**Charleston Southern University**

**Student Government Association**

October 26th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

4:30; WCCL Room 103

**ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew Pettersen

Brenna Bourgeois

Matthew Fortner

Marisa Thomas

Becca Edwards

Brandon Diehl

Bailey Dingler

Rachel Metzger

Nataysuan Taylor

Jaynae Jefferson

Jeremy Thomas

Brooke Murray

Elaine Lizarondo

Busola Oseni

Braxton Cranmer

Chandiben Patel

Student Body President

Student Body Vice President

Student Body Secretary/Tres.

Senior Senator

Senior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Sophomore Senator

Sophomore Senator

Sophomore Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Others Present:

Caitlin McCrudy

Abigail Barnett

Joie’ Pinckney

Zach Dietz

Brooke Larson

Jackie Fish

Brittani Watkins

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Chaplain

ADPi President

Task Force Representative

ADPi Advisor

**Minutes**

Vice President Brenna Bourgois called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM

*Zachary Dietz led us in an invocation.*

1. **Treasurer’s Report/Approval of Minute**

The minutes were approved, and the budget has a balance of 5,917 dollars.

1. **President Report:**

Hello everyone, I hope that you all are having a fantastic week! We have a lot of business to cover today. Today we have a couple of bills that we will vote on, and we also have a case on disciplinary action that the University’s COVID Task Force Committee has been brought forward for us to make decision on. It says in James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault.” Let us ask for and use the wisdom that God will give to us generously so that we can make the best decisions we can for the students and for our University. It is our responsibility when making these decisions to be good stewards of the power that we hold within our organization. It is not our responsibility to always make the right decision, but it is up to us to be wise in the way that we make decisions.

1. **Briefing from ADPi/Task Force**

Brooke Larson: My name is Brooke Larson; I am the representative of Alpha Delta Pi. I serve in the role as chapter president. On behalf of Alpha Delta Pi, I would like to apologize for our chapter’s actions. Through much reflection, we have realized the potential risks we could have put our CSU community at. In no way was our annual retreat meant to be so potentially harmful. We were surprised to know that this event had to be approved by the CSU covid task force, as it was off campus. However, in no way is our lapse of judgement begin to account for the mistake we have made. Knowing what we know now, our failure was to bring our event before the task force for approval. Early in spring of 2020, our exec team began to plan for the fall semester, long before covid regulations. As we returned to school this fall, we understood that things would be different this year. We took caution to make sure that all of our on-campus events were safe, such as bid day and big and little reveal were approved. We were under the impression that all events occurring on campus had to be approved by the task force, and that off campus events were at the discretion of the organization, but every member should still be mindful and practice caution. Therefore, working alongside the ADPi alumni advisor team, exec officers took into account all additional protective measures in order to go forward with our annual retreat. Some of the safety measures we put into effect were asking members to wear masks as they would on campus, requiring social distancing even in outdoor settings, and organizing the cabins in strategic groups of 6-8 women similar to what CSU reslife treats roommates and suitemates as a family unit, asking that only the groups of 6-8 women have close contact with each other. We believe that these measures, while not completely foil proof, were the best plan of action to protect our members the best. Due to the potential harm we could have caused to the CSU community, we are aware that there will be consequences for our actions. However, we ask that those deciding our disciplinary action keep in mind that there was no ill intent on our plans and our failure to go through the proper channels was not deliberate but a misunderstanding of our own. ADPi has always tried to follow the rules. Up until this event, ADPi worked closely with the task force and our advisor Brittani Watkins to keep events up to buc standards. We understand the need to love our neighbors as ourselves to prevent the spread of this virus. We also understand we put the CSU community at risk, and for this we are deeply sorry. Over the past week as an organization and as an exec board we have been reflecting our decisions. This week has been nothing less than physically, emotionally, and mentally draining for ourselves and members because of our actions. At the same time, we are hopeful campus community will continue to show us grace. Understand that we each make mistakes, but that we are also ready to take on our consequences. We hope that the Student Government Association will make the fair and just decision. As a sorority, with one of guiding principles being service, we would ask that you consider a more intense amount of community service as a possible probation. Now is a time that we would like to be more support for our CSU family and provide more service for them. This as a way to rebuild our community that we compromised. Knowing what we know now, we would like to partner with the task force and SGA to continue to engage the student body and stress the importance of protection one another. We would like to do this by raising awareness and serve as a reminder that we must continue to use our due diligence to not go to unsponsored events, especially with a holiday weekend coming up like Halloween. Again, on behalf of all members of ADPi at CSU we are deeply sorry and remorseful for the decisions we made. We understand this act put not only our women at risk, but the effects it could have had on our campus community. We trust that everyone will be fair with their disciplinary actions going forward. When we know better, we do better. We can do better. Thank you.

Jackie Fish: Okay, I also have on board with me Laurel Glover, who is the infection control person on campus. I am going to briefly outline somethings and what we think needs to happen and point you to a couple of facts. On the CSU webpage, no matter whether we are in covid times or not, there is a form that has to be completed by all CSU student organizations planning to hold an event on or off campus. This is also outlined in the CSU handbook. We truly had a financial and emotional impact on this campus moving from 30 potentially exposed people to 99 people overnight. Quite frankly, we have had several interactions with ADPi, and we did grant them permission to have events, so they were very familiar with the covid events policy, but mainly I wanted to point out to that the event request is on the webpage and that’s not new. The student handbook as well, Brooke, says many things that student organizations have to follow looking specifically at page 38. I do believe Mr. Grant is in there as well, if he would like to speak, I will yield my time to him, and then ask Laurel to give a statement about the effects.

Tim Grant: There is no event form from ADPi for this event from myself or Isabella Bozard who is the director of student activities. It was never sent to us from ADPi. In the BSO handbook it does tell them that every event on or off has to have a form.

Laurel Glover: I just wanted to give a full impact of this on campus. We have actually had several days in a row where we didn’t have any students on campus in quarantine or isolation. While certainly the largest impact is on individual student that is quarantined/isolated it actually does have quite an effect on whole areas on campus. The dining hall prepares meals for students in rooms. Reslife has to deliver those meals. There’s an additional cost when we have to clean and disinfect whole areas. We have to move students to empty dorms. This is not only a stress on the student, but a cost on the school. Purely looking from a financial aspect, this retreat has been tremendous for this campus. There are several areas thatll have to go through disinfection process that originally would not have been used. In addition to that, I have dealt with disinfection on campus and in other areas and the members of ADPi have reached our repeatedly for information that I can just not share. I am not sure the whole magnitude is fully understood, I hope it is. It sounds like it is form what you said. We are dealing with an infection that not only affects the ladies on the trip, but the whole campus and faculty that came into contact with them. My only question is has this retreat happened in the past yes?

Brooke Larson: Yes, but not in this capacity. This was the first year it took place at a location off campus, James Island County Park, this was the first year for that.

Laurel Glover: In previous years, even if it wasn’t held at this magnitude, was an event request form filled out for the retreat?

Brooke Larson: I believe so.

Laurel Glover: Okay, it seems that because y’all had been through the event proposal process, and obviously we have had follow up questions, but I think we approved all events you applied for so the perception perhaps this event wasn’t applied because you knew it would be denied. That is my concern. In any case, my other piece of feedback, you mentioned teaming with the task force. Unfortunately, the people on the retreat will be in quarantine for the holiday weekend.

Jackie Fish: I have a question as well, someone told us that girls who didn’t attend will be fined $100. Is that true or not true?

Brooke Larson: We have always had a fine system in place, but with covid we did things a little differently. If a member chose to opt out because she was worried of contracting covid or didn’t feel comfortable, then that was okay and she would not be fined. We did not fine any members.

Jackie Fish: In other reports we got tell us that not only did Brittani Watkins not know about this, neither did your other advisor.

*Point of order*

Brenna Bourgeois: This is more of a briefing not question and answer.

Jackie Fish: Okay I was told this is a hearing about my complaint to the SGA on this organization. I thought you wanted all the facts. Sorry I thought we were telling it all. SO basically, what we have is a fail to file the event form and failure to get permission from the task force. We can’t even place the amount of emotional stress on the students and families. Hopefully no one was infected, but if they were and went home I can’t imagine the stress. We are asking the SGA to put this organization on probation for the academic year. That’s all I have to say.

Brenna Bourgeois: I will now read the body’s recommendation. 1) The student organization will not be allowed to have any type of activity such as fund-raising projects, etc. 2) The student organization will not be allowed to participate in any school activities during the probation. 3) The student organization is expected to render 5 hours of approved campus community service per each member. The speaker would entertain a motion to open the floor for pro-con debate.

Motion to open the floor for pro-con debate followed by voting

It was seconded.

No objections.

*Period of pro-con debate*:

Braxton Cranmer: Based upon given information, I believe this punishment is formidable. As given the past the association has requested for these events but for some reason not this one. Maybe because of the modifications or simply it would be denied. Furthermore, they understand the process because of the prior events. I do believe that they are accountable for this misunderstanding and circumventing.

Marisa Thomas: I rise in favor of this recommendation of the body. I served as BSO president for two years, so I had the opportunity to work alongside ADPi. They are a great organization as they are an organization that I could always count on to get their stuff in on time, fill out their event forms, really do what they needed to do to get things done. I also know that we gave them copies of the constitution, and in Article 6 Section 1 Subsection C it says that “Any off campus event you have, you still have to get an event form,” So there was no excuse. I know that Brooke said that they didn’t know that, but they did know so I don’t see that as an excuse however, yeah. As SGA and BSO constitution outlines, we have to give them probation. I know the cabinet also deliberated very hard to do what we thought would be fair to them on behalf of students and events they do have. Community service looked good for them, as Greek life is about community service. This is an opportunity to give back to the campus for them.

Motion to extend pro-con debate by five minutes

It was seconded

No objections

Busola Oseni: I rise in strong favor of this probation of this organization, because of the president of BSO. I have worked with them and every other organization. I required all organization presidents to be at the first meeting. At the first meeting, I emphasized repeatedly that clubs and organizations must send an event request form because of the current situation. Isabella Bozard did this as well. I sent out minutes that emphasized this again as well. This also had a link attached to the event request form. There is no excuse as to why they would not fill out this form in this pandemic. I think this probation is a very important disciplinary action for this procedure and not just another channel to follow.

Braxton Cranmer: I would also to like to point out aside from endangering other people, Dr. Glover said obviously because of this event cost will rise. As far as facilitation, sanitation, delivering of food to places. I know first-hand, people have to take time out of their day to do this. Of course, the upbringing of students out of the current area to a quarantine area. This is not good for academics or mental stability. I rise in strong favor of this.

Bailey Dingler: I rise in strong favor of this recommendation. As a cabinet, we sat down and went through all the methods that we can punish. While this was a major lapse of judgement, this the first time. They usually get their forms in and things of that manner. We do not want them to be denied their progress as a club. We do not want them to be stalled in what they do this year. The statement was also raised by Dr. Glover, the school felt monetary consequences on their actions. Based on our recommendation, fundraising is suspended to help them feel this monetary consequence. I think this is a very fair recommendation on ADPi because they have shown a precedent on having good communication skills, this was just one instance. This recommendation will help them feel this consequence as well.

Brandon Diel: I rise in opposition of this because I feel it might be too little of punishment. As we just heard, this is their first offense. However, the corona virus has been in the news, heads, talk, etc. for so long that them to just walk all over these restrictions just because they want to have this thing done. I am one of the people that has to deliver the meals on weekends. I know football does it during the week. This entails us to come in three times a day, 9, 12, 5 o’clock and hand out meals in the quads for as long as it takes. It is a very arguably dangerous situation for me and everyone who does it. Seeing as it has been about 8 months since it started in the US, they should be fully aware of the consequences. We might vote this through, but I feel it is not enough.

Motion to let speaker finish

Second.

No objections

*By a vote of 13 yeses to 2 abstentions this recommendation does pass.*

1. **Old Business**

**A Bill by Brandon Diel**

Bramdon Diel: Alright good afternoon, everyone on zoom of course. This bill fills the gap between students and SGA. We will record the meeting on zoom or some other form. This will be posted with the minutes on the website, and this will help us be a better body for the students.

*Period of Question and Answer:*

Marisa Thomas: So you said that this will be posted in addition to the minutes. How would that provide any more information for the constituents?

Brandon Diel: Well the minutes aren’t being posted either I feel that is a probem. They are not, I believe we looked and the last time the page was used was a couple years ago. I think that is a problem. There is an amendment that makes it the secretary’s job. I think that this will help with body language and seeing if senators are doing things.

Marisa Thomas: Is the speaker aware that the minutes have everything everyone says?

Brandon Diel: I am not, because the minutes have not been posted in quite a while,

*Point of information:*

Marisa Thomas: Does the current secretary treasurer post the minutes in the group chat?

Brenna Bourgeois: He does.

Brandon Diel: I am talking from the perspective of the student.

*Period of Pro-Con Debate:*

Braxton Cranmer: I rise in strong favor of this bill, although minutes will be posted, I think it is very important to visually see how senators are interacting. Also, to get a formidable idea of how our meetings are in place and how procedure runs.

**An Amendment by Rachael Metzger**

Rachael Metzger: Alright, section 1 is doing is specifying that it is the secretary will be doing this. It is in their list of duties. The section 2 amendment is another specification that the minutes and video will be posted.

*Period of question and answer:*

*Period of pro-con debate:*

Marisa Thomas: I rise in slight opposition. I don’t really see a point in posting a video if we are already posting the minutes. You aren’t going to get more from a video than you are from minutes. In fact, youll probable get less, if you look at the screen you can barely see us. It is a nice thought if we had a good camera and high depth and resolution. I can see the sentiment, but I think the minutes suffice.

Braxton Cranmer: I rise in favor merely because it is a good way to check given by the minutes if you can sit and listen to everything that is being said on the recording. Scripts and minutes are not fully correct. This will be a fact check.

Motion to extend pro con by 2 minutes

Second.

No objections

Marisa Thomas: I rise in opposition again. I have been in SGA for a few years now and I know the grueling process of minutes. He doesn’t just sit there and say I think he said this, and I think she said that. They sit there and listen to the recording over and over. They take it seriously, and I trust the secretary and their integrity. They will put accurate minutes together.

Bailey Dingler: I don’t think this bill will serve as a checks and balances for secretary. I think this is a way to bridge the disconnect between students and us. I think the main reason we will post the video and the minutes would be to cover every avenue with the student body possible. Some may be more attuned to watch the video and some more attuned to read the minutes. I know there is a quality problem with zoom, but if this is something that we can continue we can improve.

Motion to allow speaker to finish

Second

No objections.

Jaynae Jefferson: I rise in strong opposition of this amendment and bill. We are only on our third week, and it was mentioned that minutes have not been posted. The transfer of power between Matthew and the last secretary has been a little rocky because of covid. I think we should allow Matthew a little grace and understanding to update the website.

*Speakers Last Rights*

Rachael Metzger: By providing both methods allows us to better connect with students. If students want to listen with it in the background while they do other activities they can. If they want to skim the minutes they can. This was not meant to undermine the work of our secretary/treasurer. I think he has done a great job so far, and the minutes have been accurate. It reflects the integrity of SGA and it also shows that the secretary is doing his job and doing it correctly.

*By a vote of 4 yeses to 3 no’s to 6 abstentions this amendment does not pass.*

**A Bill by Brandon Diel**

*Period of pro con debate:*

Motion to remove previous question

Second

No objections

*Speakers Last Rights*

Brandon Diel: I appreciate all the pro con debate. I believe that is something that should be done of course. This was not meant to attack the secretary/treasurer. It was mentioned that he listens to a recording. If that is such, why doesn’t he just post that. If he doesn’t have a recording, this will be an aid to him, not attack him. If it doesn’t make a difference, why not do it? Obviously, some people are more visual than reading. Some are more auditory. As for the quality that is up to his discretion. I think he has done his job great, but why not make it easier? I yield my time.

Point of Information

Bailey Dingler: On this bill, the responsibility of handling these minutes would also be at the discretion of the executive board.

*By a vote of 4 yeses to 3 no’s to 6 absentions this bill does not pass.*

**A Bill by Braxton Cranmer**

Braxton Cranmer: Good afternoon everyone. Just making sure we are still alive in here. So, again to clarify, there were just a few, again not calling anyone out on their duties. I just noticed that it hasn’t been updated since 2017. The minutes are absent, the rosters are outdated with old candidate information. I just belive that such a prestigious organization as us we should have a representative face. Students that are here, but also students who are enrolling. They might have an interest in student government and what the body does and says.

*Period of question and answer:*

Motion to suspend and accept unanimous acclimation.

Second.

No objection.

*By unamimous acclimation this bill does pass.*

Motion to reinstate the rules.

Second.

No objection.

**5. New Business**

*There was no new business*

**Committee Reports**

Jeremy Thomas: Judiciary committee, we did not meet this week. Hopefully we can get together and work on the constitution. That’s all I have this week!

Brooke Murray: So, we are still figuring out social media coordination, and how we are going to do constituency on social media. We are working on some bills to be presented soon. We will meet in the corner after this meeting.

Elaine Lizurondo: Hey, so I am still waiting on a response for the commuter cookout. I will be following up with Isabella soon. The prospective date is still the 28th, I am going to delay a week or two. I am meeting with my committee tomorrow at 4:30!

**BSO Reports**

Busola Oseni: Good evening everyone, at BSO we are really pushing clubs to post meetings and activities they having going on. This keep students plugged in on campus. We want people to make sure they are checking bucnation for events around campus. Masks and crafts that the international club is doing, this is an example from bucnation. The last day is Wednesday at noon, and they will be having a zoom call to go over the masks and categories funny, scary, and Disney. At 6PM the link will be on bucnation. Alpha Nu Omega is having a Halloween event where they are putting different costumes on their facebook page. There is a virtual 5k run, post it on Instagram and tag them! African American Society is making a bunch of cards for first responders, if you would like to do that contact the club. Psychology club is hosting coffe rocks on Wednesday at 11 AM. Check bucnation like I said! They are also encouraging us to come to the career center so they can help you get prepared! Thank you!

**Advisor Report**

Dean Carter: Alrigth trying to be short and sweet with you. Out of town last week, in trustee meetings this week. Just a couple things, first off great job with the ADPi discussion. I think you handled it very well. The executives and the cabinet and SGA handled things very professionally. It’s also important to note, we are not punishing anyone. This is discipline. The Bible says to discipline is love. We are not trying to punish someone or playing the gotcha game. This is a learning opportunity for all us. We are all connected and everything we do effects everyone. Iron sharpens iron. Upcoming events, actually past events Densonville. Did y’all go? I heard it was great. I was out of town I couldn’t go. I will be at the one this Friday, Buctober! It’ll be a lot of fun. Hayride is going to be great. The shirts are also really cool. Buctober shirts are incredible. You want to be there. OCC is going to be incredible. We are going for 7000 boxes. Someone donated 1000 toys yesterday. Also, the same week of OCC we have Christmas at CSU. WE have lights around the pond for night, a musical event outside, lighting the tree outside, then the rest of the semester Christmas music will play, and tress will light up. That will help us end on a jolly note and end strong! That’s all I have for you right now. Today’s meeting, we met with trustees, everything’s moving quite along. Student center isn’t opened, but you should peak in!

Marisa Thomas: What’s the cost of Buctober?

Dean Carter: I don’t know off the top of my head. $5 I think. The shirt is well worth that five dollars.

Brooke Murray: Are they still raffling and giveaways?

Dean Carter: Yeah, they should be doing it. I was out of town, so I am not fully sure but historically we have had vendors come in and make it better.

**Questions, Comments, Concerns**

Brenna Bourgeois: In the poll from last week, we voted for Moes so we will have our fall retreat there. We will see if it is happening next week, but we will let oyu know.

Jeremy Thomas: Shirts will be in…?

Brenna Bourgeois: We are going over that this week with Dean Carter.

*Zachery Dietz prayed us out and dismissed us.*