

**Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) Student Government Association (SGA)**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 11, 2008**

The regular session of the Student Government Association was called to order by Vice President Matthew Lopez at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, January 11, 2008 in room SAC #206. Secretary Teresa Santos was present.

**Roll Call:**

**Executives:** Ivan Blount, Matthew Lopez, Teresa Santos (Treasurer: Vacant)

**Senate:** Obadiah Counsellor, Julio Cruz, Zachary Duncan, Maria Granados (4:00), Amelie Kanovsky, Justin Matthews, Aleah Wilburn, (absent: Amanda Acosta, Isabel Dieppa, Allysa Winston)

**Judicial:** Vacant

**Interim Advisor:** Scott Opasik

**Guests:** Jake Jones (Preface), Kimberly Muncie.

Senator Amelie Kanovsky moved to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2007 meeting.

**Executive Report:**

**President:**

President Ivan Blount asked the Senate to approve his appointments to the Presidential Cabinet. His appointments are as follows; Kim Muncie-Chief of Staff, Frank Richmond-Director of Public Affairs and Special Projects, and Lokia Osborne-Director of the Academic Senate.

Blount communicated the attendance report for the fall 2007 semester, reminding the Senate that two unexcused absences or a combination of four excused/unexcused absences, are grounds for removal from office. He asked that the membership please keep this in mind as we move through the semester.

Blount reported that the Election Committee needs to be set up. He asked the SGA members who will not be running for office to please consider volunteering for the committee. There were no volunteers

Blount made a request of the Senate to consider a resolution requesting that Dr. Jeff Jones, Vice Chancellor of Student Services and Enrollment, set up a faculty committee to investigate and formulate guidelines for our budget process this year. Blount explained that since we have quite a lot of work to do and no treasure, this would establish short-term and long-term guidelines to help us better manage our money and hold accountable ourselves and the organizations receiving student activity fees.

Discussion and question followed asking for clarification of the guidelines and what the committee would be doing. Secretary Teresa Santos explained that the executive branch met several times, over the summer and fall semesters, with administration in Fiscal Affairs and Student Services. The concerns we've discussed are being accountable for the funds we manage, holding accountable the organizations receiving disbursements from the student activity fees and basically charging the

committee with the responsibility of helping formulate a process to this. We have discussed specific requirements that we recommend you ask of such a committee. Some of them are as follows: 1.) All organizations requesting funds must provide their mission statement; if it is a student organization they must provide a copy of their constitution. 2.) Line item budgets must be provided, and all funds requested must be allocated. 3.) Funds that have not been used for their allocated purpose must be returned to the student activity fee account, from which they were taken (i.e. If an allocation of \$700.00 is requested to pay for licensing fees, and only \$200.00 are used, the \$500.00 leftover, must be returned. It may not be reallocated to another use. 4.) The SGA's budget should have a new line allowing for technology upgrades in the SGA's office. 5.) Executive members of The Preface and Titan Productions may not be paid more than Executive members of the SGA. (Recommend that the SGA establish the pay scale for the executives and staff of said organizations.) 6.) All organizations must provide statements to the SGA of funds used, if requested. 7.) Any allocated funds that have not been used, must be returned to the Student Activity Fee account that they were distributed from, at the end of our academic year. 8.) The Senate will have the final approval for recommendations made by the committee. 9.) The need for this resolution has been thoroughly researched by the members of the Executive Branch and this is our official recommendation to the Senate.

Santos informed the Senate that these decisions are completely up to them (the Senate). The Senate can make this suggested resolution, or not. Chief of Staff Kimberly Muncie asked if a member of the SGA can be on the committee. Blount informed her that the SGA appointed budget committee, consisting of two senators and the president, would serve on the faculty committee. Blount reiterated that the SGA sets the budget guidelines, the committee will research and make recommendations for the SGA, but the final budget guidelines will be set by the SGA.

Blount asked the Senate if they would be in favor of requesting such a committee. All members indicated that yes, they are in favor of requesting such a committee.

Blount informed the Senate that the Executive Branch recommends the suspension of the Constitution Committee because of the amount of work that is coming with the Spring Semester. Bloomington has offered a representative to the President to address constitution concerns. The executive branch will make recommended changes to the constitution, and requested the Senate trust us with the task. The Senate will approve any recommended changes that are requested. Blount asked if the Senate would be in favor of this action. All indicated that they would.

Blount informed the Senate for the need of the Search and Screen committee to begin the process of finding candidates for office. He also asked that the S & S committee screen candidates for judicial and Chief Justice. Santos pointed out that the former S & S committee completed the task for which it was appointed is therefore dissolved. A new committee will have to be appointed.

The Michiana Monologues will take place February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Professor April Lidinsky, advisor to the organization is requesting funds in the amount of approximately \$100.00. Blount reminded the Senate that only students, or student organizations can request funds, and that the Professor may not realize this because past SGA's had granted some faculty requests.

Get on the Bus, the annual trip to the statehouse will take place February 13<sup>th</sup>. Blount gave a little history about the program and recommended that each of the members please consider participating in this event. More information will be forthcoming.

## **Committee Reports:**

***Michiana Dance Marathon.*** Senator Aleah Wilburn reported that there was a name change for the event because there is already a local organization using the MDM moniker. The event is renamed Michiana Dance for the Homeless. Wilburn thanked the committees that met this week. She asked that everyone keep checking their emails, reminding all that communication is the key to having a successful event. Saturday there will be a kickoff meeting for all committees. The time is 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and food will be provided. Wilburn expressed the need for the SGA to fund the pizza. The executive committee will be in attendance, including members from the Center for the Homeless. There is a lot of work needing done and we want to be sure that everyone is on the same page.

Santos asked if the SGA would be reimbursed for any expenses requested to help pay up front costs needed for this event. These are student activity fees we are using and do we know that our colleagues are willing for us to use their funds in this manner? Blount mentioned that when this was first introduced to the SGA, there was conversation that the SGA would receive a portion of the proceeds. Wilburn said that this was a charity event and she didn't feel that we should then use this event to make money. She stated that the committee had decided with the administration, not to take proceeds from this event. Wilburn also informed the Senate that CFH will be covering the up front costs for the event.

## **Old Business:**

Kim Muncie reported to the Senate what she has been doing as Chief of Staff. AUSA will be meeting January 25<sup>th</sup> and they are working on providing a university-wide conference, for student leader. The purpose is to build networking relationships and increase awareness of AUSA. There is currently some concern about a change in the meeting schedule for the IU Board of Trustees. The previous schedule assured that the BOT would be at a regional campus at least once every two years, and now they are meeting less, so that will no longer happen. How will this impact the regional campuses and student awareness of the administrative process?

Muncie informed the Senate that she is hoping to do a video documentary with her team for one of her graduate classes. She is using the tool with the theme of how to create a fundraiser for a not-for-profit organization. She will work with the president and executives.

Muncie offered her full support and said that if the membership has any needs or concerns, to please contact her for help.

## **New Business:**

Vice President Matthew Lopez appointed Secretary Teresa Santos to the office of Parliamentarian and asked the Senate to approve his appointment.

Senator Aleah Wilburn moved to approve the Vice President's appointment of Secretary Teresa Santos to the Office of Parliamentarian. The motion passed.

Senator Amelie Kanovsky moved to approve President Ivan Blount's appointments of Kimberly Muncie – Chief of Staff, Frank Richmond – Director of Public Affairs and Special Projects, and Lokia Osborne – Director of Academic Senate, to the Presidential Cabinet. The motion passed.

Secretary Santos asked for the floor. The request was granted. Santos informed the Senate of problems with the current technology in the SGA office. The computers are close to crashing and are just too old to handle the current Microsoft Office 2007, noting that we must use those programs. Because there is not an allocation for technology upgrades in the current budget, the money

will have to come from the Senate. Santos was quoted a price of \$671.00 per bundle package of computers. These are the contract price the university has with Dell. One or two computers need replaced now. We just don't have a choice. Santos recommended working with IT to purchase computers rotating out of student labs, until we reach a point that we will be rotating our own equipment. Santos asks the Senate to purchase one or two new computers for the office.

Blount informed the Senate that the SGA also owns the computers in the Club Room and they are suffering also. Much discussion followed.

Senator Kanovsky reported that the ISO has still not received the \$300.00 they were granted by the Senate and asked why.

Senator Wilburn stated that she would like the Senate to purchase pizza for tomorrow's MDH meeting.

Lopez noted three issues on the floor and returned to Santos' request for new office equipment.

Discussion of the issue ensued with the Senate requesting Santos to have an assessment of the current technology done by IT, and also see if we can get a bigger discount if we buy all brand new computers at the same time. Santos responded that she would report back at the next meeting.

Concerning the ISO funds, Santos reported that the legislation was sent to administration and it should have been taken care of. Santos offered to research the issue and report back next meeting.

Senator Wilburn moved for the allocation of up to \$150.00 in funds, to pay for pizza tomorrow. The motion passed.

**Lopez asked the Senate to allow him to suspend business, so that the membership could have an open and honest time of discussion before adjourning. The Senate approved.**

Vice President Lopez opened discussion of meeting times for the Spring Semester asking if 3:30 p.m. on Friday's are a good time or a bad time?

Senator Julio Cruz does not believe that weekly meetings are appropriate. Cruz suggests every other week on Friday or Saturday. Some members of the Senate are still working on work and academic related schedules and feels this is a hindrance to them being on the Senate although he understands that exceptions can't always be made for one or two members.

President Blount expressed that he is concerned for our constituents, whom we serve, stating that week-ends would be inconvenient for them

Secretary Santos said that the spring semester is when the SGA is the busiest. Traditionally, funding requests come on a regular basis, almost weekly. There are elections to prepare for, a Search and Screen committee that needs to be seated and up and running now, and we have the dance marathon going on. She reminded the membership that we are here to meet the needs of the students who elected us, not to meet our own needs.

Senator Maria Granados asked about the absence policy in relation to her school schedule. Santos said that the constitution allow four excused absences. She also informed the Senate that the attendance policy does not require an automatic removal from office, however, it does allow for a removal if necessary.

Lopez stated that he had asked about meeting times and nearly all indicated 3:30 on Friday's was good time. He also has to get the schedule published and is behind in doing so. Since it is his constitutional obligation, Lopez has decided to remain with weekly meetings at 3:30 on Friday's, reminding the Senate that they have had plenty of time to get there schedules to the Vice President. Lopez also has decided to have meetings once per month at the Elkhart campus and is looking February 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> for the first meeting there.

Secretary Santos point of ordered asking to return to new business, stating to the Senate she must inform them that the constitution requires the President to appoint the Election Committee during the December meeting, and that the President has not fulfilled his constitutional requirements in this regard.

**Lopez returned the floor to new business.**

Santos stated that because there was no December meeting, Blount was unable to appoint the Election Committee and therefore must appoint the election committee today to fulfill his constitutional duties. Santos further informed the Senate the constitution requires the Election Committee to hold its first meeting before February 1<sup>st</sup>.

President Blount asked the Senate to approve his appointment of Senators Julio Cruz, Maria Granados, and Amanda Acosta, to the Election Committee.

Senator Wilburn moved to approve President Ivan Blount's appointment of Senators Julio Cruz, Maria Granados, and Amanda Acosta, to the Election Committee. The motion passed.

**Lopez then moved the floor back to the suspension of the order of business.**

Lopez reminded the Senate that each of us ran for office on certain commitments. He asked, "Have we met our platforms?" admitting that he personally had not. The membership talked about what they thought about the year thus far and what needed to be done before the end of the year. Lopez said that we only have 120 days to make an impact on this campus, asking "How are we going to do this?"

Senator Wilburn wants to create excitement about student life. She wants the membership to get out of the office and out in the halls amongst the students, to make a real effort to reach out to our fellow students. Wilburn will be getting tables out to meet and inform students about the Dance Marathon, and wants to have help from the membership, to staff the tables and talk about anything the students want or need to talk about. She said she thought the SGA would do more than just sit in the office reading emails.

Senator Julio Cruz asked if other universities would be helping with the dance marathon. Wilburn said that all but Bethel College will be helping with the event. They could not participate because it went against their student code.

Santos said that we have the opportunity to show the community and administration that young adult students are capable of doing a large project and being responsible, and this is a worthwhile project to be involved in.

President Blount stated that the SGA is about commitment, noting that the membership is giving more than the traditional student. Blount stated, "Commitments I've made, I've fulfilled, but somehow we as a group, haven't connected. Things haven't gone smooth, but we can bounce back and show our true commitment." He went on to say that the Michiana Dance for the Homeless will be the capstone, not just this year, but it will be a legacy for years to come. Let's spread our excitement, energy, and make an impact here on the university.

Lopez asked, "Are we committed?" Can we commit to getting out there and work tables?" "Are we willing to do this?"

Santos said that we committed to do this and do not have the choice to back out.

Blount said the marathon is happening, and we are at the point of no return. As an organization we can either work through this and enjoy the outcome, or really put our effort and energy behind the marathon and have a life changing experience to remember forever.

More discussion followed.

Zach moved to adjourn. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**Recording Secretary:** *Teresa G. Santos* **Date:** 01/16/2008

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date approved:** 01/18/2008