**Official Meeting Minutes - St. John’s Senate October 18, 2021**

**Call to Order – 9:20 p.m.**

* Land Acknowledgement – Senator Laughlin
* Blessing – Treasurer McMahon
* Roll Call – Executive Assistant Otto

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

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

**Open Forum**

* Treasurer McMahon: Current budget before allocations tonight is $54,881.08.

**Academic Update – Provost Richard Ice – 9:24 to 9:57 p.m.**

* In charge of all things academic. I applaud you for your calls to action and land acknowledgement. Thank you for rising to the challenge of COVID. We were not able to send students to many places, but we have students in Greece, Italy, France, and England. Looking forward to the day when we proceed as normal.
* We are creating an Experience Hub in the Clemens Library, will combine XPD and those dealing with experiential learning. Moving towards greater consolidation of departments. Only one office on one campus. Want them to be accessible to students, you will find many in the library.
* Addition of many majors and minors – most importantly, graduate doctoral program in nursing at CSB. Filled the class by September.
* My office has begun an audit of all policies and procedures to ensure a lack of implicit bias. Greater integration will follow. The board of trustees will see some changes and combinations.
* We have had to face tough decisions due to low enrollment. We are at a point where we need to investigate changes based on student engagement. Certain departments will get larger, and some will get smaller. Two committees have been formed, a steering committee and data committee.
* Treasurer McMahon: Will the title of CSB we changed? Do students have a say in which programs are cut?
  + Answer from Provost Ice: Many colleges have graduate programs without a name change. Will need to think about branding. We will get student input throughout the process. I’d like to turn this enrollment situation around.
* Senator Vassey: Any thoughts on an engineering major? It would be good to advertise the research component of senior year. How would becoming an international college effect the student body?
  + Answer from Provost Ice: We are on it. It is more of a mindset, but we have seen a decline in international students because of visa issues.
* Chairman T. Thompson: Can you speak on tenure for professors? I’ve heard professors have fallen off after receiving tenure.
  + Answer from Provost Ice: I hope they do not. Contact my office if that is the case.
* Senator Fisher: Which areas have received the most cuts?
  + Answer from Provost Ice: It’s been all around the board. Faculty members have retired, and we haven’t replaced them.
* FYR Bills: What is the reason cited for declining admissions?
  + Answer from Provost Ice: We really aren’t sure. Our biggest source of students is from the Twin Cities area. Need more diversity across the board.
* Trustee Cleare: Is there an alternative for course evaluations to ensure that students are learning?
  + Answer from Provost Ice: Faculty should be coming to visit each other's classroom. Recently, professors are required to incorporate topics of diversity.
* Senator Fisher: Have there been any discussion of an African American studies major? Permanent Queer Theory?
  + Answer from Provost Ice: I’ve always been open to that, need to get faculty together. Feel free to talk to them directly.
* Senator Belise: Would a change in the grading policy come too?
  + Answer from Provost Ice: I’m open to change and new ideas. Bring them to me.

**Native American Boarding School Historical Context – Ted Gordon – 9:57 to 10:34 p.m.**

* Ted Gordon shared a clip of a panel with Minnesota tribal leaders.
* For the first 100 years of American history, the military was primarily in charge of removing native people. Starting in 1870, the government had taken more and more of reservation land. They had promised certain rights while keeping their eyes on the resources left within the reservations. The federal government created a plan to remove all cultural ties to native treaties via forced assimilation of their children. It was an attack on native dignity and communities. There were over 300 schools that took over 1/3 of native children. The federal government paid religious organizations per child to assimilate them. The St. John’s Abbey Industrial School was founded in the 1880s. It was required that children spend a large part of their day working. The monastic communities by the 1970s were fully behind reconciliation efforts.
* The communities have requested the sharing of documents and stories to spark discussion. With such a large group of minds, some of the research, service, and communication skills could be used to benefit indigenous people. They want to talk to students. The St. John’s Senate is the perfect group to help achieve the goals.
* Senator Fisher: How will government investigation effect CSB and SJU? Timeline? Would there be a benefit for the schools releasing a statement ahead of time?
  + Answer from Ted Gordon: Through the Department of Interior, an investigation will be conducted. Digitizing large amounts of government documents and reaching out to individual tribes for personal stories. A report will come out in April. The monastery and abbey will be listed. If a statement was released, it would be most important for all four organizations to sponsor it with the help of tribal communities.
* Chairman T. Thompson: In the future, does it make more sense for us to be directing our conversations to the monastery and abbey?
  + Answer from Ted Gordon: The monastic communities are already acknowledging this. We need to make clear this distinction. When engaging with tribal leaders, they see the intuitions as unfounded without the financial support of the monostatic communities and free labor of industrial schools. Direct our service and research opportunities to tribes.
* Senator Belise: How do the communities want to speak with the students?
  + Answer from Ted Gordon: We have tribal leaders come to campus once a semester. Being in the room for panels, talks, etc. They need college experience for their school systems. For White Earth, they need help getting wild rice areas on the historical register. Provides students with great opportunities.
* Senator Laughlin: Felt some hesitancy in conversation with a monk. Is that shared among the community?
  + Answer from Ted Gordon: Hard to group all the community together, but we have full support and access to monostatic communities.

**SLS Lunch - Vice President Goff – 10:34 to 10:46 p.m.**

* Opportunity to discuss with keynote speaker Andrea Jenkins in the Founder’s Room. There will be twenty student spots. It will be brunch from the Refectory.
* Total cost will be $14 per plate. It will cost up to $250.00 for the St. John’s Senate.
* Advisor Connolly: I would encourage you to spend this money.
* Chairman T. Thompson: Can we cap the number of senators?
  + Answer from Vice President Goff: Yes.
* Trustee Cleare: Are we ensuring an equal number of Johnnies and Bennies? If more people wanted to come, could the clubs sponsor their meal?
  + Answer from Vice President Goff: More Bennies typically participate. We don’t want it to get too big.
* Senator Laughlin: Please avoid gendered language.

**ROTC Bataan Memorial Marathon – Steve Hansmann & Tucker Tenvoorde– 10:34 to 10:53 p.m.**

* Memorial marathon race at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. Sending 12 cadets, 6 Bennies and 6 Johnnies. One team will have rucks filled with non-perishable food donations. Total cost, including food, lodging, and travel, will come out to $13,556.00. ROTC will contribute $4,000.00 with CSB and SJU Senates splitting the rest. Requesting $3,919.60 from the SJU Senate.

**First-Gen – Aishia Sadik & Jesus Segovia – 10:54 to 11:07 p.m.**

* Our goal is to help undergraduate students feel seen and heard at college.
* Over a ¼ of our students identify as first-generation. First-Gen Day will include tabling, goodie bags, and t-shirt giveaways.
* We are requesting the SJU Senate to pay $700.00.
* Trustee Cleare: How will the distribution of the shirts work?
  + Answer from Jesus Segovia: We will prioritize first-generation first years and sophomores. Leftovers will be given to upperclassmen.
  + Answer from Aisha Sadik: We advertise on our Instagram. Not exclusively for those students but we do not get a lot of non-first-gen foot traffic.
* Jesus Segovia: The price is negotiable but the more money the MCC provides the less can be spent on events later.
* Senator Mattson: Could it be tabled at both campuses? Could the SJS logo be on the poster?
  + Answer from Jesus Segovia: Working on it. Yes.

**CSB Senate Update – Senator Wallace – 11:07 to 10:26 p.m.**

* Our current budget stands at 331,719.35.

**New Business:**

**Motion to allocate up to $175.00 for the SLS Lunch – Caballero Gonzalez**

* Senator Laughlin: Motion to amend to read $175.00 for the SLS Lunch.
  + ***VOTE 20:0:0 PASSED***
* Vice President Cabellero Gonzalez: This is a great networking event.

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

**Motion to allocate $3,919.60 for the ROTC Marathon – Heimer**

* Trustee Cleare: Motion to amend to read $3,000.00 for the ROTC Marathon.
  + Senator Hiemer: Our program does a lot of good on this campus. More Johnnies are involved, and I would like to continue the tradition. We are sending two teams this year. No student needs to pay more.
  + Chairman D. Thompson: We should fund at full value, no need to disenfranchise these Johnnies.
  + Senator Fisher: $143.00 is already too much for students to pay. If anything, we should decrease this.
  + Advisor Connolly: The flight cost is really driving this up.
  + ***VOTE 1:19:0 FAILED***
* Senator Heimer: We are here to make their student fees work for them.
  + Senator Fisher: Contingent on changing costs.
  + Advisor Connolly: Fully supportive of this motion. Just need to check out flight costs.

***VOTE 16:1:2 PASSED***

**Motion to allocate $700.00 for Student Leadership Summit Speaker – Kirchner**

* Advisor Connolly: Like the idea of having it at SJU too.

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

**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) 11:52 to 11:58 p.m.**

* The President gave several remarks:
  + I have a statement written about the sex competition in Patrick Hall. Please let me know if you want to sign on with your individual names.
  + I would like to put three senators on the joint taskforce concerning the new positions.
  + Addie’s joke about dyslexia at the last meeting was in poor taste. We need to make our language more respectful.
  + Mental Health Week is this week.

**Vice President’s Report (Caballero Gonzalez) 11:58 to 12:00 a.m.**

* Thanks to everyone for supporting Johnnie Day and Festival of Cultures. Keep working on your goals and be mindful of what you can do better.
* Like a Boss: Senator Laughlin
  + Answer from Senator Laughlin: The speaker today was really good.

**Advisor Report (Connolly) 12:01 to 12:11 a.m.**

* Be shoutout to everyone who participated in Johnnie Day and Festival of Cultures. Glad Mental Health Week has been launched.
* I would be happy to pay for the Sophomore Dinner incentives.
* Senator Mattson: Dining staff issues.

**Budget Update (McMahon) 12:11 to 12:16 a.m.**

* The current budget stands at $50,086.48.46.14%

**Committee Report (Cleare) 12:16 to 12:19 a.m.**

* Please send in notes ASAP. Haven’t seen any committee meeting invites.
* We are not just a piggy bank for people to come to. It is not our job to fund a full event. There are other departments willing to chip in.

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

* Chairman Thompson: Thanks to everyone for supporting Mental Health Week. I need more for later in the week.
* Senator Knowles: Many Johnnies are looking for updated flags in Sexton. Mexican flag?
* Senator Vassey: I’ve had issues with disrespect on the Senate. If I choose not to speak to you outside the Senate, you have disrespected me.
* Senator Fisher: Week of Sustainability & Cut the Current are coming up.
* Senator Knowles: Rugby game on Saturday at 11:30 p.m.

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

* The Saint John’s Senate will meet next on October 25, 2021, in Sexton 200.
* The next CSB Senate meeting is October 13, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

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