NMT SGA Meeting Minutes Tuesday April 27th, 2019

1. Call to Order(8:06)
2. Approve Agenda

second

1. Approve minutes

second

1. Student concerns/announcements

Complaints

1. SATD should be present at most meetings
2. I was not notified about defending my bill until an hour before the SGA meeting. I cannot just go stop what I’m doing and go to the meeting. I feel that there should notify 2-3 days.
3. Reports
4. Dean of Students **(Dr. Phaiah)**

Welcome and I want to thank everyone who worked hard for 49ers and everyone enjoyed it. Mario good job as well as your staff. Right now, tech is looking at policies for freedom of expression and freedom of speech for fair policies. We are looking at what can students rent vs clubs for facility reservation and we need reps for those committees. We’ve had 11 miner weekly blast and that’s been going well. I hope it’s more convenient and there is room for growth within these blasts. November we will begin reviewing the student handbook and that’s all I have.

1. President

Hello, thank you for those who came to 49ers. I’ve been busy with helping and assisting. I would like to thank Mario, SAB and Casey because he did good with burlesque and that’s all I have.

1. Vice President

I did get reports that the senate attended the 49ers events and was well behaved as I had asked so that’s great. Keep up the good work.

1. Chief Justice

Hello everyone, we received an executive ruling from Michelle this morning and we deemed it unconstitutional. It is well in the Vice Presidents power to deny club status. We have to have the club packets turned in by a certain date so that the entire budget can be made in a timely manner.

President: I’d like the clarify, do I have a say in the matter? I did review your interpretations and I have some things to address, the first being in sec. 24.4, it says that the vice president does have authority over chartered clubs along with the club advisory but this is only for charted clubs…

Chief Justice Sheerin: But he also has the authority to enforce the chartering of clubs. That is within his full authority along with the club advisory committee

President: Right, but in sec 4.12.5 it states the vice president is responsible for those rules and regulations with the passive consent of the senate, were these rules and regulations for clubs status pacified through the senate?

Chief Justice Sheerin: Passively, so that means any senator has an issue with the rules and its brought up in the senate during the senate time.

Senator Drew- I motion to postpone this discussion until the appeal and rebuttal section in which it would be appropriate. (second)

1. Student Regent

I’d first like to apologize for my absence in today’s meeting. Last Friday we had our October’s Board of Regents meeting. There are two topics from the meeting that I would like to address. Construction for Jones Hall renovation will begin in November (around Thanksgiving time). Revised budgets for this project have been approved by the Higher Education Department and the State Board of Finance. The internal capital project reserves will be used to make up the deficit to begin construction. Next step is for the budget to be approved during the 2020 Legislation period next year and for funding to be returned for the 2020 Legislative General Fund. The Board of Regents voted to move forward with the Utility Saving Project under Ameresco and have approved to issue bonds in order to fund this project. Ameresco undertook a preliminary energy audit to identify areas in which NMT can save in energy cost. The project includes items such as adding a Solar PV Carpot in Macey, EMRTC and the facilities along with retrofitting lighting and optimizing controls. I would also like to congratulate the SAB, SGA and all the volunteers for an amazing 49er’s. I’m sure some of you got to witness me struggling down the M mountain, (even though I only did about 1/10 of the whole climb). Our next Board of Regents meeting will be November 22, 2019 at 1:00 in the Fidel Ballrooms. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come to my office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 in Brown Hall 21 or feel free to contact me by email: veronica.espinoza@student.nmt.edu.

1. Sab

We had an amazing 49ers and thank you to everyone who came and helped out and casino night and burlesque went very well and everyone had a great time. Also, thank you to everyone to entered in the auction and our volunteers. I would like to thank everyone who helped set up and taking down decorations.

1. Paydirt

New issue came on Monday spooky themed, not much has happened but when the new name gets finalized I will let you know.

1. CFO

Everything is moving smoothly. We finally have reimbursement paper work processed and club budgets are in and budget analysis has got their paper work up to date.

1. Committee reports
2. Club AD: No report

ii. Financial: We will be dealing with a challenge research presentation grant later on this week and that is it.

SGA REP Martinez-Claros: How does Club AD not have a report when all these people are here probably due to the appeal?

VP: The clubs listed were heard by the original club advisory head Sam and then the appeal was given to me post club ad meeting so later it will be addressed what the club advisory can do.

iii. Legislative: We will be meeting next week

iv: Public Relations: Posters were set up for both the associate justice position and the senate position and we will be meeting Thursday again at 9.

Recess(8:30)

1. Business
   1. Appeal and Rebuttal

VP: Okay, so do all of the voting members have a copy of the appeal? Let’s begin then.

SWE: Hello we are SWE(Society of Woman Engineers). We are part of the appeal for the denial of club status. Our club packet was late and so we are here to talk about it. There is nothing that says an actual deadline other than what was on the club packet. Our proposition is to have a late penalty and I’m trying to say that the decision was unconstitutional. I think SWE is something that girls need and its not fair to have a whole club pay for one persons mistake.

VP: Well, I have written a response to all the clubs and you’ll notice the screenshot of the emails between me and SWE. I met with Bobbi Taylor in my office on Monday, September 23. She had sent me an email summarizing the discussion and I also emailed Michelle individually asking about individual members receiving funding in the same day. While I did not receive a response from Michelle I managed to meet in my office briefly with her and Chief Justice Sheerin to discuss any loophole or possibility for allowing clubs with late paperwork to receive status on Tuesday, September 24th. I emailed Bobbi with the response two days after our meeting (Wednesday September 25th) and heard nothing more after that. Attached below are emails sent to Bobbi and Michelle. Now, you and I did meet in September and so in this email I believe you stated that you acknowledge that the SGA gave two places that it was given a deadline correct?

SWE: Yes, but there’s no electronic trail for me to go to. I heard it verbally once when we had the club meeting and saw it on the packet. I know you all are working on the SGA website but there could have been an email sent out to remind the due date of the club packets.

VP: Alright. Now I’d like to call on Quincy our CFO to speak and give an insight on how things are for the financial piece of the club packets.

CFO: So, by the 4th senate meeting we meet with the clubs and two weeks later we put the due date for those club packets. If clubs were given a 2 week grace period and I receive late packets it would be easy on my side but for budget analysis would be difficult we have never done it differently because we’ve never really had a problem.

ASIS: no one present

VP:  In regards to AISES I was asked by Quincy in office if someone who was not Peyton Sage was an officer of AISES. When I checked the club packets there wasn't one submitted in my office or in Quincy's. I still have not received one from AISES. We never actually met but Chief Justice Sheerin was in my office and met Peyton informing her that it was a hard deadline. Again, I didn't receive any more contact from them until now. Attached below is correspondence between me and Peyton.

League Of Legends: no one present

VP:  In regards to League of Legends Club, I was approached by Roy Geiger in office after the due date asking me if I had received the packet. I hadn't at the time and he said he would get it to me. Almost two weeks later at dinner Roy and I ate together where he asked me if I had gotten the packet. I told him I hadn't and I wouldn't be able to give him club status unless he could show me that there had been an attempt to submit the club packet before the due date. I still have not received a packet or had any more communication from this club. Attached are results from searches in my email from Roy's student account and from the League of Legends account.

Cybersecurity: no one present

VP:  In regards to Cybersecurity, I received their packet on Monday, September 16, after finding it submitted to Michelle's office. I received an email from Brendan on the same day and informed him that I wouldn't be able to take the packet but that they could fill one out in the Spring and be a chartered SGA organization then. Attached below is my email from Brendan and my response.

Tri-Beta: We got our club packet in late due to miscommunication but, we are the only biology club at nmt and we would like club status to rent rooms for our club meeting. This club is helpful for students and we know students can submit individual funding but its helpful to have club backing.

VP:  In regards to Tri-Beta, I sent them an email on Wednesday, September 25th after receiving their packet on my door that day. I got a response from their faculty advisor, not their co-president who was also on the email. I emailed Michelle and Quincy-who confirmed he at least received the email-about how individual students could get funding. After not getting a response for two days the question being sent on October 1st and me waiting until October 3", I responded to Mr. Duvall explaining a process which students could use to still receive funding. I never got another response from Mr. Duvall or from Heather Curtsinger who is listed as a "Co-Presidente" and who was on the first email.

VP: After the committees were selected I gave this information to Sam Fischer who was at the time the Chair of the Club Advisory Committee. At this time Socorro Search and Rescue (SSAR) was also denied club status due to their packet being late for no other reason than there hadn't been a reminder about the deadline. His report noted that SSAR should receive status because without it there was a risk that they would lose access to school facilities that stored their equipment not owned or stored by students. It was directly after that meeting that Mr. Fischer moved to become the AFO under Quincy. Senator Mario Marquez was named the new committee head.

I have attached all emails between myself and any club or organization in this appeal. According to Sections 4.12.1 through 4.12.6 of the Constitution I have fulfilled these practices and laws fully, honestly, and to the best of my ability. It is my opinion that these clubs should remain in their status until the Spring 2020 semester when they can complete their packets fully and on time. On my side I will try to provide more of the same information more frequently, I wish to express that I do not have any preferences or grudges towards any clubs or organizations at this school. Beyond academics our clubs are the heartbeat of Tech something I advocated at every Orientation this year when speaking to incoming freshmen, I am responsible for upholding the Constitution and I believe that I have done that fairly and fully in these cases. I am sure that the Club Advisory Committee under the leadership of Senator Marquez is willing to hear these cases individually as well if need be. It is my pleasure to serve in the capacity of Vice President. I now only ask that when evaluating this appeal the Senate recognizes what is written and what has been practiced and to find where the two diverge.

Michelle: Do those club packets have a time stamp and do we have electronic copies?

VP: No, I don’t have time stamps but I was in my office until the deadline and anything that was not in my box by 5pm was considered late. I’d like to call on our SGA secretary, Elizabeth Durrett. So can you confirm that this binder is up to date?

Secretary Durrett: Yes.

VP: And can you confirm that we have an electric copy of all the club packets?

Secretary Durrett: Yes we do.

VP: Thank you. Now I would like to call on AFO Sam Fischer. After the committees were selected I gave this information to Sam Fischer who was at the time the Chair of the Club Advisory Committee. At this time Socorro Search and Rescue (SSAR) was also denied club status due to their packet being late for no other reason than there hadn't been a reminder about the deadline. Sam, when you were the financial committee head what did your committee come to a conclusion on the 5 clubs that turned their packets in late?

AFO Fischer: I did one meeting which was discussing these clubs and their status and the recommendation was that SSAR should receive status because without it there was a risk that they would lose access to school facilities that stored their equipment not owned or stored by students. The other clubs that did not turn in their packets on time should not be accepted unless the VP felt that there was a valid reason.

VP: Thank you. I have attached all emails between myself and any club or organization in this appeal. According to Sections 4.12.1 through 4.12.6 of the Constitution I have fulfilled these practices and laws fully, honestly, and to the best of my ability. It is my opinion that these clubs should remain in their status until the Spring 2020 semester when they can complete their packets fully and on time. On my side I will try to provide more of the same information more frequently, I again wish to express that I do not have any preferences or grudges towards any clubs or organizations at this school. Beyond academics our clubs are the heartbeat of Tech something I advocated at every Orientation this year when speaking to incoming freshmen, I am responsible for upholding the Constitution and I believe that I have done that fairly and fully in these cases. I am sure that the Club Advisory Committee under the leadership of Senator Marquez is willing to hear these cases individually as well if need be. It is my pleasure to serve in the capacity of Vice President. I now only ask that when evaluating this appeal the Senate recognizes what is written and what has been practiced and to find where the two diverge.

President: My job is to uphold and protect to students in regards to the 5 clubs that have been denied club status and in my research I found there was no set policy and there is not set policy for the VP to deny or require a club to be penalized. The constitution needs to be more in depth and those changes should be fixed.

Chief Justice Sheerin: Well if I had received an email for you, I would have further explained those laws in the constitution because we try to have SGA done in a certain way for transparency and beyond approach and in our ruling, our main focus was in sec 4 because in 4.12.1 the senate may with approval chose to charter so the club charter authority is stated in the club advisory and the Vice President. In 4.12.5 VP has the authority to publish rules and guidelines which includes the date that club packets are due.

SGA REP Martinez-Claros: Does publish mean determine?

Chief Justice Sheerin: Yes, and that would fall under club advisory and the senators.

Drew: It’s the goal to become a charted club but to become chartered, club packets need to be turned in by the deadline.

VP: I agree and the due date was stated on the club packet and it states if the club packet was turned in late it will not be accepted.

President: I noticed that the club fair was on August 29th which was 9 days after we started the semester and the due date was September 13th and the deadline in constitution should have been September 3rd.

VP: That’s correct and I did give clubs 10 extra days than it says in the constitution because clubs need more time for their club packets. So technically, clubs did already have an extension on the due date which was plenty of time. I’d also like to call on Erica and Medina who are both presidents of new clubs. Did you get your club packets completed and turned in on time?

Erica and medina: Yes.

VP: And would you say that I was consistent and fair with the deadline for club packets?

Erica and medina: Yes.

VP: If a non-chartered club came to you and asked, would you a be willing to cosponsor events and “umbrella” with those clubs?

Erica and medina: Yes.

Dr Phaiah: In addition, I would also be willing to help with cosponsor even assist financially.

AFO Fischer: What are clubs allowed to do without being chartered?

VP: Individuals of the clubs can still get funding but they just can’t reserve rooms at Tech or get funding as a club but they can become chartered in the Spring. They just need to resubmit in spring

President: They are not recognized as a club and I’ve even had clubs willing to have more club volunteer hours as penalty. There is no penalty for turning in a club packet late and that’s something that needs to change.

Associate Justice Greg: They needed to work with the Vice President if they knew their club packets were going to be late.

CFO: I came Friday at 2pm and told Dallin my packet would be late and asked if I would turn it in Monday as soon as possible and because I let him know before the due date, Dallin said that it was okay.

VP: When clubs work with me I am willing to help as much as I can.

Senator Drew: We are all tech student and when an assignment is turned in late you get and F and sometimes you can’t turn it in late and that’s the case with this. There should be some responsibility as a club and there needs to be accountability as a club.

VP: I am capable to send out reminders but it is not my responsibility to constantly remind clubs about things that they need to get done.

* 1. Fund Resolution

Fund resolution: Good evening, we would love to give every student the whole amount that they ask for but there is not enough money in the budget so, we request to set a cap at $500 to reserve funds and if the case needs to go over that amount then we will decide at that point of we think it’s necessary. This is a goal to be for financially responsible for SGA.

CFO: The average research grant is $500 and so that’s why this amount was chosen.

Senator Stafford: Motion to approve (second)

* 1. ACHIE

ACHIE: We’re here to represent the bill for the conference and we decided to take 8 of our active members because half are presenting their research and a majority are grad students and they also get interviewed and at least one undergrad and some on competition teams to gain insight on how to better ourselves and next semester we will be holding the rocky mountain conference and so it will help give tech 2500 which is for conference transportation and housing.

Senator Micha: Motion for $2,500 (second)

-Confirmed for $2,500

* 1. Sivana Torres

Sivana: Hi, my name is Sivana Torres and I am a grad student here at NMT. I would like to attend an APS 72nd conference and I would like to ask for $500 so that I can have exposure for research and learn what goes on and so that I can better represent NMT at future conferences.

Senator Micha: motion for $500 (second)

Senator Stafford: motion for $400 (second)

-Confirmed and passed amount for $500

* 1. SHPE

SHPE: We have our national conference in Arizona, we are taking 7 people and the benefits is the career fair which gives members opportunity for internships and jobs and mentorship. There is a lot of networking and we have two students presenting so we hope in the future we can get more students to present and we hope that by takin the 7 people they can help people at nmt to be informed and learn in the future. We have been doing volunteering and we do try to give back to the community. It’s $275 per person registration and $1200 will go to dean of students who helped pay for housing so $3185 is what we are asking for. $1500 was for hotel prices because we didn’t know how much it would be but it ended up being $1260.

Senator Diego: motion $1260 (second)

Senator Drew: motion $1750 (second)

-Confirmed and approved amount of $1750

* 1. IEEE

IEEE: We are requesting $910 for 2020 Electronics show which is the forefront of technology and there are 4500 stands for companies and on the final day they make it free for students and we hope to take 18 people on the last day. We budget two tech vans with 1220 mi, 60 cents per mile and Air B&B. We were at math and science night for the middle schoolers and hosted the escape room at spring fling and we think this will be good for the community.

Senator Stafford: motion for $910(second)

-Confirmed and approved amount of $910

1. Discussion

President: So, I have one more thing to say before we adjourn this meeting. Before the senate meeting I went to my office and I noticed the Supreme Court and the vice president discussing about the meeting in Dallin’s office and I don’t feel that it is appropriate. The SATB has alternative space that they could have gone to discuss. I think it is inappropriate.

VP Sobers: The members of the Supreme Court came to let me know that they were issuing an executive ruling so that my secretary could print out the copies in time for the meeting and I also had them look over my rebuttal to make sure it was constitutional.

NOTE: General discourse

Senator Micha: I think the only thing is that the lack of constitutionality and the misinterpretations within the Presidents defense and when I see that it makes me question the job of the President.

President: I put out the executive ruling because the fact that the students could not have their clubs charted and then people have come to me concerned, that makes me very concerned.

Chief Justice Sheerin: The best way is to help students isn’t by steam rolling through and it is in their best interest to have a hard deadline and to communicate with us. If we let clubs turn in their packets whenever with a late penalty, then future senates are going to have issues with budget analysis and that will create more issues for everyone. Our aim is no to deny student organizations but to allow them to follow our rules and regulations and if they cannot meet the deadline then that is their penalty. We have deadlines and they need to be followed.

1. Motion to adjourn (second) 10:15