

# The Student Government of

## Plymouth State University

25 September 2023 – Hartman Union Building Rm. 119

### MINUTES

- **CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 PM**

- Starting a few minutes late due to technical difficulties and social event.
  - Roll call (in order): Devonte Gilmore, Nicole Reynolds, Emily Coutermash, Jonah Rosenberg, Rabekah Mbarani, William Hicking, Kaila Mernard, Aidan Cook, Nathan Sperry, Rosella Rentas-Ubeda, Quinn Hagerty, Connor Charette, Daniella Duque, Hannah Lowell, Erin Johnston
  - Excused: David Woltag, Skylar Hammes
  - Absent: Mennah Ratib
  - Advisors: Melina Baker Murphy, Nathaniel Bowditch
  - Staff Observers: Jason Charrette

- **REPORTS: 7:11 PM**

- USSB Rep:
  - Continuing conversation on blue light systems on campus.
- USSB Trustee:
  - Talked about tour with BOT
    - Working with Nicole on organizing more students at the next event.
- Vice-President:
  - Invited film club in to present.
- President:
  - Continuing conversation around campus lighting upgrades
  - Cabinet breakfast this morning.
    - Circled around Residential Life and their treatment of students.
    - Spoke about on campus and off campus catering contracts.
- Advisor Melina Baker-Murphy:
  - Currently working on the ski day package.
    - Around October every year we announce our ski day package

- Melina and Devonte are working diligently to organize the plan
- Speaker:
  - Met with cabinet and administration
    - Utilized feedback from the class of 2027.
    - Continuing to look at events and dining policy.
    - Spoke about blue lights and ongoing lighting issues.
    - Discussed what students should do when they have issues with a professor.
    - Additionally, committee assignments have been decided.
      - Assignments will be read at the end of the meeting.
    - Public OneDrive should be ready by the end of the week.
      - Link will be posted in the bio on Instagram page
    - Nicole Connelly reached out about looking for a student to serve on the executive planning committee that helps work on school tenure plans and talk about areas of the school that need renovation
      - If anybody is interested, William Loughlin is looking to speak to somebody after the meeting.
        - If multiple people are interested, an internal election will be held.
        - Jonah Rosenberg expressed his interest
  - GUEST SPEAKER:
    - New organization: Film club.
      - Presentation about forming a new club.
    - Slide 1: Film Club Pitch
      - Patrick Tracy – President: [pdt1008@plymouth.edu](mailto:pdt1008@plymouth.edu)
        - Communications and media studies major
        - Joined with partner in crime: Theo
    - Slides 2: Background
      - Film club used to exist, however it was disbanded after the former president graduated.
        - Through CMS courses, they were interested in reimplementing a film club.
    - Slide 3: Executive Board:
      - President: Patrick Tracy
      - Vice President: Theo Meagher

- Treasurer: Patrick Tracy
- Slide 4: Why Film Club?
  - Goal is to create a fun community for students to express themselves and make friends using film as a guide.
  - Interested in collaborating and making short films, voting for films in competitions and offering prizes, screening student works, etc.
  - Club for anyone interested in any aspect of film or content creation.
  - Previous film club was very professional, but the new club is more interested in a laid back, chill environment.
  - Patrick has an on-campus job as the CMS equipment manager, meaning he has access to rental sheets for higher grade film equipment.
- Slide 5: Other Information
  - Proposed meeting time: 7 PM, every Monday (subject to change)
  - Proposed meeting space: Memorial 103
    - Small space that is not overwhelming, but big enough to fit lots of members.
  - Recruitment requirements: Sign-up sheet required for membership.
    - Want to be able to identify the key members of the club easier.
- Questions and comments:
  - Would you be willing to table at events?:
    - All of it is on the chopping board, but they would be very interested in tabling.
  - If somebody were to show up to the meeting without signing up, would you kick them out?
    - Not looking to enforce the idea but would talk to the student and ask if they are interested in being on the official list.
  - With the work that Daniella Duque does, they mentor the first years, so they are glad that this club is being formed.
    - Patrick is a TA for a film class, and upon mentioning it, a lot of students were very interested.
  - Suggestion from Daniella Duque:

- Film scholarships.
- Are you anticipating needing cameras?
  - A lot of the stuff they are doing might be able to be filmed on a phone.
  - They do have access to real cameras.
- Point of information:
  - When clubs and organizations are formed, they are required to be registered on the PAW
- The group was asked to step out of the room for deliberation.
  - The Clock refused to leave the room but eventually stepped out after Christyan Cimino informed them that they must leave.
- Deliberation:
  - Emily Coutermash: Great idea utilizing this club to be used in regard to the clusters approach.
  - Nicole Reynolds: Great idea and could help some students to feel at home.
- Motion to approve film club as a recognized group on campus.
  - Motioned by: Emily Coutermash
  - Seconded: Christyan Cimino
    - Unanimous vote; vote is passed.
    - Be it resolved; the film club is an officially recognized club at Plymouth State University.
  - Film club members left the room in order to attend to other work.
- NEW BUSINESS: 7:38 PM
  - Discussed resolution written by William Hicking.
  - Motion to move William Hicking's resolution second in the agenda.
    - Motioned by Devonte Gilmore.
      - Seconded by Emily Coutermash.
      - 5 voted in favor, 5 voted against.
        - 2 abstained.
        - Motion failed.
    - Resolution: R.AY2324.1 - 91.7 WPCR in the Hartman Union Building and Prospect Dining Hall
      - The resolution attached was read off by William Hicking.
      - Deliberation:

- William Hicking had a polite conversation with a student about concerns about limiting creativity of students in the WPCR club.
- If we stream WPCR in the HUB and Prospect Dining Hall, we would be listening to music curated by students.
- Christyan Cimino expressed an opinion saying that music should be played in the Hartman Union Building and stay limited to the Hartman Union Building.
- Point of information by William Loughlin:
  - If there is an agreement to change the wording of the document, the student senate could motion to amend the resolution.
- Devonte Gilmore asks what would run when nobody is playing a show?
  - Jonah Rosenberg gave information about MegaSeg, which is a software that provides the same automation features as RockBot.
- William Hicking:
  - We are in a transition of trying to get online streaming, however if you were to listen to WPCR online, you would only be able to hear the MegaSeg songs.
- William would like to resolve that the Hartman Union Building plays the station, rather than the automated songs that are typically played.
- William has no information as to when the renovations in the WPCR station room will be finished.
- Nathaniel Bowditch:
  - College radios are an institutional staple.
    - If we were to import the radio station into the HUB, it would impact students the right way.
  - Secondly, the radio station advertises valuable information about the school, and this would be important to the student body.

- Point of information:
- The infrastructure to play music in the HUB exists, however during a renovation in 2015, this was disbanded.
- General comment from observer, Jason Charrette:
  - This would impress many potential students.
- Devonte Gilmore:
  - WPCR already runs promotional material; however, few people are listening to it because it is not played in places where people frequent.
- Motion to amend the resolution to strike the Prospect Dining Hall from the “to call” clause.
  - Motioned by Christyan Cimino.
  - Seconded by Quinn Hagerty.
  - 13 in favor, 0 opposed.
  - 4 abstained.
    - Amendment passed.
- Motion to approve WPCR to be the music broadcasting service used in the Hartman Union Building.
  - 10 in favor
  - 4 abstained
    - Resolution passed.
- Point of information:
  - William Hicking says resolutions are non-binding.
- Point of information:
  - WPCR currently does not have access to streaming, so administrators should be informed of this.
- A.AY2323.2: Clarification of Public Votes:
  - The amendment attached was presented by William Loughlin.
    - Deliberation:
      - Emily Coutermash:
        - Donald Birx recommended that the amendment does not apply to us.

- This would cause some tension when we discuss things that do not apply to us.
- In the real world, closed-door meetings are common.
- As elected representatives, it should be up to our discretion as to what we are allowed to vote for.

- Christyan Cimino:

- We are not trying to act better than anybody, but we do hold all of our meetings public.
  - There is a reason we ask our public audience to step out during sensitive topics.
- Money has never been a public things, so when it comes down to what we decide, it should not have to leave the room.

- Devonte Gilmore:

- Typically if a CEA is not over \$5,000, it is not brought to the general board.
  - It is not unusual to have a closed-door session.
  - Reiterated that the guidelines do not apply to us.

- Jason Charrette:

- Ideally, when dealing with other people's money, he cautions the students that we might not be exempt from the rules of the administration.
- This might not be the case, however.

- Liam Leavitt:

- As secretary, he will still record the things said in a closed-door setting.

- William Loughlin:

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- Emily Coutermash:

- Contacted other USNH (University System of New Hampshire) schools and they also have closed door meetings.

○ Devonte Gilmore:

- The confusion surrounding this came from outside of the cabinet.

○ Nicole Reynolds:

- Whether or not it applies to us, we are following the general rule of keeping our meetings public.

○ Devonte Gilmore:

- In the closed-door sessions, it adds a layer of protection to the students in the student government regarding tension between things said.
- Impeachments are harsh and keeping them public is a general safety blanket.
- Since a lot of decisions are made outside of meetings, it would require somebody to be a secretary in a committee which are offline and informal meetings.

○ Emily Coutermash:

- Being in classes with people, it definitely adds a buffer.

○ Christyan Cimino:

- Even Emily Coutermash, our student trustee, being asked to leave the room in board meetings, that should help.

○ Jason Charrette:

- Point of clarification:

- Have the rules set out in stone, so we should figure out who can record notes.
- The senate should build off speaker notes and produce a clear procedure.

○ William Loughlin:

- The RSA document cited was considered.

○ Emily Coutermash:

- Even though we rarely have students come for CEAs, we do have guidelines and the way we have asked people to step out in the past has been professional.
  - She expressed that we should have closed-door meetings.
- Motion:
  - Motioned by Devonte Gilmore:
    - Motion to accept to adopt the resolution with an amendment made to it that CEA requests will include updates that goes about what finances were sent out during the week.
    - Seconded by William Hicking.
      - 3 in favor, 5 against.
        - 8 abstained.
          - Motion failed; amendment will not be added.
  - Motion:
    - Motion to postpone the resolution in order to rewrite the policy to apply protection for students.
      - Seconded by Christyan Cimino.
    - Point of order to clarify:
      - Postponed until October 2.
    - 12 in favor, 1 opposed
      - 3 abstained.
    - Motion passed; amendment is postponed until next Monday.
      - Nate Bowditch left the meeting early.
  - Committee assignments:
    - Everyone is on the committee.
    - Work in small groups to address larger campus issues.
      - Spreadsheet of the committee members attached.
  - Motion:
    - Motioned by Devonte Gilmore.

- Motion for Vice-Speaker to assume positions of Parliamentarian in absence of current Parliamentarian.
- Seconded by Christyan Cimino.
  - 11 in favor, 2 opposed.
  - 3 abstained.
  - Motioned passed; Christyan will assume the positions of the Parliamentarian in absence of the current Parliamentarian.
- Motion:
  - Motioned by Christyan Cimino.
    - Seconded by William Hicking.
    - All in favor.
    - Motion passed.
- MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30 PM



## **Plymouth State University Student Government Association**

### **Resolution 01 Academic Year 2023-2024**

Senator William C. Hicking, on behalf of themself, introduced the following legislation for consideration by the Plymouth State University Student Assembly.

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#### **A Resolution**

**R.AY2324.1- 91.7 WPCR in the Hartman Union Building and Prospect Dining Hall**

**Whereas**, **91.7 WPCR** has long been an undervalued aspect of the Plymouth State community,

**Whereas**, it would be in the best interest of Plymouth State University to promote high quality programming all across campus, specifically in the Hartman Union Building, as well as the Prospect Dining Hall, in order to promote the free expression and creativity produced by students as well as local members of the community,

**Whereas**, buildings such as the Hartman Union Building and the Prospect Dining Hall currently play music which is mostly automated and handpicked from a limited selection of artists,

**Whereas**, **91.7 WPCR** has a long history of playing a wide variety of music as other forms of high-quality programming,

**Whereas**, Plymouth State University is ignoring the hard work and dedication of students who spend hours throughout each semester producing good quality programming as well as promoting artists which are unique to today's popular form of music,

**Whereas**, the time for Plymouth State University to recognize the hard work of students who represent our community is long overdue.

*Therefore, be it resolved by the Plymouth State University Student Government Association:*

**To pass** the following resolution on to be enacted by Plymouth State University,

**To call** for instituting **91.7 WPCR** as the permanent source of music at the Hartman Union Building, and the Prospect Dining Hall during all hours of operation.

**For the Secretary:**

**Resolved 09/25/2023**

Sign: Liam Leavitt





## **Plymouth State University Student Government Association**

### **Amendment 2 Academic Year 2023-2024**

Speaker William Loughlin, on behalf of themself, introduced the following legislation for consideration by the Plymouth State University Student Assembly.

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#### **An Amendment**

##### **A.AY2324.2 – Clarification of Public Votes in SGA Bylaws**

**Whereas**, there is ambiguity in the PSU SGA Bylaws around voting procedures for CEAs and other matters relating to clubs and organizations,

**Whereas**, much of the SGA's procedures for voting on club matters have been passed on by word of mouth and have never been formalized,

**Whereas**, the only meeting explicitly closed regarding clubs is under Article X, Section 7, and relates to closed sessions in SOC for clubs seeking renewal as a student organization,

**Whereas**, the Bylaws do not even confirm that a 50% majority is needed to approve something which is being voted on,

**Whereas**, while many basic procedures used in the SGA are common knowledge, formal language would be beneficial for reference in the future, and in the event of any confusion or disputes around voting in a meeting.

***Therefore, be it resolved by the Plymouth State University Student Government Association:***

**To Add**, the following to the PSU SGA Bylaws as Article XII:

#### **ARTICLE X. VOTING PROCEDURE**

- A. Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall provide the guidelines regarding the number of votes needed to approve a motion and shall provide the basis for any motions that can be made within an SGA meeting.

- a. The basis for Roberts Rules of Order being used to govern SGA meetings is based in Article XI of the Constitution of the PSU SGA.
- B. All legislation and motions, unless otherwise noted in the Constitution or Roberts Rules of Order, shall be passed with a simple 50% +1 majority in the SGA.
- C. All resolutions, amendments, or any other legislation are to be voted upon in public session.
- D. All motions relating to clubs and organizations at Plymouth State University, including CEA requests, student organization approvals, or otherwise related motions, are to be discussed and voted upon in public session.
  - a. Should a club or organization come to the SGA, the attending members shall be notified by the start of the meeting that the discussion and vote is public, and that they retain the option to step out of the session should they not want to observe the proceedings.
- E. If any matters relates to: the individual actions and conduct of an SGA member, the internal function of the SGA, internal elections of members, confidential and potentially harmful information about a student or other individual, or any other matter as identified by the Speaker, Vice Speaker, and Parliamentarian, then the chair of the Student Assembly may call for a motion to enter a closed session of the SGA.
  - a. If a Senator of the SGA feels a matter falls under the guidelines above, or should warrant a closed session, then they have full ability to motion for a closed session.

**For the Secretary:**

**Resolved 09/25/2023**

Sign: Liam Leavitt

