

**Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) Student Government Association (SGA)**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 11, 2007**

The regular meeting of the IU South Bend Student Government Association was called to order by Vice President Matthew Lopez on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 3:32 p.m. in The Alumni Boardroom at the Associates Building. Secretary Teresa Santos was present.

**Roll Call**

**Executives:** Ivan Blount, Matthew Lopez, Teresa Santos. (Absent: Nathan Reinhold)

**Senate:** Obadiah Counsellor, Julio Cruz, Zach Duncan, Amelie Kanovsky, Aleah Wilburn, Rema El-Ammori, Sinayda Requeno, Isaiah Counsellor. (Absent: Amanda Acosta)

**Judicial:** Robyn Black

**Advisor:** Sam Centellas

**Guests:** Maria Granados

Senator Aleah Wilburn moved to approve the March 7, 2008 minutes. The motion passed.

**Executive Orders**

Vice President Matthew Lopez reported the removal of two Senators for excessive absences, in accordance with the SGA Constitution, by Executive Orders from President Ivan Blount. The Senators notified by Lopez are Isabel Dieppa and Maria Granados. Lopez explained the constitution requires the President to forward the Executive Order to the Student Life Director and Vice President. The Vice President is to then deliver the notification to the individual Senators. He explained those removed from office have 72 hours to file an appeal with the judicial branch.

Senator Maria Granados gave Lopez permission to read the email he sent to her. She then acknowledged to the Senate that she has four excused absences and that she can't get here on time due to traffic. Her work in Elkhart is academically required and that she spoke with Ivan before the semester, knowing this would be an issue. Granados also acknowledged that Blount did come and speak to her about her absences a few weeks before the removal, but she noted that she has been to all of the meetings. She does intend to file an appeal with judicial and wants to continue serving for the rest of her term. She expressed that she will continue to get to meetings just as soon as possible after work. Questions were asked about attendance requirements, how many absences were allowed, and how to appeal a removal from office. Lopez read from the SGA Constitution, S6., A5., a-d.

President Blount spoke and said that he consulted the Constitution concerning the absences and followed through with the removal from office. He acknowledged that he spoke with both Senator Dieppa and Senator Granados about their absences, within a few weeks prior to their removal. He spoke with them about their obligations and how they should fulfill their responsibilities. He wanted the membership to understand that each situation regarding absences, were different for each Senator. Dieppa's absences are unexcused and Granados' has done her best to fulfill her responsibilities. She has been to every meeting, and her absences are excused purely for academic reasons, which are provided for in the constitution. Blount stated that Granados did come to speak with him as soon as her academic work was assigned and now Granados and judicial will deal with it, through an appeal. He voiced his support for Granados.

## **Voicing of the Constituents**

None entered.

## **Executive Reports**

### ***President***

President Ivan Blount reported that he was making 2 appointments to the judicial branch. They would become effective after their term is up or when they resign their current positions. He feels their guidance is essential in helping to facilitate the work process, with the new officers who will be coming in after this year. Blount appoints Teresa Santos to Chief Justice and Matthew Lopez to Associate Justice, acknowledging both have plenty of experience, and the GPA's required.

Vice President

### ***Vice President***

Vice President Matthew Lopez made available the Legislation that had been passed since February 15, 2008, saying the membership could view the documents after the meeting. There is a request for commencement hosts needed five to six hours on May 6, 2008. Please call Dina Harris, if you are interested. Lopez will make available her contact information. Lopez noted who wore their Dance T-shirts. Lopez challenged the membership to wear their T-Shirts more than him. There are two people with cameras and one person who stops at his home to see if he is wearing his shirt. He wants the membership to wear their shirts as much as possible. If anyone wears their shirt as much or more than he does, he will color his hair purple. Tables for the dance will be out in Wiekamp, Northside, and in the SAC. Please help work them.

### ***Advisor***

Advisor Sam Centellas reported he has been working with President Ivan Blount and Treasurer Nathan Reinhold to finish up the budget committee and hopes to have the report for the Senate soon. The Leadership awards are scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Main Grille. Information has been sent to advisors and presidents. Information about nominations are supposed to be on the website the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. This year the process will be different. There will be an application with requirements to fill out as opposed to a big election. Centellas wants to make the selection process more representative and lend more credibility, to those who win. The SGA is responsible for choosing the SGA member of the year and the recipient of the Mike Wargo Award. Centellas does want to get more Senators involved in the final selection of winners. New Student Orientation will be going on this summer and Centellas is in charge of coordinating the Student Life portion of the SAC tour. He would like to change it up and do one big Student Life presentation, involving the SGA, Titan Productions, and Student Life. If anyone would be interested in helping, please let Sam know. The dates are May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and August 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be lunch on the Mall, tables from different student organizations, and Centellas plans on soliciting Titan Productions to have a give-away. What will SGA's role be? If you are comfortable speaking in front of groups, please let Centellas know.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Election Committee***

Advisor Sam Centellas reports that he and Rick Dennie are the only Committee Members. The application deadline was yesterday (Thursday). Applications received: 8 for Senator, 1 for Treasurer, and 1 for President. Centellas stressed that he is not going to be flexible with deadlines, IT needs the names by Saturday and there is no room for late applications. Centellas asked about campaign guidelines.

Secretary Teresa Santos explained the election committees made their own rules each year and the SGA does not have permanent guidelines developed. Centellas responded they would make the process fair and without a set process, they will do their best.

### ***Search and Screen Committee for Dean of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts***

Teresa Santos reported that Dr. Marvin Curtis from Mississippi, accepted the position of Dean for the School of the Arts and will begin August 1<sup>st</sup>. She expressed that there were many highly qualified candidates and it was hard to choose the final candidates to send Chancellor Reck. Santos is pleased with the selection of Curtis. Santos and Curtis have had limited email communication and the campus is looking forward to his arrival.

### ***Print Management***

Teresa Santos reports the Task Force is ready to prepare for final implementation of GoPrint in the fall. Data gathered from the first nine weeks of the spring semester show a 25% drop in printing over the first nine weeks of the fall semester. Statistics from universities across the country, show a 35% reduction of printing and it looks as though IUSB is heading in that direction.

### ***Admissions and Advising***

Vice President Matthew Lopez reported that this committee met two weeks ago and they want to make changes on SAT score requirements for admission to IUSB. This can possibly require probationary status for students who don't meet certain test requirements. The Staff is concerned about the university trying to push probationary students to Ivy Tech instead of IU South Bend. Research numbers show that 50% of probationary students become successful at IUSB, but 50% do not. The committee feels that money shouldn't be the bottom line in deciding who can attend IUSB. The report is technical, but Lopez feels this may be important to us as student representatives, but he is not quite sure how. He asked if Advisor Sam Centellas could speak to this. Centellas said that he hasn't had a chance to thoroughly research the report, but believes the concern is for the retention rate of student's if the university doesn't admit students with a probationary status. He says the SGA membership might want to look to see if the university could better assess why those 50% of probationary students don't become successful. What IUSB as a university can do, to help those student's become successful. Bloomington says IU South Bend shouldn't offer probationary status to those with low SAT scores, because we are not a traditional school, and we should send a person to Ivy Tech. This decision will either benefit or hinder the university.

### ***Academic Personnel Committee***

Associate Justice Robyn Black reported the committee reviewed a sabbatical request for Professor Dé Bryant. The committee approved her sabbatical request and will forward it to President McRobbie.

### ***Dance for the Homeless***

Senator Aleah Wilburn reported that today was the Star Graduation at Center for the Homeless. Chancellor Reck, Dr. Alfred Guillaume, Dr. Ilene Scheffer, attended the event. Wilburn's mom sang.

Set up for the dance will begin Friday and everything is in place, but need lots of help. The more help the better. Wilburn expressed that she met her goal for sitting on the SGA which was to do charity work through it. There will be at least 100 students participating 24 hours and up to 70-80 volunteers. Vice President Matthew Lopez said that since this event began, it hasn't been easy at times. He wanted to thank everyone for all of their efforts and expressed his thanks to Wilburn for picking up the ball and keeping us on track. President Blount expressed to Wilburn that he couldn't say enough about how she

kept things going and encouraged everyone to participate. Lopez again thanked everyone for their role and support and stated, "If I appear on You Tube. ..."

Senator Rema El-Ammori asked who is running for SGA office. Secretary Santos said that we cannot know until the Election Committee announces. Senator Wilburn asked what are the awards given at the end of the year? Advisor Centellas answered: Staff/Administrator of the Year, Student Leader of the Year, Educator of the year, Student Organization of the Year, and SGA Member of the Year. The process for SGA Member of the Year will be discussed at the next Executive Session.

### **Old business**

None entered.

### **New business**

Senator Aleah Wilburn moved to approve Teresa Santos as Chief Justice. Senator Zachary Duncan seconded. Secretary Santos told Lopez the motion must be stated to approve President Blount's appointment of Teresa Santos to Chief Justice. Vice President Lopez asked for a restatement of the motion. Santos asked Lopez if the motion should also contain the date the appointment becomes effective and suggested to Blount, right after the last meeting of this SGA. Lopez asked for a restatement of the motion to include the date the appointment becomes effective.

Senator Aleah Wilburn moved to approve, President Blount's appointment of Matthew Lopez as Associate Justice, effective April 26, after the last meeting is finished. The motion passed.

Senator Zachary Duncan moved to discuss setting stipends for next year's SGA members. The motion passed.

Duncan asked, "Is anyone against putting the stipends back to where they were the previous year, almost doubling the current stipend." Senator Maria Granados asked why? Duncan said the person who recommended our budget and stipends did so saying the SGA should lead the way in saving money and the Senate followed the recommendation hoping others would follow the lead. The person who recommended the stipend cuts then went to another organization and is making more than when on the SGA and they didn't cut their payments to officers. He said that he didn't know if we could address the stipends or vote on them, but his understanding is the outgoing SGA has always set the stipend for the incoming SGA. Advisor Centellas said that he was made aware of sort of a competition with Titan Productions and he has looked at the organization. He is cutting the staff by roughly two-thirds. President Blount said this issue doesn't affect him but asks why Duncan is raising it? What is the reason behind the question? Duncan said each office has certain requirements like all of the time the Secretary has to put in, not just on writing minutes, but organizing and running the office. The President is here for office hours and puts in a lot more time on meetings outside of the office. It would have been nice to get the extra money for that large amount of work. Also, Duncan felt we should look at those who are not doing the job or even filling the minimum requirements, such as office hours, or meetings, saying that it is counterproductive to the organization and he feels it is kind of ridiculous about the little amount of work some put in. Senator Granados asked about the possibility of evaluating other members. Senator Obadiah Counsellor expressed that he wouldn't want to people to be encouraged to run just to get a stipend, however, more students could possibly do more work with a stipend. Blount said other clubs and organizations don't receive stipends, their work is volunteer. You should want to be here, however, he expressed that if money were the issue, this room would be packed. There is also a separation of duties required of the Senate and Executive Branches. Senator Sineyda Requeno yielded the floor to Centellas. Sam expressed there is only so much money to spend on the student population. When he arrived it seemed as though there was a vicious hunt for Titan Productions Staff and a larger portion of

student activity fee money. The SGA is dissatisfied they get less money allotted to them than Titan Productions. Titan Productions will get their allotment cut. (The allotment between the SGA and Titan Productions will be equalized.) The SGA might want to look at what the responsibilities of the officers are. Draft some stuff and get more information. Senator Maria Granados expressed that everyone's opinion is valid, but we do always worry about having enough money for clubs. Duncan said that if the stipends were doubled, he would be more than happy to require more hours in office. Senators would do four hours, and everyone could be required to double their amount of hours.

Secretary Santos said this might be a time to assess how the SGA handles funding requests. Look at each of the individual requests received and granted this past year. There are a lot of requests from individuals for trips that benefit the individual's education. Those coming before this Senate have expressed how the funding will benefit IUSB, but have you seen any of them come back and make a presentation to the university? I don't see that any of them have come back before us with a presentation or a thank you. Maybe, the SGA should consider funding only registered clubs and organizations. Student activity fees are supposed to benefit the larger student community. Other universities in the IU system give funds only to registered clubs. Why should one student get their research supplemented and not another. Also, look at the funding process, does the Senate generally have the knowledge to make general funding decisions. Other universities have a separate branch to access the funding requests and distribute the funds. Also, in looking at past SGA records and acknowledging what has been said here today, past SGA organizations have evaluated the performance of each officer before granting a portion of, or all of a stipend. This organization can make ethics policy. Senator Aleah Wilburn said that she participated in the SGA because she wanted to, and noted that many don't fulfill their required office hours. She also expressed that stipends shouldn't be the reason for joining the SGA. Wilburn can't believe the amount of networking she has experienced and if the SGA does increase the stipends, there should be a strict policy for those who are not fulfilling their office hours or obligations. Duncan said that he sees his stipend applied to his tuition and maybe we could check into requiring stipends be applied to tuition. Associate Justice Robyn Black suggested that it may be relatively easy to keep track of hours worked through the key card at the door. An officer would have to slide their card in and out. Vice President Matthew Lopez said we are in the last few weeks of school and this could go to a committee, but are we even in a position to make this decision right now?

Centellas said the SGA has a lot of institutional knowledge but there is no set policy to guide the membership. He suggested the Senate not vote on this issue today. Centellas reported there is a key swipe system that can be purchased for the office and placed at the front desk. He has to get one for his office and a student must swipe in, whenever they come to see him, the same thing can be done in the SGA office. They run around \$60.00 and it is easy to set it up and get it going. Lopez asked Duncan if he would be willing to explore this topic and come back to the Senate with a report. Duncan replied yes.

Senator Sineyda Requeno moved to close discussion. The motion passed.

Lopez told the Senate there was still an appointment to vote on. Senator Wilburn asked who? Justice Black said Teresa. Lopez replied Teresa Santos for Chief Justice. Wilburn said she thought she moved that already and the Senate voted on it. She thought the voting process was done.

Senator Zachary Duncan moved to table the issue until next week. The motion passed.

### **For the Good of the Order**

Aleah Wilburn thought it might be hard to have a meeting next week and wondered if the membership could work on set-up instead? Matthew Lopez said we have two funding proposals to go over and they are over \$1000.00. If not introduced to the floor next week, it will delay the vote by three weeks. Lopez wanted to know if we can have a 30 minute meeting and can people meet at 12:00? The

meeting will consist of approving the minutes, Voicing of the Constituents and Old Business. The time limit will be 30 minutes, but no more than 45 minutes. Anything unfinished will be leftover for the following meeting. Lopez will send an email and asks that everyone respond to him by the end of the week-end.

Matthew Lopez expressed his thanks to everyone. This past week has been tough and hard to deal with. Lopez said that he greatly appreciates the flowers, thoughts, and prayer.

Sam Centellas said that as he thinks about the comments made today, it is apparent that there is a lot of tribal knowledge about what has gone on throughout the years. But there are no real documents about procedures to pass on from one SGA to the next. The SGA should start creating the process for procedure.

**Adjourned 5:02**

**Secretary: Teresa G. Santos**

**Date: 04/15/2008**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_**