

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
OFFICIAL MEETING
September 1st, 2020**

I. ROLL CALL

President Macadangdang called this meeting to order on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 8:46pm. Board Members Humphrey, King, Viljaste, Richmond, Abraham, Fleisher, Chuah, and So were present. Committee Chairs Kesbhat, Venkat, Murphy, Bartholomew, Mitrzyk, Jacobus, Floyd, and SOOS Director Coleman were also present. Committee Chair Fadrigon was absent, excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from August 26th, 2020 by President Macadangdang.

The motion was seconded by Executive Vice President Humphrey.

The motion passed.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Macadangdang welcomed everyone to public meeting. He gave updates regarding COVID-19 on campus and how he, alongside Dean of Students Kenyan Bonner walked through South Oakland to check in on residents. He reminded students to respect others and follow the guidelines set forth by the University. This past week, he had the opportunity to join the working group of the National Coalition of Student Leaders, a newly formed grassroots organization made of student government representatives from across the country. The organization was borne out of the number of pressing issues facing college students at the onset of the pandemic outbreak in March (telehealth, support for international students, and housing), and they are now looking to scale the organization upward to be more encompassing and sustained for the future. This ties into a core belief of myself that we should be building strong networks on local, regional, and national scale. Also, he set up to meet with student government leaders of our neighboring universities at Carlow, CMU, Duquesne, Point Park, and Chatham to discuss shared goals for our communities in the year the lies ahead. Additionally he is sitting on the steering committee that is overseeing the University's re-accreditation process for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as well as a task force that will be making recommendations on our remunerations policy for student leaders on campus. Finally he reminded students that SGB is accepting applications to multiple open positions in SGB, including First Year Council, Allocations Committee, and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. All open positions are reserved for first-year students. Please go to the website to learn more and apply. Application deadline is September 18th.

III. OPEN FLOOR

IV. BOARD REPORTS

A. Cedric Humphrey

Executive Vice President Humphrey began his report echoing President Macadangdang. He stated that COVID-19 cases are on the rise and he would like to encourage everyone to not let down their guard, keep wearing masks, practice good hygiene, and limit social interactions. Finally he brought attention to the 14-day Engagement Challenge that began today as part of the Year of Engagement and invited everyone to join. More information can be found on Pitt's Twitter page.

B. Benjamin King

Vice President & Chief of Finance Member King stated that tonight there will be a vote on BB-2021-1 to revise the Governing Code which will be available on the SGB website. Further he announced a meeting he had last week with representatives from SORC and Student life to go over SAF and SGB budgets which should be finalized soon.

C. Tyler Viljaste

Vice President & Chief of Cabinet Member Viljaste announced a coalition building phase for a LGBTQIA+ Center on campus alongside Diversity and Inclusion chair Fadrigon and Board Members Chuah and Richmond. More information regarding this coalition can be found on the SGB website. Further he announced he will be working with Chief of Staff Unger on the First Year Council and applications are currently open. Finally he announced his meeting with the National Coalition of Student Leaders along with Board Members Fleisher and President Macadangdang.

D. Katie Richmond

Board Member Richmond announced Saturday she took a walk with Board Member So, Dean Bonner, and President Macadangdang through South Oakland to get an idea of what off-campus student behavior is like at the moment, and everyone really seemed to be staying in their pods and wearing masks which was really great to see. Further, Friday she met with Wellness Chair Floyd to discuss possible initiatives to work on together, and she referred her to the Mental Health Student Coalition. Finally she also reached out to Cheryl Paul and will be meeting with her for further outreach.

E. Annalise Abraham

Board Member Abraham met with Wellness Chair Floyd to discuss dining options on campus. Further she announced she will be working on the Fall Safety Fair alongside Facilities, Transportation, and Technology Chair Mitrzyk, Board Member Chuah, and Chief of Staff Unger. Finally she announced that SGB will be releasing a statement in support of the Free People Strike, a movement calling on Governor Tom Wolf to decarcerate Pennsylvania prisons.

F. Kathlyn Fleisher

Board Member Fleisher announced The 14 Days of Engagement Challenge, which is being sponsored by the Year of Engagement launched today. Every day during the first 14 days of September, there's a different way to be engaged, learn something new, and get involved in different ways. Plus, there are \$100 prizes available every day! For more, see: <https://www.yearofengagement.pitt.edu/fourteen-days-engagement-challenge>. In a similar vein,

Board Members Viljaste & Humphrey and her have been hard at work on refining plans for the Civic Engagement Hub. They are working on getting pieces into place behind the scenes to be able to have a physical hub next year. They are also moving ahead with a pilot program for civic advising, which we plan to launch within the next few weeks. In preparation for that launch, they have decided to open a waiting list for civic advising that any students are welcome to add themselves to so that they can be among the first students to be able to schedule with the advisors when the program launches. Link to form: <https://forms.gle/dqwuP8WY4DFie9Bz7>. Further, the student leader database is still in the works. Finally, she announced that she is available to meet with anyone about civic and community engagement, police reform, accessibility on campus, violence prevention, activism, or anything else along those lines -- just reach out to her at (kaf152@pitt.edu).

G. Victoria Chuah

Board Member Chuah announced this week she met with Board member Viljaste, Richmond, and D&I Chair Fadrigon for plans for LGBTQIA+ resources on campus. She also updated the SGB website and added Pitt Votes' Turbo Votes link to the website, making it simple for students to register to vote right from our main page. Finally she announced she will be meeting with CGR Chair Murphy later this week to discuss plans for Civic Engagement Week, as well as with Board member Abraham to discuss the Fall Safety Fair.

H. Victor So

Board Member So announced he got to join the walk around South Oakland with Dean Bonner, Steve Anderson, President Macadangdang, Board Member Richmond, and a couple others as they handed out masks to anyone who wasn't wearing them and also prizes to people who were practicing good social distancing and mask wearing.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ALLOCATIONS

Allocations Chair Kesbhat announced during the previous meeting they reviewed no requests. Instead the committee reviewed the policies by which they will be remotely conducting allocations business this semester. Finally she announced that there are two spots reserved for first-year students and applications are due September 18th. She encouraged all first year students to apply.

B. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Academic Affairs Chair Venkat announced that she will be working with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee on an initiative to make sure all Pitt Schools are actively being anti-racist within their courses and faculty. Further, the Vice Chair of the School of Business, Liam Carmody, and her will be working on an initiative to develop stronger resume building programs through the career center for all students. Finally, she encouraged all who are interested to join the academic affairs committee or join their weekly Zoom meetings. Information regarding Zoom meetings can be found on the Academic Affairs page on the SGB Website.

C. COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Community and Governmental Relations Chair Murphy first announced updates on the Pitt Votes Student Task Force. The committee is continuing to receive programming requests for voter registration presentations, which are set to begin Sunday, September 6th via Zoom. Additionally, the committee had their first meeting where they began planning a virtual Civic Engagement Week.

D. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity and Inclusion Chair Fadrigon was absent, excused.

E. ELECTIONS

Elections Chair Bartholomew announced that the Elections Committee is at capacity for this academic year. Additionally, the committee is working on outreach to encourage students to run for Board positions and President during the Spring semester.

F. FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND TRANSPORTATION

Facilities, Technology, and Transportation Chair Mitrzyk first announced his committee has started planning a virtual Safety Fair for the fall semester. This Safety Fair will count for Outside the Classroom Curriculum.

G. JUDICIAL

Judicial Chair Jacobus announced that his committee is at capacity for the following academic year and that they held their first meeting where they discussed initiatives for the following year.

H. WELLNESS

Wellness Chair Floyd announced she has secured a rough draft of the marketing materials, worked with Amy Vaught to offer OCC credit, and Bernadette Smith to ensure counselors are available for all Mental Health Awareness Month events. Further, the Wellness Committee had their first meeting where different initiatives were discussed. Finally she encouraged anyone interested to attend committee meetings every Monday Night from 9-10pm via Zoom.

VI. STUDENT OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY REPROT

SOOS Director Coleman announced that this week The Student Office of Sustainability finalized their programming for the fall semester and set their annual goals. Their first programming event of the fall will be this Thursday. They will have affiliate sustainability organizations sharing their plans for the school year and the opportunity for conversation in breakout rooms. 1st Thursday events will begin at 6:30. Further, looking further into the semester, some of their most immediate programming will be included at the first Thursday of October as the third annual sustainability fair, with more details coming soon. Finally, this week they began discussions of modifying the traditional Green Events guide to more specifically emphasize components of sustainability like accessibility and purchasing, that can be included in planning remote meetings and events.

STUDENT LEADER REPORTS

Cynthia from ASA mentioned that September 2nd is a workshop regarding an inclusivity workshop within the Asian community. ASA has been working on Mental Health Awareness regarding minority populations. They have also been working on social aspects such as big/little and housing situations.

VII. OPEN FLOOR

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

IX. SUBMITTED AGENDA ITEMS

Board Member and Chief of Finance King filed a motion amend BB.2021-1.

The motion was seconded by Board Member Chuah.

The motion passed 8-0.

Board Member Richmond filed a motion to vote on the amendments.

The motion was seconded by Board Member Chuah.

The motion passed 8-0.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a.** Dean of Students Bonner first thanked President Macadangdang and Board Members Richmond and So for joining him on his walk through South Oakland over the weekend. He announced that Student Affairs spent their summer preparing for the fall semester and preparing for last minute changes that may occur. Student Affairs has also been working to move this University into being actively anti-racist. Further, Student Affairs has been working tirelessly to ensure this semester is as safe as possible during these times. Most faculty is working entirely remotely.

b. Allocation Recommendations

#10388 – African Student Association – PEI \$16,347.08.

Allocations Recommendation was to approve in full.

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed 8-0.

c. OPEN FLOOR

Executive Vice President Humphrey asked Dean of Students Bonner what resources the University has to track off-campus positive COVID-19 cases.

d. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Macadangdang thanked everyone for coming out to Public Meeting and hopes everyone will continue to attend in the future. He reminded students that applications for the Student Emergency Assistance Fund opened back up this past Monday, where students are eligible for up to \$600. Next he reminded students that the next date for mask distribution date for off-campus students will be this Thursday from 5-6:15pm in the Quad. Further, he reminded students that the Pitt Pantry is up and running for the fall semester for students in need. More information regarding the Pitt Pantry can be found here:

<https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittserves/the-pitt-pantry/>. Finally he reminded students to enjoy their week and apply to SGB at sgb.pitt.edu/joinus/.

e. AJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Executive Vice President Humphrey to adjourn the meeting at 9:46pm. The motion was seconded by Board Member Fleisher. The motion carried 8-0.