NDSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT

November 8th, 2020
6:30pm, Zoom
Minutes

I. Call to Order
   A. 6:33 p.m.
II. Roll Call
   A. 20 present, 4 absent
III. Approve Agenda
IV. Approve Minutes
V. Approve Consent Agenda
   A. BAR-03-21
   B. BAR-04-21
      i. **Approved**
VI. Public Comment
VII. Guest Speaker- Provost Fitzgerald
VIII. Advisor's Comments – *Emily Frazier, Lisa Samuelson, Casey Peterson* and *Laura Oster-Aaland*
   A. *Laura Oster-Aaland:* "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." - John F. Kennedy
IX. President of Senate Announcements – *Kylee Arndt*
X. Secretary of Senate Announcements – *Erica Wahlund*
XI. Court Report – *Jamison Feske*
XII. Executive Reports
   A. Finance— *George Kessel and Laura Friedmann*
      i. Fund Numbers:
         1. In-Year Request: $20,000.00
         2. Reserve: $578,677.84
   B. ExA— *Clara Counts and McKenna Warcken*
   C. CSO— *Anthony Soukup*
   D. ASA— *Meghan Yerhot*
   E. PR— *Haley Fleisner*
   F. Tech— *John Morrison*
   G. President— *Matthew Friedmann*
XIII. New Business
   A. SR-01-21
      i. First read
      ii. J. Anderson moves to consider second read, seconded by Hovde
         1. **Passes**
      iii. Smith moves to open discussion, seconded by Kustka
      iv. *J. Anderson*: I move to amend the resolution to add a whereas clause to add some information. It will read "WHEREAS, approximately 2,193 students chose to switch to the P/F grading option in approximately 8,304 courses during the Spring 2020 semester; and,"
         1. Seconded by Ringler
         2. **Approved unanimously**
      v. *J. Anderson*: I move to amend the resolution to correct Sri's name.
         1. Seconded by Ringler
         2. **Approved unanimously**

    vi.   *Walth*: I move to amend "Greek life" to "Fraternity and Sorority Life."
1. Seconded by Hovde
2. **Approved unanimously**

  vii.   *Smith*: With the option to have pass/fail, do instructors have the option to not make their class pass/fail?
1. *J. Anderson*: When we were putting this together, we were diligent about making the language a pass/fail model which means it won't necessarily be the same as the Spring's pass/fail and it just gives our recommendation while leaving it open to faculty's interpretation.

 viii.   *J. Anderson*: I got a few student responses in email form to the survey. The information we gathered shows that students do support this. Seeing 75% of students responded yes to their grades being different, I support this. The responses in support of the traditional model are that we knew going into the semester that this was the case. Even though we knew about the Hyflex model, this semester is still much different than we expected. My personal reason for supporting the pass/fail option is that many of us did not know how our courses would be instructed. All of my courses were supposed to be in person, but my professors have moved all of them online. There was still uncertainty going into the semester that was out of anybody's control. I am in support of adding this flexibility. The last thing I will add is that if we continue learning online or some form of online for an extended time, we will likely become adapted, and the pass/fail option will not be available.

   ix.   *Walth*: I oppose this resolution. I had a friend last year that went to the pass/fail option for two of his classes. He failed two classes that he needs to have a letter grade for which he did not know about beforehand. I had a class with a group project and once my groupmates found out about the pass/fail option, they basically left me to do the rest of the work. Because of these reasons, I do not support the resolution.

   x.   *Lahr*: I think it needs to be consistent across the board no matter what we do. I do not support the resolution.

  xi.   *Ludewig*: I yield time to President Friedmann.
1. *M. Friedmann:* A senate resolution says that this is something students want. It is our job to amplify that voice to administrators. The survey speaks for itself that the overwhelming majority of the responses are in support of the pass/fail model. Ultimately, it is up to the provost and the deans as to how they implement this. We need to have the conversation with administration about advising students so they know whether or not it is in their best interest to apply this. It is all determined by faculty. That is why we bring the resolution to them to say here is the data, and here is what the students have to say. They will make the decisions from there.

  xii.   *Smith*: I am not in support of the pass/fail model however the students support this. Students should still have the option to have traditional grading. Part of this is student responsibility so they know whether or not they should do this.

 xiii.   *Kustka*: When students were asked if their grades would be different, was it positive or negative or just was it affected? Personally, my classes have been easier. Many programs need to have the GPA, so it is not in every student's best interest to have the pass/fail model.

 xiv.   *J. Anderson*: It just read "Do you believe your final grades would be different?" It was not specific about a negative or positive impact. I wasn't

made aware that the lack of communication had happened in the spring. I would attribute that to how quickly things were changing. We need to bring up what the downfalls would be, but we have the advantage of time on our side. There will be flaws with the pass/fail model, but the overall goal of pursuing higher education is to aspire for the best grades possible. I don't want to see a traditional model being the reason students have to stay longer when this is something they could not control.

xv. *E. Anderson*: I support this resolution, and I was a writer. I have found that my courses have become more challenging this semester. In the spring, we promised students that the fall semester would be easier since we would have new technology. IT was able to implement 5 classrooms a week and expect about half of it to be implemented by next semester. Many students had opted in to pass/fail then opted out at the end. Just to get a conversation started with administration is a great first step.

xvi. *Ludewig:* I reached out to my sister who advises undergraduate students, and almost every school has ended up going with some sort of pass/fail grading system. Graduate programs understand that these are tough times and are offering forgiveness. It really comes down to core courses. Sometimes it is worse to do the pass/fail as opposed to the letter grade that might be poor. It is still just a resolution, and faculty will discuss how to go forward to it if it were to happen. This becomes a great opportunity for us to reach out to administrators to represent our constituents.

xvii. *Kustka*: Is there a deadline for when students can choose the grading option? Is it possible to have a letter grade recorded after opting in for pass/fail?
   1. *J. Anderson*: Not yet—that will come from further discussions with administrators.
   2. *Yerhot*: Last semester, professors were required to have a letter grade and pass/fail on file for all students.

xviii. *Ringler*: I yield my time to Wahlund.
   1. *Wahlund*: I signed on to the resolution, so I support it. Personally, this semester has been increasingly challenging for me. I think it's important to remember that it is just a resolution, and the data says students support this.

xix. *Walth*: Will we be able to talk to administrators if this is pursued?
   1. *M. Friedmann*: I had talked to the provost, and she said while it is ultimately her decision, she feels it is important to talk to faculty and students to express that this is what the students support.

xx. E. Anderson calls to question, seconded by J. Anderson
   1. Roll call vote
      a. 14 yes, 2 no, 3 abstentions
      b. **Passes**

XIV. Unfinished Business
   A. Appoint three senators to the Appointments Committee
      i. Previously nominated is Smith
      ii. Hovde moves to open nominations, seconded by Smith
      iii. Walth nominates himself
      iv. Kirchenwitz nominates herself
      v. J. Anderson moves to white ballot nominations
         1. **Passes, congrats!**
   B. Approve 2021 Election Code
      i. J. Andersons moves to open discussion, seconded by Ringler

      ii. *E. Anderson*: I will not be in support of approving this. I think there needs to be clear deadlines for students and more advertising than there has been in previous years.

      iii. *Oribamise:* What happens if there is a run-off election? I yield time to Abby Moser.

          1. *Moser*: Jamison has verbalized to me that he intends to advertise through student listservs and social media what the deadlines are since there would be no other option for being added to the ballot. I just want to reiterate that this information will be very well publicized. There will be a completely online petition option.

      iv. Walth calls to question, seconded by Smith

      v. Roll call vote

          1. 1 yes, 17 no, 2 abstentions

XV. Student Concerns

XVI. Reports off the Floor

    A. *Kustka*: I nominate Leong for senator of the week.

    B. *Ludewig*: The CCRC is a great way to learn more about student government. It is lots of fun if you would like to sit in!

    C. *Ringler*: The mental health mini sessions cannot be held over zoom therefore it has been postponed.

    D. *E. Anderson*: I hope you have been getting my messages about the Student Voice projects.

    E. J. *Anderson*: What would be the easiest way to provide feedback to court about the election code?

      i. *Arndt*: We will have Emma share the promotional aspect, and if anyone has another reason, email Jamison individually. Court will assume there are no other qualms if no other feedback is received.

XVII. Announcements

    A. *Walth*: RHA and CA are having a game night. There is $7.5k in prizes!!

XVIII. Adjourn

    A. Smith moves to adjourn, seconded by J. Anderson