**Official Meeting Minutes - St. John’s Senate October 11, 2021**

**Call to Order – 9:20 p.m.**

* Land Acknowledgement – Senator Laughlin
* Blessing – Chairmen T. Thompson
* Roll Call – Executive Assistant Otto

**Approval of Minutes - 9:23 p.m.**

**Approval of Agenda** - **9:27 p.m.**

* Motion to allocate $307.00 for Mental Health Week instead of $432.50.
* Motion add Johnnie Day under Special Orders and add an allocation of $762.00 under new business.

**Open Forum**

* Treasurer McMahon: Current budget before allocations tonight is $67,988.11.
* Senator Laughlin: Watch out for gendered language.
* Logan Gagnepain: Increase wages to thirteen dollars. The school does not pay above the minimum, they pay at it. A student could go to Kwik Trip and earn $15 minimum and expect a raise in the next 6 months. Long term employees not treated significantly better. Yearly bonuses for students who perform exemplary work. Students are not paid enough for the work they do and the burdens they should. Looking to form a union.

**FYRE – Shawn Schindler – 9:33 to 9:44 p.m.**

* Three-day retreat in Brainard. Eighty spots are available, but only seven first year Johnnies are signed up. This was a huge support for me in the transition into college. First year development, creative connections with fellow peers and mentors and discovery of resources. The retreat focuses heavily on the Benedictine Values. Many long-term, lasting friendships are developed.
* In the past, the SJU Senate has contributed $1,856.00. Students are asked to contribute $58.00. Other funding support comes from the CSB Senate, Knights of Columbus, and SJU Campus Ministry. The total cost per student comes to $143.00. With SJU Senate support will bring the cost down to $79.78. Capped at $2,473.03 and all funds will return to the Senate budget.
* Senator Laughlin: Are the t-shirts a necessary cost? We have a smaller budget than normal.
	+ Answer from Sean: It can be negotiated. It helps build community and sparks conversation.
* Senator Belisle: Is there any reason that the numbers are so low? How can we promote?
	+ Answer from Sean: More Bennies typically attend either way, not surprising. Where we spend time reaps the most reward. Advertise after Mass and door knock. Direct advertising instead of passive.
* Chairman Kirchner: We have 11 Johnnies.

**PRP – Addison Fischer – 9:45 to 9:52 p.m.**

* Requesting $2,325.00 from the SJU Senate. $300.00 for the Fall Festival – travel expenses, fall-related activities, sustainable scarecrow making. $150.00 for the Haunted Arb and Wicked Walk – new costumes, Eco House decorating, and volunteers for scaring. $1,000.00 for Swayed Pines – live music festival in Bro Willies Pub, open mic, food, and decorations. $1,000.00 for the Roller Disco – skate rental, decorations for Guild Hall, popcorn, snow cones. $200.00 for an activity slush fund – international student walk, pumpkin painting, and internal team building. $1,000.00 for scholarships for PRP trips - funding will be regulated to only Johnnies.

**Mental Health Week - Chairman D. Thompson & Senator Mattson – 9:52 to 10:02 p.m.**

* The speaker, Nathaan, is coming next week. Dinner will cost $414.00 for 40 people. Up to $200.00 for 250 mental health stickers, used at tabling. Total will be $307.00 per Senate.
* Chairman T. Thompson: Are the stickers financially sustainable?
	+ Answer from Chairman T. Thompson: Not every student will receive mental health boxes, only 125 per campus. All stickers should be handed out.
	+ Answer from PR Representative Bullard: This should work because there are limited numbers, and they will be actively handed out.
* PR Representative Bullard: Invite Multicultural Center students?
	+ Answer from Chairman D. Thompson: Yes, some were suggested by Mike Ewing.
* Senator Vassey: Can students use their meal plan?
	+ Answer from Chairman D. Thompson: Not everyone has unlimited, keeping their meal safe and secure.
	+ Answer from Senator Mattson: Different kind of meal. Catered.

**Sophomore Dinner – Chairman Kirchner – 10:02 to 10:14 p.m.**

* Sophomores did not receive a dinner due to COVID. The dinner would be with President Mullen on November 7th. Sophomore class is roughly 425, cost per person will come out to $18.25. Requesting $500.00 for door prizes.
* Treasurer McMahon: Will the cost be lower based on attendance?
	+ Answer from Chairman Kirchner: It will be much lower.
* Chairman T. Thompson: Is the price for door prizes negotiable?
	+ Answer from Chairman Kirchner: Yes, depends on how many attend.
	+ Answer from Advisor Connolly: Part of the cost could be covered by Student Development.
* Senator Vassey: Could this event be pushed back to the spring to have a better understanding of the budget?
	+ Answer from Chairman Kirchner: The sophomore class has gone almost unnoticed our entire time here. I feel a sense of urgency. Could be the last time this type of event would happen.
* PR Representative Bullard: Will there be a dietary exception menu?
	+ Answer from Chairman Kirchner: That would be a question for catering.
* Trustee Cleare: Could you pull in a punch from students that RSVP?
	+ Answer from Advisor Connolly: Yes, should be recommended by the Senate.

**Johnnie Day – Senator Mattson – 10:16 to 10:24 p.m.**

* We allocated a specific amount of money for shirts, need more for golf carts and food. Requesting $275.00 for golf carts and $487.00 for grilling supplies. Total comes to $762.00.
* Treasurer McMahon: Where will we be?
	+ Answer from Senator Mattson: Tundra, right outside of Tommy. Can’t go on sidewalks.
* Trustee Cleare: How much would we save without grilling?
	+ Answer from Senator Mattson: Would save a total of $80.00, I think it is a good bonding experience.
* PR Representative Bullard: Could we use the portable grills in Res Life storage?
	+ Answer from Senator Mattson: Interesting.
	+ Answer from Trustee Cleare: They are pretty small and might take too much manpower. Not worth it, should use the ones from Dining.

**CSB Senate Update – Senator Ellis – 10:25 to 10:26 p.m.**

* Hosting office hours starting next week. Ted Gordon will attend the next meeting.

**New Business:**

**Motion to allocate $250.00 for Multicultural Center Speaker – Caballero Gonzalez**

* Vice President Caballero Gonzalez: Rebecca Kotz is an anti-violence writer who will explore the intersectionality of personal violence and oppression.
	+ Trustee Cleare: This will be an effective speaker.

***VOTE 20:0:0 PASSED***

**Motion to allocate $1,490.00 for the OLC – Cleare**

* Trustee Cleare: The OLC is no stranger to us, excited that more programming will be in person this year. This is a justifiable cost.

***VOTE 20:0:0 PASSED***

**Motion to allocate $5,500.00 for Student Leadership Summit Speaker – Caballero Gonzalez**

* Vice President Caballero Gonzalez: The price has been lowered.
	+ Chairman Kirchner: This is very expensive. Could CSB pick up more of the slack? I am very concerned about money.
	+ Trustee Cleare: If this is an event that we both sponsor, only fair that we pick up the weight.
	+ Vice President Goff: This is an important speaker. Large numbers are on the table, if you are funding an $8,500.00 dinner this is equally as important.
	+ Senator Mattson: I appreciate how much work you have put in, but I am stuck on the meal.
	+ Vice President Goff: I am not opposed to skipping the meal. It rubs me the wrong way that this has been so difficult. This is not an outrageous cost. She is not nobody. She will be here in person.
	+ President Kockler: She is an up and comer in the one of the largest cities in the Midwest.
	+ PR Representative Bullard: She has broken the glass ceiling. What else would we want to spend our budget on? If we want to fund a SLS, we need to fund the speaker.
	+ Senator Bills: The number will not change at this point; we are voting if we want her or someone else.
	+ Senator Vassey: How much of impact will this person create on campus? Students will be inspired. We can be a part of their success story.
	+ Treasurer McMahon: She is a part of our course materials already.
	+ Senator Mattson: Did someone ask Trish if this number is accurate?
	+ President Kockler: We have. Before negotiation, she believed it wasn’t. Better now. Setting a new precedent.
	+ Senator Mattson: Johnnies are sensitive to how we spend our money.
	+ Senator Fisher: Check our biases. If this was someone else, would we be questioning this? Hope we are valuing her intrinsically.
	+ Chairman T. Thompson: The content she will bring is valuable. Why is she charging such an exorbitant price for speaking to her constituents? As someone in active office, this is an absurd price. At the end of the day, she is a public servant.
	+ PR Representative Bullard: Not bringing her in as a title, but for content.
	+ Senator Belisle: Doesn’t sit right with me that she is being used as debate. She created the conversation, and she need to be there.
	+ Senator Laughlin: Time is worth money; this is not a campaign event.
	+ Senator Lobe: She is asking us to pay her.
	+ Trustee Cleare: She should not do it for free, but the price is too much.
	+ PR Representative Bullard: In this discussion, it is important for us to check ourselves. A speaker of this magnitude should be held to our values. The discussion would be different if the speaker was white, cisgender, etc. We should fund the person.
	+ Vice President Goff: This is leadership development. There is prep work, gas money, etc. It is more than just coming a speaking at us. This will likely be an emotionally taxing conversation for her to have with us. She is person coming who has a lot of knowledge in a certain field.

***VOTE: 13:6:1 PASSED***

**Motion to allocate $2,473.03 for SJU Campus Ministry FYRE – Kirchner**

* Chairman Kirchner: This is very important tradition within the SJU community. Campus Ministry is one of our close partners.
	+ Senator Lobe: How much are the shirts? Reasonably priced.
	+ Chairman Kirchner: The shirts are already here.
	+ PR Representative Bullard: I will not be voting yes on Indigenous People’s Day for an organization that has historical ties with Christian colonization. The price is a little high.
	+ Chairman T. Thompson: To say that Christianity had a direct effect, which it did (but we do not cancel events on a daily basis because of it) is not valid.
	+ Treasurer McMahon: It is very valuable.
	+ Senator Fisher: I regret not attending my first year. We are supporting student organizations, not an entire religion. That is a flawed logic. You are using student’s money not your own.
	+ Senator Vassey: I could not afford it at the time, glad to see that the Senate can give that experience to other people.
	+ Trustee Cleare: Closes a gap for students who can’t afford it.
	+ Chairman Kirchner: SJU Faith used to be Johnnie Catholics. Doesn’t fit our brand.
	+ PR Representative Bullard: This is an impactful program. We should fund it. However, it is important to acknowledge that today is Indigenous People’s Day. I will be voting no. We do not make jokes out of other’s opinions.
	+ Vice President Caballero Gonzalez: Let’s keep this in context. We are voting on FYRE Retreat.
	+ Senator Knowles: I will only vote yes if the three FYR attend.

***VOTE: 19:1:0 PASSED***

**Motion to allocate $2,325.00 for PRP– Caballero Gonzalez**

* PRP creates events for students. Excited about Roller Disco.
	+ Senator Lobe: I can’t do math.
	+ Chairman T. Thompson: Engage students. I’m only focused on apples.
	+ Senator Fisher: These events are great. Sign up to be a scarer.
	+ Senator Heimer: This event will go by the Flynntown Costume Party too.

***VOTE: 19:1:0 PASSED***

**Motion to allocate $307.00 for Mental Health Week – D. Thompson**

* Chairman D. Thompson: Our speaker is a good investment in our school.
	+ Senator Lobe: Things that collect dust that can be used again.
	+ PR Representative Bullard: Can we arrange who goes later, less Senators?

***VOTE: 19:1:0 PASSED***

**Motion to allocate up to $8,250.00 for the Sophomore Dinner – Kirchner**

* Senator Laughlin: Motion to table.

**Motion to allocate $762.00 for Johnnie Day – Mattson**

* Senator Laughlin: Motion to table.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion to allocate up to $762.00 for Johnnie Day – Kirchner**

* Senator Cleare: Motion to bring up from the table.

***VOTE: 19:0:1 PASSED***

**Board Reports:**

**President’s Report (Kockler) 12:13 a.m.**

* Strike.

**Vice President’s Report (Caballero Gonzalez) 12:14 p.m.**

* Strike.

**Advisor Report (Connolly) 12:14 p.m.**

* Strike.

**Committee Report (Cleare) 12:14 p.m.**

* Strike.

**Budget Update (McMahon) 12:14 p.m.**

* The current budget stands at $54,881.08.

**Question Time 12:14 to 12:23 p.m.**

* Senator Laughlin: Festival of Cultures.
* Chairman Kirschner: Keep it professional. Don’t discriminate because of religion.
* PR Representative Bullard: My experience on the SJS has not been good. I have experienced racism and homophobia. They will dismiss my identities and me as a person. Our job is to represent the student body. To actually listen with empathy and lead with purpose. I came here to feel welcomed. We can highlight equity and justice all year round.
* Treasuer McMahon: We have spent 40.98% of the budget.
* Senator Vassey: Being on the Senate has been the most disrespectful time of my life. Second PR Representative Bullard’s point.
* Chairman D. Thompson: Mental Health Week.
* Vice President Caballero Gonzalez: Last meeting was tough. We did some things well and some worst. Be careful with your words. We can learn to listen. The Senate should not be a resume builder. Let’s make them happy.

**Announcements 12:23 p.m.**

* The Saint John’s Senate will meet next on October 18, 2021, in Sexton 200.
* The next CSB Senate meeting is October 13, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment 12:23 p.m.**