



Northern Vermont University – Lyndon

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

listening. empowering. changing.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2019

I. MOTION TO START TONIGHT'S MEETING

- a. Everyone agreed to start the meeting. Meeting called to order at 8:02PM.

II. ATTENDANCE

- a. Absent from Meeting:
 - i. Alpha Lambda Delta
 - ii. Intervarsity
 - iii. Peer Leaders

III. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a. Mike Secreti, Assistant Director of Student Life/SGA Advisor
 - i. What is Student Government?
 1. Promotes the educational, social, and general welfare of the student body
 2. Oversees and funds Lyndon's clubs/organizations
 3. Meetings every other Wednesday at 8PM in the Moore Community Room.
 - ii. Who runs Student Government?
 1. Executive Board (President, Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice President, Financial Controller)
 2. Elected Representatives (Class Representatives, Commuter Representatives, Non-Traditional Student Representatives, International Student Representative)
 3. Club Representatives
 - iii. How are meetings operated?
 1. Attendance → Approval of Minutes → Student Body Comments → Reports and Presentations → Discussion and Action Items → Other Business → Club and Committee Updates → Adjourn
 2. Requests to be added to the next SGA agenda must be submitted to the SGA no later than one week prior to the meeting you are requesting to be included in

iv. Attendance Policy

1. Club/organization attendance is mandatory and the representatives must show up on time
2. There is one representative for every club/organization
3. Three (3) unexcused absences will lead to the club/organization losing their voting rights and having their budget frozen
4. Any more than three (3) absences may lead the club/organization to be disbanded by the SGA executive board

v. Robert's Rules of Order (see Article XIII of the SGA Constitution)

1. Calling the meeting to order

- a. President will ask for a motion to start the meeting
- b. A voting member will motion
- c. Another voting member will "second" the motion
- d. Another voting member will "call" the motion
- e. The board then votes by hand. The president will ask those in favor to raise their hand, followed by those opposed to raise their hand, followed by those abstaining to raise their hand

2. Approval last meeting's minutes

- a. President will ask for a motion to approve the minutes
- b. A voting member will motion
- c. Another voting member will "second" the motion
- d. Another voting member will "call" the motion
- e. The board then votes by hand. The president will ask those in favor to raise their hand, followed by those opposed to raise their hand, followed by those abstaining to raise their hand

3. Amendments to the agenda

- a. Should the agenda need to be amended, a voting member will move to amend the agenda to include/eliminate a particular topic
 - i. A voting member will "second"
 - ii. A voting member will "call"
 - iii. The board then votes by hand. The president will ask those in favor to raise their hand, followed by those opposed to raise their hand, followed by those abstaining to raise their hand

4. Voting

- a. A voting member will “move to discuss” the topic at hand
- b. Another voting member will “second” this
- c. A discussion will take place among the board
- d. When the discussion has concluded a voting member will “call” this
- e. The board then votes to vote on the motion by a show of hands. If the call vote passes by 50% plus one, the board moves immediately to a vote and if a call vote fails, the board continues discussion
- f. Vote on the motion
 - i. Secret ballot (monetary amounts over \$500)
 1. Four ways to vote
 - a. ‘YES’ – means you approve the motion
 - b. ‘NO’ – means you oppose the motion
 - c. ‘ABSTAIN’ – means you do not have enough information to make a decision
 - i. Abstentions go with the majority
 - d. ‘BLANK’ – means you are personally involved with the issue or club being represented
 - i. Blanks carry a ‘no’ weight in the vote
 2. Votes need a 2/3 majority to pass

5. Adjourning (closing) the meeting

- a. President will ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting
- b. A voting member will motion
- c. Another voting member will “second” the motion
- d. Another voting member will “call” the motion
- e. The board then votes by hand. The president will ask those in favor to raise their hand, followed by those opposed to raise their hand, followed by those abstaining to raise their hand

vi. Club Eligibility: Maintaining “good standing” with the SGA

1. Act in accordance with College and SGA policies
2. Conduct regular meetings (at least monthly) open to all students
3. The club has a current registration with the SGA and notifies the SGA of any organizational changes within two weeks

4. Club should have an active constitution submitted to the SGA
5. Active student membership of five

vii. Becoming a Club

1. Complete a new club form available on the SGA website (LyndonSGA.com)
2. Create a Constitution (sample available on the SGA website)
3. E-mail SGA with your club form and Constitution, along with a request to be added to the next meeting's agenda
4. Present in front of the SGA
5. The SGA will vote whether or not to recognize the club

viii. Help Us Help You!

1. Clubs were asked to complete a brief questionnaire regarding their executive boards and meeting times/locations
2. Event Planning Worksheet available on SGA website, so Student Life can help you with events
3. Advertising Form available on SGA website to be included in the Monday weekly campuswide e-mail.

- a. Posters should include the SGA logo (available on SGA website) in the corner

b. Katy Ebner, Adventure Program Coordinator

- i. At the May 1, 2019 SGA meeting, the SGA voted that \$10,000 be set aside for the Adventure Program and Katy would present in the fall with more specifics on what the money would be going towards. The SGA would need to vote in favor of whichever activities the Adventure Program would like to do prior to money being spent on the activities.

1. Katy came with a "menu" of activities the SGA will discuss and vote on in the September 11th meeting

- a. "Menu" included:

- i. "Appetizers"

1. Zip-lining (\$1,000 per trip) - \$30 for participants
2. White Water Rafting (\$1,500 per trip) - \$40 for participants on a day trip or \$100 for participants on a weekend trip
3. Ski/Ride in New England (\$4,000) – no charge for participants

- ii. "Entrees"

1. Ski/Ride in Colorado (\$10,000) – up to \$500 for participants

2. Ski/Ride in Utah (\$10,000) – up to \$500 for participants
3. Rock Climbing in West Virginia (\$3,500) – \$250 for participants
4. Backpacking in New England (\$400) - \$100 for participants

iii. “Desserts”

1. Disc Golf Course Lawn Mower (\$5,000)
2. Gravity Well Improvements (\$1,400)
3. Rentable Equipment (no dollar amount provided) – rentable equipment may include mountain bikes, SNOGO downhill snow bikes, disc golf discs, camping equipment, stand up paddle boards, skis/snowboards, or other suggestions

c. Financial Update

- i. ~\$42,000 sits in the SGA account, including the \$10,000 set aside for the Adventure Program

IV. STUDENT BODY COMMENTS

- a. Students were upset with how much the direct hire budget was slashed
- b. Lack of transparency regarding updates both in general and over the summer
 - i. Someone suggested a monthly update be provided before changes are made
 - ii. Students want more input before campus improvements are made
 - iii. Students were upset soap dispensers were replaced, while the direct hire budget was cut
- c. 24-hour lab (biggest topic discussed at the meeting)
 - i. Why is this change being made now?
 - ii. Someone also noted that ½ the computers were being taken out of LAC 411 and it was unclear why
 - iii. Someone noted Public Safety was allowing students to print things overnight, but that this was not sufficient and the process was “slow” because of Public Safety having to be at other incidents happening on-campus
- d. Lack of computer space for certain departments
- e. Students were reporting more rooms were being locked than in previous years, but others commented in response to this saying it has been because of things going missing in spaces that were unlocked

- f. The hallway between LAC and the Lobby is being locked at night, making it inconvenient for students (particularly commuters) who park in the ASAC lot as they have to walk around the building to access their vehicles.
- g. Some confusion with the switch from Moodle to Canvas
- h. Confusion and questions about the replacement of the new laundry card readers in the residence halls

V. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Voting on Executive Board

i. President

1. Candidates Ben Mitchell and Kate Henriques

- i. Prior to the meeting, both candidates obtained a petition of 150 signatures and met with the SGA advisor
- ii. Both candidates had time to speak about their interest and qualifications and answered questions among the students in attendance.
- iii. Secret Ballot Vote
 - Auxiliary Reps
 - o Ben Mitchell: 0/3 in favor
 - o Kate Henriques: 3/3 in favor
 - Club Representatives
 - o Ben Mitchell: 6/18 in favor
 - o Kate Henriques: 12/18 in favor
- iv. Kate Henriques was voted SGA President

ii. Financial Controller

1. Candidate Patrick Wickstrom

- i. Prior to the meeting, Patrick obtained a petition of 150 signatures and met with the SGA advisor
- ii. Patrick had time to speak about their interest and qualifications and answered questions among the students in attendance.
- iii. Secret Ballot Vote
 - Auxiliary Reps
 - o Patrick Wickstrom: 3/3 in favor
 - Club Representatives
 - o Patrick Wickstrom: 17/18 in favor; 1/18 abstained
- iv. Patrick Wickstrom was voted SGA Financial Controller

- iii. Vacancies remain for the Executive Vice President and Administrative Vice President positions on the executive board. Vacancies remain for all class representatives, all commuter representatives, all non-traditional student representatives, and the international student representatives.

- j. The hallway between LAC and the Lobby is being locked at night, making it inconvenient for students (particularly commuters) who park in the ASAC lot as they have to walk around the building to access their vehicles.
- k. Some confusion with the switch from Moodle to Canvas
- l. Confusion and questions about the replacement of the new laundry card readers in the residence halls

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Free Coffee Wednesdays to continue for Fall 2019
 - i. Pick-up your free SGA sticker to participate from either Rita Bole 214 or the Student Affairs Office on the third floor of Rita Bole
- b. Hive Grand Opening – Thursday, August 29th
- c. Involvement Fair – Friday, August 30th
- d. Homecoming/Family Weekend – Friday, Sept. 20, Saturday, Sept. 21, and Sunday, Sept. 22
- e. NVU Leadership Q&A – Thursday, September 26th at 11:30 in the Burke Mountain Room
- f. NVU Leadership Conference – Saturday, November 16th
- g. Sophomore Year Experience
 - i. Sophomore Reception – Thursday, September 5th at 11:30 in the Moore Community Room
 - ii. Sophomore Summit – Friday, October 25th

VII. CLUB AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

VIII. ADJOURN

- a. Everyone agreed to end the meeting. Meeting concluded at 10:20PM