



Ithaca College Student Governance Council

Senate Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 8th, 2021 | 7:00 P.M. in Campus Center Taughannock Falls Room

Call to Order

Roll Call: Austin Ruffino, Deontae Guy, Leticia Guibunda, Carlos Abreu, Max Powers, James Zampetti, Kalena Yearwood, Grace Madeya, Nick Viggiani, Paloma LaValley, Noah Richardson, Tessa Kurtz, Soumyaa Joshi, Vincent Tavernese, Lauren Hitesman, Casey Ingraham, Lila Weiser, Mary Holland-Bavis
Ithacan: Nolan and Mel

Approval of the Minutes (11/1/21): Tessa motions to approve the minutes, Nick seconds, motion passes 10-0-0

New Business

- **Community Session**
- **Guest Speaker:** Samm Swarts
 - **Voluntary testing:** no CDC, local, or state guidance that stipulates we must test. High vaccination rate (99% for students)
 - About 30% of college population chosen randomly each week (includes students, staff, and faculty)
 - Over 90% participation in first few weeks, declined slightly in recent weeks
 - Employee vaccination rate:
 - 84.3% current vaccination, includes both staff and faculty/other college employees
 - Some employees still working in remote environment. Don't need to be vaccinated or testing. No exact number for this sector
 - Low COVID rates throughout this semester
 - Community reporting form
 - Anyone in campus community can report

- Identification information is optional (so form is anonymous)
 - Form can be utilized for any event on campus
 - Easy to find (can just Google Ithaca College community reporting form)
- Question: Lila: can you speak to President Biden's plan and new OSHA guidance regarding COVID protocols, especially in regards to mandated employee vaccination?
 - Answer: OSHA guidance new as of last week: similar to Biden's vaccination plan. Pretty lengthy plan that college is still sorting through. Before Biden's plan in effect, we were in compliance because high vaccination rate and anyone not vaccinated= required testing
 - So, we're currently in compliance with OSHA guidance and President Biden's plan
- Question: Leticia: Community reporting form in the case of students reporting faculty and staff members. Repercussions vary for student violations, what do repercussions look like for faculty and staff
 - Answer: we work through faculty's dean's office first, need to rectify any issue but if it's a bigger issue, potentially involves disciplinary action for faculty. For staff, start with supervisor to address issues, again potentially disciplinary action
- Question: Lila: With boosters becoming more available, does the college have any intention of requiring booster vaccinations for the campus community?
 - Answer: not all students are eligible for boosters. Until then, college won't seriously discuss requiring boosters. If/when that's a possibility, will communicate with campus community.
 - Cornell and TCCC also not requiring boosters at this time
- Question: Austin: Does the college have any plans to change current COVID protocols in the near future?
 - Answer: Lifted masking requirements in various schools in the past week. Transmission has not been occurring in classroom settings, it's been mostly in small gatherings where people are in close contact with no masks for an extended period of time
 - Hopeful that Spring semester will bring even more relaxed protocols
- Question: Leticia: For the community reporting form, if a student wants to report anonymously, are they still able to get a follow up report sent to them?
 - Answer: if anonymous, no way to get a follow up. Platform does not collect any data points.
- Question: Austin: with the testing we've been doing, how are we doing with positivity rates among different groups on campus
 - Answer: Dashboard updated daily by Samm Swarts. Currently 2 student cases and 2 employee cases.
- **Confirmations:** N/A
- **Bills:** N/A
- **Miscellaneous:**

- SGC/SLT Listening Session (volunteers needed)
 - Deontae: Leticia and I did an open conversation with SLT last January and we will be doing this again this year. This will be Tuesday, November 16th from 12:10-1:05 in Emerson Suites. SLT will listen to student concerns and continue the conversation in the spring in a more formal setting.
 - Will look like 8-10 tables with the majority of the SLT there, each at one table.
 - “What has gone well for you this semester so far, and what has challenged you/what could be improved upon?”
 - Looking for volunteers: notetakers and people to engage in conversations.
 - If you’re interested in volunteering, reach out to Deontae

Continuing Business

• Senator Reports

- Noah Richardson
 - Paloma and Noah have started a Class of 2025 Instagram account to keep in touch with constituents. Looking for people to run that account or aid in the PR, graphic design, etc.
 - Paloma and Noah also planning bi-weekly town halls on Thursday evenings for class of 2025 to voice concerns.
 - Trash cans: haven’t heard back in a month. Word from staff is that increase in bins outside causes increase in litter.
 - Note from Austin: Getting in touch with e-board may assist in this
- Casey Ingraham
 - Hosted transfer senator meeting
 - Promoting on IC Gaps and Bridges Instagram and also found interested e-board applicants
 - Visiting transfer seminars to reach out to constituents. Also hoping to host town halls for transfer/gap year students
 - In the work of dismantling transfer senator as it’s not beneficial and only 1 credit
 - Hoping to work in Jump Start program to create a program specifically for transfer and gap year students
- Lauren Hitesman
 - Currently in process of drafting email to Dave Prunty about increasing protein options in dining halls
 - Specifically, adding a protein section in salad bar areas
 - Note from Mary: Scott McWilliams may be a good point person for this
 - Working with Tessa on all-gender bathroom bill
- Paloma LaValley
 - Working with Noah on Instagram and bi-weekly meetings

- Working on hybrid model bill. Had some concerns from constituents related to bill so still researching solution options
- **Bill Updates:** N/A
- **Miscellaneous:** N/A

Officer Reports (max 4 minutes each)

- President of the Student Body: Deontae
 - 1:1 Career Services
 - Meeting with new director this week
 - Hopefully he can chat with e-board and senate in the spring
 - Wants to reshape how career services is received on campus and is looking for student input
 - 1:1 with President Cornish
 - Discussed mental health concerns. Looking for feedback from students regarding concrete solutions.
 - Increasing CAPS staff
 - Professors being flexible
 - Assignments/attendance being flexible
 - Hybrid model
 - COVID health protocol: professors not enforcing masks
 - Shared that students should come to administration with exact names in the case of violations by professors
 - Listening session. Committed to coming back in the Spring.
 - President Cornish will be our guest speaker next week (Monday, November 15th).
 - Will follow up later regarding the conversation had today.
- Vice President of Campus Affairs: Leticia
 - Cortaca Busses waitlist
 - Reached capacity this past week. If constituents are still interested, can join the waitlist using a separate link
 - Meeting with Tim Downs
 - Hopefully to solidify dining bill
 - 1:1 with Doreen
 - Office hours Friday 12-1
- Vice President of Academic Affairs: Carlos
 - Met with Provost Stein last week, mentioned student concerns related to mental health
 - Meeting with her again this week to discuss gathering student feedback
 - Faculty violating COVID protocols, said she would follow up with respective deans
- Vice President of Business & Finance: Max

- Assistant application closed, Connor Watson is now assistant
 - 8 budgets this week
- Vice President of Communications: James
 - Met with Communications Committee
 - Divided into four subcommittees: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, graphic design team
 - First campus email updates/stats!
 - Delivered to 7155 people
 - Opened: 6619
 - Clicked on links: 579
 - Student at-large interest: people joined committees
 - In process of developing next email
 - Mental Health Town Hall
 - Meeting with Professor Matt Vosler in recreation studies department Wednesday November 17th to get conversation going between faculty and students in regards to mental health via a town hall
- Senate Chair: Austin
 - Confirmations
 - Confirmations still open
 - ORC
 - Not meeting tonight
 - President Cornish coming next week: senators are encouraged to draft questions beforehand
 - If you need help with bills reach out to Austin. Need to be sent 7 days before SGC meeting.
- Chief of Staff
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- Student Trustee: Kalena
 - Yay for being here!
- Residence Hall Association Designee: Esther
 - RHA play next Friday the 12th in Emerson Suites. Partnering with a few student organizations. Alternate to Cortaca
 - Funding request
 - Guiding Eyes for the Blind: Puppy Bowl funding request
 - Presenter
- Student Liaison to the Alumni Board
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Five Minute Break

Open Agenda

- Deontae: President open office hours tomorrow 12-2 in Campus Center

- Senators are encouraged to promote on Instagram and encourage constituents to go
 - Always looking for student feedback on communication methods in regards to SLT
- Deontae: Sports Council meeting next week to gauge interest in club-sports senator position
- Mental Health Discussion
- Senator Saturdays on Ithaca College Instagram page
 - Natalie Daphne: runs IC Instagram page and is interested in promoting SGC via Senator Saturday on the IC Instagram.
 - Senator Saturday: started last year, senator will take over Instagram stories and share their day, engage with constituents, etc.
 - Are senators interested in being on the IC Instagram page?
 - General consensus: yeah sounds good
 - Deontae: senators will have to sign confidentiality report and you will have to meet with Natalie
- Tessa: Cornell bomb threat: Ithaca students should have been notified
 - Can we partner with the emergency notification systems in the area/community?
 - Paloma: Cornell students were notified by text to go to lock-down, then weren't given update until 3-4 hours later. Lack of communication on Cornell's part is concerning.
 - Deontae: IC does have emergency notification system. There are laws pertaining to how often/quickly students need to be notified, etc.
 - Cornell SA president advocating for mental health day, other mental health resources
 - Mary: Emergency preparedness response actually falls under Samm Swarts's title
 - Austin: Cornell Student Assembly meetings are open to the public, so if you're interested in going reach out to Austin. They have an open-mic session comparable to our community session.
 - Tessa: Urging senators to reach out to constituents to check on mental health
- Vincent: Met with Dean Walz
 - Mental health in Whalen
 - Hoping to engage Mental Health Awareness for Musicians Association (MHAMA) and also host panel related to mental health
 - Curriculum revisions in process
 - Food
 - Hopefully adding vending machines to Whalen, bill currently in the works. Dean Walz encouraging looking into grab-and-go system added to library café
- Noah: communication in general between senators and constituents
 - Can we post all-school announcements on Canvas?
 - Austin: Task groups discussing use of Canvas are happening right now and they would be receptive to this idea.

Adjournment

Tessa motions to adjourn 8:03 PM. No dissent.