

February 19th, 2018

6:30 PM Plains Ballroom

1. Call to Order at 6:34pm
2. Roll Call
   1. 23 present, 3 absent
3. Approve Agenda
   1. Approved
4. Approve Minutes
   1. Approved
5. Consent Agenda
   1. No Consent Agenda
6. Guest Speaker
   1. No Guest Speaker
7. Public Comment
   1. No Public Comment
8. Advisor’s Comments – Matt Skoy and Laura Oster-Aaland
   1. No comment
9. President of Senate Announcements – Katie Mastel
10. Secretary of Senate Announcements – Marisa Pacella
11. Court Report – Jared Melville
12. Executive Reports
    1. Finance – Landon Holmquist and Zachary Sanger
       1. Fund Numbers:
          1. CR: $3528.29
          2. MEP: $20,816.06
          3. TORF: $1700.00
          4. Reserve: $172,409.3
    2. ExA – Chase Grindberg
    3. CSO – Lauren McNaughton and Lauren Algyer
    4. ASA – Michael Russell
    5. PR – Monica Murray
    6. Technology – Marisa Mathews
    7. President– Mason Wenzel
13. Vice Chair Report – Calla Harper
14. Funding Requests for Student Organizations
    1. No Funding Requests
15. Unfinished Business
    1. Reconsideration of SB-14-18, *The Student Government Transparency Act*
       1. *Skuza*: I move to approve the Reconsideration of SB-14-18
          1. *Wognin*: Second
       2. *Wenzel:* Here, I will list my grievances regarding SB-14-18. There are three main reasons to uphold the veto. For one, it will inhibit the creation and establishment of executive team members. This will delay the selection and approval of Executives for three Sundays. We will not have an Executive Commissioner of Finance by the time we vote on the budget. We will not be able to give executive reports and inform Senate on what we are doing. During the time of review and approvals, the Executive team will be expected to work multiple weeks without pay and with the uncertainty of if they will even obtain the position. These are things that are important. Another proposal I’ve heard to remedy this is to suspend the rules to have them started. Suspending the rules is flagrant and unofficial if we continually suspend the rules. That is just a terrible idea and not good for anyone. Along with this, this is a complete contradiction to expediting the process brought to Senate by the committee. It is hypocritical and contradictory. Even if we do that, we don’t know if the executives will be sworn in. What if they are turned down and we have to appoint them in the next semester. This hinders the Executive team’s ability to function. The second issue is that it could turn into a witch hunt. This is a small committee to find something that is not really there. We should leave it to the whole Senate. A small group like this allows one single rationale to grow and gain popularity among the group. This bill does not specify conflict of interest and could lead to a preposterous witch hunt. If they were looking for a conflict of interest my entire executive team would be thrown out. The Executive Team that Senate specifically said was competent and efficient. This is a tyranny of the minority. The decision should be made by every single senator. By making this a process the ability to say yes or no amount towards exactly what the committee is saying. By letting it be in the Senate everyone will hear every tidbit, there will be no closed doors. Committee members are bound to confidentiality.The purpose is to inform Senate properly but yet there is a point of discipline if spoken out of turn. Senate as a whole, will only be informed on what can be talked about. This is ironic when the committee is suppose to be transparent. Let’s look at parts of the body. Some of the main reasons I don’t support this is beginning ARC needs a minimum of 5 members but when we have a full senate it is 8.25 members (¼). The exact numbers not explicitly outlined. Every other committee has it written out.This next one is incorrect and a gross overstep, I’m almost positive it is against Robert’s Rules of Order, the chair has the ability to revoke the powers. Why is that there? There is no situation where the use of that power is necessary or appropriate. This is a tyranny of the minority. The chair can say I don’t want this person to vote. Uphold this veto on this alone, because it makes no sense and is a gross overstep. The Chief Justice is the interim committee chair, why is the court a member of a Senate run operation? Why should they be the chair? That chief justice serving can revoke a senator’s power to vote. The bill also states the committee may investigate the conflicts of interest. I don’t truly think unless there is absolute favoritism it should even be looked into. The committee is bound to confidentiality, violation will be determined. It does not specify what appropriate discipline is, a senator could be removed from Senate for speaking out. It doesn’t say what the committee is and isn't willing to share. The committee is giving Senate a fabricated, constructed opinion on how you should vote. This doesn’t give you anything new, no new powers or abilities. You already have the power to question the Executives, but you don’t have all of the problematic instances that this bill presents. You can interview the approved executives, and the Empowerment Act reinforces what you can do on the Senate floor. You have all of that. The only new thing is mandating the committee. All you get is a recommendation and basically someone telling you how you should vote. No reason as senators you should want to do this. There will be significant delays in appointing the team. Similar to federal government, just because it is similar doesn’t mean it is a good fit for this body. The legislature is a body of over 400, we only have 30. The bill says it will expedite the process but it actually just makes it more timely, what is it expediting? No one has come up to me and asked, Can I see why you picked this person? Others argue that this makes senators uncomfortable,but that is why the empowerment act is there. We never needed this. This delays the ability for Student Government to function and for the time the executives need to be approved. It is encouraging a witch hunt. Bias and tyranny of minority will be present if this is passed. This should be blocked on the basis of this revoking voting powers alone and the potential disciplinary actions against senators. This is not transparent and it gives no new powers to Senate.
       3. Discussion on Veto
          1. *Kniffen*: I’ve been talking between the writers and Mason. I am against this bill. I will be voting in favor of the veto. I think it places too much time crunch on the executives. We already can ask questions of the executives on the floor. Again, I will be voting in favor of the veto.
          2. *Novack*: I will be favoring the veto because back in scouting it was who has the best skills and leadership abillities. Motivating the kids and taking charge. Bill is basically saying you only have 8 people telling us what to do and that is leaving out 60% of Senate. Those other colleges don’t have a voice. Each person has a voice here and it should be represented.
          3. *Mach*: I will be voting for the veto. It seems to be redundant to me. It is already set in the powers of the Senate. I first voted yes but then I spoke with several of my constituents and the writers of the bill. It will take up time. They will not be able to do what they need to be doing.
          4. *Shittu*: I will be voting no because I understand the concept, but there are too many issues with it. If it is more information we need then we should just ask the executives. You can talk to them, ask questions and we have a whole week if we want more information. We do not need to create a committee that is contradictory
          5. *Harper:* We are voting on the bill not the veto. I want to give you some background on this bill. This along with SB-15 came about in July about instituting checks and balances. In CCRC it was left out because we didn't want to risk adding such a controversial aspect to the mundane changes. Jared and I decided to have an alternative to the bill, which was SB-15, the Empowerment Act .This is not perfect, but at least it served its purpose to get the Empowerment Act through. Without this bill the check and balance would not have gotten through.
          6. *Olstad*: It did not change my opinion. I am upholding the veto. I would like to refer to his third point. Inevitability it will give them sway over the Senators. Articles of Confederation failed and the new constitution upheld strong executives. If we don’t have that, this government will get nothing done. Executive Branch is our right arm. It executes our decisions.
          7. *Novack*: Clarify, I will be voting no.
          8. *Harper:* I will be voting no because it does not make sense with what we are trying to do. I do not want anyone to be confused, please ask questions if you have any.
          9. *Shittu:* If you have any questions, please ask now.
          10. Reconsideration fails in a 0-23 vote
          11. *Veto Upheld*
    2. SB-16-18, *A Bill to Reduce Required Senate Service Hours*
       1. *Second Read*
       2. *Harper:* Move to approve
          1. Hagen: Second
       3. *Harper:* I wrote this bill and a lot of why it comes about is I see senators struggling to make office hours. Still important to be in the office so students can see a face in there, especially when they have questions. This will lighten the load. Take care of some of that extra workloard. I move to make a friendly addition by adding: , and. It is just moving the requirement from three to two office hours*.*
       4. *Stoppleworth*: I move to approve without objection.
       5. *Passes unanimously*
    3. Appoint one Senator as the Volunteer Network Liaison
       1. *Nominated*: Holgard, Shittu, Novack, Hagen and Nitsch.
       2. *Hagen*: I move to open nominations.
          1. *Kniffen*: Second
       3. *Hagen*: I’d like to remove my name.
       4. *Shittu:* I would like to remove my name.
       5. *Nominated*: Holgard, Novack and Nitsch
       6. Congratulations, Holgard.
16. New Business
    1. No New Business
17. Student Concerns
    1. No Student Concerns
18. Reports off the Floor
    1. *Wognin*: Mr. NDSU is Wednesday at 7pm. Thank you to Muske for helping me come up with my skit. I brought donuts but then I didn’t get enough for everyone. I made popcorn. The New Senator of the Week is Novack.
19. Announcements
    1. *Stoppleworth:* I have a contact at a Sugarbeets company and they need a sales intern. It is an outstanding experience. Come talk to me if you are interested.
    2. *Harper:* If anyone of you don’t know I like curling. Having national championship held in Fargo. I am posting the link to volunteer on Facebook. We have budgeting, if you are returning senator, make sure you do that. Senator Novack you were at budgeting forever and Rodemacher you’ve already met with your Dean. I’m proud of both of you, keep up the good work.
    3. *Wenzel:* Consider applying for an executive position.
    4. *Fettig:* Based on curling, you can volunteer for anything from camera to sitting in the stands.
    5. *Mastel*: Volunteer Network liaison is Holgard!
20. Adjourn