*Mission: As the women comprising the College of St. Benedict Senate, we will develop strong, viable relations between the administration, faculty, and students of the College of St. Benedict community based on our Benedictine traditions. As the College of St. Benedict Senate, we will work to bring strong, ethical, service-based leadership as we represent the students of the College of St. Benedict, in conjunction with St. John’s University*

1. Opening
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call (Alejandre)
   3. Opening Reflection (Umaña)
   4. Approval of the Minutes
      1. Stand Approved
   5. Approval of the Agenda
      1. Stand Approved
2. Guests
   1. Angelliott Thomas, Muqkadeen Poole and Anahi Ortiz
      1. We hope to bring forth possible solutions to come together as a community
      2. Want to make it clear that the protest was not a school function
      3. Stood for five hours and expressed ourselves continuously
      4. Senate be the bridge between administration and student body, not only administration
      5. Discussion for action
   2. Open Forum
      1. Statement from President Hinton
         1. Grateful to every student, faculty, administration or staff at this forum.
         2. Invite/ need everyone to sustain dialogue and work towards justice, not just on MLK day but every day
      2. I would like MLK day to look like at the protest, sharing ideas, passions, beliefs, not just to have the day off, but to reflect (Muqkadeen Poole)
         1. Numbers were low at presentations, because students have classes all say and are unable to attend.
         2. Are unable to produce graduates who can name ten scholars of color in their field and that is disappointing.
      3. Barbara May (Academic Affairs Dean)
         1. Why are there classes on MLK Day?
            1. Historically we do have class on MLK day. It is an intentional decision, our hope is that faculty use this time to educate, provide opportunities for learning, and observing MLK. Moved to the half day schedule to allow for more programs during the day. Teach-In set up by the teachers, not administration. Last year, the MLK day was first day of classes. We do try to have the teach-in as a part of the week.
      4. Why are classes scheduled for the day, is it because administration is scared that students won’t take the day and attend events, or fear of not returning to the institution? (First Year Student)
         1. Were not afraid of students not returning, Labor Day, if they go home for a three-day weekend, try to provide events or activities. There is some thought to want to help encourage educational conversation, worry that students will think of this as a day off, not a day on.
      5. Matthew Harkins (Assoc Professor Chair)
         1. The question has been a topic among of the faculty. Majority of faculty have reservations that there are classes on MLK day, it’s a federal holiday, to honor moments of history, and I bet money that other holidays wouldn’t have class. We shouldn’t try to micromanage what students will do.
      6. Daniel R Bachmeier.
         1. When I think about having classes held is that it’s viewed as this day is not important enough to have off. Limiting students and their freedom by limiting what they are allowed to do with this day.
      7. Senator Thomas
         1. Education piece is important, but in reality, we are receiving basic information about MLK day. Be intentional as to who we are we taking away from. Look towards education year-round.
      8. Janessa V Harms
         1. It is not a good enough argument about students not attending events. Don’t think about it’s the students who don’t care but about the students who do care.
      9. Barbara May
         1. Would love to work on a solution, calendar committee, tend to meet every other year, make the calendar a few years out, 2 – 5 years ahead of time. They will be meeting in February to make the calendar for the next 3 years. There needs to be 72 days of class, will have to take one away and add it to another time of the year.
      10. How many times has this conversation gone on between administration and student bodies? (Drew M. Wilds)
          1. Can’t give you exact numbers, but can give you my word that the committee will have this conversation. (Barbara May)
      11. Jordan Parker
          1. Last thing that I said, change should have already happened, there is a protest every single year, this thing keeps progressing, in some way if I speak freely, I have to turn around a corner but turn back around to get my answer or my voice heard, most of my classmates have left, not because they couldn’t thrive, the model is here, and we just need more, and in this case it is a simple one, if there are other things forced that I have to go to, and you can’t force someone to attend a cultural events, then they can be forced to attend a lecture, people are tired of it, and there are people who are leaving.
      12. Matthew Harkins
          1. Have not been on the calendar committee but my understanding is that some of my colleagues were out voted, but no clear direction about changing the template where having MLK as a holiday is an option, directive would have to happen from the up down.
      13. Anahi Ortiz
          1. Part of the reason I decided to come here was because it is a liberal arts college, I’ve taken advantage of it but friends who have accounting or natural sciences don’t get educated on MLK. What message are you sending if for some students it is just another normal day. If the fear is that student wouldn’t show up is it because were not producing students who can think critically.
      14. Jim Reed
          1. Moved by how much this means to you, it is important that students, get some perspective but that doesn’t have to get done on MLK day, send information/thought/opinions to faculty senate. If it’s important enough it can be changed
      15. Barbara May
          1. We are trying to increasing diversity of the faculty, very intentional of not being bias. We are thinking of establishing a regular speaking series to invite graduates, if they come to experience it, they would see how much it would be worth it to teach here.
      16. Geonn Taylor
          1. As a first year, I have to spend a good hour in FYS, incorporating MLK into that could be significant, it’s the small things that matter and it’s a good way to take advantage to combat exclusive thoughts, rather then inclusive ones. Really strongly encourage the staff to take sensitivity courses, how do you encourage students to do it when faculty cannot. We need to take away the fear from students that if they speak out, their scholarships will be taken away.
      17. Keith Sweet
          1. Why do students of color always have to suffer on the accommodations for the white students? We want to admire the man who lost his life, why is this such a topic to be debated? CSBSJU just doesn’t care about black people, there has never been anything here that has made me feel welcome, why is it so hard for us to get anything done, and if they do, it isn’t from the kindness of their heart, it would be just to shut us up. They cater to the majority. This debate shouldn’t be necessary, the administration should be disgraced to hear students say this.
      18. Godgift Iteghete
          1. Seems that the administration is catering to the majority. CSBSJU, nowhere did they mention that I wouldn’t be cared for, I feel unwelcomed, I hear the words of diversity and inclusivity, but those words are not in my vocabulary, you preach but don’t teach. It takes guts to let you know how I feel and I’m saying the things that have been repeated for the past years.
      19. Geonn Taylor
          1. Thank you to faculty and staff to trying to fix the wrongs, we don’t need sorry apologies, we need action. We need to stop using clubs as crutches, who are unable to unify, we cannot keep promoting the fact that we have all these clubs these events should not be exploited by staff, during fly-ins we should be talked about how seniors feel about diversity, I was ecstatic, I saw so much diversity, but we should make sure that we need to practice what we preach. Need to stop using band aids, sorrowful that I have to take on the burden and take on these issues and cannot focus as a student.
      20. Tanisha Ashley
          1. I feel very uncomfortable here, on a day that I am supposed to hold my head up high, I had to be told you cannot celebrate who you are, you are told to stay in place or you will fail.
      21. Student
          1. Even being here now, the majority are not here, it is people of color, majority at the protest were people of color, they don’t know our situation until they see it, people should sit and talk to each other and share opinions.
      22. Keith Sweet
          1. I take back my previous statement, CSBSJU does care about us, only when they use us to sell this school. We shouldn’t have to fight for this when there are other people studying, why do I have to fight to be represented.
      23. Brandyn Woodard
          1. All these stories, it’s embarrassing that we still have to listen to these stories. We have to find a different way. As long as we continue to operate like this, we have to be honest as to whose background we are prioritizing. As much as we like to complain, you have to own your stuff, we can all talk a good game, we can all listen to each other, just as long as I like what you have to say. If you are not here to learn why are you here. Recognize that we all have some privilege, we all have to work through that, walk with each other and do it together, who are you walking with, and who are you walking for. This isn’t just about you, it is about the generations, that come after you. We have to balance the urgency of now and the urgency of tradition. Which traditions are worth holding onto? Let’s let go and get rid of the tradition of protesting.
      24. Jordan Parker
          1. After I came here, the institution was already dying, this jewel became a piece of dirt. Start looking around about how many people are filling these dorms, interesting how many people are actually wanting to come here. I’m tired, there’s a lot of people who are tired, there will be a point when this will not be a fight because the institution may be dying.
      25. Mariana Mendoza
          1. I find it really disrespectful to have no class on Columbus Day and having class on MLK day. I rather it be backwards and learn of all the bad that Columbus actually did.
      26. Equity v equality Janessa V. Harms
          1. A lot of us are here because we are financially manipulated to be here, people that are the face of the institution for four years, don’t even feel safe here. We have to build trust.
      27. Zaida Ramos
          1. The fly-in was why I fell in love, there were so many people that looked like me, but we are giving students false hope.
      28. Anahi Ortiz
          1. I like to see everything with a business perspective and there are some flaws. Companies values diversity and inclusion but it is being thrown around and why is it just certain departments and offices being put into these concerns. We have to talk to people from everywhere in order to survive.
          2. People of color have to think more critically. We are here fighting for ourselves. White students are not.
          3. Constant bad reviews and not addressing the bad reviews then of course you’ll have people not wanting to say good things.
          4. If we want to talk about diversity and inclusion, as a student if I want to see where we want to see our goals, we have to hold the administration responsible. I like to see tangible change, real data.
          5. Lilla Watson, “If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let’s work together.” It’s not about helping the students of color, it’s about making the institution better.
      29. Danica Simonet
          1. We are symbolizing that we do not care equally about everyone. They (white students) don’t come to attend events like the protest. Most times white students walk by and are afraid to listen. I wanted to have a transformative education, I want to be a better person, I’m proud of the women I am today, but I question what the institution is going to do for others.
      30. David Johnson III
          1. Sitting down and thinking and I don’t think the SJU senate will do any good tonight. Huge round of applause to those who voiced out how you feel about the institution. We come as a student, it’s not the student’s job, to point out the faults, but to succeed. I can say that I have taken on leadership to help represent individuals who do not feel represented. We feel like pawns, told about diversity, but left to end up to fight for themselves. There are also those students with a student visa, and are afraid that they would do something that puts that in risk. But we have to keep pressing the administration.
      31. Zeng
          1. We reached out to 38 department chairs, so thank you to those who came.
      32. Iteghete (Possible solutions)
          1. Making it mandatory like convocation
          2. Looking how MLK day is planned, who are we teaching, who are we taking away from.
          3. Set something similar to scholarship and creativity day
          4. Diverse staff
          5. Cultural competency
          6. Student teach-in
          7. Change can only happen from the top
          8. Taking advantage of FYS topics
          9. Sensitivity training for faculty staff
          10. MLK day required
          11. Changing fly-in for prospective students especially students of color
          12. Challenging our students to think critically, push the boundaries of learning.
          13. With that being said, if you are interested in the committee, this is something that I want to make sure that this is carried out.
          14. Make sure that this conversation does not die out. Voices will be heard.
3. Board Reports
   1. President’s Report (Iteghete)
      1. Chair passed
      2. Thank you for being here and for the SJU senators here today
      3. Plans for today, we will be discussing more in depth, how to tackle these solutions and making sure that we are working on these solutions
      4. Melon grant is a big chunk of money for this purpose, can we figure that out how to use that for a multicultural event?
         1. Can’t answer now, but will be looked into.
      5. How much change can be made?
         1. A lot but depends on commitment, passion and see how it follows through.
      6. Has there been a set back in the amount that a white committee has since the senate has been more diversified?
         1. Seems so, more involvement more dedication that didn’t tackle the difficult things. Lack of interest since the senate has changed. Change can very well be made, from this senate, but this is big because of the different people that are sitting here. I applaud everyone who sits here, and we get blamed for a lot of stuff, but it is a lot of work.
   2. Advisor’s Report (Terhaar)
      1. One more theme is a need for better, more transparent communication for the work that is being done.
   3. Executive Board (Thomas)
      1. At the meeting on Monday, we talked about the open forum, we talked about how to have the upmost respect, empathy and how to come up solutions. Didn’t want this to be a blame session and it was a discussion to come up with solutions.
   4. Co-Funding Board (Packer)
      1. Allocated $500 to Criminology for their Madison trip
      2. Allocated $717.65 to Pre-dental
      3. Allocated $5383.25 to Pre-med
      4. Allocated $185 for the Drama Club Festival
      5. Allocated $300 for the show in place
      6. Allocated $185 Bowling Tournament
      7. Allocated $100 for Bowling Team Practice
      8. Allocated $1600 for weekly Bowling
      9. Allocated $100 for BSA
      10. Allocated $140 Kick-back Party
      11. Allocated $72 Pre-Law for travel
      12. Current budget after mid-year absorption is $121,817.29
   5. Budget Update (Umaña)
      1. Current budget $5,984.21 not 100% because banner is difficult.
      2. Does not include return in April
   6. Saint John’s Senate
      1. VP Klein
         1. Good evening, and super impressed by how tonight was handled. I can empathize with the fatigue that some seniors have. I thought you all did a good job and should be proud
         2. SJU not too much to cover
         3. Special elections are also coming up for SJU Senate
      2. Why didn’t you have MLK day forum?
         1. There was discussion but didn’t amount to anything. Especially because it was the same day as the protest. Due to the quick development we weren’t able to respond to it as quickly. (VP Klein)
         2. Better for joint meeting for emergency cases, SJU senators were aware but didn’t show up, will be addressed, white students didn’t show up and need to have a discussion and priorities, we have to address it. (VP Klein)
         3. We can also echo the disappointment, because CSB has a good track record of forums held here or there, senate is senate, it feels like we are disconnected and it is disappointing in a sense, I do hope that SJU senators are held accountable and especially because you have the mandatory things to meet. Commend the both of you for being present and supporting the CSB senate (President Iteghete)
         4. I think we feel the discontented because we try to be separate all the time and we are a student body and we should act like it (Thompson)
   7. Open Forum
      1. Senator Frederick
         1. Is the committee going to joint?
            1. Will have to be talked about in connection with the SJU senate.
      2. Godgift Iteghete
         1. I want to know how this is different from past discussions
            1. In previous its been more of students say their concern and senate solve it. But today it was more of a discussion. And there won’t really be an action plan but we have concrete solutions. Which is something that we can actually do and how we can move onto having an action plan.
      3. Chairwomen Packer
         1. Talked about coming up on something to vote on and this was more of a chance to absorb information and didn’t want this to be a quick thing.
      4. Senator Scanlan
         1. There were faculty here and in the past we haven’t and we have everything that we need and just to take initiative and take action
      5. VP Robinson
         1. There has never been students want to be along for the ride, it’s always more of a “Hey Senate fix this problem” but this is the first time that students want to be involved. Not dependent on the senate but also the students.
      6. Terhaar
         1. Some of these changes are slow changes we live where we live St. Joseph, MN and the committee is the opportunity to make these changes, you are the people who will continue to build the building blocks but you should think of this as short term and long term and where you will be invest your time.
      7. Trustee Thomas
         1. This is the first time acting as a community and ultimately, I think it went super well.
4. New Business
5. Announcements
   1. The next meeting of the Saint Ben’s Senate will be on Wednesday, January 30th, 2019, at 7:30pm. First Year Representative Senator Vang will be attending the next SJS meeting.
6. Adjournment @10:16 PM