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Judiciary and Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes 10/06/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION
October 6th 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:06PM.

Toro- Brinkworth? Hussein? Stubbs. Coco. Belmont? Gula? Patel? Ortiz? And I'll add Alix Torres. Am I doing this correctly? I'm not going to do this right now. I'll add you later Alix. I think the computer just froze. Let's just give it a second. Okay, well that's not a problem. Are there any additions/deletions to the agenda? I wrote all the constitutions we're reviewing. CSI did not have Rise. Is there a motion to strike Rise from the agenda?

Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Brinkworth.

Toro- Arte there any objections? I know I sent you three minutes. Did you guys check over it? Is there a motion to approve?

Motion to approve the minutes by Senator Ortiz.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay. Okay, we're good now. Okay, we're now in open forum. Anyone wishing to address the committee? No? Okay. Okay, so first up we're doing the constitution reviews. Something I want to do today, everyone take one, I'd like to start accumulating the different problems we find, because something I want us to do by the end of the semester is make a checklist. I want to make our constitution review process more standardized. So, from now on, all of our constitution is going to stay on the minutes. Just speak one at a time and continue to do how we have been doing it. To review, I'm going to put up the basic ones so I can see. Yes?

Brinkworth- I can't remember, what was the decision about in good standing?

Toro- That was a no.

Brinkworth- I have another question. We already have a mark for this. We have removal of members. It goes on and on about all of the behaviors about being removed from the club.

Toro- If those violate CSI standards or university policy, any of our policies then that would be fine.

Brinkworth- How do I know if they match those?

Toro- Just give me an example.

Brinkworth- Disrupting group activities seems kind. Behaving in any way which might hamper the effectiveness of the group and achieving its goals...

Toro- I think that's pretty much in line what groups have been writing? You must as a membership requirement upholds the values of the group. Let's write that down. What is wrong with the computer today? Okay.

Ortiz- Do two people have to double check it?

Gula- Where do you want us to initial?

Toro- Yes. And upper right hand corner please. Besides these up here, I would like to add...Okay, keep in mind, please check the election of officers and the removal of officers. That's another area that people will tend to put things that are not kosher some times. We'll discuss it.

Ortiz- I have a question. What does associate member ship mean?

Toro- Typically it is granted to USF students. It means they are members of the group, but they don't have full voting rights.

Ortiz- It says it can be granted to non-USF students under special circumstances.

Toro- Yes, all of them say that; it is part of the template. Any constitutions that have two signatures already could you please pass them to me?

Gula- In its memberships it says plus any memberships in its executive board, does that mean it can make any requirements that it wants?

Toro- Does it further specify in the constitution? I would say read the rest of it and we'll go back if it doesn't clarify. Okay, this one here says the same thing. Can you do me a favor? Can you go to my desk and to the right of my monitor, there's tower thing where I have papers; in that tower there should be a large pamphlet that says student organization handbook. Could you go grab that for me please?

Gula- Sure.

Toro- Thank you. Thank you. Has everyone finished reading the constitution and they all have at least two signatures. Sign it and bring it here and we'll discuss this now.

Gula- Oh sorry, second page under C.

Toro- These are verbatim, so they must have used the same template and it's not the one in here because the one in here doesn't say that. Oh. Tell me what you guys think of this. Under active

membership rights and privileges it says any currently enrolled grad student in the biology department can vote. Non-students do not have rights. And this is Association for CMM biology students.

Brinkworth-So, that says undergrads do not have the right to vote and only grads? That sounds like discrimination to me. I would say that's a no.

Toro- Let me see if it has any other specifications anywhere else.

Ortiz-Is it okay if they remove their president after not attending two meetings?

Toro- The organization or the position?

Ortiz- The position.

Toro- Our position is to not remove E-Board members. Right now we're unclear as to whether we're allowing them to further restrict becoming an E-Board member. If that was put on a general member, we would react differently. And this one's clear? No? Put what?

Belmont- *Inaudible*.

Toro- So, this one's fine? Okay. They've all been checked and I have two to send back, one that's clear, bless you and for these two under their membership, I would like to hear your opinions on this, it says upholding the objectives and purpose of the organization plus any requirements by the E-Board. What are thoughts on this?

Brinkworth- I think I have been letting it go through but regardless, talking about what you're saying in the handbook that pertains to the question I have, that seems that it would fit into that category that the E-Board doesn't want you to steal their money. I feel like it's acceptable.

Gula- My issue is we won't discriminate and those are the things that we look for and the Executive board has that in their constitutions if they don't include that membership can't exist with people not in good academic standing.

Toro- I don't like to nit pick things, but this one is very vague and it looks innocuous at first. Little vague statements can have destruction and things can get out of hand. It looks like two organizations have the same template. I don't know where they got that from, because it's not in the handbook.

Torres- I was thinking when I read that the organization has an attendance required and isn't that set by the E-Board. And if you don't go to certain events, you're not a member.

Toro- An ANS funded organization cannot compel you to attend an event. We all have the right to be members. I understand what you're saying how you have to attend at least two meetings. That would be legit but what if they figure you have to be in good academic standing; that would contradict one of our rules. My personal inclination is to send that back. What is your general consensus? How do you feel? Okay. So, now we'll make the formal motions. Okay, the first one is Young Americans for Liberty. They had the dues and it was flagged. Is there a motion to send this one back?

Motion to send back by Senator Ortiz.

Toro- Any objections? Next one: this is ACBS. This is the one that said that only graduate students in the biology department can vote. Is there a motion to send this one back?

Motion to send back by Senator Brinkworth.

Toro- Any objections? This one is GLTBA. Any motions?

Motion to approve by Senator Gula.

Toro- The GLBTA had the same template. Is there a motion to send it back?

Motion to approve Senator Brinkworth.

Toro- Any objections? This one is Friends of Sri Lanka Club.

Motion to approve by Senator Brinkworth.

Toro- Any objections? Seeing none. Is there a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Brinkworth.

Adjournment called by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:34PM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.