

Student Government Association Meeting

March 6, 2009

CBLDG 213

Minutes

In Attendance: Dean of Students Linda Nickell, President Bill Mathews, Vice President Nichole McCoy, Secretary/Treasurer Chelsea Jeffery, Sophomore Commissioners: Nora Mercado (Spanish and NAG), Matt McHughes, and Jessica Transou, and Freshman Commissioner Eric Henson Jr.

Late Attendance: Freshman Commissioner Shane Ray.

Bill Mathews called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. The minutes were previously approved and roll was taken.

Nora first spoke about the Nation Against Genocide Club's book drive, which SGA is co-sponsoring. She and Bill went to a factory in Milan, TN that handles returned books from companies that had an overstock and the books have little to no damage. Bill and Nora received a couple of big boxes with samples of children books. Bill explained that they hope to get a truck full of books for free because Mary Wadley was able to receive book for free from this company. The book should be only PG children's books and college level books.

Bill next announced that Freshman Commissioner Jamie Chesser has resigned from her position in SGA due to an over load of jobs and her family matters. Bill suggested that there should be no reason to appoint anyone in her place because there isn't enough time before the elections. Chelsea expressed that the student body should still be informed about the open position. A motion was made by Nichole to appoint another Freshman Commissioner and Eric seconded, a vote was taken and the motion failed. Bill added that an announcement should be made to encourage students to come by and see what SGA is like and help advertise elections.

Nora announced that on Monday, March 9th at Union University in Harvey Hall a speaker from Sudan will be speaking at 7:30. On Wednesday, April 1st a speaker will be talking about Psychology of Terrorism in the Science Auditorium at 12 p.m. Also, the theater club's play is coming soon and the first week will be held here at Jackson State and the Second week will be at Union University. Bill highly suggested that SGA go as a group to the Sudan speaker at Union. A vote was taken and passed, SGA will meet at Harvey Hall at 7 p.m.

Chelsea asked Nora when the Holocaust speaker is coming. Nora explained she had misinformed SGA previously and the speaker is the woman's husband and not son. But the speaker will be here March 19th at 12:30 p.m. in the Ayres Auditorium.

Eric also gave an announcement that if anyone would like to attend a community "Campaign for Liberty" at Gander Mountain they should look it up on the internet.

Bill next asked Nora to give an update on the Diversity Committee. Nora discussed that she and Eric are on the sub-committee Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention and now they are on the Activities Board.

Eric next gave an update about the Activities Board. He explained the Activities Board is trying to balance out and have a diverse group of faculty and students. They are also trying to work on reinstating the Activity Period which an Ad-Hock committee was formed to research the idea. The board discussed the purchasing of new gym curtains and Nikki Martin will be figuring the budget with some of the money coming from the Theatre Club. The Activities Board will be having Amateur Night on March 26th, Awards Day will be April 23rd, Alcohol Awareness April 9th, and films for woman's history month. Bill suggested a waiver form should be made for the Amateur Night promising not to use vulgarity and also asked about the turn out for Game Day. Eric said it was a success, there wasn't a huge group but there were people continually there. Nicole wondered about how many students skipped classes in order to attend the Game Day and also to remember that SGA would like to present the Dodge Ball trophy at the Awards Ceremony and to make sure to invite the winning team. Eric finished with saying that Funfest will be before finals.

Nicole next spoke about how Earth Day planning is going. Last Wednesday SGA met and divided out the topics and will be meeting in two weeks on Wednesday March 18th in the Student Union. Nicole sent out an e-mail about what was discussed and what was covered in the meetings. She also announced that instead of buying poster boards SGA will use boxes that Chelsea has, this will help stay with the Green theme. Also, Nicole thought of another topic if someone would like to pick it up: organic foods.

Nora next explained that she spoke with Mr. Scott Cohen, who explained to her that, because of copy right laws, Jackson State Community College must have permission/permit from the producers to show more than 10% of a movie on campus. If

not there is a fine of twenty-five thousand dollars. She also added that it can take up to four (4) weeks to get a permit.

Bill next addressed the dates proposed to have the SGA Constitutional meetings. The dates to meet should be March 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th. If anyone can't attend or even before attending everyone should go over the constitution Bill sent out via e-mail. Nicole suggested highlighting parts to delete in one color and in another color what should be added. The meetings on the 10th and 17th are during Spring Break and need to be voted on, as to whether or not we should have them. Bill entertained a motion to have a meeting the 10th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nora made a motion to accept and Eric seconded, motion carries. Bill entertained a motion to have a meeting the 17th from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Nicole made a motion to accept and Eric seconded, motion carries. Nora added that the meeting the 19th should be moved one hour later at 2p.m. because that is the day of the Holocaust speaker.

Bill moved onto the progress with the Baseball Concessions. People still need to sign-up or help find people to sign-up. Linda gave Steve Cornelison's cell phone number out in the event that games were canceled due to weather and SGA would need to contact him to find out. Bill added that March 10th at 2p.m. there will be a baseball game so the constitutional meeting should be held in the concession area.

Jessica next informed the group that the vote by J-Web has been going smoothly so far. SGA should still be trying to vote to make sure there are no glitches. Bill expressed how he didn't understand why a notice could not be allowed to pop up informing students to go vote. Jessica said the Victor explained it would be unfair to other organizations on campus. SGA will need to figure another way to get word out.

Nicole then gave her idea for having a Garage Sale in the JSCC Gym. The gym could be divided up into sections and each section could be sold off to vendors or the community people. Money raised from the vending fee would go to the Foundation Student Relief Fund and the Garage Sale should be before Graduation. The group decided that after graduation would give more time to organize.

A Verbal Proposal was given by Eric that all proposals being presented at SGA Meetings should be dispersed to SGA Officers ahead of time. It was discussed that it is not always possible to do this, the meeting moved forward.

Matt first presented his proposal about changing the homepage of jscc.edu. The motion was sent to the floor and Eric made a motion to accept and Nora seconded. A vote was taken, the proposal passed.

The next proposal was made by Chelsea on “SGA Money Transfers” to help eliminate so many accounts for one purpose. Eric made a motion to accept and Nora seconded. A vote was taken, proposal passed.

Chelsea then presented her second proposal to suggest that the next SGA cabinet hold a Miss JSCC pageant and use the information gathered from this cabinet. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Eric and seconded by Jessica. A vote was taken and the proposal was passed.

Jessica next asked Linda what she must do about the proposal for the student in need. Jessica explained she was confused because she gave the proposal to Mr. Finney like SGA had always done and Mr. Finney sent her to Linda. Linda told Jessica that she will need to get information from the student on what she needs money for and how much. Jessica explained the student isn't asking for any money, but that Jessica heard her story and decided she deserved to have some help with her finances. Linda explained that SGA should send all students in need to the counseling office from now on. She went on to explain that SGA knew of this change because officers were present at the Student Assistance Meetings in Mr. Finney's Office when this change was discussed. Jessica said that this student in need will not come to the counseling office because the student is too modest. Chelsea told Linda she heard that Dr. Kelley did not want SGA to be taken out of being a part in the decision process when looking at who is in need and the amount of money given as a gift. Linda answered that she had a meeting with Dr. Kelley and that they discussed this and he was fine with this change. Linda explained that SGA could suggest people but the counseling office will make the final decision, so SGA should just send students to her. Jessica told Linda that she would not have done all this work if she had known this information up front. Bill stressed that SGA gives 100% of their money raised to this account. Linda also mentioned she did not understand why we were giving the student in need \$250.00? Chelsea answered that the amount is SGA's starting point, and that it is not a set amount. Linda expressed that this process of giving out money doesn't work and it sounds as if it is all in who you know, as if SGA would

just give money to any student or non-student if they truly need the money or not. It was explained that SGA gets involved in the student body and gets familiar with students stories and lives; just handing out money has never happened nor is it our intention to do so.

After hearing this information, Bill entertained a motion to over turn the previous account proposal from Chelsea. Chelsea made the motion to overturn the proposal merge the accounts and Eric seconded. A vote was taken and passed; SGA will keep two separate accounts until further notice.

Jessica, then, made a motion to give a gift of \$250.00 from the SGA Emergency Relief Fund and Nicole seconded, motion carries.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.