**Charleston Southern University**

**Student Government Association**

October 5th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

4:30; WCCL Room 103

**ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Matthew Pettersen

Brenna Bourgeois

Matthew Fortner

Marisa Thomas

Becca Edwards

Brandon Diehl

Bailey Dingler

Rachel Metzger

Nataysuan Taylor

Jeremy Thomas

Brooke Murray

Elaine Luzarondo

Braxton Cranmer

Caitlin McCurdy

Joie’ Pinckney

Zachary Dietz

Student Body President

Student Body Vice President

Student Body Secretary/Tres.

Senior Senator

Senior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Junior Senator

Sophomore Senator

Sophomore Senator

Sophomore Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Freshman Senator

Chaplain

**MINUTES**

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

*Zachary Dietz led us in an invocation.*

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

There were no minutes to approve, and the budget has not yet been prepared.

**2. President Report:**

Matthew Pettersen: Hey everyone, how are y’all doing? It is a pleasure to be in this meeting with y’all! I am currently at home quarantined, but I just wanted to congratulate all of you for being elected by your respective classes to represent the student body in the senate. I am very excited for the opportunities SGA is going to have to cultivate change on campus through the bill ideas that come to our meetings and through the collaboration that we can use to get those ideas. This year is going to look very different from previous years that we had. For one, our administration has had a lot less time to prepare for SGA than in previous years, but with that I think that this is an opportunity to revamp SGA to be more effective than we have been before. We are really hitting the ground running this year. I am very excited to actually get bills out so that we can discuss them. I would really love to see some bills sent in this week. If we could have some bill ideas sent in by this Friday that would be exceptional! One idea that I’ve had since we are really able to do constituency like we have in the past, which is where we get to collect data from the students on campus about ideas that they would like to see in bills. I think it would be really effective if we were to use Instagram to gather these ideas. Whether you want to do it on your personal page or create a new Instagram for like a senator page. I have a presidential page and I gather a lot of data form students via my Instagram story. I think this would really help to create relevant bills. I just wanted to remind you all that we are servants and leaders. We aren’t just leaders on this campus. I am super excited to do SGA with y’all this year. Thanks.

**3. Old Business**

*There was no old business to discuss.*

**4. New Business**

**Approval of the Commuter Committee Chair**

Elaine Luzarondo: Alright, hey guys for those of you who don’t know me I am Elaine. It is my second year on SGA and last year I was on commuter committee. I think I would be good for this position because I, myself, am a commuter student and know a lot of other commuter students. I’ve already had a bunch of concerns brought up to me about that stuff so I have a lot of ideas on bills and changes we can make this year. I am really excited, and yeah. I yield.

*Period of question and answer*:

Braxton Cranmer: Do you by chance have anything in my off the top of your head that you would want to implement for commuter students?

Elaine Luzarondo: A lot of them have been asking for spaces around campus that they are allowed to work around. Places where commuter students can congregate. Parking has also been an issue. I have had someone come up to me and ask if parking can be in tuition, especially for commuters because for the most part we are only on campus for a few hours a day and we pay the same as resident students.

Braxton Cranmer: Thank you.

*Speakers Last rights:*

Elaine Luzarondo: Yeah, that was it for me. I have a lot of ideas that we can get together and work on that.

*Period of Pro-Con debate:*

Motion to move the previous

It was seconded

With no objections

*By a vote of 11 yeses to 1 abstention Elaine is approved.*

**Approval of Judiciary Committee Chair**

Jeremey Thomas: Hello everyone, this will be my third year in Judiciary chair. I am grateful and thankful to be appointed to this position. This will be my third constitutional review. I look forward to it.

*Period of question and answer*:

Braxton Cranmer: Will the speaker yield to a possible series?

Jeremy Thomas: I will.

Braxton Cranmer: What have you observed in SGA over the past few years that you have served that has enticed you to be chair of the judiciary committee?

Jeremy Thomas: I guess, I really wanted to help people. My first year obviously I can’t be chair. First year was really what got me interested and a passion about it. I wanted to help, and I couldn’t do a lot. So, I really started to gravitate and lean to the chair to learn from them. As the class above me graduated, they said hey you seem really passionate this, and you really want to get involved you should try and run for chair and that’s what I did. That’s where I have been for the past three years. Looking forward to making it four.

*Period of Pro-Con Debate:*

Motion to accept by unanimous acclimation.

It was seconded.

It was objected.

Motion to move the previous question.

It was seconded.

With no objections.

*By a vote of 11 yeses to 1 no Jeremy is approved.*

**Approval of Student Affairs Committee Chair**

Brooke Murray: Can everyone hear me? For those of you who don’t know me, I am Brooke Murray and I am the nominee for the student affairs committee chair. I was on the committee last year, and basically it is working to improve the campus anything that the students ask for through constituency, we can do our best to work on those bills to get those approved so that change can be made on campus. I think last year it was a lot to do with the caf, and just whatever the students need. That’s really all I have. I yield my time.

*Period of question and answer:*

Marisa Thomas: In light of our era of covid, would you be able to give me examples of student affairs that you can have that could pass the covid task force that would keep student morale high?

Brooke Murray: I think what Matt was talking about earlier, constituency is going to be kind of hard, just like getting ideas and things just because of covid. Using social media to get some ideas from the students and then from there we are doing going to have to take a look at how we are going to do things on campus and communicate really well with that covid team so that we can get things done and events done.

Rachel Metzger: What bills last year did you pass on the student affairs committee?

Brooke Murray: I passed about the java city being open longer. It was kind of a weird semester last year, just because second semester we left because of covid. I did pass that bill before we left though.

Vice President Bourgeois: Question and answer time has elapsed. Would anyone like to motion to extend?

Motion to extend question and answer by 2 minutes/

It was seconded.

With no objections.

Marisa Thomas: What do you think the most feasible change we could make right now with everything being the it is.

Brooke Murray: I know just by talking with a lot of students this semester a lot of issues have come up in the caf with food and how things are being incorporated with covid being a thing and having students in the cafeteria and the food they are making. The way they are doing the to go process. I know that’s a big thing that we are going to try and touch on, other than that just what students bring to our committee we will look at.

Braxton Cranmer: Of your observations of the previous years that you served, what is a primary need of the students that SGA has not been able to meet that you feel the need to meet?

Brooke Murray: I know by last year, we tried to meet as many things through constituency in the bills in the past. We tried to meet as many as we could. There have been things that we just aren’t able to do it. This semester I know that are going to be those things with covid, but other than that I’m not sure. Did I kind of answer your question? I can elaborate more if you want.

Braxton Cranmer: You did, thank you.

*Period of Pro-Con Debate*

Motion to move the previous question.

It was seconded.

With no objections.

*By a vote of 10 yeses to 2 abstentions she is approved.*

**Approval of President Pro-Tempore**

Bailey Dingler: Hey everyone, for the new people here my name is Bailey Dingler. This is my third year serving on the senate. I am really excited to be able to work on the cabinet if I am appointed for this position. In past years, I don’t know how well this position has been utilized for the commuter, student affairs, and judiciary committee, but I would really like to become one of those resources. That way they are not having to reach out the secretary treasurer, vice president, or president worrying about if they are burdening them too much. I want to be that resource for them. I have worked on the student affairs and the commuter committee and I am just basically two peas in a pod with Jeremy Thomas so we can work together to get things done. I yield my time.

*Period of question and answer*

Braxton Cranmer: How do you plan to counter wise your position and your role for the other committees?

Bailey Dingler: I would like to be a go between for the committees. Just because there’s a lot of disconnect between the three, they all seem to do their own thing. I would like to be a stopping point for them just to make sure that there’s no confusion between them and that they aren’t working on the same thing. Usually the bills we see through general constituency, they will be appointed to someone, so I’d just like to make sure none of them are getting confused and that we are all working towards the same goal, but they also have their different avenues.

*Speakers Last Rights*

Bailey Dingler: Yeah! So, I really hope you decided to appoint me for this position I think I would be good at it and I look forward to serving you all!

*Period of Pro Con debate*

Motion to move the previous question.

It was seconded.

With no objections

*By a vote of 11 yeses to 1 abstention she is approved.*

**Approval of Senate Page**

Rachel Metzger: To be honest, I didn’t even know I was nominated for this, but I was on SGA last year. I definitely wanted to get more involved, so I am excited for this position, and the opportunities it has. I look forward to helping you guys. I yield my time.

*Period of question and answer*

Vice President Bourgeois: Seeing as there are none we will move to a period of pro con debate.

*Period of pro con debate*

Marisa Thomas: Not really a speech in opposition, just mild concern. I am sure Senator Metzger will fulfil her duties as senate page.

Motion to move the previous question.

It was seconded.

With no objections

*By a vote of 10 yeses to 2 abstentions she is approved.*

**Approval of Sergeant at Arms**

Nataysuan Taylor: Hi I’m Nataysuan, I’m a junior and this is going to be my second year in SGA. I think I would be great for this position because I know how to walk people to the door. If they were to fight me, I have been recently been taking Taikwondo. I can handle this. I reserve my rights.

*Period of question and answer*

Vice President Bourgeois: Seeing there are none the speaker reserved his last rights.

*Speakers Last Rights*

Nataysuan Taylor: Nothing left to say.

*Period of pro con debate:*

Braxton Cranmer: I do believe that because the candidate does Taikwondo he can fight people off.

Jeremy Thomas: As a former sergeant at arms, I didn’t know Taikwondo, and I felt that I could handle it fine.

Braxton Cranmer: He carries the type of energy for sergeant at arms.

Motion to move the previous question.

It was seconded.

With no objections

*By a vote of 11 yeses to 1 abstention he is approved.*

**Approval of Chaplain**

Zachery Dietz: Hey guys, I am Zachery Diets, call me Zach, or Dietz, Zachery as well. I was here on SGA as chaplain last year. I am very honored and blessed to have the opportunity to come back. I loved my opportunity and time last year just being able to pour into and share scripture and watch you grow through Jesus. Maybe even those who didn’t know Christ is to show them Jesus and help them grow. That’s my goal this year, to continue to help you guys grow, and continue to draw closer to Him through scripture and prayer and for those who aren’t believers yet, to help them come to faith. I yield my time.

*Period of question and answer*

Marisa Thomas: As you are so finely dressed today sir, are you prepared to maintain the level of business casual for the duration of the SGA senate?

Zachery Dietz: Yes, absolutely!

Braxton Diehl: Can you tell me a little about your walk with Christ and why that makes you eligible for this position?

Zachery Dietz: Yes, absolutely! So, I actually grew up in a nominal catholic household, so basically non-practicing. Only goes a couple times a year to mass. So, I didn’t really have a relationship with the Lord or that much knowledge about Christ. Oh, you can sit down if you- I apologize. It took me a while, but eventually I came to high school, and I had a curiosity about what protestant Christianity was and the differences it had with roman Catholicism, and I decided I am going to be protestant. I can’t remember the exact time or day, but I realized I am a sinner and I need to put my faith and trust in Jesus and I just remember praying by my freshman year, more so by end of it, “I put my faith and trust in you Jesus, and I repent my sins.” In my sophomore year, I ran into the ministry of Billy Graham. I didn’t know who he was at first, or at all and I continued to listen to one video and I just fell in love with the ministry. I knew God was calling me to evangelism, to preach the gospel to people who don’t know him, and so that they can have a personal relationship with Him and so that they can spend eternity with him. That’s a little bit about my walk, but if y’all ever want to know more I can share more with you.

*Period of Pro Con Debate*

Brandon Diehl: I think anybody knows Zack Dietz and his character will justify a vote for yes.

Motion to move the previous question.

It was seconded.

With no objections

*By a vote of 11 yeses to 1 abstention he is approved.*

**Approval of BSO Representative**

Busola Oseni: Hello my name is Busola Oseni, this is my second year serving on SGA and I am very privileged to be nominated as the BSO representative. So currently I am the BSO president for this current year so that’s like an added benefit because I already know the current stuff going on in BSO, so I am able to bridge the gap between SGA and BSO. I am also creating a common theme for clubs and organizations. Thank you! I yield my time!

*Period of question and answer*

Vice President Bourgeois: Seeing as there are none we will move to a period of pro con debate.

*Period of pro con debate*

Motion to move the previous question.

It was seconded.

With no objections

*By a vote of 10 yeses to 2 abstention she is approved.*

**Committee Reports**

Vice President Bourgois: As we just established, does anyone have anything?

Chairman Jeremy Thomas: I have a few quick notes, number one there isn’t really a lapse in coverage, but a loss of coverage in the constitution given our already shortened semester, I would like to go ahead and start a constitution revision. But also given everything our constitution goes over, I will get started on that this week. I look forward to meeting my committee and picking up where we left off.

**BSO Reports**

Busola Oseni: Okay what is starting to happen in BSO is event week. There’s a walk for life happening November 7th. We need people to sign up on their website under Ms. Isabella. Also, I can create a funding so we can raise donations for the walk. There are also positions available for BSO, the vice president, the secretary and the publicity chair. We are also asking people to sign up for Densonville which is the only homecoming event this semester.

**Advisor Report**

Dean Carter: Looking forward to an opportunity to take the mask off. Really excited to be here an again, got a few things I want to run by you. We are working closely with Ben Davis, our Aramark director here on campus he welcomes the opportunity to meet with SGA often, and whenever you want to. He met with a focus group of students two weeks ago, 6 students, and he wanted to get information from them. Carlo Decombes is our new CIO, he also met with me and a couple folks form our staff last week. He wants the chance to meet with you the SGA executives and student body! He wants to find out how information service can better serve the university, so we started off by saying wi-fi, wi-fi, wi-fi. He is listening carefully and wants to hear what you’ve got to say. He wants to work with the student body in finding some solutions. Also, our events on campus, covid has made it more challenging. We do have some more sweet 16 events scheduled for this semester. That’s the hard part about this campus, we design 16 really big events a year, 8 per semester for the students. That is our weekend life here, happening on Friday or Saturday. We are working towards having more this semester, the first being Densonville on October 23rd. Please sign up on bucnation! That is an all-night event on the football field. There will be two movies shown that night. Hook and Aladdin. Information about that is on bucnation. The folks who spend the night get a t-shirt! Update on the building on campus. Campus store is absolutely a huge improvement. The student center phase 1 is in works. The earliest we will see it will be very end of the month. The goal is they will be able to make food later than 11 PM. That will be a great opportunity for the students. Also, the former presidents dining room is now a student conference room. In the future, past covid, we will be having our SGA meeting there. Stick your head in sometime and look. There are even a few tables to study int there right now. We have a trustee meeting at the end of this month. They will be bringing forward the final proposals for the science building and engineering building. Our intramural complex will be starting soon as well. That’s a 1.6-million-dollar improvement. We are getting there people. Hopefully fall next year we will be rolling in high gear. One last thing you may not know, we are the largest mission fuge sight in the country. We are no longer working with life way we will be the summersault location for the Southern Baptist convention. Basically, all students in SC will come here. Any questions or comments for me?

Bailey Dingler: Is the homecoming dance that was supposed to be October 22nd, I know it isn’t feasible right now, but are we rescheduling or cancelling?

Dean Carter: That’s a good question, I let some of my staff members take over. I know Baptist can’t dance, but we want to. That’s why we aren’t doing it in the fall though, restrictions. I hope they are rescheduling but I don’t know. Right now, they are releasing covid restrictions! Any event 30 or less doesn’t need approval. We are working hard though!

**Questions, Comments, Concerns**

Vice President Bourgeois: I am going to send in the group a link that I need you guys to fill out. We also talked about binders; we are probably going to do a more virtual binder. We wanted to ask your thoughts on that. It might be better to do virtual since we aren’t supposed to be printing. Every week we will send out the agenda and we will figure out a way or the app.

Secretary Treasurer Fortner: I can email it the night before the meeting, and you can print it out for your own records.

Bailey Dingler: Shared google drive could be an option.

Vice President Bourgeois: We talked about that but then I know some people like to take notes and edit and if we did you print it out.

*Zachery Dietz prayed us out and dismissed us.*