**Charleston Southern University**

**Student Government Association**

October 26th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

4:30; WCCL Room 103

**ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Others Present:

Matthew Pettersen

Brenna Bourgeois

Becca Edwards

Brandon Diehl

Rachel Metzger

Jeremy Thomas

Brooke Murray

Elaine Lizarondo

Busola Oseni

Braxton Cranmer

Chandiben Patel

Caitlin McCrudy

Abigail Barnett

Joie’ Pinckney

Zach Dietz

Student Body President

Student Body Vice President

Senior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Sophomore Senator

Sophomore Senator

Sophomore Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Chaplain

**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 cannot believe how close we are to the end of this semester already. I want to commend you all in the way that you handled the probation case last week. It is not an easy situatin to do discipline, and it was a new situation for many of us in the SGA. I have heard from many people that they appreciate the way that our organization handled this very important case. It says in Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Also, an update on polo shirts: we are currently trying samples to get a good design for our polos this year. If you haven’t yet, send me your size. I would really appreciate your texting it to me.

1. **Briefing from the Pandemic Task Force**

Michael Shite: There are a couple ways we can do this, but first of all I teach over in the kinesiology department, so unless you are kinesiology major you probably have never heard of me. Part of my responsibilities at the university are I look at the cosmopolitan essentially the trends of covid-19 how it is exchanging across the world and of course look at it nationally and regionally. I report to the task force, the deans council, the trustees once a week. I have this huge report that I do, and I can run through that, it only takes 5-7 minutes, there’s a lot of data. I don’t know if that is going to be beneficial for you, but I am happy to share the screen with you. I can also just answer questions about what is going on and why we are doing it as well. I can do both, I have never been in one of these meetings, so I don’t know about how long they usually last, I apologize. Whichever you want to do, I am happy to oblige, just tell me which.

Dean Carter: I think it’s up to you to share your screen, Dr. Shite. I think it’s pretty interesting, some of the stats.

Michael Shite: If you could enable the sharing screen option, I will be happy to do that. These are the most recent updates, I don’t have anything form today per say, but this is from this weekend. One of the things we address every week is how different universities are addressing their ability to simply coral the virus. Now it is going to vary from university to university, varying in size and resources, and we simply just don’t have resources to do testing, but it is important to study those because there is the hope that we will have fast acting swab testing in the spring that will give us results in five to fifteen minutes and so if we have access to that in the spring it is going to dramatically change how we monitor this spread on campus. We are able to look at our faculty, students and staff and how much covid is existing in that population. So, giving you an idea, Boston University, not a small university, about 32,000 undergraduates, they test everybody on and off campus once a week. So that is 32,000 tests. That is a tremendous amount of resources dedicated to that. They actually revoke internet access to students who refuse to take the test, so you can imagine that’s quite a bit to consider for students, such as yourself that undergo the test. So Wisconsin, which is about 43,000 students, they only test if you are sick and/or symptomatic. This is more of a preventative measure than that of Boston University vs. Wisconsin uses, so we will see which one is better. Wisconsin has already learned from the short comings of their method, and we will see they are using more resources and tests, and next semester they are going to be testing twice a week. Wisconsin has a chair of issues which recently especially since the football team didn’t play their game last week because they had too many positive tests. This just gives you a week in the life of Boston University and how they are so diligent. So, they are running about 32,000 tests a week, and this incidence of positivity is 2/10 of a percent in the highest then it drops down to 6/100. So, to give you an idea, the state of South Carolina is 6.5% so they have remarkably low values. In fact, since they started this testing procedure in July, they only had 214 positive tests, and as you can imagine 30,000 tests they had done over what 20 weeks now. That is 214 cases out of 600,000 tests. Wisconsin reports 3,400 cases which is roughly about 15 times higher, although their population is 33% greater so it’s making a huge difference, in terms of you can test on a regular basis. You are able to identify the virus, isolate those people more readily, and you can keep the spread down tremendously. You may not be aware, but most covid cases follow the super spreader progression, or in other words about 20% of the people cause 80% of the cases. You can really identify those 20% of cases early and get them into isolation you are really going to be able to head off the disease. So, cosmopolitan updates, it’s not looking good across the pond as you may know Belgium, France, UK, and Germany have all started a national lock down from the last three days. They are going to keep schools open, but nonessential businesses can’t stay open. They limit when you can leave the house. There’s all kind of different ramifications in different countries. But this is affecting roughly 230 million people, and the reason this is taking place is because you can see an exponential increase in cases in Belgium, France, UK, and Germany. Its anywhere from an 18-fold to a 34-fold increase just in the last three or four weeks. So what you are going to ask is “What’s so remarkably different in the last three to four weeks?” Well corona virus in general, we have a history of this just happens to be covid-19, they really start their peak in like the latter months, November, December, January. They start their peak in those months. We are starting November; people spend more time inside with close contact with each other. What we know about this virus is that when you have worse ventilation, as you do indoors vs. outdoors, the risks are greater. So, to give you an idea, most outdoor instances, your risk is about 18 times lower than it is indoors. Part of the problem, as you’ve seen today in Charleston, as the weather cools down you spend more time indoors and in poor ventilation environments. So, the university, we update this every day. This is a dashboard. What you have probably noticed by now is an increase based off one incident that occurred off campus. Those individuals, about 59, had to go into quarantine. They were all release just yesterday, so the cases on campus are remarkably low. There has not been a single case that has been traced back to the classroom, aside from clinical environment, and this is in nursing, athletic training where they don’t really have any choice when they are in labs to be close together. Even when they are wearing goggles and gloves, they still had a couple incidences pop up so far. Giving you an idea of what is going on in America, we are in the third wave at this point. The cases have increased a little over 110%, hospitalizations 60%. Now it takes a while for fatalities to show up. If you are familiar with covid-19, it takes roughly 29 days for infection, incubation period, symptoms to set in, hospitalization, and unfortunately fatality. So, this has really changed dramatically as the time of the year. It started in the North east, then switched to the south, and now the mid-west has taken over. So specifically, in the Midwest, this is positivity rates. Now positivity rates are a ratio of number of positive cases over number of cases. It doesn’t matter how many tests you run positivity tells you how bad it is. Just because you have more tests doesn’t mean you have more cases; no. Positivity rate is a ratio. Now you see, covid is not 50%, that means every other person test positive. The Midwest has taken over at this point. To give an idea in South Carolina, it has fairly plateaued in terms of positivity. Hospitalization and fatalities are low, we hope to keep it that level, but in the past when positivity rates went up in other countries it has shown up here in very much the same pattern. We hope this doesn’t repeat going forward. That’s just to give you an absolute number of hospitalized with covid 19. Positivity rates around 7%. When hospitalization rates get so high, that’s when we worry. When they get so high, they can’t treat other people. Hospitals aren’t considered really strained until they get above 80% so we are trying to keep it low in Charleston County. When you have a high number of covid 19 you are looking at high resources and strain. I know that is a lot of information in short time. Are there any questions?

Braxton Cranmer: Because of the possible increase in cases for the winter we are going into, for the second semester can we expect to see the same restrictions or more.

Michael Shite: This is something we monitor on a daily basis, because it changes. You also have to understand, size you can’t compress, in terms of the novel virus. Viruses are difficult to understand, they mutate so it is a daily thing. What I would tell to fully expect, if not 100% its 99%, is to expect the same restrictions in terms of how we interact in class, maintain social distance, cleaning the desk, all that should be the same. We have trigger points that we first released in August, and we are not close to hitting those, we have to hit at least two of those to move to online and we aren’t hitting any of those at this point. Though one that is closest is hospitalizations, and you wonder why hospitalization is a trigger point, because if hospitals get full enough then we can’t send students safely there to be treated as they should. We even had a student that went across the street and they wouldn’t admit them. They sent them to MUSC. I would expect things to be the same.

Brooke Murry: Is there any point looking right now, that if the numbers get low enough that some of those restrictions will be lifted, or are we just going to stay like this.

Michael Shite: We have changed stuff throughout the semester. You can ask Mr. Clark, the restrictions in the Brewer were crazy. I think it was at 20 occupancy, and now we are up to 300+. They have been changed and lessened for sure. But there is a limit to that and what we can do. Even with just lockdown, we are still able to be in public. That is far more aggressive than other countries that have been pursuing. The problem with this virus is it is invisible. Its transmission is secretive. About 75% is asymptomatic. It is almost double that is in college students. They get it and don’t know they have it. They spread it. It is exponential, 2 becomes 4 becomes 8 becomes 16. I understand college students are frustrated, we never hit a high number of cases, but that can be misleading. The problem is we have to protect the faculty and staff. The doorknob is Ace-2. Women don’t express it as much, and young students don’t. Older males express that a lot. Things you are doing is preventing spread to faculty and staff. We agree that we don’t want sickness. I know that it has been rough, but we have been able to maintain teaching in person.

1. **Old Business**

*There was no old business*

1. **New Business**

*There was no new business*

1. **Committee Reports**

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

Brooke Murray: So, we met last week and we talked about different bills ideas and trying to get things out there. We are still looking for ideas, so if you have any let me know. I talked to Isabella Bozard about the Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and I have not heard back yet. I am just going to keep emailing until I hear back. I think that is all I have.

Elaine Lizurondo: Hey, I don’t have anything new. I met with my committee last week. We talked about bill ideas. We are still trying to figure out constituency. I will figure out how to do it online. I think Tay is going to talk to Isabella about the commuter cookout.

1. **BSO Reports**

Busola Oseni: Hey everyone, OCC collection day is this Wednesday from 10am-2pm. The low country Walk for Life is this Saturday. We encourage students to sign up for the walk on their website and fundraise through their social media platforms. Thank you!

1. **Advisor Report**

Dean Carter: Hey everybody, almost there. The shirts talked to the lady today. We are getting samples to try, girl and guy sizes. We will get that this week with SGA logo. Hopefully we will have it next week. If we can order soon, we can have the turnaround in a week. The events, this past week was a massive success with buctober. We did hayrides for 2 and half hours straight. We may do a Christmas hayride. By the way, Dr. Costin was really impressed with how we ran things. CSU is knocking it out of the park for having a campus life still. The task force said we can have an event of 500 people outdoors right now, governor says 1000. For OCC, our goal is 7000, I wouldn’t be shocked if we get 8000, 9000, or even 10000. That will probably double or triple any national record. That will be a Christmas miracle you will want to see. If you live on campus, you may have seen lights around the pond for Christmas at CSU. It is going to be a really cool event with a lot of work put into it. The Horton School of Music will be singing to the pond at four different locations. Wherever you are, you will have this great view. It will be great when they light the trees around the pond. Every night there will be Christmas music playing leading up to it. There will be several hundred people there. If y’all do what you did last time, social distance and masks, it goes a long way. OCC there are boxes around campus. If you haven’t packed one, do it! They are outside the library. I am not asking everyone to do 7 but do what you can! We already ahd donated 6000 stuffed animals and tee shirts. When we have packing day next week from 1-8. We have to average 1000 boxes per hour. It will be a day of fun and sweat. I will guarantee we will have snow. The student lounge is close to being open, you can walk in. Furniture and glass panels are coming soon. It should be open for the end of the semester.

Becca Edwards: Will the grill open for the semester too?

Dean Carter: I hope so! That is the plan. They have a deep fryer, skillet and drink machine so hopefully. What that looks like is a meal swipe thing, pay if you want to, we talked about open 11-1. We have to hammer some details out to be honest with you. It depends on student use as well. I can assure you it isn’t going to shut down next semester, but it’ll be fun. It’ll open, I am hoping, sometime this semester. It will open during finals for sure to study.

Brooke Murray: Do you know what kind of food?

Dean Carter: We initially talked about stuff that you would get like hamburgers, hotdogs, omelets. They have a skillet, deep fryer, and fountain drinks. They talked about doing different kinds of smoothies and drinks. That’s really an Aramark thing. Things can be added and taken away for popularity. We told them we didn’t want it to be cafeteria part two. We need different things. Not things brought from downstairs, but different things.

Braxton Cranmer: So, will it be on a basis, a part of the dining plan for students or will it be like a separate dining dollar?

Dean Carter: The last conversation we had was a yes to both of those. It is possibly dining dollars or part of the plan. Or cash for commuters. Where they are going to do that is a better question for Aramark. We talked about so many things, it was originally not going ot be short order grill. But we talked and decided we wanted that for y’all.

Jeremy Thomas: When is midnight breakfast?

Dean Carter: It will be on reading day.

Brenna Bourgeois: So we do get a reading day?

Dean Carter: Yes.

Unknown: A what?

Brenna Bourgeois: A day where we don’t have classes to study for exams.

Dean Carter: I think it is the 18th. It is the Wednesday before exams. Aramark is going to serve us, so we don’t have to serve this year. They are flipping the bill and taking care of it. What that is going to look like is going to be interesting. Lights will be around the pond so people can go outside. We talked about a retreat soon, but because of covid it is impractical. We will think of something else creative. It might open up a mediocrity. Covid task force has released some restriction because of how well y’all have done. We have incredible things planned for next semester. We are doing athletics in the spring, but it will be much different. Right now, NCAA is recommending 20% max capacity. We won’t have 800 in the bucdome or 4000 in the stadium.

Becca Edwards: How are they practically doing football and basketball at the same time?

Dean Carter: They are working hard on that because we only have a limited number of videographers, and how they are doing that now is still not even fully answered. Today they said restrictions on indoor events is going to be massive.

Jeremy Thomas: Is there an update on what we discussed for the disciplinary hearing we did.

Dean Carter: We did meet with leadership and gave them the letter. They graciously said they understand and will work with the chapter. It was a good ending, everything was positive. I wasn’t sure how their adult leadership off campus was going to handle it, but they commended you guys with your decision. The question that they were confused on is the 5 hours of community service, and we clarified. They know that they all have to do 5 hours of community service. That was the only area of confusion.

1. **Questions, Comments, Concerns**

Rachael Metzger: When are we getting our constitutions?

Jeremy Thomas: We are working on updating the constitution. We are meeting this week with Dean Carter to start.

Dean Carter: We need to update the handbook and constitution, so they are all in line.

Brenna Bourgois: Fall retreat, like Dean Carter said, it moved to spring. I am sad, I love Moes. We will do that next semester. I think you guys have done an amazing job with conditions. I couldn’t have asked for a better group for lasts week situation. I think you guys did an amazing job. Anyone else have anything?

*Zachery Dietz prayed us out and dismissed us.*