

Augsburg Day Student Government Agenda

November 19, 2014  
Marshall Room 6:00 PM

Members present: Emily James, Ashely Parent, Winnie Godi, Mohamed Safi, Hannah Thiry, Nancy Lor, Lyle Nyberg, Adrian Lowe, Ahmed Musallam, Vision Bagonza, Vincent Henry, Banna Kidane, Amber Nguyen, Heath Anderson, Reies Romero, Danny Polaschek, Elise Hinderliter, Cuong Nguyen, Cristian Baca-Perez, Julian Kritz, Nattacia Bailey. Late: Jabril Bonini, Liban Elmi

Guest: Brad St. Aubin, Mary Couture, Stephan Taylor

Advisors present: Mike Grewe, Joanne Reeck

1. Call to Order 5:58pm
2. Roll Call

🡪What are you thankful for?

1. Share Puppy

Emily🡪Ashley Parent

For her phenomenal contribution to publicizing the Survey4Change.

1. Adoption of the Agenda
   1. Vincent moved to have Mary Ellen Couture go first during the soap box. No objection.
2. Soapbox
   1. Mary Ellen Couture – Readership Program

* Worked closely with residence life previously.
* Is a program for our student body. Started 19 years ago. Aimed to eliminate the “bubble” that the students live in on a campus.
* Created the USA-Today College program. Offered in common areas. About 13 places on campus.
* It’s a green program since paper is recycled and produced on an algorithm.
* It’s a “pay on consumption” program. Only pay for the newspapers used.
* We do not pay face value for each newspaper. We pay a highly discounted price of 44 cents.
* Program never overspends the budget. Balance funds are rolled over.
* Traditionally done promotional events with the department of residence life, for instance:
  + - Move in day promotions
    - Door to door delivery

Questions:

* Hannah: What happens to papers not used?

Recycled each day at a site in Maple Grove. Turned into a variety of items.

* Mohammed: How much has Augsburg spent annually?

We never purge anything out of the system. Mary will relay the specific amount in an email to Banna.

* Julian: Are you the point person to change locations of racks?

We can test and trial one for a month and see the pickup rate. Program has been here so long, open to input on where to place them.

* Julian: Weekend papers, is there a precedent for getting them?

Its very expensive. We could explore dropping off a few and see how it goes. They also come with a lot of ads, and hence his discouraged by facilities management.

Mary: Vincent does know how to contact me. Let him know if you’d like to contact me.

* 1. Beth Reissenweber – Vice President of Finance
* Has been working in higher education in the Midwest for a while, worked at Roosevelt University.
* Was looking for a challenge, and wanted to be nearer to home.
* Works with custodial and facilities staff, to make sure they feel valued.
* Augsburg had a 14 million bond, used to build OGC.
* Endowment is currently 38 million dollars. Our focus should be both on today’s student as well as future students. We shouldn’t be extremely conservative with either, and as a result neglect the other.
* Currently building relationships with institutions like Wells Fargo. We work on a budget of 60 billion dollars. My job is to decide how to use our dollars. It could be observed that Minnesota is a very conservative state.
* When we spend money, we need to keep our focus on the students. Remember: we are student centered.
* One great strategy is to shortlist a list of priorities. Focusing on a certain things enables for it to happen more rapidly, as there is a near goal.

Capital Budget:

* We budgeted for a higher number of students than we got. We got 319 first years.
* Currently has been focused on an ice rink project. Our ice rink is 40 years old, and they only have a life of 25 years.

Question:

Could you talk about the residence halls?

Residence halls have a life of 50 years. One is 42 years old and one is 46 years old. There is a plan to make new residence halls, since there is still useful land on our campus. They individually cost about 2 million dollars.

Lyle: What was the challenge you came to overcome at Augsburg?

Mainly the CSBR, since it is our main challenge at this point. Focusing on it in the midst of all the other potential projects is hard, since we can’t ignore everything else, but the CSBR will enhance student experience.

Liban: Why is our endowment so low?

It could due to our institution size. But also, it is our goal to work on this once the CSBR is completed.

Cristian: Is there a point where we could not have to depend on enrollment to fund the student groups?

There are various constraints. But some strategies to reach there could include: future fundraising, a higher endowment, shared resources in the ACTC area.

Heath: From the perspective of an investor, what is Augsburg doing to increase its investment rating?

We don’t have a lot of surplus to work with, similar to the larger institution. Larger schools are more reliant on endowment rather than tuition. We need to find ways to “cushion” changes in enrollment.

Integrity is most important o encourage investment. We can use our own ideas to find solutions for the current problems. We have great students, faculty and staff-all who are a greater resource.

Reies: What are your plans to better the common spaces?

Welcomes input on the lounge space. There is an opportunity to have a student lounge on the 3rd floor of the Christensen Center. We could have a space with greater lighting.

Currently working on the wellness (CCHP) area. We want to make it as welcoming and relaxing as possible.

Cristian: Maybe adding a door to the student lounge we could increase the capacity.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes
2. Unfinished Business
3. New Business
4. Announcements
   1. President:
      1. Appointment of Chartering and Commissioning Chair, Secretary, and Elections Committee Chair

Appointed Vincent as the elections committee chair. No objections. Congratulations Vincent!

* + 1. Student Activity Fee Recommendation  
       Banna, recommends raising to $105

Move to increase to from 100 to 105. Seconded.

Discussion:

* Lyle: how did Ann feel about it?

Banna: we are still discussing it and we expect she would side by the recommendation

* Nancy: why 105?

Banna: after research and looking at other schools, this seems to be the logical number. Also after sensing opposition from student government members to a higher number.

* Julian: where would that money go?

Banna: it will be distributed the same way it has been distributed before. Finance committee will have a recommendation

Amber: there is a minimum for each of the three funds we have and the distribution will happen accordingly.

Banna: there are ongoing discussion regarding raising or lowering what student groups can ask for because we feel it’s not fair how the budget gets consumed very fast.

* Julian: Everyone I talked to was opposed to the idea of raising the activity fee.
* Hannah: I think it’s not a good idea to raise it. We should keep it for the next year and try to manage our budget in a more effective way.
* Cuong: since we proposed the same amount last year it might be a good idea to use that same raise this year.
* Cristian: Agrees with Cuong and Hannah. We can change the way we grant the money. Raise awareness of how it’s used.
* Emily: $50,000 is quite a lot. And this could benefit the way students look at the college, as this could promote enrollment based on prospective students seeing places that people are able to go.
* Ahmed: The general movement is against this raise, mainly because they don’t know how where exactly the money goes. The addition is probably not going to be liked, but in comparison to their tuition, it’s an amount people can give.

We should make a committee to advise the student government, and possibly have a financial expert (faculty or staff) to lead it. This is if there is no budget increase.

* Reies: Can our recommended amount be denied further down the line?

No, our recommendation goes to Ann Garvey, and is then approved.

* Banna: it won’t be effective this year. How about reducing stipends? We spend about $35,000 on stipends, and $17,000 for ECHO. We could reduce them to $100 per student or another recommended amount.
* Nancy: Adding $5 is not a lot of money. But some groups may be opposed to it since they may depend on the stipends for money.

Stipends are only given at the end of the semester. We aren’t making a final decision about stipends tonight.

* Danny: is this time sensitive? How long do we have?

We have until the 10th of Dec. It was scheduled to be changed by this meeting.

* Hannah moved to have Nancy talk one more time. Seconded by Mohamed.

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

* Nancy: $105 is a good number. We shouldn’t postpone this decision any longer.
* Cuong: What was the decision by Ann Garvey for an addition to the student activity fee last year?

She said no, one, because it had just been raised the year before, and because most of the funds are being used for off campus activities. She wanted to see some effort by the ADSG to rein in costs and make sure the primary focus was on campus programming.

* Lyle: what was the total amount brought in this year?

$365,000 dolllars.

* Mohamed: is there anywhere we could see a breakdown of the entire $365K?

That was given to us at the beginning of the year, when we looked at the amounts allocated of the group.

* Nattacia: have the groups been asking for more money because the items have been costing more due to inflation?

Inflation isn’t the main issue. This was covered in the previous raise. It’s mostly been money to pay A’viands for catering.

Mike: Many costs have been going to food. There are ways that student groups can go about to save, for instance buffet dinners vs plated dinners.

* Julian: can I move to do a regular vote rather than roll call vote. Seconded by Jabril. Vote: 6 for, 7 against, 0 abstained. Motion failed.

**Roll Call vote:**

Emily: For

Ashley: For

Winnie: Against

Nazih: Against

Hannah: Against

Nancy: For

Lyle: Against

Jabril: Against

Danny: Against

Liban: For

Elise: Against

Cuong: Against

Christin: Against

Julian: Against

Nattacia: Against

Motion failed.

* 10 Banna moves to making Brad st.Aubin as secretary **15 yes 0 no 0 abstain. Motion passed. Congratulations Brad!**

Julian: to brad: curious to why have not taken the opportunity to be on student government this semester?

Brad: I had night class.

* 1. Vice President:
* Meetings will start at 6pm
* No meeting next week
* Finally donated food we collected during trick or treat to the food network. Great work community service committee!
  1. Finance Committee:

Chartering fund: $9,900

Commissioning fund:$11,000

Travel Fund: $19.05

* 1. Chartering and Commissioning Committee:
  2. Students Concerns Committee:
* About 145 students had taken it by noon today.
* Danny: is it completely coincidental that A’viands is doing the survey this week as well?
* Cuong: can we post the link on facebook?

It’s a link to your account, so probably not.

* Liban: can we discuss the contract from A’viands?

We could be in communication about this with administrators.

* Ahmed: could we get a hold of the survey results by A’viands?

We could have Jill Davenport stop by next semester.

* Mike: in order to have a statistically significant result, we need around 300 replies.
  1. PR Committee:
* Supporting survey for change
* Video about 95% done
  1. Elections Committee:
* Congratulations to Vincent for being the elections chair.
  1. Constitution Committee:
* Will be undergoing changes, one being merging of the finance committee policy and entire government constitution
* Next week there isn’t a meeting. We will meet before Wednesday meeting after Thanksgiving.
  1. Community Service Committee:
* Meeting tomorrow morning at 9am in Auggie’s nest.
* Soup kitchen event this Saturday, the 22nd.
  1. Resolutions community

Could Brad talk to Julian after this? Brad brings a great skill set with experience from the writing lab.

* 1. Senators:
* Nancy: Encourages senators to future consider raising the student activity fee. Ask your constituents more than you asked this time.
* Cristian: There will be a peaceful rally tomorrow in the Murphy park regarding the students kidnapped by the Mexican government because they were going to rally against the government.
* Hannah: will be speaking at communion tonight
* Julian: SSI is having an event with Campus ministries discussing Christianity in Israel. There will be a speaker.
  1. Executive Board:
* Ahmed: ISO-ALAS dance this Friday in the East Commons at 8:30 pm.
* Adrian: Tuesday the 25th of November will be a Mic night
  1. Advisers:
* Mike: tomorrow is Trans-Awareness day. There will be a mic night, and a candle light vigilance at 7pm.
* Recommends that we put together a presentation for the CFO of the college so we could improve student common spaces in the school.

1. Adjournment. 8:00 pm