



Student Senate Agenda

January 31, 2018

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.

- I. Opening
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call (Ambord)
 - o One Excused
 - C. Opening Reflection (Webster)
 - o Take the time to take care of yourself
 - D. Approval of the Minutes
 - E. Approval of the Agenda
 - o Motion by Senator Robinson, second by Senator Webster

- II. Guests
 - A. RISE Committee
 - a. Conversation is being held to revise common curriculum; Catholic and liberal arts institution that fosters cross-disciplinary learning by scaffolding learning outcomes
 - b. Replacing first year seminar with first year experience (FYX) and writing workshop – building foundational skills
 - i. FYX, 4 credit writing foundations workshop, 2 credit writing workshop
 - c. Introducing themes/ways of thinking to replace requirement-based courses (ie: gender, humanities, theology, etc.)
 - i. 2 thematic explorations courses, 3 thematic foundations/integrations courses
 - ii. Five ways of Thinking
 - iii. Senates will appoint students to theme committee to balance themes, themes will be well developed and kept low in number to assure proper development, themes will be kept broad, but students can choose which ones they would like to pursue based upon their major (Weekley)
 - iv. Credit requirements will be same in number as before (Webster)
 - v. First Year Students will no longer have two semesters of FYS (Flores)
 - vi. Switching writing exposure to multiple experiences over time rather than enduring it all during the first year as a student at CSB/SJU (Khang)
 - vii. Spreading out the writing will fortify skills past graduation (Weekley)



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- viii. Research paper will still be required for First Year Students, but will be scaled back (Flores)
- ix. List of student requests after bus incident last year led administration to create intersectional gender, race, and ethnicity classes (Itteghete)
 - x. New courses that are implemented will overlap based upon “themes” with programs such as English (Robinson)
 - xi. Community sequence requires four different classes, but same number of credits (Webster)
 - xii. Hope to implement plan as soon as possible after vote passes, but it will require time (Precourt)
 - xiii. AP credits will count towards overall requirement, but not themes (Angarag)
 - xiv. Faculty Senate authorized RISE committee to develop the new model, but it requires representation by all faculty to pass (Itteghete)
 - xv. Three year period of time where old and new models will be operating simultaneously – phasing out old classes while introducing the new ones (Flores)
 - xvi. Current students COULD switch to the new model if they wanted, but it would require credit for the “themes” courses (Flores)
 - xvii. Students coming in with Sophomore standing would need AP credit waivers to fill requirements (Flores)
 - xviii. Transfer students would be handled on case-by-case basis (Robinson)
- d. Language requirement is not changing
- e. New model will have integrated portfolio with assignments from core classes being added to this portfolio; during senior year this portfolio will be tied together with a paper to encompass all of the student’s experiences on and off campus. Faculty and advisors can access this easier, and employers like the ease of access
- f. Required to take three fine arts events: 1 in FYX and 2 in Ways of Knowing courses. There will be 3 additional FAEs required for exposure outside of class material. Also, 5 co-curricular events are required; could include FAEs
- g. Study Abroad program will be preserved. Experiential learning and global engagement will be met by going abroad; students who go abroad will not have to take the way of thinking that fits their major. Students will also write a reflective paper on study abroad experience and theme of study.



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- h. Reintegrate Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Theology into class with a "communities" sequence
- i. FAE requirements would be paired with common curriculum
- j. Common curriculum currently requires 62-68 credits, but new model will require 57 credits
- k. Students from both senates are being utilized for student input and planning open forums
- l. Faculty will vote on new plan on April 20th
- m. More questions
 - i. Theology/Language requirements will not change for students who go abroad (Webster)
 - ii. Themes committee will meet to decide the ultimate themes, but current ones from the model presented like Sustainability will be included for sure (Robinson)
 - iii. Faculty voting is open to any full-time professor; four courses or more a year fits this criteria (Angarag)
 - iv. Portfolio is great idea to promote success once students graduate (Weekley)
 - v. Research for this new model and how to fit it under Benedictine Values has been conducted over the last seven years, and Benedictine heritage will be reinserted into core curriculum model (Flores)
 - vi. Strategic Directions 2020 is working to implement a new core curriculum model, and funds have been set aside (Flores)
 - vii. Pre-requirement tracks (Pre-Med) will still get to pick their Fine Art courses, and current required courses for these tracks will have themes added to them (Thompson)
- n. New Website is up with draft of new model and a feedback button - RISE
- B. Elizabeth Carrizal
 - a. Had a bit of culture shock in China while abroad; want to apply knowledge learned to a presentation for the conference. Asking for \$3,160 total
 - i. On Scholarship and Creativity Day they hope to communicate findings from this opportunity to benefit community understanding of international students (Robinson)
 - ii. Present for S and C Day (Spalding)
 - iii. Questions about total cost breakdown (Iteghete)
 - iv. Clarify prices for all together and individual (Webster)



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- v. President's office and Asian Studies Department is helping with funding as well (Robinson)
- vi. Total cost is \$3,160 and registration is \$220 per person, flights are \$400/person and hotel is \$333.33/person. (Spalding)
- vii. Clarify whether this is total price or 60% (Weekley)
- viii. Conference will be on April 6th (Gorman)
- ix. This is the first time CSB has attended this conference (Angarag)

C. Open Forum

III. Board Reports

A. President's Report (Steenberge)

- 1. Taxing last couple of weeks (emotionally/mentally) and encourages mutual support. Let discomfort/anxiety act as a motivator; door is always open for counseling. Email was sent out yesterday to cover the organization of task forces; sign up for ones that bring interest. Feb. 8th there will be an opportunity to support DACA on campus. Chairwoman elections; cannot nominate someone for position due to constitutional conflict.
 - i. Amend constitution during Con review for vacancy filling section; need chair filled soon so agenda will be modified (Flores)
 - ii. Change for election procedure will be discussed under New Business; candidates will do short platform followed by ballot vote (Webster)
 - iii. Motion to amend agenda for Club Auditor filling requirements (Angarag) – will be discussed in New Business

B. Advisor's Report

- 1. Intense week - more will be required. Difficulty ahead as we work towards change. Hard to sort between fact/feelings, but senate needs to learn to separate the two. Cannot represent facts as feelings. Can take on other individual's stories as our own, but we must own the bias that comes along with it. Emotion is a way of knowing, but it is not a replacement for Empiricism (fact). Perceptions of another person's actions can be altered by our own feelings (esp. stress), and we need to check our emotions before reacting. Judgments that are passed onto others during intense dialogue cannot be taken



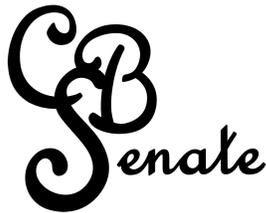
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back. Please bring conversations to Dean instead of taking them through other avenues.

- C. Executive Board (Weekley)
 - 1. Board met on Monday to discuss Chairwoman position requirements. Met with VP of SJU Senate to team up on shared issues (Academics, Class Environment, etc.). Discussed Care Workshop – could attend in lieu of meeting; logistics coming soon. Talked about campus climate; planning town hall with SJS.
- D. Co-Funding Board (Iteghete)
 - 1. Allocate \$6,445 to Polar Plunge and \$2,300 dollars to Spanish Club
 - i. Polar Plunge on Feb 1st (Weekley)
- E. Budget Update (Iteghete)
 - 1. \$17,694 in budget (rough calculation)
- F. Saint John's Senate
 - 1. 3,000 to SAC for Kids Fighting Hunger, March 25th 8am open to Bennies and Johnnies to volunteer
 - 2. Student open forum
 - i. Eye opening, sharing their stories of oppression and racism on campus
 - 3. First year social, planning something more inclusive, what home means to them, decorate their dorms that way and there will be a competition, winners will win Chik fil a gift card
- G. Open Forum (Angarag, Demeritte, Elmi)
 - 1. Webster – Visibility committee is still being worked on; emails are not worked on
 - 2. Demeritte - Special Olympics Association received new name, working with BSA for events during Black History Month
 - 3. Robinson – could co-sponsor beauty day
 - 4. Iteghete – Black History Month Eve is tonight, meeting on Thursday at 7 PM for BSA
 - 5. Angarag – Alumni Brunch is on Sunday, March 18th from 1-3:30 and is a mandatory event. Started Con Review – will be voted on at the end. Online anonymous form for Con Review is being sent to students and will be put on senate website. Working on personal projects as well.
 - 6. Elmi – Food Committee met with Trish about reimbursements for food stipends. Last week's meeting had very important discussion; policy for the camera – videos not viewed by CSB/SJU students. People watching videos are 35-45 years old and out of country. This could be a threat as lots of



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information is publicized; personal stories are made public and preserved in the film that is uploaded. This stops freedom of speech because students are worried about the camera; they head to SJU instead because they are more comfortable. Students want to come talk to CSB senators, not the camera. Reduces CSB senate effectiveness.

- i. Thompson – A lot of people's stories were publicized for people outside of our community; demographics of people viewing the videos should be noted – safety hazard.
 - ii. Webster – reached out to Culinary Services for students to use punches for food on off campus event (to-go lunches?)
 - iii. Anarag – (Terhaar) videos were started a long time ago on VHS to ensure transparency for individuals who cannot attend the meetings. Restrictions can be put on the video to contain the video audience to members of the CSB/SJU community. Stopping the recording could prevent students from seeing what senate does. Video from last week's meeting was not posted.
 - iv. (MC) Protocols will be made to handle this issue.
 - v. Thomas – Media Services should help implement the protocols that are created for this issue
 - vi. Robinson – Have secured internet for CSB/SJU email holders
7. Thompson – Extreme situations like last week should not be posted, but Senator Robinson's idea was better (Hear, hear!)
8. Elmi – closed intranet for senators with public information available for CSBSJU community
- i. MC – meeting minutes are public
 - ii. Webster – History of video: used to be played on Channel 8, which was a TV station just for campus. Once this dissolved, these videos got put on YouTube. Archive videos online under private listing. People are only watching the videos for a couple of seconds.
 - iii. Elmi – Average time watched is 3 to 4 minutes; people with malicious intent could harm senators based upon info in video
 - iv. Thompson – Part of meeting could be removed from the upload; minutes are created for a reason
9. Thomas – Have Media Services come in for discussion; have the time dedicated for that meeting



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IV. New Business

- A. Motion to allocate \$3,160.00 for the ASIANetwork National Conference (Spaulding).
 - a. Spaulding – good idea to fund this conference, and it's good that students are bringing knowledge back to campus. Suggests revising budget to represent 60%
 - b. Iteghete – Discrepancy about final cost
 - c. Flores – Reviewed budgeted numbers and got \$2,160 for total
 - d. Iteghete – 60% per person would be \$499.80 for travel. This was multiplied by 3 and then registration was added for a total of \$2159.40
 - e. Weekley – All for this motion
 - f. Flores – Motion to amend to allocate \$2,160 to ASIA Network National Conference
 - i. Iteghete – This number aligns with guidelines and should be funded
 - ii. Vote passes unanimously (15-0-0)
 - g. Thomas – Clarify amendment funding amount (\$2,160 in total)
 - h. Motion to allocate \$2,160 passes unanimously (15-0-0)
- B. Motion to clarify Club allocation chair
 - a. Webster – For this motion. Clears the air and provides equal opportunity.
 - b. Weekley – Worked well last semester with Public Relations rep; would work again. Democracy that we live by.
 - c. Iteghete – Debate before voting?
 - i. MC – no debate before voting, but platforms will be presented
 - d. Robinson – questions can be asked of candidates
 - e. Flores – President of CSB Senate cannot nominate a candidate; this election will have a motion to adjust the constitution moving forward (collective action)
 - i. Weekley – This will change the way vacancies will be handled in the future
 - ii. Flores – Change will be voted on during next election time
 - iii. Flores – When election guidelines were changed last time, it was not as clear. Clarity will be ensured moving forward
 - f. Thomas – motion to end debate passes (14-0-1)
 - g. Webster – Clarifying whether the voting session should be open or private



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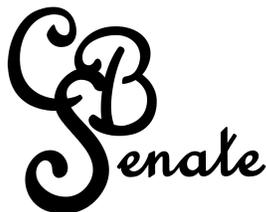
- i. Terhaar – Don't need closed session; questioning that occurs will be for clarity from candidates. Voting is private, but platforms should be public

C. Platform presentation

- a. Elmi – great responsibility and very outgoing. Care about students and can create initiatives. Like Club Auditor position for this reason, and she believes that chairwoman position would only augment her ability to work with people.
 - i. Weekley – Time management? Won't be of concern; she would regret not running for the position. Knows she can do it.
 - ii. Thomas – What can you bring to Executive Board as far as inclusivity/diversity? She can bring her personal experiences to the board to promote equality and equity.
 - iii. Robinson – Understanding of additional duties? Responsibilities are similar to that of a club auditor; will be the backbone that a club auditor might need.
 - iv. Iteghete – What would you change about Club Auditor board? Anonymous route of input could be helpful, but otherwise the board is very good.
- b. Grygar – puts full effort into senate; co-funding board is very underrated on campus. Wants to focus on transparency between treasurers, board, and students; hold Club Auditors accountable with open office hours. Enjoyed time so far on senate, and would be honored to continue time on senate.
 - i. Robinson – Working with different people? Will work with clubs to help co-funding board get the clubs to their end goals. Will try to foster relationships with cultural clubs.
 - ii. Iteghete – Executive Board adds responsibilities; how will you manage this? Will maximize time by ensuring efficiency through creating plans and delegating duties.
 - iii. Thomas – With JEC's background of not being great with minorities, how will you support diversity in this position? Will continue to educate herself so she can be a better reference/ally to those who are underrepresented. Will also integrate diversity training (that is being done in JEC) into her duties on senate; wants to be a better ally for these students.

D. Vote passes 8-7-1. Libby Grygar is voted in as Club Allocations Chairwoman.

V. Announcements



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- A. The next meeting of the Saint Ben's Senate will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 5 PM.
- B. The next meeting of the Joint Senates will be on Monday, February 5th at 9:20 PM in the Founder's Room.
- C. Senator Precourt will attend the next St. John's Senate meeting on Monday, February 12th at 9:20 PM.

VI. Adjournment