

## **Student Government Association Meeting**

March 20, 2009

CBLDG 213

### Minutes

In Attendance: Vice President for Student Services Paul Finney, Executive Aide to Vice President for Student Services Lisa Kincaid, Dean of Students Linda Nickell, SGA President Bill Mathews, SGA Vice President Nicole McCoy, SGA Secretary/Treasurer Chelsea Jeffery, SGA Sophomore Commissioners: Nora Mercado (Spanish and NAG), Matt McHughes, and Jessica Transou, and SGA Freshman Commissioner Eric Henson Jr.

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

Bill began by informing the SGA of a conference call in which he, Mr. Finney, and Linda, along with other Student Government Presidents, TBR Chancellor Manning, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Randy Schulte, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Finance Dale Simms had to discuss the college budget. The governor's budget report comes out Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bill said he sent an e-mail out to the SGA about the Stimulus Package possibly bringing our budget back up to the 2006 budget level and that reorganization will be a part of JSCC's budget plan. Mr. Finney added that there is pressure across the system to spend less money. The cuts could be as much as 12-15% and the hope is that the money from the Stimulus Package will keep this number low, but even then the money will be gone by 2011 and JSCC will be back where they started if they don't take action now to have a plan in place. Also, if the economy starts looking better and money is more available everyone around the state will want their part of it and that Higher Education may be last in line to get it. Linda spoke next saying that there is heavy pressure not to raise tuition prices and that Chancellor Manning had spoken about the cap and believes that it will not be restored. Bill added that he understood there is a proposal for any hours over twelve to be discounted somewhere between 80 and 90%. Mr. Finney said that the next TBR meeting will be in Nashville, TN April 26<sup>th</sup> and that, possibly, six student representatives would be allowed to attend. Bill next explained that the TBR Board will be meeting in June at Tennessee Tech and then will vote on the new budget. Also if anyone has any ideas about the budget, e-mail

them to Student Regent Gionnie Carr by March 22<sup>nd</sup> to be included in a Powerpoint presentation at the next TBR meeting.

Next Bill stated that the printer was out of ink due to his printing many things that were SGA related. He addressed Linda stating that he could go to Wal-Mart and purchase a refill ink cartridge pack for approximately \$9 with the Jackson State credit card with her approval.

Nicole next addressed the group about her IRP meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>; the meeting had five appeals to vote on. Jessica announced that she was supposed to fill in for Nicole at an IRP meeting over Spring Break but was unable to do so due to an unavoidable issue that came up, which Linda was made aware of the following week.

At the March 18<sup>th</sup> Activity Meeting, Nicole attended in the place of Eric and Nora. Nicole announced that Amateur Night will be March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm in the Quad, the Activity Board decided not to try to do anything more for this year's Women's History Month, the Easter Egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 10:30-12:00 pm, and the Alcohol Awareness program will take place on April 9<sup>th</sup> in the Student Union. Linda explained that the Theater Club will try to raise money to purchase curtains for the stage in the gym, and that the Activity Board would decide if they would help out.

Chelsea, Jessica, and Matt all attended the JSCC and Union University Theater Clubs' play, "Measure for Measure", and they thought that it was really good and very funny.

Nicole added that she had started handing out the Halloween Certificates. She asked that if anyone knows Logan, we need to give him his certificate.

Next, Nicole updated the group on the progress of Earth Day. She said that it was a good start and a lot of information has been compiled. Bill was unable to make the Earth Day meeting because he was gathering information from JEA and local auto dealers and that Jessica had e-mailed her information. Nicole added that Melina Baer has several pamphlets that we could use that might be of use.

Next, Mr. Finney took the floor with information on the changes taking place with the Student Relief Fund. He explained that the college has been trying to be better coordinated to help the JSCC student in need. He went on to say that Chelsea had raised the question about SGA's role in the fund. He said that after having a meeting with her,

Nicole, Lisa, Linda, and Bill; they were able to better understand the situation. Mr. Finney said that at the end of the day it doesn't matter who identifies the student in need, but before any money can be given out, proof and documentation will be required. This is not to make the process more complicated but a paper trail is needed so that, when the auditors come, there will be documentation of everything. Also, in the past there were so many different avenues to do the same thing and that there needs to be one central location to make the process easier. Bill raised the question as to whether Jessica could deliver the check with a letter, so that SGA could look more professional. Chelsea suggested maybe a general letter from SGA could be drafted to accomplish this. Linda said to talk with the business office to see if a letter could be attached to the check. Mr. Finney had to leave so the discussion would be completed at a later time.

Bill announced that he had spoken with Steve Cornelison about concessions and Steve no longer wants to be in charge of it. He said that he would like for SGA to take it over. JSCC should honor Coca-Cola's contract (if there is one) because they furnish the refrigerator and concessions trailer, as well as the score boards for both the basketball and baseball games. Linda said that we should get with Steve again and see for sure how the process should be from now on. Bill said that the SGA could take charge of the concessions sign-up form, maintenance of the trailer, and deal with the drinks issue.

Bill then discussed the progress of the SGA constitution meetings. Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, over Spring Break, went great and then Thursday's meeting was canceled due to weather. On Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup>, only Eric and Chelsea were present so the meeting was canceled, and then on Thursday, only Nora and Bill were present so it was canceled again. Bill stressed that, in order to get this project completed, everyone needed to be diligent in their duties as SGA Officers.

Next the Book Drive for Sudan was covered again by Bill. He explained that around 20,000-60,000 books would be donated by a book company in Milan, TN and that volunteers will be needed to go there and help scan boxes of books.

Jessica covered the progress of the elections on jWeb and explained that the pictures will not be on the ballot like before. Chelsea suggested that when the student clicks to vote, a page with pictures and information should popup and then they could vote. Nicole added that she had talked with Nancy Hickey and that she is willing to

remind students to vote online when they register for classes in the Advising Center.

Bill next said that he, Nora, and Chelsea went to hear the Sudan speaker at Union University. The speaker had a powerful message and that he was one of the 200,000 “Lost Boys”.

Nicole said that a student had approached her and asked if the graduation order could be changed. The way it is set up now is by alphabetical order in Applied Sciences, but the student would like to see it broken down to Applied Nursing, Radiology, and etc.

Also, there has been an increasing number of complaints about Chick-fil-A. Nicole said that there was no food today at 1 p.m. Chelsea suggested that someone find out what the restaurant’s contract says and what, if anything, they are in violation of.

Next, Jessica explained that she had a student approach her with a complaint about a professor and that neither she nor the student knew what to do about it. Chelsea said they should refer to the Student Handbook on page 191. Lisa told Jessica to tell the student to document it.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Matt seconded and all agreed. Bill adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.