**Official Meeting Minutes - St. John’s Senate January 8, 2022**

**Call to Order – 8:00 p.m.**

* Land Acknowledgement – Senator Laughlin
* Blessing – First Year Representative Belisle
* Roll Call - Executive Assistant Otto

**Approval of Minutes – 8:03 p.m.**

**Approval of Agenda – 8:05 p.m.**

* Motion to make Mask Up SJU initiative an up to amount.

**Open Forum – 8:06 p.m.**

**Well-Being Center – 8:07 to 8:43 p.m.**

* Our primary services are counseling, health services, health promotion through programs like Dream Team and Health Advocates, and violence prevention through organizations like CERTS. Health services attempt to keep costs minimal in all cases. Students, when necessary, can pay in cash or through their student accounts. All services can be found on the well-being center website. There were 1,003 visits at the SJU Health Center in the fall of 2021. You @ College has been lower than expected but still productive.
* Trustee Cleare: Has a flat rate been determined for next year?
	+ Answer from Advisor Connolly: For the entire academic year, it will be around $330 to $340 dollars. It will be the same on both campuses.
* Treasurer McMahon: Is there a plan to reduce the cost of a COVID test?
	+ Answer from Mike Ewing: The cost of a rapid test is $55.00. The insurance companies are required to reimburse 100% of the cost. It is not completely free.
* Senator Adam: Is there any consideration for the use of gender-neutral language? Is there a role for the office in encouraging better sexual behavior from Johnnies?
	+ Answer from Mike Ewing: I will bring that back to the office for sure. We can contribute to that for sure, especially through the violence prevention program.
* Chairman T. Thompson: Would an online form be helpful for scheduling counseling appointments?
	+ Answer from Mike Ewing: Yes. We want to make sure it is secure.
* Senator Mattson: Please repost mental health things on social media.
* Sean Fisher: Are there resources for safe sex? Condoms, lubricant, etc.?
	+ Answer from Mike Ewing: We do not have any in stock – it is a hard question to navigate.

**Pandemic Planning Committee – Dr. Casey Gordon - 8:44 to 9:31 p.m.**

* Last semester, there were about 60 positive cases. In this day alone, there were 29 cases. It is a less severe strain, but the numbers are much higher. We heard from students that they value in-person experience. To mitigate it, we tried to get a slow start to the semester and continue to wear masks. The isolation units are about 50% full. We are still asking students to still quarantine and isolate at home instead of on campus if they live less than 150 miles away. We are hoping that our spike will be over in 2-4 weeks. Masks are only effective if people wear their masks correctly. Even one four-hour shift a week will help us keep the facilities open at full capacity. The boosted percentage is lower on the St. John’s campus.
* Senator Mattson: Should we be wearing specific masks in the classroom? I thought vaccines were required. 10% is a significant percentage.
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: Any mask is effective if you wear it correctly. It can be optional. We cannot require it because there are special rules to mandate them from OSHA. There are medical and religious/conscientious objections to getting the vaccine. 90% is great and passes herd immunity.
* Chairman Kirchner: How are the decisions made for certain groups to go online versus others?
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: Athletics are governed by the NCAA. Their venues are different. If things can happen online, we would rather support it.
* Senator Belisle: Is the omicron variant the only one we are seeing on campus? Are the cases asymptomatic? Has contact tracing been effective? Will there be another testing event?
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: In general, omicron is in the neighborhood. There are some cases that have been reported. Contact tracing has been a challenge to keep up. There will be another testing event soon for those who missed last week. We do not have a larger one scheduled.
* Trustee Cleare: Will travel be allowed in the future for student groups? If we move through the spike will student groups be allowed to meet again?
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: We have heard how important student travel is. There are no current restrictions. I would like to get us back to fall semester again. If our cases are going up instead of down, we will be better off.
* Senator Adam: How can we encourage students to get vaccines and wear masks?
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: An email does not move the line. The incentives have helped.
* FYR Bills: What is the capacity we can reach? Where does the staff shortage come from?
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: Yes, we have a plan if we get much higher than 60 percent. It is a little bit of both.
* Betsy Ruckman: People are following directions, but the super spreader events are off campus at the bars. It is stressful to not have any control over accountability. I hope the COVID protocol to report other students comes back.
* Research Assistant Arms: Are there protocols in place for these issues?
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: There is a protocol for non-compliance in the classroom and for COVID requirements.
	+ Answer from Advisor Connolly: It is a fine line. We ask students to confront them if it is safe. There was also a feeling of negativity around campus from those reports.
* Senator Sanchez Romero: Why couldn’t we have quarantined when we got back?
	+ Answer from Dr. Casey Gordon: Although it would not have been a bad choice for you, it was communicated that it was not for others.
* Chairman T. Thompson: I was hoping that professors take masking very seriously and that there are consequences.

**Mask-Up SJU – FYR Belisle - 9:31 to 9:47 p.m.**

* The goal of the campaign is to keep students protected against the virus. It will encourage mask-wearing to keep COVID cases low on campus.
* Requesting $115.00 for 2,000 masks to be placed all over campus, including the buses.
* Trustee Cleare: Will there be some at CSB too?
	+ Answer from Senator Carreno: Yes.
* Senator Sanchez Romero: What happens after students use them?
	+ Answer from Senator Carreno: We will work with the sustainability representative.
* Treasurer McMahon: How long will these supplies last?
	+ Answer from Senator Carreno: I think that it will last two months.
* Sean Fisher: If you throw your mask on the ground, you are ugly. It is more of a consumer issue.
* Vice President Cabellero Gonzalez: How much more expensive are the cloth masks?
	+ Answer from Senator Carreno: The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) is promoting reusable ones.
	+ Answer from FYR Belisle: It should be more of a I forgot my mask moment.
* Senator Mattson: Didn’t we have masks from the JEC in the old senate office?
	+ Answer from Senator Adam: There are a bunch of leftover ones from orientation.

**CSB Senate Update – President Diaz – 9:47 to 9:48 p.m.**

* Club auditor positions are open.

**New Business – 9:48 to 10:07 p.m.**

**Motion to allocate up to $115.00 for the Mask-Up SJU initiative – Belisle**

* Senator Mattson: I would rather see reusable masking but if we do disposable, it should be the KN-95 even though they are a little expensive.
* FYR Belisle: We can emphasize that cloth masks are being sold in other places.
* Chairman Kirchner: It is gross to pick up masks all the time. We should have an actual campaign to ensure that people are wearing masks in the first place.
* Chairman D. Thompson: A mask is better than no mask.
* Senator Adam: Motion to table following the Pandemic Planning Committee.
* Advisor Connolly: Other things may come up, but for $115.00, it is more important to do it now.
* Senator Adam: Strike the motion to table.
* Senator Laughlin: If we want to do it, we should do it right.
* Senator Heimer: This should have happened a long time ago. It is a Johnnie issue. Everyone forgets their mask at some point.
* Trustee Cleare: It is a good deal and people should not be turned away, especially with a limited schedule.
* ***VOTE: No roll call (Motion Passed)***

**Board Reports:**

**President’s Report (Kockler) 10:07 to 10:14 p.m.**

* The President gave several remarks:
	+ Hopefully, we can meet earlier in the future.
	+ The Senates could work on recruiting, bettering retention rates, tokenism in admissions, and revitalizing the advocates for community team.
	+ Basecamp and time sheets are back for next week.
	+ Chairman Kirchner: Can we get on the Pandemic Planning Committee?
	+ Answer from Advisor Connolly: It is a large committee; Casey was hoping to meet with some key student leaders one at a time.

**Vice President’s Report (Cabellero Gonzalez) 10:14 to 10:20 p.m.**

* DEIJ training will be required this Saturday from 2-4 p.m.
* Spring retreat is coming soon at the end of January.
* Like A Boss: Senator Adam
	+ Senator Adam: I stayed up late and got all my stuff done last night and this morning.

**Advisor’s Report (Connolly) 10:20 to 10:27 p.m.**

* Thank you for sending out the joint statement.
* It will be a big outdoor weekend, get out there.
* Chairman Kirchner: The new link bus name and logo is a little weird. Can we get that changed?
	+ Answer from Advisor Connolly: We will meet later.

**Committee Report (Cleare) 10:27 to 10:31 p.m.**

* New committee assignments will be sent out to be more productive.

**Budget Update (McMahon) 10:31 to 10:32 p.m.**

* Our budget is $31,182.48.

**Question Time 10:33 to 10:41 p.m.**

* Senator Adam: Please write for the Record.
* Advisor Connolly: If anyone has any concerns about the recording, please contact Jeff Glover.

**Announcements 10:41 p.m.**

**Adjournment 10:41 p.m.**