



Student Congress

Student Association at Binghamton University

September 21st, 2015 – Meeting Agenda

- **Call To Order**
 - 7:32 PM Called to Order

- **Roll Call**
 - Roll Call taken

- **Approval of the Agenda**
 - Nick - Adding friendly amendment to agenda after committee reports
 - Amendment passes
 - Agenda passes

- **Public Comment** (Undergraduate Students wishing to speak are recognized by the Speaker.)
 - Nobody here for Public Comment

- **Assembly Speaker Report, Sheeva Massoudi** (A brief Q&A will follow the report.)
 - Welcome to Congress!
 - Sheeva welcomes everyone to congress
 - Puts up agenda for Congress this year -- Will send this out later tonight
 - President will be coming next meeting
 - Brian Rose will be coming too
 - Elections for Vice Speaker will be next meeting
 - Vice Speaker will share meeting if Sheeva cannot be here and will do Roll Call
 - Kalahari Retreat 9/25-9/26
 - Congress Reps and Executive Board must go to water park retreat
 - Will serve as a training session for members (ie: Properly writing legislation, First Committee Meetings)
 - Mandatory retreat
 - Leaving Friday 4:00 PM and return Saturday around 6:00 PM (tentatively)

- **Approval or denial of Sarah's absence from Congress Meetings**
 - She must submit report once a month
 - Motion that Sarah's absence is excused
 - Absence passes- 37-0-0

- **Executive Board Reports** (A brief Q&A will follow reports.)
 - President, Dillon Schade
 - Sheeva reads Dillon's report aloud, as he is not present at meeting
 - Please direct questions regarding Dillon's report directly to him (his e-mail)
 - Executive Vice President, Zachary Vigliani
 - Sheeva reads Zachary's report aloud, as he is not present at meeting



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Please direct questions regarding Zachary's report directly to him (his e-mail)

- - Vice President for Finance, Katherine Tashman
 - *Kate introduces herself*
 - *She met with FINCO*
 - *FINCO confirmed treasurer handbook changes, but there still needs to be approval by Presidents and Treasurers*
 - *Goes through each change of the handbook*
 - *Section 1: The Basics*
 - *Section 2: Making Purchases*
 - *Section 3: Contracts, Personal Service, and Insurance*
 - *Section 4: Fundraising and Rollover*
 - *Section 5: Financial Committee*
 - *Section 6: Travel*
 - *Section 7: Equipment*
 - *Section 8: Miscellaneous Policies*
 - *Section 9: Deliveries*
 - *Section 10: Consequences*
 - *Should we further clarify the consequences chart? As an amendment*
 - *Discussion of whether or not FINCO needs to approve this amendment*
 - *Kate mentions potentially rewording the chart, sending it to Sheeva, and Sheeva will then send it to Congress for it to be approved*
 - *Treasurers exams are on their way*
 - *Looking for new assistants*
 - *Let communities know that Kate is looking for assistants*
 - *Send your resumes through email*
 - *Confirmation of Student Association Treasurer, Ami Bhavsar (including brief Q&A for nominee)*
 - *Nomination of Ami Bhavsar*
 - *Welcomed*
 - *She speaks about her financial experience and background on policies*
 - *She knows SA very well*
 - *She will be there as a guiding force as the Financial Chair*
 - *Congress - Denial or approval of the nomination*
 - *Serena notes: Ami not only has the financial experience, but she also has the leadership component too because she was treasurer of Mountain View as well as other leadership roles*
 - *Ami is SA treasurer - no disapproval*
 - Vice President for Academic Affairs, Amanda Baker
 - *PUG Program - Freshmen, sophomores, transfers will meet with juniors & seniors who will help guide them with advice*
 - *Student Advocates Program*
 - *Help*



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- *Email with questions if you have any*
- *New York Times Program*
 - *Free 24/7 access to this so use it!*
 - *Email Amanda for link to access for online New York Times*
 - *Amanda will check into if there is an article limit*
- **Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, Ruslan Klafehn**
 - *Turbo Vote*
 - *Goal is 250 voters by Oct 14th*
 - *The more people that are registered, the more people will vote*
 - *ICA will be meeting this Thursday*
 - *Will go over some potential changes*
 - *BPMA usually sits, but he is looking to change that to build relationships between community organizations*
- **Vice President for Programming, Bernadette Machuca**
 - *Fall concert is announced*
 - *Big Sean*
 - *Waiting for opening acts*
 - *Comedy Show*
 - *Will announce comedian this week on the 24th*
 - *Selling tickets this Thursday and Friday 12PM-4PM in Marketplace (Spread the word)*
- **Guest Speaker**
 - *Working on contracts for that*
- **Frost Fest**

- **Committee Reports (Introduction of Committees and Purposes)**
 - **Internal Affairs, Charlie Scheftic**
 - *Look at group constitutions, re-registration, name changes*
 - **Planning, Research & Elections, Julie Kline**
 - *Meet every other week*
 - *Busy in the Spring*
 - *in charge of elections, e-boards*
 - *BU council elections*
 - *ie: CIW thought their rooms were too dark so they initiated the "Enlightening Act" and brought more lights to CIW*
 - *If she were to run for president next year, then she would step down from pre*
 - **Student Life & Academics, Brendan Cunningham**
 - *in SOM*
 - *Senior*
 - *Finance student*
 - *Will work on Res life issues, may build on previous changes (managed undergraduate mentoring program, split up math curriculum, arguing grades based on the work that you are putting in)*
 - *emphasizes on closeness within committee with your fellow committee members*



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- Financial Committee, Ami Bhavsar

- Financial committee FINCO met tonight
- Treasurer handbook
- Speech and debate - \$8,530
 - going to fund 2 of their tournaments
- 6 yes; 1 opposed; 1 abstention
- opposition to FINCO report?
 - Yes
 - moving into debate

Debate

- if report is opposed both the Speech and Debate Report and Treasurer Handbook Report will be opposed
- Motion to separate report out
- Separate Treasurers Handbook passing from Speech and Debate allocation
- any opposition to separating report
 - No
 - report is separated
- No opposition to Speech and Debate
- Opposition to Treasurers Handbook
 - Opposition
 - moving into debate
 - Ami is pro Handbook
 - Con of Handbook goes to front of class to debate with Ami
 - each pro and con gets two minutes to speak
 - you can motion to limit debate
 - Ami will start
 - if you choose to, you can yield your time to another speaker
 - Ami yields to Kate
 - Kate argues that the Treasurer's Handbook is clear
 - it was approved by both old financial and executive director of FINCO, 430 people did not seem to think it was unclear
 - if it is not passed today it will take 2 more weeks for it to be approved
 - with no approved handbook, there are no set guidelines for Treasurers to follow at this time
 - yielded back
- Con speaks
 - argues that consequence section is arbitrary
 - wants further clarification
 - thinks there will be unfair consequences
 - yields to Nick
 - Nick says: when in doubt, if you think there is going to be a problem with clarification then there probably will be and we should, thus, do something about it now
 - on the argument that it will take another 2 weeks to approve this



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handbook Nick says:

- *we can go over to FINCO right now*
- *we can call a congress recess*
- *we did that last year*
- *just want it to be clearer because this could stay in the handbook for years to come*

point of information

- *is it true that treasury exams will be null?*
 - *Kate says: no it just won't be based off an approved Handbook*
- *Motion to end debate*
- *opposition to end debate*
- *revoke of previous motion*
- *move into second round of debate*
 - *Ami yields to Kate*
 - *Kate says: there is only 1 out of 435 people not understanding the consequences section*
- *back to Ami*
 - *Ami read the handbook*
 - *did not find it confusing*
 - *neither did FINCO*
 - *she does not think that it is something that will be an issue*
 - *people will have the opportunity to speak to Kate's assistant before consequences are actually carried through*
- *back to Con*
 - *Main concern is arbitrariness*
 - *yields to Nick*
 - *Let's go to FINCO right now because we're simply wasting time talking about it*
- *point of information*
 - *reports are separated so money will not be affected for speech and debate*
- *point of information*
 - *if FINCO approves it can we fully pass everything tonight?*
 - *Sheeva responds that this is possible*
- *Point of information*
 - *can we vote to take a recess*
 - *person motions to recess*
 - *any opposition?*
 - *Nick - opposes so we don't recess*
 - *End to debate*
 - *denying Treasurers Handbook*
 - *oppositions (11)*
 - *nos to opposing (23)*
 - *abstentions (4)*



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11-23-4

○ Treasurers Handbook passes

- **Committee Caucus (Excluding Financial Committee)**

- Representatives will separate by community and make committee selections

- i. Minimum (1) Representative per community on each committee

- ii. Minimum (2) Representatives on each committee for off campus

- *breaks into communities*

- *FINCO reps are already on FINCO*

- *in addition, have somebody go up to Sheeva at the end of meeting and tell her what committee you are in*

- *one person from each community must be on each committee and 2 OCP reps?*

- *don't do IO if you cannot meet on Mondays*

- **Announcements**

- *SUNY SA Report*

- *Nick explains what SUNY SA is*

- *He is a delegate for Binghamton*

- *If somebody tells you that you can't change something, bring it to Nick and let him know. He would like to help you with that.*

- *Right now they are working on:*

- i. *Internship policy*

- ii. *Looking for an enterprising student who would like to get involved in system wide governments*

- iii. *He has meetings about this every week*

- *Adam does announcement*

- i. *GIM this Thursday 6 PM*

- *There is a whole lot of candy corn left*

- *Reminder Kalahari Retreat is this weekend and is mandatory*

- *Next meeting we will be electing Vice Speakers*

- i. *Sheeva will send an e-mail about how to go about running for this*

- **Roll Call**

- *Sheeva does ending Roll Call*

- **Adjournment**

- *Meeting adjourned 8:47 PM*



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President

First, congratulations to all of the newly elected student congress representatives! I look forward to meeting and working with you all throughout this year. Since the beginning of the summer, I've been working on a lot of different projects which I've outlined below. Take a look and if you have any questions, please feel free to stop in during my office hours or send me an email at president@binghamtonsa.org.

-With the retirement of our Administrative Director, Jackie Burke, we have hired Ornella Harvey to be the Student Association's new Financial Director.

-Our incorporation status is currently waiting on approval from the Federal Government for not-for-profit status. Approval should be finalized by early next semester.

-Finalized negotiations with the University Counseling Center to provide High Hopes with a part time counselor. The High Hopes Executive Board and Leanna Rice are currently working to get High Hopes operational.

-OCCT has made many changes to its routes and scheduling based on student feedback and the use of our population trackers. If you have any questions please go to occtransport.org.

- Late Night Stop Change - Hawley St @ State
- Green Buses/Campus Shuttle Service
- New ITC Shuttle Stop - Across from Engineering bldg
- Damage to Buses - Students Responsibility
- ID Cards - Required to ride, One guest policy
- ETA SPOT
- Downtown Center Leroy (DCL)
- UDC Shuttle

Executive Vice President



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- A lot of Intent to Charters were handed in. My assistants and myself are currently reviewing them. If you know of anyone who is interested in starting a club, the form is both online and they can pick one up in the office.
- Alumni Center Open House for Student Groups 9/22 at 6pm, 9/23 at 11:30am, 9/28 at 5pm, and 10/2 at 3pm
- Oct 18th Open House, Student Groups will be tabling for Prospective Students!
- Family Weekend Student Tabling October 24th for Prospective Students!
- Project SAnta is scheduled for December 7th, details to follow
- FAST Conference was a success!

Vice President for Finance

- Confirm Treasurer, Ami Bhavsar
- Review handbook changes
- Treasurer's exams are underway
- Looking for two new assistants, let your communities know and send résumés to vpf@binghamtonsa.org

Vice President for Academic Affairs

- * I have the PUG program up and running. This is a great way to get involved and to make more connections on campus. This is a great way for freshmen, sophomores and Transfer students to become acclimated to

campus. Junior and seniors are able to speak with these students. Similarly, they are able to help them in many ways and provide advice they may or may not have had. Please email me at pug@binghamtonsa.org if you are interested in signing up or have questions!

* Student advocates:

I have begun selecting advocates for this year. These students will be trained both in the areas of academia and conduct. These students are here as a great resource. If you or anyone you know gets in trouble or is having an issue with their professor, they can come to an advocate who is here to help and advise you. If you are interested in becoming an advocate or ever need assistance, please email advocate@binghamtonsa.org.

* The New York Times program is up and running. 300 copies are delivered each day as well as a free 24-7 internet access.

Vice President for Multicultural Affairs

TurboVote

I have been meeting with a representative from a company that does voter registration. We have discussed switching to online voter registration. The program turbo vote would help to increase both registration and voter turnout. My goal for this would be to have at least 250 students registered. In order for me to do this I need the support of Congress and several different organizations. Funding for this will come out of my office and maybe from ODEI as I discussed with Valerie Hampton about getting support from her office and she seemed on board with the idea.

Community Projects

I have sat down with members of various community organizations concerning getting more student involvement in the political scene of Binghamton. This goes in line with my want for this office to advocate for minority issues as these groups are similar in the thinking of



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many of the groups I am representing. If all goes well then my office will be able to set up some sort of program to link students on campus with community involvement off campus.

LGBTQ Resource Director Hiring

I talked with both the ODEI and the MRC about news concerning the hiring of an LGBTQ Resource Center Director. What I heard from them was that the hiring process will begin soon after some paperwork is signed and the search committee meets. This part of the process was put off during the summer in an effort to allow students to be more involved in the process. I currently have one of my assistants sitting on the committee who will be informing me on how the search is going and what is being said. I have also had him reach out to the President of Shades and RPU in order to form a task force designed at collaborating the student perspective for what is needed from any potential resource director as well as a student group to assist administration in anyway they need in order for this to get done in a timely fashion.

Vice President for Programming

- Fall Concert 10/15 - Big Sean, opening acts TBA
- Family Weekend Comedy Show 10/24 - TBA 9/24
- Hosting a speaker in early November
- Frost Fest 12/6