

RHA Senate Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020

7:00PM

Prince Frederick Multipurpose Room,

Prince Frederick Hall

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Call to Order

Zachary Schlaich

Open Gallery

- Emily- Hagerstown's Period Poverty Program Resolution to come next week
  - Proposes that RHA looks into its expansion
  - Go back to your councils this week to elicit feedback from residents

Approval of Minutes

Special Order: Confirmation of the Elections Chair for Academic Year 2020-2021

Zachary Schlaich

- Erica has been nominated to be the Elections Chair for Spring 2020 Executive Board Elections
- Passed: 18 Yes; 1 No

Informal Nominations

- President
  - Hunter: I nominate Cameron Hewitt for President
  - Quintin: I would like to nominate Neal Rodin, Sarah Dresh, and Emily Berry
- Vice President
  - Cameron: I nominate Mel Mader for VP
  - Michael: I nominate Hunter Marsh for Vice President
  - Dan: I would like to nominate Tyler Stitcher

- Quintin: I would like to nominate Alec McCarren
  - Zach: I would like to nominate Matt Blum, Quintin Harry, Matthew Lischin, and Neal Rodin
- SGOL
  - Michael: I nominate Quintin Harry
  - Quintin: I nominate Kenyatta Thomas and Sarah Dresh
  - Katy: I nominate Krupali Daya
  - Cameron: I nominate Matt Blum
- MTO
  - Matt Blum: I would like to nominate Lauren Walker
  - Alec McCarren: I would like to nominate Amanda Drohat
  - Cameron: I nominate Matt Lischin and Frankie Andrews
  - Matt Blum: I would like to nominate Michael Purdie
  - Jason: I would like to nominate Matt Ober
  - Michael: I would like to nominate Karina Perez
  - Quintin: I would like to nominate Craig Bruder
- PCDC
  - Cameron Hewitt: I nominate Frankie Andrews, Tiffany Jackson, and Krupali Daya
  - Katy: I would like to nominate Mel Mader
  - Quintin: I would like to nominate Zoe Weisberg, Caroline Tulumulti, and Sarah Dresh
  - Matt: I would like to nominate Megan Berry, Amelia Komisar-Bury, and Matt Lishin
  - Emily: I would like to nominate Josh Lobo

- SFC
  - Cameron: I nominate Tyler Stitcher
  - Zach: I nominate Cameron Hewitt
  - Michael: I nominate Alec McCarren
  - Sarah: I nominate Quintin Harry
  - Quintin: I nominate Craig Bruder
  - Emily: I nominate Lucas Hamrock
- NCC
  - Katy: Michael Purdie
  - Zach: Tony Cabral
  - Mel: Matt Lischin
  - Emily: Craig Bruder
  - Zach: Tyler Stitcher
- Administrative Officer
  - Cameron: I nominate Erin Ellington and Aditya Arun
  - Quintin: I nominate Philip Reed
  - Dan: I nominate Katy Clugg
  - Quintin: I nominate Emily Berry and Zoe Weisberg
  - Alec: I nominate Matt Lishin and Amanda Drohat
- SALs
  - Matt: I nominate every senator in the room
  - Michael: I nominate Tyler, Sarah, Katy Clugg, Matt L
  - Hunter: I nominate Matt Blum and Charlotte Walker
  - Cameron: I nominate Zoe Weisbeg and Craig Bruder
  - Mel: I nominate Neal Rodin and Lucas Hamrock

- Zach: I nominate Jason Spizzico and Jackson Leith
- Dan: I nominate Alec McCarren
- Emily: I nominate Kenyatta Thomas
- Hunter: I nominate Emily Berry
- Quintin: I nominate Alon Sherman

## Executive Team Reports

- Emily
  - Open exec meeting next tuesday at 7pm in SORC
  - I encourage you all to apply for executive board
  - Town Hall is March 31st
  - I am serving on Dr. Pine's student committee for student affairs so I am told to elicit feedback and comments from you all around student affairs
- Dan
  - The Regional Business Conference happened at NJIT 2 weeks ago!
  - UMD won 4 out of 7 submitted award bids, Yay!
    - School of the Year
    - RHA President of the Year
    - NRHH Outstanding Member of the Year
    - Commitment to Diversity
  - NACURH conference application is LIVE
    - ter.ps/nacurh2020
    - Application due March 13th
- Megan
  - D3 Drive is this week
    - \$300 in donations thus far

- Still slots open to table: ter.ps/2020dddd
- Nomination form for Year-End Reception Awards is LIVE
  - ter.ps/rhanom
- TerpThon is this Saturday
  - Still time to join the team
  - ter.ps/terpthonra
- Pancakes with the Council→ Coming soon!
- Alec
  - Interested in going to the exec board next year?
    - Attend Community hours!!
    - Hours sent weekly in the Slack by Megan

EHB001S: A Resolution Calling for Dr. Pines to Meaningfully Engage with On-Campus

Students Throughout His Tenure as President

Emily Berry

Technical Non-Debatables

- Jasmine: What is your idea by saying “full engagement?”
  - Emily: Never was followed up on by President Loh so in general it means reaching out and including RHA in announcements
- Charlotte: Was there any consultation at all?
  - Emily: there was undergraduate representation; university senate elected some students to serve on the search committee and there was an open forum
- Michael
  - Line 33- capitalize “University”
- Tyler

- Line 11- change “Chancellor” to “Chancellor of the University System of Maryland”
- Quintin
  - Line 24- list of departments but UMPD is included, so maybe add an “and”
  - Line 30- “During his time” to “ During his time of transition and beyond”
  - Line 32- “ concur” to “”concurs with”
  - How have your interactions with Dr. Pine been thus far?
    - Emily: I have actually not met him in person. In general, at his press event, I believe he could have spoke about students a lot more than he did
- Tyler: “How many people elected from the University Senate were on that search committee?”
  - Emily: About 25-30 students

#### Free Debate

- Body is ready to vote.
- Resolution passes unanimously: 19 Yes: 0 No: 0 Abstain

#### EHB002S: A Resolution Condemning the University Administration’s Efforts to Fund Strategic Initiatives Through a Reversion of Departmental Student Fee Money

Emily Berry

#### Q&A

- Erica: “In the resolution it is only talking about future reversions. Is there anything that the University can do to supplement the reversions that are already done?
  - Emily: That was our exact question because the money is being taken from depts that already do not have adequate funding. There was no indication of any intention to refund the money from this reversion.

- Alec: It is also about the feasibility since the reversion actually took place last spring so the money has been allocated. These department directors did not know about this at the time. The numbers are not available to us or department directors and we have no data right now for allocations for specific projects
  - Emily: It took hours for us to find this money breakdown and all the specific information since it was not given to us in CRSF.
- Hunter: How much money did they take from athletics?
  - Emily: There was no money taken from athletics because they “do not have enough money in their budget.” There is contrasting information about this.

### Free Debate

- Erica: “The funds taken from all the departments is 3.6 million and some change...so where is the other 19 million come from?”
  - Alec: All the departments were hit, and Resident Life was hit the most. This includes academic colleges as well. Athletics was not the only one exempt.
- Hunter: It is obscene that Athletics was not hit at all.
- Tyler: I would like to echo Hunter’s frustrations. When the money is allocated to greater College Park establishments and initiatives, it is an irresponsible use of student fees.
- Charlotte: The money is going to a lot of the things that have a lack of a sense of urgency when there are a lot of projects directly affecting students now that are not getting attention.
- Emily: I would like to give more insight about what they didn’t do in this process...every year in CRSF we approve what student fees money is going to which can vary by year and money gets approved for the plant fund. There was zero transparency in asking students if these are projects that they need. I would also like to emphasize how much the department heads that come to students and say that if this budget loss continues then

they are not going to continue or will take on debt. Almost every director expressed these concerns that students projects could be lost if this happens again. We are automatically paying more next year as a direct impact of this

- Cameron: I have heard that new complexes that are using this money include luxury apartments that are not necessarily for students, but the college park community.
- Quintin: To further expand, SGA experienced a lot of loss, specifically grant money to allot to student groups in the same manner that they normally do. Student groups have not been able to do events or put on initiatives and this is directly affecting students.
- Alec: We may think that this is a violation of CRSF and they are consolidating power from students, but it is beyond that to departments and the information is only getting to a select few. It is appalling to me that so much power is being taken away at so many levels.
- Erica: Is there a timeline for this? How long will it take for this financial aid to accumulate and be distributed? Not a lot of specification on this.
  - Emily: All good questions, but unfortunately I cannot answer them. I fully agree that what is listed on here is going to take more than one reversion.
  - Alec: You all should know that the information on the screen is all the information in writing that SGA and RHA has. We cannot speak to anything related to timelines and specific details as to why specific things were concluded
- Erica: Do we know who the select few is who has this information?
  - Emily: Provost and VPAF sponsored this so mainly their offices. When we have asked them who decided specifically that Resident Life should be taken from and we have never gotten a clear answer.
- Charlotte: Clarification on how it violates CRSF process?

- Emily: Policy says that each appropriate committee is established and comprised of an appropriate number of students. This is a little bit removed since it is not officially setting student fees.
- Emily: I specifically said “resolution condemning” this action so please consider if that is what you would like to represent RHA.
- Katy: I believe that is the correct word. As a out of state student paying a lot of money, it is really frustrating.
- Quintin: I think it is a good opportunity to really assert our opinion with this strong word. This really matters to us and our involvement in our departments.
- Cameron: DOTS is trying to put a lot of initiatives to make student life better and this is a big allotment and hit on departments with the best intentions.
- Hunter: Echo what Cameron said. It is hard for DOTS to have a plan when the university is messing with what they are trying to do.
- Bailey: Earlier tonight we talked about a potential new bill about Period Poverty that could be very impactful to the student community and this is another detriment to that.
- Alec: Response from earlier. This needs to address future reversions since it is unclear if there will be another reversion. A lot of departments are bracing for a new reversion or one beyond that.
- Tyler: I would like to echo everyone else’s concerns here. Resident Life is the one department that saw the worst of this reversion. We saw the budget for the Strategic housing plan and the budget allotted so we as students are paying fully for this housing project which is now delayed because of this reversion and future reversions could require a lot of departments to raise their students fees which is very concerning.

Resolution passes unanimously: 19 Yes: 0 No: 0 Abstain

EHB003S: A Resolution to Restructure the Administrative and Internal Affairs Duties of the Executive Board into a Chief of Internal Affairs Position

Emily Berry

Q&A

- Matt: So this would clarify both the bylaws and the constitution?
  - Emily: Yes, this would update and replace the Administrative Officer position
- Erica: For the MTO, what are they really doing then if these changes were to be enacted?
  - Emily: The resolution is adding items to MTO but it is not a comprehensive list
- Zach: Why did you choose to assign those specific responsibilities to MTO?
  - Emily: I just believe that MTO would still be in charge of writing tasks and updating things, still part of technology
- Mel: Is this appointed by the VP and President?
  - Emily: Yes
- Quintin: Nothing in this document officially gets rid of the Administrative Officer position as a result clause. And the position needs to be formally stated as being created.  
Another be it further resolved clause can be made.

Free Debate

- Mel: How come we did not just change the role of the Admin officer?
  - Emily: It is easing the presidential duties to balance them out so both roles can be improved. New position description and point so entirely different position with a name that carries weight.
- Michael: As the current MTO, I support this because the roles that we are adding to MTO make sense and should be added.
- Cameron: With a lot of these changes, how are you going to uphold or maintain that everyone is on an equal playing field? Different levels/time allotments of responsibilities.

- Emily: A lot of these things I was doing this year regardless, and this person will have a lot of autonomy through running meetings and they have a substantial amount of tasks. MTO and Admin officer would be the major changes
- Zach: In previous years, the Admin officer has been viewed as the “easy” position on the board. I believe this is a better way to redistribute duties and make it more even while providing a desirable leadership position. This position will have a lot of things to be preoccupied with.
  - Emily: A lot of feedback about Admin is that they did not feel they were serving a specific purpose and playing a big role in the organization.
- Dan: I would like to highlight the first three responsibilities that will ease the most time from the President. Gives the President more leeway to be the spokesperson and put time into the more important elements of the job that can be taken away by the administrative tasks. There will be on and off times in this position like every position on the board by design.
- Quintin: First of all, I do not like when official documents reference technology like “via email” because it is never reliable. Also, I think we can use this as an opportunity to add a “previewing the grammar of bills” responsibility for MTO.
  - Erica: I do not think you can include this in a job description. Michael has been kind enough to provide these services this year as he is almost an expert as a Journalism major.
  - Zach: VP previews all resolutions before Senate
  - Dan: VP has this responsibility by policy.
- Alec: Since we do not really have many returning members of the Senate, I want to elaborate on the changes made to the executive board last year. PCDC, SFC, and MTO were created last year to transition e-board. This is a continued evaluation process and

this role (CIA) is a direct result of the feelings of the President and the evaluation of current tasks.

- Quintin: Move to amend to strike “via email” on Line 46.
  - Amendment passes: 18 Yes: 1 No: 0 Abstain
- Tyler: Motion to Vote
- Erica: Second

Resolution passes: 18 Yes: 0 No: 1 Abstain

(needs to surpass 80% approval because it is a constitutional amendment)

#### CSH002S: A Resolution to Support the Department of Transportation Services Effort to Pilot a New Project with the First-Year Innovation and Research Experience

Cameron Hewitt

#### Q&A

- Chanan: Why are they collecting data if they are not analyzing it?
  - Cameron: They have not hired a data analyst since the department has no money to hire one.
- Erica: About DOTS not having money, maybe mention to Valerie that she could try doing a DOTS student or student manager position before planning a full-time position since DOTS was originally student led.
  - Cameron: That was the whole point of why FIRE could be a good alternative. It is a great opportunity to get students involved. A lot of modeling and projections with data in FIRE already so this type of work fits right in.
- Emily: With this data, do you see this going to a specific stream?
  - At the moment they are still working on it, but they were talking about a new FIRE initiative with mini short-term streams to test-run data. Patrick (FIRE

Director) and Valerie were talking about launching a program over the summer with Capital One Machine Learning. It could also be added to Risk Communication which is a stream that is currently dormant but planning to be brought back.

- Chanan: Will it only be analyzed through coding languages?
  - Cameron: The data is mostly numbers so this would be the best procedure but I am not completely sure since nothing is concrete yet.
- Kenyatta: I think we should take out “through coding languages” if the direct process by which the data is going to be analyzed is not concrete.
  - Cameron: I think it is important to note what is going to be done with the data and it is a bit ambiguous without.
- Erica: I would like to clarify what FIRE does. Most of the streams use coding languages. The streams that do not use coding languages would not be looking at data like this.
- Matt: Are you opposed to including a clause specifying other interested students who are interested in general?
  - Cameron: It is hard because FIRE is a LEP so not just anyone can participate
  - Zach: I argue this changes the meaning if we just provide this opportunity to “students:
  - Erica: It also takes away from what DOTS wants to do with this data because they do not want all students to access this data.
- Emily: What was the TAC vote?
  - Cameron: We did not vote, I just presented the resolution.

#### Free Debate

- Quintin: Motion to amend

- I would like to add another therefore be it further resolved clause that RHA supports DOTS providing students with this data where they see fit.
  - Megan: I think this takes away from the purpose of the resolution to provide this data as a FIRE stream for FIRE students
  - Dan: We could say RHA encourages that DOTS can provide this data to other students as they see fit
  - Alec: I have some reservations on how this amendment changes the outline of the resolution and the placement of the amendment should be changed.
  - Quintin: It can be a further resolved clause. The intent of the amendment is that I do not think that we should safeguard this data but make it open to all students.
  - Erica: I do not think this is a necessary amendment. This could be a whole different amendment.
  - Bailey: I do not think we are restricting the data by not providing this amendment
  - Dan: I think this is a great program that FIRE should support but if we can specifically say that we can give this data to all students that is our duty as representatives of residents
  - Amendment passes: 10 Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain
- Cameron: I would like to clarify that students are specifically trained for the coding languages in FIRE where not all students are trained to analyze this data. I am not trying to be exclusive but the project should be taken on by specialized programs.

- Hunter: I do not think we should gate-keep any data, and a lot of students do learn programming languages. The data is the data and could just be released for knowledge.
- Kenyatta: Change Line 26 to say FIRE students specifically
  - Quintin: Cameron said earlier that they were just looking for students to partner with, so this whereas clause would still apply to students in general
- Dan: Did TAC come to you with this program?
  - Cameron: I came up with this stream and brought it to TAC. It was an outlet that could be utilized for data analysis.
  - Mel: Data with scooters was brought up previously
- Mel: I move to amend, take out the phrase Limited Enrollment Program (LEP) in Line 14 since FIRE is not an LEP.
  - Amendment passes: 18 Yes: 1 No: 0 Abstain
- Tyler: Motion to vote
- Erica: Second

Resolution passes: 17 Yes: 2 No: 0 Abstain

#### Committee Reports

#### Resident Council Reports

Constitutional Question of the Day

Daniel Laffin

Recognition

Hunter Marsh

Adjournment

Zachary Schlaich