

Augsburg Day Student Government Agenda

October 8, 2014  
Marshall Room 6:10 PM

Members present: Christian Baca-Perez, Daniel Medin, Elise Hinderliter, Lyle Nyberg, Hannah Thiry, Nancy Lor, Christine Tang, Winnie Godi, Ashely Parent, Emily James, Thomas Kukowski, Adrian Lowe, Ahmed Musallam, Vision Bagonza, Michael LeRoy, Vincent Henry, Banna Kidane, Reies Romero, Heath Anderson, Jabril Bonini, Liban Elmi, Julian Kritz, Cuong Nguyen.

Members absent: Amber Nguyen.

Guests present: Ashely Johnson, Anne Garvey, Daniel Polaschek, Ben Krause-Gagne, Mohammed Safi

Advisors present: Joanne Reeck and Mike Grewe.

1. Call to Order 6:15pm

Vincent entertained a motion to have a 15 minutes recess to get pizza. Motion made by Cuong, seconded by Lyle. 15 for, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Motion passed.

1. Roll Call

🡪Favorite type of pizza.

1. Share Puppy

Banna Kidane 🡪 Reies Romero

For phenomenal work on the Students Concerns committee.

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Soapbox
   1. Ben Krause-Gagne – Philanthropy Week

* Will be next week
* Involves writing of “Thank You” notes to the school’s donors. Ben and colleagues will be tabling, and is looking for volunteers to table.
* Tabling 11 am-1 pm in the Christensen Center.
* Give to the Max 1st place prize will be an additional $10,000.
* Anticipates the participation of 1000 donors.
  1. Mike and Joanne – Investigation Debrief

Results of the Investigation

* Motion to charter Students Supporting Israel on Sept.17th and investigation began after requests.
* Joanne and Mike met 22 people over past 2 weeks, and came up with about 17 findings. Anne Garvey made 5 decisions based on those findings.
* There are 12 questions Joanne and Mike came up with regarding the conduct of the ADSG during that meeting.
* Exec. board member who spoke first did have the right to speak, and the points were germane pertaining the government of Israel
* However, the point where he said he would resign was not germane.
* All and any discussion pertaining to discrimination indicated in the SSI constitution were germane.
* Requiring a student group to support opposing views was not to be expected or germane.
* The reason that some students on campus do not support this group was not a valid reason.
* Under no policy at Augsburg is a student group required to support ideas contrary to their own.
* Roberts rules states, it’s the measure not the matter that matters.
* One person did speak more than the number to times allowed. 3 members of ADSG spoke out of turn.
* No comments crossed the discrimination threshold.
* If the votes made based on the government of Israel was germane according to Roberts Rules.

Vincent entertained the motion to extend Mike and Joanne’s time by 15 more minutes. Motion made by Cuong, seconded by Lyle.

15 for, 0 against, 0 abstained. Motion passed.

* There are no specific bylaws to guide the consideration of a group to be a chartered group. These bylaws were inherited from previous administrations. Current policies have no clarity.
* The only route to overturning the decisions made by ADSG is by appealing to CAO.
* One member of ADSG engaged in inappropriate conversation with an SSI member.
* SSI misrepresented itself on its Facebook social media page mentioning its meeting as “illegal”. SSI violated Augsburg policy of getting posters approved for event on 23rd Sept.

Decisions

* Augsburg Student government will not charter groups through October 22nd until formal process is outlined and clear policies are made.
* CAO will not require SSI to go through chartering process against.
* CAO will work with ADSG to learn from this occurrence and hence take steps towards making informed decisions from here on out.
* SSI will be a chartered group, but they will not be able to access student activity fee until 2 officers will meet with CAO.

Discussion

* Why was the decision not made by student government? Why was this right taken away from the student government? Sitting in this government may seem pointless right now since it appears the student government can’t have its decisions adhered to. You are taking our will and power as a student government.

We as a group are all still learning. If there was gross misconduct and procedural error, votes made were not made based on germane issues. If we would make the government vote again with this new information, we would just put the voting members at a hard position since they would have new information which they may or may not agree with, and this may or may not change the group.

It also wouldn’t be fair to have the group waiting in the midst of this lack of clarity have to go through the chartering process again as this could have led to the same results.

* There is a strict and loose interpretation of the Roberts Rules. We have been using the loose Robert Rules since we are students. If the concern was that there was emotional attachment, is it fair to then judge this using a stricter interpretation of the Roberts Rules.

The views were not made by emotions but rather by non-germane views.

* Is there a possibility that this decision was influenced by an external influence whether political or power wise?

Anne Garvey assured us that there was not any external influence or pressure towards the making of this decision by the college. Not the president, board of regents, or anyone.

Vincent entertained to extend time for question for 10 more minutes. Moved by Cuong. Seconded. Motion passed by all. (15 for, 0 against, 0 abstained)

* In response to previous speaker. It’s our role to defend students’ rights on campus, not just the views and emotions. All students have a right to organize themselves and meet as student group. Is this correct?

Yes.

* Is the group currently on the table to be chartered going to be considered before?

No, all is on pause.

* The school takes the choice to overturn the decision of the student group is considered by a very serious rationale, and in this case there was a serious rationale considered.

The decision to suspend chartering processes is for the better in order to ensure informed decisions in the future.

* What is student government to do in this situation? And why exactly do we vote if we can just have a committee have a checklist and go through it? The ADSG should make a statement about this and not just be the government that was overturned, in order to improve our image to the students.

We can make a statement to show commitment to a new turn in these processes and reinstate our mission as a government.

Ideally, most of the work will be made by a committee. The passion showed in this process was meaningful and served a good purpose in this situation.

Vincent thanked Mike and Joanne for their hard work on this investigation.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes
2. Unfinished Business
3. New Business
   1. Swearing In of New Senators

I\_\_\_\_\_ promise to uphold the ADSG constitution and to serve the Augsburg Day Student Body to the best of my ability.

Congratulation Julian Kritz!

* 1. Appointment of Committee Chairs

Banna appointed Daniel Polaschek to be the new senior senator.

Seconded by Thomas.

Discussion:

Why are you interested in this and why now?

I was late to think about it. But I am eager to further my leadership skills.

Is he replacing Nazih? No.

Vote: 14 for, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Banna swore Daniel in. Congratulations Danny!

There was one other appointee, but they had a scheduling conflict.Banna welcomes suggestions of individuals to be appointed.

* 1. Appointment of Senator Vacancy

Thank you for your time and dedication since the summer.

Banna appointed Nancy(elections), Lyle(constitution), Hannah (chartering and commissioning) and Elise(community service) to be permanent chairpersons of their committees.

1. There was a recommendation to ask Senator Mohammed to step down due to findings during the SSI investigation including a conversation with an SSI representative.

Motion was made to reinstate Mohammed Safi. Seconded by Liban. Motion passed by 15 for, 0 abstained, 0 opposed.

Discussion:

Senator Mohammed: I did make a mistake, but this was due to personal passion, but there was a lot of misinformation. Mohammed agrees to making 2 mistakes, the first being an encounter with an SSI member, and he conducted himself with unprofessional comments regarding the voting process.

Mohammed lied regarding his vote to charter SSI. Mohammed claims he did not say that his vote was not counted for in the process.

Because this statement was made after the ADSG had made a decision, his lie was irrelevant. Mohammed was trying to preserve a friendship he had with an SSI representative.

Mohammed asked that we don’t hold him on account of this occurrence. He would like to continue to be a part of the student government.

Questions:

* What’s the process for having a senator resign? Also, Mohammed is a casualty of the lack of clarity that was present during the chartering process. The stance of Mohammed’s vote remains to be no one’s business other than himself, since it was a secret vote. Whether he was disrespectful or not, it is clear that it was Mohamed’s personal opinion and in no way was he forsaking the decision of the student government. Given that Mohamed was unaware of the correct way to handle things, he is a casualty of uncertainty. He shouldn’t be punished.

When Banna and Vincent met Mohamed on Monday, they recommended that he resigned, but he did not resign and was given the chance to consider this.

* What is Mohamed’s passion or drive to be on ADSG?

Because it makes a difference and opportunity to have a chance to partake in decision making in order to make a difference. He has a vision for the school and would like to make steps towards making this possible.

* What did Banna mean when he said “previous issues” when referring to senator Mohamed?

These were issues that Vincent decided to keep from the student government in general.

* Reies encouraged senators to give Mohamed another chance.
* Mohamed asked Banna to recall telling Mohammed that this was a forced resignation. Banna denied saying this.
* Joanne: I don’t feel comfortable with the direction of the conversation at this point. Banna and Vincent made this decision for the best of the government.

Ahmed entertained a motion to allow him to speak 2 more times. Hannah made the motion to have 4 additional times to speak. Seconded.

Vote: 8 for, 5 against, 1 abstained. Motion failed.

* How can you ensure us that this will not happen again and that your conduct will increase?

I don’t even know what the mistakes being referred to are. I assure you all that it will not happen again.

* A newer member of ADSG mentioned that even though this is his 2nd meeting, he sees the passion that Mohammed has and we should observe how he is coming back after making the mistake.
* Julian: you never apologized to me. And Julian isn’t satisfied by the reason Mohamed gave for being in the student government.
* Vincent: Elaborated on the mistakes that Mohammed made. He also said that he believes that Mohamed may not be ready to be accountable to these standards at this times, and should join next year.
* Reies: With regards to the conversation that Mohamed had with the SSI mention. Reies heard that they were both out of line.

Ahmed made a motion to speak one more time. Seconded. Nancy moved to have everyone have 2 more chances to talk. Reies encouraged members to say no to this motion.

* Jabril: Be mindful that Mohamed does not have the chance to reply to all things being said about him right now, hence consider that as you discuss this.
* Everyone should take a step back and assess what they would do in this position. Having Mohammed on the student government does help in our decisions. This could have been any one of our members, but it just happened to Mohamed.

Regarding Mohamed’s stance when representing AASA, he had to be mindful of both his position in AASA and ADSG.

* Cuong: Asked that Mohamed show changes as soon as you rejoin. Said he’d vote yes for his reinstatement.

Vincent entertained the motion to vote by secret ballot. Moved by Lyle, and seconded by Hannah.

Response by Mohamed:

* Mohamed wanted to apologize to Julian in public in order to avoid the assumption that he had not come to terms with Julian. Regarding the incident with his AASA position, he wasn’t aware of the fact that he needed to adhere to both positions separately.

What does voting yes mean?

Yes-reinstating senator Mohamed as a sophomore senator

No-Mohamed would not be part of ADSG anymore.

Motion to have a recess. 9 for, 4 against, 0 abstained.

Results of the vote:

8 for, 5 against, 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Banna swore Mohamed in again. Congratulations Mohamed!

Motion was made to have a recess of 5 minutes for pizza. 15 for, 0 against, 0 abstained. Motion passed.

1. Announcements
   1. President:

* Everything is now behind us; welcome to the 5 new senators;
* Banna: now we can get some stuff done.
* Had meetings with the Board of regents this past Friday. Banna is meeting the academic affairs committee this Friday.
* Do we all know our office hours? Make sure to sign in
* Does everyone know what committees they signed up for? If unclear, connect with Michael LeRoy after the meeting.
* If you were here before Fall elections, you have google drive. Missing committee meetings counts as an absence.
  1. Vice President:
* Make sure you sign in.
* October 18th at the Common table, 10 am to 5pm is the retreat. Email Michael LeRoy dietary restrictions.
* Respect the office and keep the office cleaned. Its been cleaned.
* December 5th: there will be a performance by the Calliope Women Groups. Is looking for members.
  1. Finance Committee:
* Recommendation by the Peer Women’s Group for $7000, called Love Yourself and Your Body on December 4th and will have a New York Times best selling author speaker.

The finance committee recommended to approve a revised amount of $5000.

**Discussion:**

How would you advertise this?

By social media, star tribune, ECHO, KAUG, and personal recruitment.

Will you open this to the public?

Yes!

Is this all for the speaker?

Yes. This is a good deal since we had an original amount of $10,000.

17 for, 0 against, 0 abstained.

* The finance committee requested funds their annual Chicago business trip and $2000 for their biweekly meeting. The committee denied both of them due to lack of funds in travel fund and lack of explicit planning and organization.
  1. Students Concerns Committee:
  2. PR Committee:
* Everyone has their bio online if they sent it to Ahmed, except for one person.
* Going to move shooting of the video to Monday.
  1. Elections Committee:
* No updates.
  1. Constitution Committee:
* Is passionate to have the opportunity to take part in the restructuring the commissioning process to make it more committee based. The appeal process will be similar to the chartering process.
  1. Chartering and Commissioning Committee:
* Hannah voted to send the decision to charter the Outdoor Activities club back to the chartering committee.

There were no objections.

* 1. Community Service Committee:
* Congratulations to the new chair.
* Hannah moved to have all ADSG members to attend one community service projects made by the committee per semester after Vincent entertained this moment.

Discussion:

* Could we have the requirement to attend any community service since people’s schedules could conflict?

Versatility has been sought as for dates, but you only have to attend one.

* Hannah elaborated on the events.

Reies suggested cultural observance when planning these events.

Vote: 23 for, 2 abstained, 0 against. Motioned passed.

* Vincent mentioned the events: Volunteering at an animal shelter, making tye blankets, soup kitchen, and trick or treating for unperishable foods.
  1. Senators:
* Mohammed: thanked the entire government, and plans to make changes to his participation in ADSG.
* Christian: Thanks for support on the FLR. It was successful and good.
* Nancy: Can we all go reflect on our conduct and actions and not have issues arise again.
* Winnie: When do we get our keys? Probably are ready and available at the DPS window.
* Dan: Tie and scarf exchange on October 23rd in the Marshall room.
* Cuong: OL applications are out.
* Dan: thank you for accepting me. Looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone.
* Julian: Is honored to be part of ADSG. Looking forward to putting all issues behind us.
* Is there any complaint from Campus Ministry? No, there was just a miscommunication.
  1. Executive Board:
* Reies: Robin Robinson is going to be on the Save the Kids radio, come to the “I am not a Mascot” event.
* Ahmed: Regarding the funds approved for the women peer mentoring group. If we are going to be held accountable for asking hard questions for large sums of money. But such questions were not asked today.
* We should all hold people accountable on spot and not wait to let things explode. Holding others accountable shows that you care. Please hold me accountable.
* If you don’t say something on spot, it sends a message of consent.
* Vincent: The correct term was “termination” in regards to the situation Mohamed was in.
* Everyone has to contact both Banna and Michael LeRoy for absences.
* Exec board meeting after this meeting.
  1. Advisers:
* Despite all the passion elicited in the last 3 weeks, we all have to remember we are here to serve the student government. Its really important to remember to consider how we move forward away from the past. We shouldn’t hold grudges.
* Dig into committee work, and ask constituents regarding their concerns.
* If you have issues with another member of ADSG we won’t be effective, we are here to hold the administration accountable to the student body.

1. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.