Student Government Meeting Minutes 1-27-2016

**Fall Semester Takeaways**

Thanks to all for work during the semester, especially the 1Ls.

Student Gov. used to be much smaller, but we are expanding. We want to review our internal structure. Will likely include resolutions. We’ll be working that in the next semester.

Open channels of communications.

Mavara: impressed by the expansion of SG and everyone’s work. More events, health and wellness, orientation reform, and more coming in the Spring. It was a learning process. Elections will be in early April, so we want to hit the ground running this semester.

Cameron C.: How do elections work?

Elections committee will be formed, headed by someone who isn’t going to run. There will be an election committee of 2-3 people who will work with DOS and set up a date in early April. Anything that gets put forth by the committee will have to the voted on. President and VP will run as a slate, other positions run by themselves. We typically have elections for a week, and vote for about 48 hours.

Adrian: I would like to make a motion to add a timed agenda to help keep things under control. Would also like to see it for the committees. There may need to be a meeting for longer than 30 minutes for representatives to meet.

Mavara/Kyle: We leave it up to committees to set their meetings on a shorter schedule, but we encourage them to set limits.

Ariel: Biggest improvement to see is more communications between the directors. I want to know what other events they are planning, and make sure that they are falling within the budget. Want to have a retreat where we go over the process for voting. There should be record of what we do. There should be transparency in the votes.

Jerry: In another org I’m in, there is a Google form that keeps track of events and the costs so that everyone can see what’s going on.

Adrian: what if we had alternating meetings: one for the public, one for elected representatives. At the elected meeting, have the directors meet to make sure they’re on the same page, and then have the rest of the elected representatives meet.

Kyle/Mavara: We do plan to meet with directors more often this semester.

Cameron P.: can we have a Google Doc to help keep everyone on the same page.

**Review of Internal Structure**

We may have a small group of people look at the systems that other schools use. An amendment of this method would require a vote of the Student Body. This would likely take place in April to coincide with elections.

**Administrative Updates**

There is a lot of confusion among the administration over what SG is doing. So we’ll be holding a state of the student body to talk about our initiatives and our plans to deal with problems on the campus now and in the future. This will require your input to revamp how we communicate with students. Will be happening at some point in the future. The administration will be there, but we are not one and the same. However, we need to ensure that they know what we’re talking about.

**Upcoming Events**

Superbowl party

Halfway through Harvard, next week

More events later, including some with the Dean of Students

**Comments, Questions, and Concerns**

Adrian: I’d like to mandate that people have one year of service in SG before someone runs for an executive position.

Kyle: that could certainly be implemented through a bylaw. That could be passed by us without having a vote, even next meeting.

Mavara: To clarify, that would mean the President, Vice President, and Director of Student Organizations.

Ariel: there is no Executive Board in the Constitution. Only officers.

Adrian: If every other student government has an executive board, shouldn’t we set up an executive board for ourselves.

Kyle: the current system was designed by a 3L who didn’t have experience.

Adrian: We should clarify that.

Aida: We are always talking about doing something in the future. Couldn’t we do it now, given our current rules?

Kyle: we should put amendments to the bylaws to a vote, we should have to give people an opportunity to look over it in advance.

Aida: can we solidify what we will address bylaws changes for next meeting.

Kyle: yes.

Tracey: there was no SG last year, so don’t feel that you’re not doing enough.

Ariel: can we send out a Google Doc to determine who will work on drafting a new constitution.