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Judiciary and Ethics Committee Meeting Minutes 10/20/2011

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION
October 20th 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:07PM.

Toro- Roll call. I'm here. Brinkworth?

Brinkworth- Present.

Toro-Hussein?

Hussein- Present.

Toro-Stubbs?

Stubbs- Present.

Toro-Cocco?

Cocco- Hello.

Toro- Gula?

Gula- Yes.

Toro- Patel?

Patel- Here.

Toro- Inaudible and Torres aren't here yet. Okay. Are there any additions or deletions to the agenda? The work groups were actually going to do that after the meeting, so is there a motion to strike work groups from the agenda? Ms. Brinkworth?

Brinkworth- So moved.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay. Is there a motion to approve the agenda? Mr. Gula?

Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Gula.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay, the agenda is approved. Okay, the minutes, three sets were sent out. Did you read them? Make sure you said everything correctly in there. Okay, is there a motion to approve the minutes? Mr. Hussein?

Motion to approve the minutes by Senator Hussein.

Toro- Are there any objections? None. Okay. Open forum.

Open Forum

Toro-Anyone want to say anything?

Cocco- Weather's great.

Toro- Yes it is.

Brinkworth- That was Mr. Cocco.

Toro- Okay. New Business.

New Business

Toro-Constitution reviews. I just these; it's like five of them. So, you guys know the drill. Here you are. I believe there should be five. Yeah. Okay, so once you read it, if it's clear, you sign your name at the top right hand corner. If you have a question, you know we can talk about it. Yeah.

Brinkworth- Is it common for the constitutions to have requirements both if they are A&S funded and if they are not?

Toro- I've seen that maybe I think once or twice before.

Brinkworth- it just seems strange to me.

Toro- We've seen it before and we've allowed it so as long as for...like the rules that it gives for when it is A&S funded, as long as those are okay and in our rules, then it should be fine.

Patel- It's right here. It just says a lot of graduate students. Everything about it is about graduate students.

Toro- Oooh. Oh. Hello. Yeah.

Patel- Like to promote the abilities and promotions of graduate students.

Toro- Hm. Okay. That's their purpose but like down here for like requirements, membership is open to all USF blah blah blah...So, it's okay then. Yeah?

Senator- Restated it says right here, "objective the perks of the organization plus any requirements set on by the executive board will consider membership.

Toro- We flagged that last time, so let's flag that again because for example, they could in the middle of the year say that. We don't know that so.

Gula- The same issues on mine.

Toro- Okay.

Brinkworth- Sam, so there's a whole section in ours about terminating membership and it says it doesn't give any reasons why you can be terminated, just so it requires a motion and a second and then it can be brought up to a committee where they can like decide whether or not you can be removed. And I don't know it just seems kind of weird to me, I don't know.

Toro- Okay, let me see. Okay. Something we should always look out for for membership removal, just make sure like they may...sometimes they may give some reasons like you broke university policy or something like that, sometimes they don't like in this case. Just make sure there is some sort of due process. Like make sure it doesn't say like the student org president can choose to end your membership at any time or something like that. Make sure there's some sort of due process like somebody has to vote on it and there's some sort of appeals process.

Patel- This one says active membership rights and any graduate student involved in the biology department has a right to vote or undergraduate student. I don't know graduate student vote. It singles out like bio grad students and then undergrad students like it didn't mention any other major.

Toro- Okay. So, Christy your question for this one, I think it's okay because it says that it has to be a majority vote and all officers and committee chairs have to be present and there is an appeals process outlined here and they have till the next meeting to decide and then they vote. So...

Brinkworth- Okay, thank you.

Patel- Part E.

Toro- That's weird.

Patel- Yeah.

Toro- So, pretty much any graduate student in biology and any undergrads. But if you're a graduate student in something else...Okay. Yeah. Oh I'm sorry, this is me being nitpicky but it's something that I think we should do, I think it's a good practice. Wherever we see quorum and it says 50% plus one. Please change that to more than half. I will explain why later. Actually I'll explain that now. 50% plus one really doesn't make sense if you have less than 100 people. If its 7 people, 50% would be 3.5 plus one would be 4.5. But there's no such thing as 4.5 people, so quorum should be defined as more than half. So 4 out of 7 should be defined as quorum.

Brinkworth- This one says the majority. Is that?

Toro- That's fine.

Brinkworth- Okay.

Toro- This is not a make or break thing. It's not a big deal because it's something I want to start changing. It's something that's wrong and we do a lot. So, it's not a make or break. They're not going to lose their funding because something as simple as this. I just want to start practice.

Patel- They can have quorum as whatever they want because it says six active members.

Toro- Yeah. Standard is more than half but in your bi-laws and specific rules, you can define quorum as whatever you want; two people, three people, 75%, whatever. Okay, so these...Okay, so this is flagged. And this one's flagged. So... And then this one by Christy and Cocco is clear.

Brinkworth- Mhm.

Toro- Okay. Oh you're still on both. Gosh, you're so fast.

Patel- In the election of officers it says any active member must submit nominations for officers in writing and the nominee must accept the nomination. Like you can force someone to accept it?

Toro- No, no, no, no. To run you have to accept the nomination. You know in senate we nominate people for ASRC. I'd be like I nominate Ms. Brinkworth and you have to accept or decline.

Patel- Oh I thought it said you had to accept. Alright, we're good then. Part D with this one.

Toro- Okay, that's talking about...that sounds to me like it's talking about committees within like the graduate biology program. And it's saying that it's going to let the student org know like the purpose of student org to fill ya know whenever in their graduate program whenever there's a vacancy in one of the committees that they'll help fill that vacancy and they're saying they're going to let the org know. So, they can then put forth a nomination.

Patel- Alright.

Hussein- This one says any amendments made to the constitution of the policy at USF had that majority vote if you present plus one. That's more than half or...

Patel- If you just strike out 50% plus one.

Toro- Yeah and just so you know that's just like me trying to get everything to be uniform. That's not an A&S thing.

Patel- This one has a star right there.

Toro- Okay. I read this form, sorry. Okay. So, Florida Engineering Society which is reviewed by Ms. Brinkworth and Mr. Cocco was clear. Poets was flagged because of academic standing. I flagged that

one. Mr. Patel flagged this one because the voting thing and the remaining two Association of Percussive Arts and Rise both had requirements set on by the E-Board and we're flagging that. Okay, so at this time is there a motion to approve the constitution of Florida Engineering Society? Ms. Brinkworth?

Brinkworth- So moved.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay. That one is approved. And is there a motion to send back the remaining constitutions? Mr. Patel?

Patel- So moved.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay. I'm going to send these back to Jeff and I have the reasons why they were sent back so he can let the organizations know. Okay, so for the remainder of the hour, we're going to wrap up the viewpoint neutrality thing we were doing before, but the essence is just a work group. We can adjourn the meeting. Are there any announcements before we adjourn? Okay, is there a motion to adjourn? Mr. Hussein?

Motion to adjourn by Senator Hussein.

Toro- Are there any objections? Okay.

Adjournment called by Chairwoman Samantha Toro at 2:22PM.

Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.