

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SENATE

Notice of Meeting

January 29th, 2019

4:30 PM

BOT

Galloway, New Jersey 08205

609-652-4845

**Student Senate Meeting Agenda**

**January 29th, 2019**

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**STUDENT SENATE FULL MEETING**

**December 11th, 2018 (2018-2019)**

Presiding: Katie Coburn

Members present:

Stephen Batchelder

Meghan Casper

Ryan Greene

Samuel Connery

Rosheka Faulkner

Alexis Franklin

Samantha Kelly

Matthew Mamounis

Jessica McGarvey

Feny Patel

Syeda Sanjidha

Chioma Uka

David Vaknin

Sophie Murray

Matthew Nyce

Katherine Campion

O’Neil Bygrave

Ted Onuwa

Bridget Antwi

Ariana DiFillippo

Adjoa Cofie

Thomas Lloyd

Tahreem Rajput

Members late: none

Members Absent: Monica O’Kane

Irene Stanley

**Agenda/Business:** Stockton Student Senate met on December 11th, 2018 to vote on supplemental requests and to update the student body.

**Approval of Minutes**

President Coburn called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm and motioned to approve the minutes from the last full meeting on November 27th, 2018.

Senator Second: Chair DiFillippo

Motion Passed: 21-0-1\*

\* Senators Abstained: President Coburn

\*\* Senators Left Early

\*\*\* Article VII, Sec. 2, Clause C - Class Excuse: Senators Left after 05:55pm

\*\*\*\* There were 26 Senators present for this ‘Full Senate Meeting.’

\*\*\*\*\* There are now 27 Senators seated in Stockton Student Senate.

\*\*\*\*\*\* New Student Senators were sworn in, and accepted the oath of office

**President’s Report**

President Coburn began her report by reflecting upon all of the projects that the senate has completed thus far. She commented on contributions to strategic planning, campus dining, campus safety, and student advocacy and inclusion. President Coburn then noted that about 100 students participated in the Parking Ticket Forgiveness Program. She then awarded senator of the month for December to Senator Samuel Connery, and commented on the diligent work of Senator Connery and his colleagues on the Finance Committee.

President Coburn then announced that Vice President O’Kane could not attend the meeting and that she would read the Vice President’s report in her stead. She began by thanking everyone that has worked alongside the senate this semester, wished everyone a happy holiday, and apologized for her absence.

President Coburn concluded her report.

**Finance**

President Coburn yielded the floor to Senator Vaknin for the Finance Committee report.

Senator Vaknin began his report by stating that the supplemental account is currently valued at $86,145.78.

Senator Vaknin then stated that the following supplemental requests are under $1,500 dollars and have been passed by the Finance Committee and Vice President.

The Finance Committee has approved a Supplemental Request for the Mock Trial

for a trip to the Princeton Regionals Competition, to be held from February 23rd and 24th, for eleven people, in the amount of $560.00.

**Total Cost (TC): $1,718.92 Club Contribution (CC): $500.00**

**Personal Contribution (PC): $0.00 Original Amount Request (OAR): $1,220.00**

**Motion Approved 5-0-0, Seconded by Sam Connery.**

Senator Vaknin reported and moved the following supplemental requests on the Senate Floor:

Asian Student Alliance for their ECAASU conference in Orlando, Florida, to be held from February 8th to the 10th, for twenty-four students, in the amount of $3,500.00.

**There is a motion on the floor to approve the supplemental request for the Asian Student Alliance in the amount of $3,500.00.**

Club representatives spoke of the importance of the conference. They explained that ECAASU stands for East Coast Asian American Student Union, and that the conference will focus on identity, leadership, and advocacy. They expressed their desire to include as many students as possible so that they may all bring valuable knowledge back to the Stockton community, and hopefully create a positive, inclusive environment for Asian-American students.

Senator Second: Senator Franklin

Motion Passed: 21-0-1\*

Stockton Theatre Club for their American College Theater Festival in Orlando Florida, to be held at Montclair State University from January 15th through the 20th, for forty-six students in the amount of $3,500.

**There is a motion on the floor to approve the supplemental request in the amount of $3,500.00 for Stockton Theatre Club.**

A club representative explained that the club attends this festival each year, and that it includes resume-building workshops and teamwork exercises. She explained that attendance at this festival bolsters Stockton presence in the performing arts world, and gives students opportunities to explore various educational paths.

Senator Second: Chair Onuwa

Motion Passed: 19-0-3\*

Stockton Active Minds for their Active Minds Disordered Eating Awareness Spring 2019 Events to be held on campus, free for all, throughout the Spring semester, in the amount of $6,012.00.

**There is a motion on the floor to approve the supplemental request for Stockton Veteran’s Organization in the amount of $6,012.00.**

The Active Minds president explained that the club hosts disordered eating awareness and prevention events each semester, including tabling and screening, service events, and educational seminars. She reported planned collaborations with Delta Phi Epsilon, Pride Alliance, and the athletics department in the upcoming semester. She noted the powerful effects of these events in their abilities to decrease stigma and unhealthy behaviors on campus.

Senator Second: Chair Cofie

Motion Passed: 20-0-2\*

All Starz Dance Team for their Universal Dance Association College Network at Orlando, Florida, to be held January 17th through the 21st for sixteen students and one faculty, in the amount of $9,120.00.

The president and the treasurer of the Dance Team spoke on the importance of the conference. They explained that this conference is a great opportunity for Stockton to be represented nationally. They explained that the sixteen participants were selected through a try-out process that was open to the entire university community. The representatives reported that the conference teaches participants new ways to promote school spirit and student inclusion.

**There is a motion on the floor to approve the supplemental request for Stockton All Starz Dance Team in the amount of $9,120.00.**

Senator Second: Senator Mamounis

Motion Passed: 20-0-2\*

Senator Vaknin concluded his report and yielded the floor back to President Coburn.

**Academic Affairs**

President Coburn yielded the floor to Chair Onuwa for the Academic Affairs report.

Chair Onuwa began his report by explaining that Academic Affairs has been working on mental health awareness, adjusting the library hours, and has been meeting monthly with the Provost to stay updated about any academic curriculum concerns or changes. He reported that a current concern is the lack of support from faculty for students in the pre-med program. Chair Onuwa also reported student concerns about the availability of classes for the nursing program and other science programs. He then explained that the grade appeal policy has presented conflict, and that the committee continues to investigate more productive practices. Chair Onuwa then reported that the student petition about course variety and availability that was presented last meeting has been brought to the Provost and that changes are being considered and adaptations are being made to the current system.

Chair Onuwa concluded his report and yielded the floor back to President Coburn.

**Governmental Affairs**

President Coburn yielded the floor to Chair Lloyd for the Governmental Affairs report.

Chair Lloyd began by introducing various senate constitutional amendments to be voted upon by the senators.

**The Governmental Affairs Committee has reviewed the Student Senate Constitution and is bringing the following amendments to the Senate for passage:**

**There is a motion on the floor for the constitutional amendments to eliminate the use of pronouns and to change incorrect grammar.**

Article III “Meetings”

Section 1, part C reads: A committee member cannot second a motion made by another member of his or her committee.

**New –** Section 1, part C reads: A committee member cannot second a motion made by another member of the same committee.

Section 3, part B reads: Each committee chair must have his or her minutes from the previous committee meeting prepared so that the Executive Cabinet can discuss them.

**New –** Section 3, part B reads: Each committee chair must have the minutes from the previous committee meeting prepared so that the executive cabinet can discuss them.

Article IV “Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities”

Section 4, part B reads: A senator who has served at least one full semester at the time of nomination and attended all trainings during his or her current term

**New –** Section 4, part B reads: A senator who has served at least one full semester at the time of nomination and attended all trainings during the current term.

Section 4, part C reads: Preside over all committee meetings and task force meetings, as he or she sees fit.

**New –** Section 4, Part C reads: Preside over all committee meetings and task force meetings, as the president sees fit.

Section 4, part O i. reads: At the Full Senate meeting directly following the allocation of these funds, the President must announce his use of the money, including amount, recipient, and date of transaction as well as any other relevant information.

**New –** Section 4, part O i. reads: At the full Senate meeting directly following the allocation of these funds, the president must announce the use of the money, including amount, recipient, and date of transaction as well as any other relevant information.

Section 5, part B ii. reads: A senator who is in the process of completing their second semester on Senate, and attended all training during his or her term

**New –** Section 5, part B ii. reads: A senator who is in the process of completing their second semester on Senate, and attended all training during the term.

Section 5 part M reads: Shall be responsible for approving, at his or her discretion, and accommodating student senators to the request to attend via telecommunications utility to the best of the Vice President’s ability.

**New –** Approve, at the vice president’s discretion, and accommodate senators to attend meetings via telecommunications utility, to the best of the vice president’s ability.

Section 6, part A reads: Preside over his or her respective committees.

**New –** Section 6, part A reads: Preside over the chairperson’s respective committee.

Section 6, part E reads: The committee chair will preside over the committee meetings, compile his or her committee's minutes by the time of that week's Executive Board meeting, and report back to the Executive Cabinet.

**New –** Section 6, part E reads: Preside over the committee meetings, compile the committee's minutes by the time of that week's executive board meeting, and report back to the executive cabinet.

Section 6, part G iv. reads: Enter all budget recommendations from committee members into Excel. he or she will make adjustments until the allocations equal the amount of funds to be distributed.

**New –** Section 6, part G iv. reads: Enter all budget recommendations from committee members into Excel. The chairperson will make adjustments until the allocations equal the amount of funds to be distributed.

Section 7, part B ii. reads: The finance committee liaison will schedule his/her organizations in five minute intervals at a specific location. They will notify the clubs of their specific meeting time at least one week before the actual date.

**New –** Section 7, part B ii. reads: The finance committee liaison will schedule the organizations in five minute intervals at a specific location. They will notify the clubs of their specific meeting time at least one week before the actual date.

Article V “Elections”

Section 2, part E reads: If someone has been removed from Student Senate, either by being impeached, recalled, accruing too many absences, or resigning from the Student Senate, he or she may not run for a position on the Student Senate.

**New –** Section 2, part E reads: If someone has been removed from Student Senate, either by being impeached, recalled, accruing too many absences, or resigning from the Student Senate, that senator may not run for a position on the Student Senate.

Section 3, part B i. b. reads: A senator who has served at least one full semester on Student Senate and attended all trainings during his or her current term.

**New –** Section 3, part B i. b. reads: A senator who has served at least one full semester on Student Senate and attended all trainings during the current term.

Section 3, part C reads: Before the Spring election, the whole Senate votes to nominate the candidates for President. No Senator may nominate his or herself, and may not be nominated for both President and Vice President.

**New –** Section 3, part C reads: Before the spring election, the whole Senate votes to nominate the candidates for president. No senator may nominate themself, and may not be nominated for both president and vice president.

Section 4, part B i. b. reads: A senator who has had two full semesters on Senate, and attended all trainings during his or her term.

**New –** Section 4, part B i. b. reads: A senator who has had two full semesters on Senate, and attended all trainings during the term.

Section 4, part C reads: At the last committee meeting before the Spring election, the whole Senate votes to nominate the candidates for Vice President. No Senator may nominate his or herself, and may not be nominated for both President and Vice President.

**New –** Section 4, part C reads: At the last committee meeting before the spring election, the whole Senate votes to nominate the candidates for vice president. No senator may nominate themself, and may not be nominated for both president and vice president.

Article VI “Vacancy”

Section 1, part G i. reads: If the Vice President does not want to assume the powers and responsibilities of the Office of President, he or she or she then shall voluntarily resign as Vice President, but not as a Senator.

**New –** Section 1, part G i. reads: If the vice president does not want to assume the powers and responsibilities of the office of president, he or she or she then shall voluntarily resign as vice president, but not as a senator.

Section 1, part H reads: In the case of a vacancy of the office of Vice President, the President shall nominate a student senator of his or her choice, and the Student Senate will vote by majority to confirm or deny the candidate. This process will continue until a Vice President has been chosen.

**New –** Section 1, part H reads: In the case of a vacancy of the office of vice president, the president shall nominate a student senator of the president’s choice, and the Student Senate will vote by majority to confirm or deny the candidate. This process will continue until a vice president has been chosen.

Section 2, part B reads: In the instance of verbal notification of resignation to the President, Vice President, or their respective committee chairperson, the senator will have four days, following an unexcused absence of a full meeting or committee meeting, to respond in writing with his or her intent to remain on the Student Senate or relinquish the position. Failure to respond within this four-day period will automatically result in the resigning senator's removal from Student Senate, and his or her position will be vacant.

**New –** Section 2, part B reads: In the instance of verbal notification of resignation to the president, vice president, or their respective committee chairperson, the senator will have four days, following an unexcused absence of a full meeting or committee meeting, to respond in writing with intent to remain on the Student Senate or relinquish the position. Failure to respond within this four-day period will automatically result in the resigning senator's removal from Student Senate, and the position will be vacant.

Section 4, part A reads: A student senator may be impeached for removal from senate, or removal from his executive position.

**New –** Section 4, part A reads: A student senator may be impeached for removal from senate, or removal from the senator’s executive position.

Section 4, part B i. a. reads: In the case that the senator in question is a member of the executive cabinet he or she must leave the room and not participate in the discussion or vote.

**New –** Section 4, part B i. a. reads: In the case that the senator in question is a member of the executive cabinet, that senator must leave the room and not participate in the discussion or vote.

Section 4, part B i. b. reads: In the case that the senator who brought forth the accusation is a member of the executive cabinet he or she must abstain from the vote.

**New –** Section 4, part B i. b. reads: In the case that the senator who brought forth the accusation is a member of the executive cabinet, that senator must abstain from the vote.

Section 4, part C i. reads: In the case that the President or Vice President is impeached he or she will temporarily step down from his or her position until the impeachment process ends.

**New –** Section 4, part C i. reads: In the case that the president or vice president is impeached, that senator will temporarily step down from that position until the impeachment process ends.

Section 4, part D ii. reads: If the President is the Senator being impeached, the Vice President will declare the impeachment in his or her stead.

**New –** Section 4, part D ii. reads: If the president is the senator being impeached, the vice president will declare the impeachment in the president’s stead.

Section 4, part E iv. b. reads: Know his accuser.

**New –** Section 4, part E iv. b. reads: Know the accuser.

Section 4, part F i. reads: If there is a 2/3 vote to remove the impeached senator the senator is immediately removed from Student Senate, and his or her position will be vacant.

**New –** Section 4, part F i. reads: If there is a 2/3 vote to remove the impeached senator, the senator is immediately removed from Student Senate, and the position will be vacant.

Section 4, part F i. a. reads: If the Senator in question is a member of the Executive Cabinet (including President and Vice President) two votes will be taken. First, the vote to remove the Senator from his or her Executive position, which requires a 2/3 vote to remove the Senator, at which point the Executive position is immediately considered vacant. The Senate will then vote as to whether or not the Senator will be removed from Senate entirely. A 2/3 vote is required to remove the Senator from office completely. If the first vote to remove the Senator from Executive Office fails, the Senator is not subject to the second vote.

**New –** Section 4, part F i. a. reads: If the senator in question is a member of the executive cabinet (including president and vice president), two votes will be taken. First, the vote to remove the senator from the senator’s executive position, which requires a 2/3 vote to remove the senator, at which point the Executive position is immediately considered vacant. The Senate will then vote as to whether or not the senator will be removed from Senate entirely. A 2/3 vote is required to remove the senator from office completely. If the first vote to remove the senator from executive office fails, the senator is not subject to the second vote.

Section 5, part D ii. reads: The senator must provide a reason to the Vice President for his or her desire to attend in this manner at least one week before the meeting.

**New –** Section 5, part D ii. reads: The senator must provide a reason to the Vice President for his or her desire to attend in this manner at least one week before the meeting.

Article VII “Behavior”

Section 1, part E reads: Any Senator accused of being in violation of this constitution, or derelict in his or her duties may be brought before the Executive Cabinet for a hearing and proper disciplinary action.

**New –** Section 1, part E reads: Any senator accused of being in violation of this constitution, or derelict in the senator’s duties may be brought before the executive cabinet for a hearing and proper disciplinary action.

Section 1, part F reads: In the event that a Senator breaks university Policy or obtains any non-traffic criminal charges he or she will be brought before the Executive Cabinet for an evaluation if any disciplinary action should take place.

**New –** Section 1, part F reads: In the event that a senator breaks university policy or obtains any non-traffic criminal charges, that senator will be brought before the executive cabinet for an evaluation if any disciplinary action should take place.

Section 1, part H. reads: If a member of the Executive Cabinet is to be brought before the executive Cabinet for discipline he or she may not participate in the decision making for his discipline.

**New –** Section 1, part H. reads: If a member of the executive cabinet is to be brought before the executive cabinet for discipline, that senator may not participate in the decision making for the discipline.

Section 2, part B reads: Any member or executive member having four absences in a semester shall be removed from Student Senate, and his or her position will be vacant.

**New –** Section 2, part B reads: Any member or executive member having four absences in a semester shall be removed from Student Senate, and that senator’s position will be vacant.

Section 2, part C i. reads: To arrive late he or she must have a class scheduled to end at the time the meeting is scheduled to begin.

**New –** Section 2, part C i. reads: To arrive late, that senator must have a class scheduled to end at the time the meeting is scheduled to begin.

Section 2, part C ii. reads: To leave early he or she must have a class scheduled at the time the meeting is scheduled to end.

**New –** Section 2, part C ii. reads: To leave early, that senator must have a class scheduled at the time the meeting is scheduled to end.

Section 2, part G reads: The Vice President has the responsibility of recording absences for all members except his own.

**New –** Section 2, part G reads: The vice president has the responsibility of recording absences for all members except the vice president’s own.

Section 2, part H reads: The Vice President has the responsibility of notifying any individual who has accrued three absences of his or her absences.

**New –** Section 2, part H reads: The vice president has the responsibility of notifying any senator who has accrued three absences of that senator’s absences.

Senator Second: Senator Uka

Motion Passed: 19-0-3\*

**The Governmental Affairs Committee is also bringing the following amendment to the Senate for passage:**

**There is a motion on the floorfor the constitutional amendment to provide for a deadline for submission of materials that will be voted on at full Senate meetings.**

Article III “Meetings”

**New –** Section 1, part K reads: Documents that the Student Senate will vote on, including but not limited to prior meetings’ minutes and annual budgets, shall be accessible to all members of the Student Senate at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which they will be voted on.

Senator Second: Senator Nyce

Motion Passed: 20-1-1\*

**The Governmental Affairs Committee is also bringing the following amendment to the Senate for passage:**

**There is a motion on the floor for the constitutional amendment to provide for a deadline for submission of meeting minutes, by a chairperson to the chief of staff, for full Senate meetings.**

Article III “Meetings”

**New –** Section 1, part L reads: Members of the executive cabinet must submit the meeting minutes to the chief of staff at least 96 hours prior to the meeting at which they will be voted on.

Senator Second: Senator Sanjidha

Motion Passed: 18-2-2\*

**The Governmental Affairs Committee is also bringing the following amendment to the Senate for passage:**

**There is a motion on the floor for the constitutional amendment to correct a typo that significantly affects the functions of the Senate.**

Article IV “Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities”

Section 4, part O ii. reads: Limit of $5,00 per semester with student senate advisor consent

**New –** Section 4, part O ii. reads: The president shall be limited to using $5,000 per semester with the consent of the Student Senate advisor.

Senator Second: Senator Patel

Motion Passed: 21-0-1\*

**The Governmental Affairs Committee is bringing this final constitutional amendment to the Senate for passage.**

**There is a motion on the floor for the constitutional amendment to better include the newly established Atlantic City community.**

Article IV “Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities”

Section 7, part C i. c. reads: Reach out to, and maintain a strong relationship with, the Galloway community.

**New –** Section 7, part C i. c. reads: Reach out to, and maintain a strong relationship with, the Galloway and Atlantic City communities.

Senator Second: Senator Casper

Motion Passed: 21-0-1\*

Chair Lloyd concluded his report and yielded the floor back to President Coburn.

**Public Relations**

President Coburn yielded the floor to Chair DiFillippo for the Public Relations Committee report.

Chair DiFilippo began by reporting that Wing Night will be held after the meeting. She also explained that the committee is ordering more T-shirts for the T-shirt swap, and is seeking new design ideas. Chair DiFillippo reminded everyone of the Spring Get Involved Fair, and reported that the committee is working on attracting more diversity among applicants in the upcoming Spring senate elections.

Chair DiFilippo concluded her report and yielded the floor back to President Coburn.

**Student Affairs**

President Coburn yielded the floor to Chair Cofie for the Student Affairs report.

Chair Cofie first commended Senator Kelly for her work on the committee this semester and expressed that she will be truly missed upon her graduation. Chair Cofie then reported that the Student Affairs committee will be creating a survey next semester regarding food operations hours. She also explained that the committee tabled in the food court twice each week to gather student concerns and recommendations. She explained that one major concern presented was that the dining locations with the most flexible options, such as N-Wing, have insufficient and inconvenient hours. Chair Cofie also stated that the committee is working on improving shuttle times for the upcoming semester, and is developing a comprehensive and accessible “resource card” that will contain important emergency contact information. She also reported that the committee is collaborating with ChartWells to investigate possible donations of unused food from Stockton events to those in the surrounding communities. Chair Cofie also explained that they will be painting speed bumps on campus to improve safety while driving, and addressing multi-cultural dining concerns. She also expressed that the committee will continue to improve the reporting and handling of sexual assault instances on campus.

Chair Cofie concluded her report and yielded the floor back to President Coburn.

**Announcements/Comments from the Senators:**

President Coburn opened the floor to the Senators.

Senator Franklin announced some drafted changes in the Title IX article that are being presented to the federal government. They explained that the changes may be problematic, and that public comments are encouraged through “itsonus.org”.

Senator Kelly stated that other universities use a T-shirt program in which students that are trained in sexual assault reporting, or are allies, are encouraged to wear certain colored shirts to become visually represented to those in the community that may need support. Senator Kelly also explained she read an article about a university in California in which sexual assault instances were included on perpetrators’ official transcripts.

President Coburn then announced the three new senators that will be sworn in next semester.

**Announcements/Comments from the Public:**

President Coburn opened the floor to the public.

Craig Stambaugh thanked the senators for their hard work. He then awarded a certificate of appreciation to the two graduating senators: Senator Samuel Connery and Senator Samantha Kelly.

**Adjournment**

President Coburn stated that the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.

**STUDENT SENATE FULL MEETING**

**January 22nd, 2019 (2018-2019)**

Presiding: Katie Coburn

Members present:

Monica O’Kane

Stephen Batchelder

Meghan Casper

Ryan Greene

Rosheka Faulkner

Alexis Franklin

Matthew Mamounis

Jessica McGarvey

Feny Patel

Syeda Sanjidha

Chioma Uka

David Vaknin

Sophie Murray

Matthew Nyce

Katherine Campion

O’Neil Bygrave

Bridget Antwi

Ariana DiFillippo

Adjoa Cofie

Thomas Lloyd

Tahreem Rajput

Irene Stanley

Anthony Farfalla

Jennifer Negron

Jessica Kyla

Tyler Cabrera

Members late: none

Members Absent: none

**Agenda/Business:** Stockton Student Senate met on January 22nd, 2019 to vote on a resolution and to update the student body.

President Coburn called the meeting to order at 4:31pm and yielded the floor to Senator Franklin to introduce Resolution

Senator Franklin began by first providing background information about Title IX and detailed the new adaptations that are being proposed to the legislation. Senator Franklin then reported the three main adaptations that the senate found problematic: the change of the definition of sexual assault, the change of the required standard of evidence, and the ability to cross-examine victims. Senator Franklin spoke to the complications that each of these proposed changes may bring, and reported that these changes would not allow Stockton University to adequately support its students’ safety and educational rights. They then introduced the comment written by the Student Senate. Senator Franklin explained that the legislation is currently in its public commenting period, and urged everyone to use their voice and to submit an individual comment.

**There is a motion on the floor to pass Resolution SP19-01: Comment on Proposed Changes to the Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Educational Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance**

****

**Student Senate of Stockton University**

**Resolution SP19-01**

Comment on Proposed Changes to the Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Educational Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

**Whereas,** the Student Senate is the elected voice of the approximately 9,200

students who attend Stockton University; and

**Troubled By**, the Department of Education’s proposed changes to the

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Educational Programs Receiving Federal Financial Assistance; and

**Concerned,** that these changes directly oppose Stockton University’s “Student First” policy and the Student Senate’s commitment to all students’ intellectual, social, and economic welfare; and

**Emphasizing**, how these changes do not have students’ success, wellbeing, and best interest at heart; and

**Aware Of,** the public commenting period for this proposed legislation which ends on January 28th, 2019; and

**Recognizing**, it as our civic responsibility to be educated and active in government and politics at all levels; and

**Noting,** that the views and opinions expressed in this document are that of the Student Senate and do not necessarily reflect those of the administration and leadership of Stockton University; therefore

**Be It Resolved**, the Student Senate of Stockton University submits the attached comment to the Federal Department of Education to review and consider.

***President Katie Coburn***  ***Vice President Monica O’Kane***

Student Senate President Student Senate Vice President

Re: ED-2018-OCR-0064

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance [1]. We are the Student Senate of Stockton University in New Jersey, representing the over 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students who attend the University. The Student Senate has a history of advocacy on behalf of survivors of sexual harassment at our own institution and across the state of New Jersey; this includes increasing resources for victims and survivors of sexual misconduct; helping to open, and later expand, Stockton’s Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Center; as well as working with New Jersey’s Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJ CASA) on their Student Prevention Initiative [2]. Given our history, knowledge, and experience of how sexual harassment affects not only students’ education, but their livelihood, we are sure that the proposed changes to Title IX will have a significant negative impact on students not just at Stockton, but at schools across the country, and we cannot sit idly by, allowing our students to be placed in harm’s way.

Many aspects of this proposed rule will be detrimental to students who have been victimized by sexual misconduct, specifically by making the process to report and investigate sexual assault and sexual harassment unnecessarily strenuous. Specifically concerning are the updated definitions of sexual harassment and actual knowledge which open many loopholes institutions will be able to exploit to avoid being held responsible for sexual misconduct, allowing for the cross-examination of survivors by the accused’s representative, and the new standard of evidence.

1. Definitions of Sexual Harassment and Actual Knowledge

The proposed definitions of “sexual harassment” and “actual knowledge” make the reporting process unnecessarily difficult to navigate as well as allow institutions to ignore many of the reports filed, putting an undue burden on a student attempting to file a Title IX violation. Sexual harassment and sexual assault are the most underreported crimes in the country, especially on college campuses, despite being deeply pervasive at schools across the United States. At Stockton University, between 2015 and 2017, there were 14 Clery-reported rapes, in addition to 49 Title IX reports of sexual harassment and rape. Meanwhile, the Student Campus Climate Survey conducted by the Stockton University Faculty Senate in Spring 2018, which was taken anonymously by 2,511 Stockton students, reported that 7.1% of respondents had “experienced unwanted physical sexual conduct (including sexual harassment) at Stockton”. Providing the Climate Survey accurately represents the entire student body, this suggests that of the enrolled 8,770 undergraduate and graduate students at Stockton during the Spring 2018 term, 622 students faced sexual harassment of some sort, while only 58 Clery and/or Title IX reports of rape and sexual harassment were filed, many of which came from mandatory reporters and not student themselves. This disparity is reflected at institutions across the country and exists under current guidelines, which utilize a broader definition of sexual harassment and in which schools must act when any mandatory reporter at any level of the institution is made aware of an accusation or crime- standards that assure students their reports will be taken seriously. In narrowing the definitions of “sexual harassment” and “actual knowledge,” students will lose that assurance and will be further discouraged from reporting, widening the gap between occurrences and reports.

1. Sexual Harassment

The new, overly restrictive definition of “sexual harassment [3]” may result in schools ignoring allegations of sexual harassment that are not severe enough to qualify under the new definition and will cause students to be unsure if they have faced sexual harassment according to the law- both cases discouraging students from reporting an incident. Institutions must be required to take some kind of action on even the most minor reports of sexual harassment; otherwise, students will likely be subject to repeated and escalating levels of abuse. This abuse is known to affect the victim’s mental health, academic success, relationships, and overall wellness; over 90% of rape victims experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms and are ten times more likely to use major drugs. Additionally, one-third of women who are raped contemplate suicide (RAINN). The federal government must hold institutions responsible for intervening on these crimes before they escalate to such a level by re-adopting the definition of “sexual harassment” from the Department of Education’s 2011 Dear Colleague Letter which states that behavior constitutes sexual harassment “if the conduct is sufficiently serious that it interferes with or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the school’s program.” Failure to reinstate this standard places students’ welfare in jeopardy, risking their academic success, mental health, and lives.

Additionally, changing the “sexual harassment” definition to allow schools to ignore off-campus incidents of sexual misconduct is a clear act of gross negligence on the part of the federal government. With over half of the student body involved in student organizations, athletics, study abroad, and other opportunities, Stockton students are traveling off campus for school-affiliated events constantly, as well as for academic-related events. During the Fall 2018 semester, students traveled off-campus thousands of times for their courses, organizations, and athletics, among other involvement opportunities provided by the institution. Each time a student left campus, it presented an opportunity for sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other violence to occur at official programming that Stockton would no longer be forced to investigate, even though the event was sponsored by the University. By not requiring schools to investigate claims of sexual harassment during these institutionally-sponsored events and trips, the federal government is allowing schools to provide unsafe conditions for students’ education and development with little to no repercussions. In addition to being reckless, the change will obstruct more incidents of sexual misconduct from being reported. If students know their institution is not required to investigate claims of off-campus sexual misconduct, it is even more unlikely they will seek to report the incident, knowing nothing will be done. Forcing a student who was harassed off-campus to live with the burden of what happened with no support from their institution is blatantly negligent. This change in requirement is a careless, dangerous, and egregious proposal that directly transgresses the purpose of Title IX.

1. Actual Knowledge

The change in definition of “actual knowledge [4]” fails to hold institutions accountable for taking action as soon as any employee at the institution is made aware of an accusation. Requiring the institution to act only when higher-level administrators are aware of the incident allows for reports to be covered up, ignored, and not taken with the severity these crimes demand. This rule also makes it more difficult and uncomfortable for victims to come forward about the harassment, assault, or other violence they may have faced. Students are likely to report sexual harassment and sexual violence to lower-level employees with whom they feel most comfortable- faculty and staff they know and trust, such as their professors or advisors. These employees often do not have authority to institute corrective measures; therefore, under the proposed regulations, the school would not be required to act. Stockton, like many institutions, has created a network of support services that include confidential and nonconfidential resources which students nearly always utilize before deciding to pursue a Title IX or criminal investigation. Many of the Title IX reports at Stockton are reported by Resident Assistants, as students tend to know them best and feel most comfortable with them. Under the proposed regulations, many of the employees who work in these student support systems, including Resident Assistants, would no longer be required to report their knowledge, and Stockton would no longer be required to act, therefore effectively ignoring many incidents of sexual harassment. Forcing a student out of their comfort zone following a traumatic experience in order to report an incident of misconduct would be devastating and is likely to negatively affect the student’s ability to recover from the incident. Each employee must be trained to handle reports of sexual harassment and sexual violence so that victims are comfortable, know they are being taken seriously, and do not have to traverse the complicated bureaucracies of their schools throughout the reporting process.

The proposed definitions of “sexual harassment” and “actual knowledge” permit institutions to ignore and mishandle allegations of sexual misconduct, which comes with severe repercussions regarding students’ wellbeing and ability to achieve. By changing these definitions, the federal government would be allowing institutions to cover up and mishandle allegations, utilize loopholes in investigations, and deter victims from reporting.

II. Cross-Examination of Survivors

Requiring school investigations to include a real-time cross-examination of a victim [5] by the accused’s representative is dangerous to the victim’s mental health as well as being misleading to an investigation. Forcing a victim to recount a traumatic incident is likely to revictimize them as they attempt to find closure and learn to continue on with their life in the wake of such a disturbing incident. A cross-examination is also unlikely to be effective in providing an accurate, clear account of an incident from the victim’s point of view, as trauma is known to affect its victim’s ability to recount a story from memory. Creating this requirement is a precipitous decision that could compromise both the victim’s mental health and the integrity of the investigation.

Studies show there is a clear link between mental health issues and having experienced sexual harassment and/or sexual assault, with survivors being more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression, PTSD, and have more trouble sleeping compared to those who have not victimized by sexual misconduct. These types of illnesses and disorders are easy to retrigger, especially in a hostile environment- an environment a cross-examination will create when an untrained representative begins asking a victim questions about their experience. Medically, triggers are known to “set off an immediate panic attack or a flashback that makes the victim think the trauma is happening again” in PTSD victims, according to Dr. Glenn Schiraldi’s The Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Sourcebook. The Rape and Abuse National Network (RAINN) notes that over 90% of rape victims suffer from PTSD, while Schiraldi explains that the most affected victims of PTSD are often victims of sexual assault and rape; these crimes “result in the most severe forms of PTSD. They seem to last longest and are hardest to cure. [...] The traumatic event takes over their lives. They repeatedly relive the event in their minds.” The new regulations ignore these medical studies and instead subject survivors who are prone to trauma-related panic attacks and flashbacks to cross-examinations that will presumably trigger their PTSD and other anxiety-related disorders. Both Stockton University and the Student strive to put student success and wellbeing above all else; the University operates under a “Students First” policy and the Student Senate remains committed to protecting students’ intellectual, social, and economic welfare. The new regulations will directly oppose both the University’s and the Senate’s pledge to the student body by risking the mental health of students who faced sexual harassment when the goal, assuring the credibility of evidence, has been accomplished in the past without such risk. This regulation cannot be explained as a careless oversight; this is a display of flagrant disregard for a victim’s wellbeing.

In addition to trauma affecting a victim’s mental health, trauma also affects the victim’s ability to recount an incident from memory. Several studies, including Post-traumatic stress disorder and declarative memory functioning completed by Kristen Samuelson, show clear connections between memory problems, especially when recounting something from memory verbally, and the test subject’s history with trauma. Learning and Memory in Rape Victims With Posttraumatic Stress Disorder by Dr. Melissa Jenkins, Dr. Philip Langlais, Dr. Dean Delis, and Dr. Ronald Cohen explains the connection between memory problems and rape-related PTSD; subjects who were victims of rape and suffered from PTSD had worse long-term memory than both subjects who were victims of rape and did not suffer from PTSD and subjects who were not victims of rape and did not suffer from PTSD. The same study also showed victims of rape who suffered from PTSD displayed significant gaps in their memory as compared to the other test groups. These studies conclude that even if a victim is able to undergo a cross-examination without suffering from a trauma-related panic attack or flashback, their testimony may not be reliable or accurate, which will threaten the accuracy and precision of the investigation.

Requiring schools to establish a live cross-examination process for sexual harassment cases completely overlooks the many studies that show victims of traumatic events are not fit to be placed under the scrutiny of a hearing board, much less under the scrutiny of a representative not trained to interact with trauma survivors. Rather than use this standard, the Department of Education should permit the victim to submit written reports of the events that occurred as well as responses to any questions. Utilizing a written standard allows the credibility of evidence to be tested while protecting the victim from trigger-induced panic attacks. It also allows for the victim to work with a trained advocate in a comfortable environment when recounting the incident and answering any questions, which will help to ensure their submission is as clear and accurate as possible. The Department of Education’s proposed standard risks the wellbeing of students- a risk no experienced education professional, and surely no employee of Stockton University, would willingly take- while also undermining the integrity of the investigation itself.

III. Standard of Evidence

Changing the standard of evidence from “preponderance [6]” to “clear and convincing” is an unwarranted encumbrance for those seeking justice following an incident of sexual misconduct. Establishing a “clear and convincing” standard for only sexual harassment and no other conduct violation singles out and discriminates against victims of sexual harassment and creates an imbalance of power that heavily benefits the accused. This proposal enacts biases and reinforces stereotypes that Title IX was created to dismiss.

At Stockton University, like many higher education institutions, “preponderance” of the evidence is used in all conduct violation investigations, including for violations comparable to sexual harassment and sexual assault, such as physical assault. Replacing this standard of evidence for only cases of sexual misconduct with a standard higher than that used for all other violations is a discriminatory recommendation rooted in sexism. While men are overall more likely to be the victims of violent crime, women are more likely to be the victims of gender- and sex-based violent crime; according to Homicide Trends in the United States 1980-2008, a study completed by the US Department of Justice in 2010, 76% of murder victims are male while 63% of domestic homicide victims and 81% of sex-related homicide victims are female. These statistics show crime trends that college campuses aren’t exempt from; women are disproportionately the victims of sexual misconduct (1 in 6 women is a rape victim as opposed to 1 in 10 men), while men are typically the victims of other conduct violations. Requiring a higher standard of evidence for crimes women are more subject to facing is deeply discriminatory and compromises Title IX’s mission of equity in education.

This change in standard also heavily benefits the accused by placing unsubstantiated doubt on the victim; rather than treating allegations of sexual harassment with validity and treating the accused as innocent until proven guilty, this standard treats the allegations as false and treats the victim as guilty of false accusation until they prove it to be true. The proposal is meant to protect against false accusations, but, as has been proven time and time again, false accusations are extremely rare. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center cites a 2010 study entitled False Allegations of Sexual Assault: An Analysis of Ten Years of Reported Cases which found that on average, only 6% of rape allegations are false. This standard does not protect the accused’s due process rights as much as it puts an uncalled for burden on the victim; rather than ensure equality in an investigation, it creates an imbalance of such.

To restore equity in investigations of sexual assault, the Department of Education must require institutions to adopt a standard of preponderance of the evidence. As preponderance is the standard of evidence required for general conduct violations at most schools, this ensures victims of sexual harassment, who are primarily women, are not discriminated against, thereby protecting the purpose of Title IX, while also guaranteeing non-bias in investigations. By implementing a “clear and convincing” standard, the Department of Education is fortifying an archaic system of oppression against women and is taking unnecessary precautions against a proven fallacy at the cost of equality.

The Student Senate of Stockton University is committed to championing the wellbeing, success, and rights of the Stockton student body. We fully understand our responsibility to help end sexual harassment and sexual violence on campus while supporting the victims and survivors of these crimes, which is a responsibility we consistently seek to hold ourselves, our institution, and the greater education community accountable for. To see the federal government take this responsibility so lightly is not only disheartening, but appalling. These changes use the disguise of protecting the accused’s due process rights to suppress and undermine the voices of survivors. Instead of finding the balance of power the Department of Education claims to be seeking, the proposed guidelines shift the scales to heavily favor the accused’s education over a victim’s wellbeing. We urge you not to decrease schools’ responsibility and ability to protect their students from sexual harassment. Institutions of all levels must be held to only the highest standard in educating, supporting, and protecting their students, and this legislation will effectively do the opposite.

[1] Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance is commonly referred to as Title IX.

[2] NJ CASA’s Student Initiative is a collection of student organizations from colleges and universities across New Jersey working to find gaps in education regarding sexual assault and ways to effectively close them.

[3] The previous definition of “sexual harassment” was from Obama-era guidance which stated conduct constitutes sexual harassment “if the conduct is sufficiently serious that it interferes with or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the school’s program.” The new, proposed definition is much more restrictive of what type of conduct constitutes sexual harassment; it states that sexual harassment is “unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient’s education program or activity.”

[4] Once an institution has “actual knowledge” of an allegation of sexual harassment, they are required to take action. These actions can include activating support systems for the victim and opening an investigation. Under Obama-era guidance, schools and institutions had actual knowledge as soon as any employee of the institution was made aware of an allegation; this is why many employees, such as professors and RAs, identify themselves as “mandatory reporters”. The new regulations define actual knowledge as “notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to a recipient’s Title IX Coordinator or any official of the recipient who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the recipient”. This effectively gets rid of “mandatory reporters” and makes it so victims must go to the Title IX Office or higher to submit a report and have the school act on it.

[5] These cross-examinations would happen during a Title IX hearing in front of the hearing board.

[6] “Preponderance” of the evidence essentially means it is more likely an incident happened than not; there is greater than a 50% chance that the claim is true. “Clear and convincing” requires the evidence to prove the claim is substantially more true than untrue. “Preponderance” of evidence is the burden of proof used in most civil trials.

Sincerely,

Student Senate

Stockton University

Senator Second: Senator Franklin

Motion Passed: 27-0-0

President Coburn yielded the floor to Provost Lore Vermeulen to discuss the current strategic planning process at Stockton. She explained that administration is requesting input regarding the current plans. The provost summarized that the plan involves five areas of focus: Inclusive Success, Teaching and Learning, Strategic Enrollment Management, Financial Stability, and People, Communication, and Shared Governance. She reported that students, staff, and faculty may access the current draft on the Stockton GoPortal. Provost Vermeulen explained that there have been many open forums regarding the composition of the draft, and numerous student opinions have been considered thus far. She asked for additional input regarding the areas of focus chosen, further questions that people feel must be addressed to strengthen the plan. The Provost concluded her presentation and thanked the public for their time and consideration.

**Adjournment**

President Coburn stated that the meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm.

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**President’s Report to the Stockton Community:**

**January 29th, 2019**

Thank you for coming to our January Full Senate Meeting. I am very excited to be starting off the New Year together and have another great semester.

On January 22nd, the Student Senate held an emergency meeting to vote on resolution SP19-01 “Comment on Proposed Changes to the Nondiscrimination Act on the Basis of Sex in Educational Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance” which passed unanimously. This resolution was written in response to proposed changes to Title IX that were released by the Department of Education. After the proposed changes were announced, there was a commenting period for anybody to express to the federal government how they felt about these changes and the student senate believed that it was in the best interest of the students to submit an official comment. The entire resolution is available on the website and will be included in these minutes. The main topics we covered were the changing definitions of sexual harassment and actual knowledge, allowing cross-examination of the survivor by a representative of the accused, and changing to a higher standard of evidence. Directly following the meeting, Chairperson Lloyd and I submitted the comment on regulations.gov. I would like to thank all of the senators for working on this resolution, especially Senator Franklin for working extremely hard to draft the resolution.

Additionally, Senate hosted a project on MLK Day of Service where we lead a workshop for students to learn how to submit their own comment on the Title IX changes. Many students submitted comments of their own, and we also had the opportunity to explain our resolution and its importance to those who attended.

During our emergency meeting last week, Provost Vermeulen presented on the university’s strategic planning efforts. Through this initiative, they are seeing to plan for Stockton’s future. They were particular interested in getting input from Students. The entire strategic plan is available online as well as a form for anybody from the Stockton community to give input. Last December, Senator Chioma Uka and I met with Dr. Allison, the Faculty Senate President, to discuss establishing and expanding diversity training for the faculty at Stockton.

Lastly, I would like to announce this month’s senator of the month

-***Katie Coburn***

**President of Stockton University Student Senate**



**Vice President’s Report to the Stockton Community:**

**January 29th, 2019**

Good Afternoon and welcome back! I would like to welcome in our four new senators, Anthony, Jennifer, Tyler and Kyla, welcome to Senate, we cannot wait to see all that you will accomplish!

Over break I had the experience to watch Katie Coburn and Lex Franklin work on something they are both extremely passionate about. I would like to take the time to thank them for their hard work and dedication. The Title IX comment and resolution was fantastically written and something we all appreciate you taking the time to have done.

With that being said, I look forward to another semester of working with all of these fantastic people and picking up on some more projects.

**-*Monica O’Kane* Vice President of Stockton University Student Senate**



**Committee Reports**

Date: January 29th, 2019

Committee: **Finance Committee**

Presiding: Ryan William Greene

Members Present: Senator David Vaknin

Senator Jess McGarvey

Senator Matthew Mamounis

Senator Stephen Batchelder

Members Absent: none

Members Late: none

Agenda: Start of the Meeting Supplemental Account is at:

**$53,453.78**

+

with **$10,000** for AC Campus specific programming.

for a total of

**$63,453.78.**

**The following supplemental requests are under $1,500 dollars and have been**

**approved by the Finance Committee and Vice President.**

The Finance Committee has approved a Supplemental Request for the Greek

Council for the breakfast for their Polar Plunge in Atlantic City, to be held on March 3rd,

in the amount of $622.50.

**Total Cost (TC): $622.50 Club Contribution (CC): $0.00**

**Personal Contribution (PC): $0.00 Original Amount Request (OAR): $622.50**

**Motion Approved 4-1-0, Seconded by David Vaknin.**

The Finance Committee has approved a Supplemental Request for the History

Club for their Washington DC Overnight stay, where they’ll visit various museums, to be

held from a weekend in late March, or early April (final date announced January) for 20

people, in the amount of $1,000.

**Total Cost (TC): $1,630 Club Contribution (CC): $230.00**

**Personal Contribution (PC): $400.00 Original Amount Request (OAR): $1,000.00**

**Motion Approved 5-0-0, Seconded by Jess McGarvey.**

**The following supplemental requests are over $1,500 dollars and will be voted on for the consideration of the Student Senate**.

The Finance Committee has approved a Supplemental Request for Circle K for

their Circle K District Convention to be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Mt. Laurel, from

February 22nd through the 24th, for an estimated 15 people, in the amount of $2,600.

**Total Cost (TC): $3,150.00 Club Contribution (CC): $0.00**

**Personal Contribution (PC): $400.00 Original Amount Request (OAR): $2,750.00**

**Motion Approved 5-0-0, Seconded by Stephen Batchelder**

The Finance Committee has approved a Supplemental Request for Greek Council

for their National Greek Leadership Association Conference in Orlando Florida, to be

held at Hartford, Connecticut from February 28th through March 3rd, for six students and

an advisor, in the amount of $2,800.00.

**Total Cost (TC): $4,655.00 Club Contribution (CC): $1,655.00**

**Personal Contribution (PC): $0.00 Original Amount Request (OAR): $3,000.00**

**Motion Approved 5-0-0, Seconded by Jess McGarvey.**

End of the Meeting Supplemental Amount

(if all supplementals pass as is)

**AC Funding**: $10,000 - $622.50 = **$9,377.50**

**Supplemental Funding:** $53,453.78 - $2,800 - $2,600 - $1,000 = **$47,053.78**

**Final Total:**

**$56,431.28**

Date: January 29th, 2019

Committee: **Academic Affairs**

Presiding: Bridget Antwi

Members Present: Senator O’niel Bygrave

Senator Katharine Campion

Senator Chioma Uka

Senator Jessica K. Sulio

Members Absent: none

Members Late: none

Agenda: We will be discussing the following…

1. **Adjusting the Library Hours Meeting with Eric Jeitner Jan 31st at 3:30pm.**
   1. We are going to design a survey that will ask students questions that will help us determine whether or not a significant number of students want extended library hours. Hopefully students take the survey, because that determines whether or not we move forward with extending hours.
2. **Meeting with the Ariane Newman, Assistant Dean of Health Sciences January 31st at @2:30pm.**
   1. **Not enough classes offered in the nursing program to get into the accelerated nursing program and other science programs.** Students have been questioning why there are not enough science courses, for science majors. And why it has been so difficult to get into the labs due to their being a lack a sciences classes available for those who need it
   2. **Why certain classes available in the fall but not the spring and Vice Versa.** Students question why certain science classes are available in the fall but not available in the Spring, making it impossible for them to take courses especially if it’s a co exquisite.
3. **President Katie and I are waiting for Provost availability to schedule a meeting.** 
   1. So we can get an update on online class availability but to also bring up an interesting topic. Senator Kathrine bought up concerns of graduating students and why graduating with honors was significantly higher compared to other schools near Stockton.

Date: January 29th, 2019

Committee: **Governmental Affairs**

Presiding: Tom Lloyd

Members Present: Tahreem Rajput

Anthony Farfalla

Irene Stanley

Matthew Nyce

Members Absent: none

Members Late: none

Agenda:

First, I would to welcome Senator Anthony Farfalla to the committee. He is the chair of the College Republicans here at Stockton and has former Senate experience as our previous Chief of Staff. The new Senate amendments that were passed in December are being posted online. New amendments are being considered by the committee. Additionally, it has been brought to the committee’s attention that amendments passed in the 2016-2017 school year were not added to an updated constitution, so we will add those and update the online version.

Former Senator Onuwa is working on a march to bring attention to mass incarceration among minorities. This will be taking place on Thursday, February 7th. Ted is still looking for a couple of speakers, so please reach out to him or let me know if you have anyone in mind who would like to speak. Senator Greene has been working on the issue of state higher education funding for several months. As we know from our presentations from administration, Stockton receives the least funding per student in the state’s four-year schools. Senator Greene is working to advocate for more funding during the state budget process, which takes place between March and June. This advocacy can come through meetings with legislators and the governor’s office and through public hearings. The committee looks forward to working with Senator Greene this spring.

Lastly, the committee, in collaboration with the College Republicans and Democrats, is planning a debate this spring. We are deciding on a date but late March/early April seems likely. We plan on reaching out to students via the Argo to solicit debate questions.

Date: January 29th, 2019

Committee: **Public Relations**

Presiding: Ariana DiFillipo

Members Present: Syeda Sanjidha

Feny Patel

Members Absent: none

Members Late: none

Agenda:

Good afternoon! The Public Relations committee hopes everyone is doing well in their first few weeks of the semester! We are very excited for the many PR events happening this semester. Today was the first day of the Get Involved fair and we will be tabling again tomorrow from ten to two in the academic spine. We also are working on some fun free food events for Stockton students and have already planned a Wing Night in March on the Atlantic City campus! The PR team is also looking forward to collaborating with other clubs and organizations. We are also anticipating the spring elections, as we are already working on recruiting students to run. We would appreciate students to keep coming to events and encourage everyone to promote and follow us on social media to stay updated with us and other organizations’ events.

Date: January 29th, 2019

Committee: **Student Affairs**

Presiding: Adjoa Cofie

Members Present: Senator Franklin

Senator Faulkner

Senator Casper

Senator Murray

Members Absent: none

Members Late: none

Agenda:

Student Affairs Committee welcomes back everyone from break and wishes a great semester to you all. We would like to begin by commending the amazing work of Senator Lex Franklin in her dedication to advocate for sexual assault victims. Senator Franklin along with President Coburn committed a great deal of time and dedication to creating a resolution containing all comments submitted to the Title IX changes.

Student Affairs Committee also worked to create the Stockton Emergency Resources Card that has been presented to other administrators and is working on distributing to the student body in the upcoming months. This is a part of our effort to increase and facilitate students’ access to emergency resources, especially needed in case of sexual assault incidents.

We want to inform students about the meal equivalency options present on both the Atlantic City and Galloway campus. An email in that regard was sent last week to the student body.

Student Affairs Committee has received complaints from students in regards to meal options, hours of operations of meal services and the shuttle app. We have meetings scheduled with students and SASI and Chartwells to address solutions for these issues.

Sweets for Suggestions by the Student Affairs committee will begin next week on every Monday in campus center food court from 11-2. Please stop by to voice your concerns or chat with a senator. We recognize students concerns and will do our best to respond to these complaints and improve student life on campus.