizations in Student Forum meetings

**Q:** VP Allocations, Mark Weiss: doesn’t believe in incentivising organizations through Allocations — how would organizaitons keep from having to switch chambers from semester to semester? **He would love feedback** ([dsg_allocations@depauw.edu](mailto:dsg_allocations@depauw.edu))
Mark Weiss, VP of Allocations, makes announcements:
- Student Activities Fee raised $11 at Board of Trustees meeting (has one of second lowest fees in NCAC)
- Requests were $500,000 this year, we have around $230,000
- Resources now on Allocations webpage
- Allocations has How-to questionnaire that will be put on website later tonight

Student Concerns:
Chris: Recycling bins: says paper only or plastic only — actually all commingled, can recycle anything that’s recyclable in the same bin

Mark: Library whiteboards. A lot of students are concerned that they never see the Exec... how can we be held more accountable? Leave us comments!

Q: Do you ever post your minutes?
A: Joint Chamber Meetings, Senate, Reps meetings will be posted on website

Q: Collaborations to make more events open to public — can DSG create platform for students to collaborate on? Senate committees still standing?
A: Committees are not currently standing, but will be with proposed changes President’s retreat was our platform

Next Assembly Meeting is April 6th

-----

Contact: Lizzie Hineman
Director of PR
dsg_publicrelations@depauw.edu

END