RHA Senate Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Jimenez Room, Stamp

Call to Order Jason Spizuoco

Open Gallery

Attendance Vivian Flanagan

1. Total attendance: 15
   1. Quorum reached

Approval of the Minutes

1. Nick: Motion to Approve the Minutes
   1. Dominik: Seconded

A Resolution to Discourage the Department of Transportation from Raising the Mandatory Shuttle Bus Fee Nick Marks

1. Technical, Non-Debatables/Friendly Amendments/Question and Answer
   1. Kylee: The RHA vs. That RHA, Remove the “The”
   2. Vivian:
      1. Delete “increasingly” on line 62
   3. Devorah: What is the $9 fee increase for?
      1. Nick: Full time undergrad fee, for mandatory shuttle bus. Salary of drivers.
   4. Reese: What was the fee increase last year?
      1. Aiden: In the year 2021, fees were frozen and fees weren’t raised
      2. Nick: Number came from Allen himself in TAC
   5. Anissa: Would an alternative be reduced bus routes?
      1. Nick: A number of people proposed to David Allen to reduce hours
   6. Reese: Is this $9 in light of the purple line?
      1. Nick: No
   7. Aquib: Is the money not from tuition?
      1. Nick: It is from tuition and fees
2. Free Debate
   1. Scott C: DOTs gave a comprehensive plan, there are many options to explore. There was a unanimous response. DOTS is willing to consider alternative funding routes and employees will be on a salary tier. They also want to add parking cameras to ticket people as another source of revenue, DOTS makes tons of revenue through this. DOTS is creating a plan to hire up to 70 new student drivers to reduce cost to $400,000. DOTS has treated students as a pot of money and they are showing us they are willing to use different options (instead of raising fees)
      1. Aiden W: I sponsored a letter to transportation to come up with a plan, which was not satisfactory. Asked for implementation but no certainty. Could they commit to not increasing student fees in future? No. Cannot offer reassurance to happen again. Supportive of student jobs, not a new component. The new tier, I support but no assurance fee wont increase, ask for in union negotiations. Cameras are a great idea. All three government organizations expressed support. Budgetary plan that was shown today assumed a fee increase. Other departments have asked for money and we support them. This is different, only reliant on fee and dont listen. We dont get more service or any assurances of the future.
   2. Nick: On one hand, we have wonderful dept, but the plan and this bill passing can co-exists. Maintaining the status quo is great and other dept does this. But let's say that DOTS is doing that in the future, it would make it seem the DOTS will continue to do this. Most of the stuff in the DOTS plan were already explained. The tier parking system and cameras have been talked about. Our criticisms have fallen on deaf ears. This is not an attack on DOTS or infrastructure, but the plan beats around the bush without addressing the issue. If the bill fails, because DOTS has a plan, what happens next? They cannot continue to nickel and dime students. Where do we draw the line?
   3. Susan C: Why would there be no improvement to service with a fee increase?
      1. Aiden: [Mandatory adjustments: minimum wage increase, utilities increase, insurance. ]
      2. Nick: [things will go up regardless of a fee increase because of economic inflation]
      3. Dominik: Obviously the camera may work in the long run but for the short run that will cost a lot more money. You don’t need police to go around ,giving ppl tickets, but cameras cost money. If you give students jobs, that's great, but you still need to train them and that will also cost money, Yes, there is an increase in minimum wage. But wage increases are everywhere and other departments are handling it well.
   4. Kylee yielded to vivian: [Very robust surveillance infrastructure on campus. Upwards of 1,000 cameras, just not visible. We do have the means to use current cameras and potential others because they are already established.]
      1. XXX: [Direct response, if there is one]
   5. Kylee : [It's hard to consider this and compare this to other departments when we haven't seen how they fund their services. I support this bill, I feel some sympathy for them , but we need to see how other departments are handling this. DSAB has a very big commitment in reducing fees as much as they can, even with food prices increasing
      1. XXX: [Direct response, if there is one]
   6. Scott C: [Cameras: there is no clear plan. They are third party cameras and we would pay 0 dollars, very small and not obstructive. Only bring positive revenue. Costs are increasing constantly, no way to avoid this. Student employees getting paid $15.50, potential for more. If we implement all these plans there is potential for a lesser fee increase or no fee increase (no way to tell for sure though). DOTS is in debt, and needs to take out a loan from university as many other departments have to do.]
      1. XXX: [Direct response, if there is one]
   7. Jason: [In regards to the next level to the permanent price, What makes either of you think the tier would be different or the same]
      1. Aiden: [Difficult to say, it is more likely now then it has in the past. One of the biggest obstacles for the new tier is consultation with union workers. Universities are never in position to unilaterally create new tier. In new negotiations with unions now. There is a possibility a tier could be brought up or not brought up. However, now is the time these negotiations need to happen.]
      2. Scott
   8. Jason: A motion to whether the body votes on NWM002F..

*Extension of 10 minutes of free debate*

* 1. Kylee: POI can everyone clarify what side they are on for the resolution?
  2. Nick: I think purely that we are speaking in hypothetical, We are dealing with an historically based bill. DOTS is discrete from other depts. We are a group of on- campus students that historically don’t use buses on campus as much. We have to say enough is enough, all I ask for your to vote on this bill
  3. Devorah: [I am in favor, i agree with Scott that the money has to come for but it is RHA’s purpose to speak in the best interest of the students as we have so many fees to pay already. Because there is an opportunity to go against a fee we should take it.]

Susan :I am against this bill because it sends a bad signal, as though … Personally, I think 9 dollars to sacrifice the shuttle system is not a good

Idea. I do think we should encourage dots to look for funding elsewhere. It needs to be a longer term convo, I think the fees are worth it,

* 1. Reese: [To clarify I do not support this resolution, it's unfair to make the proposition that we need DOTs to have a plan and if not we decrease the range of shuttle busses we $9 makes sense and is not an excessive fee raise, but I understand the history. It would be a good use of money to help get DOTs out of debt.]
  2. Is this a long term plan
     1. SCOT THe cameras, will not be for next year, will the tier be in place? Yes
  3. Dominik: [To susan, $9 is not a lot but over the years it does add up overtime. This resolution is encouraging DOTs to find other ways. They have not been listening and this pushes them to find new ways. No one will allow the shuttle bus system to shut down whether we give them the money or not. Passing this will help our future and DOTs making money]
  4. Quentin: If we weren't coming out of a pandemic I would say yes on this. We need to face reality here and vote no.We are dealing with extenuating factors.
  5. Jason yield to Aiden: [2011, this was 155.50. It has increased every year except 2019-2020. They will continue to come back asking for money every year. All departments have their debt, but we are here for the student body not DOTS. We enjoy working with them, but we need them to be affordable. $400,000 reduction represents one bus route per day per year. Contingent on the fact that they hire an additional number of student drivers, a big IF. If we vote no or yes the plan will not change but this is about principle.]
  6. Jason: Should we suspend procedures? @Aaron. We will vote on whether or not to vote
  7. Jason: A motion to whether the body votes on NWM002F..

*Extension of 15 minutes of free debate*

* 1. Aquib: From my understanding…I agree with this. If you look at a budget, our grants and taxes etc cover this campu. Only 30% of our tuition is used for services like this.. I have to agree with this , it's insane that they are going to raise it again.
  2. Kylee yields aiden [ The plan is entirely separate from this resolution. We are voting on the $9 fee increase. Important to remember we are representing the student body. This plan does not help mitigate future student fee increases. I feel for the department and want more student employment.]
  3. Kyee: In this resolution at this time we are still gonna have fee proposals next semester?
     1. Scott: all mandatory fees will be decided this semester
  4. Scott: [Appreciate Aiden and Nick. Many ideas of hypotheticals, I encourage not to be pessimistic. What are we going to do to enact this plan? No fee increase is negligible. DOTs are showing us that they are doing what they can. Students will suffer more when DOTs service decreases and fees increase.]

Nick: I am being realistic, not pessimistic. I sympathize with them being in debt. My dad has connections and services with Baltimore county transportation. When we talk about reduction in service, the money comes from higher parking permits. Admin is reliant on this bill failing. Not my place to say if DOTs are fiscally responsible. They provide the most visible services on campus. There are opportunities to create revenue. What does the plan mean? it's all long term, not short term. This is the only administrative fee increase that has a resolution for RHA. Long term commitments aren’t promised. A short term, are like bikes etc, but when I see the plan that was presented 50 minutes before this, it was just another set of long term plans. The fee increase from 2011-2019 was a 67% increase when the economy was solid. Imagine if that happened now? David Allen will not be offended if this bill passes. Responsibility is not just raising the fees continually. If this bill fails, I will not take it personally. I think this is good idea and I would like to vote on it tonight.

* 1. Aquib: [I'm curious, the only legit way to get it is from fees. You get a lot of money from bikes, tickets, scooters being taken]
     1. POC Scott: [can't take scooters for not registering]
  2. Dominik: If DOTS said, “we have not increased the fee for a couple years. We need to raise the fee by 9 dollars due to COVID etc” That would be a different story. But they have been increasing the fee every single year, this cannot keep happening. Yes, COVID happened, but the constant increase over the years. Yes, they have plans, but they won’t say whether or not fees will actually be stagnant in the future. As students, we are in debt as well
  3. Scott: [Reiterate the point TAC chair made, none of this is personal. We keep talking about sympathy to DOTs and debt. It’s not our job to handle their debt. Nick you said you can tell me where the money can come from, so I encourage you to tell David about these things. I don't agree on fee increases on a unilateral basis. That being said, are we going to ensure that we have shuttle busses that can help transport our students?]
  4. Jason: Do the parking fees and permits go up every year?
     1. Scott: [They are based on % of income]
     2. Nick: David (Allen) said that it is contingent on whatever leadership is in the gov and the labor unions
  5. Kylee yields to Aiden: [Not sure where money should come from, but I know it should not come from students. Students are going deeper and deeper into debt]
  6. L: I can;t help but think that prices will just go up. If we aren't paying the 9 dollars, and services reduce, the money is gonna just come from somewhere else
  7. Scott: [Would the money come from anywhere? Service will decrease.]
  8. : Wouldn't A decrease in service mean one line?
     1. Aiden: [No money means 3 buses being cut. Preserve 3 bus routes 10 hr a day]
     2. Kylee: Three buses or routes?
        1. Scott [depends because some routes only have 1 bus and some routes have multiple buses]
        2. Jason, I don’t think they’d take away routes with one one bus on it
           1. Scott [no they could]
           2. Aiden [we had a brief discussion]
  9. NickA: the money is there, it's more like what choices that we make. Its up to you guys. I like that there has been stuff we can agree on.
  10. Nick: Motion to Vote
      1. Dominik: Seconded

1. Voting Procedures
   1. 9 for – 6 against – 1 abstensions
      1. The resolution [passes/fails]

Executive Team Reports

1. Scott (President):
   1. CTAC meeting
   2. Committee to review student fees tmrw
   3. VPSA student advisory council next week
2. Jason (VP):
   1. Last senate and comms for semester.
   2. Next semester, comms will probs be the first week of school. Fees=important next semester. Keep in mind that fees are right off the bat. With switching comms, I will send a google form for availability,
3. Vivian (MTO)
   1. Newsletter submissions due DEC19
      1. Committee chairs and exec
   2. Reese Artero of Ellicott was member of the week
      1. Recommend other members to us!
4. Aiden (SFC)
5. Met with the Strategic Planning Committee and met with CTAC today. Tomorrow, exec board has an exploratory meeting with the Athletics department.

5. Hannah (NCC)

1. Regional Business Conference is Feb 18th-19th

Committee Reports

1. SCoM
2. DIACom
   1. Meeting is rescheduled until tomorrow
3. ReFAB
   1. Design Team Meeting Covering
      1. Green Roof Designs
      2. Washington Quad
      3. Multi Dwelling Program
      4. Hammock Haven
   2. Future Endeavors
      1. Refurbish washington Quad
         1. Trash cans, tables, etc.
4. ReLATe
   1. Met with Dennis, the new advisor; not a lot of attendance
5. DSAB
   1. There is now a salad bar at 251 North
   2. There will most likely be take out sandwiches for finals week
   3. We are taking a poll if people would be interested in a table to meet new people
   4. Interest form
6. RPC
   1. Last meeting of the semester and year
   2. Will continue working with UMPD for hall events with them
      1. Will occur on December 9th from 5 - 6 pm
   3. New Event coming soon
      1. Hot Cocoa and cookies - december 14
         1. In student union
      2. New Resolution concerning importance of student advocates
7. TAC
   1. Discussed the resolution from tn,
   2. Attended the bike sale
   3. Bike Advocacy Group possibility
   4. Still looking into the bus tours and events for visiting students

Resident Council Reports

1. [Denton]:
   1. [There was a trivia night with pizza ]
2. Easton
3. Winter formal last friday

3. Oakland

1. Holiday Event and Valentine’s Day event in the works

4. Hagerstown

1. Finals event

5. La Plata

1. Holiday event with the RAs

6. Ellicott: Hot cocoa and cookies event on 12/10

7. Cumberland

1. Winter Party on 12/13, 9-10:30

8.

Constitutional Question of the Day Scott Cronin

1. Question: Article II, Section 1, CLause 1 of the RHA constitution lists the 4 university departments most closely working with RHA
2. Answer: Reslife, Relate, Dining Services, Transportation
   1. Winner: Nick, Natalie

Recognition Dominik Blahó

1. Dominik recognized Reese.

Reminders

1. Newsletter is due December 19
   1. Do not wait until last minute
2. Next Senate will be February 1st
   1. You will have to miss a UMD Basketball game, I tried my best to avoid them all but I had to conflict with at least 1.
3. Attendance is mandatory to Senate
   1. reach out to people who have not attended

Adjournment Jason Spizuoco