

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Executive Announcements
 - a. **Sibonay Shewit:** Paige Jackson will be coming to host a Diversity Training for the Student Senate soon.
 - b. **Sibonay Shewit:** Please fill out the apparel form ASAP!
 - i. **Francesca Carfagnini:** SAO hasn't approved the apparel yet, so you can still get apparel
 - c. **Sibonay Shewit:** There are posters on the back table, please grab them on your way out.
 - d. **Sibonay Shewit:** Happy Birthday Whitney!
- V. General Orders
 - a. Discussion Re: "We Deserve Better"
 - i. **Sibonay Shewit:** Matt and Colin wanted me to mention to you all that this conversation is not only about the article but also the general way in which Senate has been discussed recently on campus. Just to clarify, we are not discussing election proceedings during this discussion. I am so proud of all of you. It's hard to hear Senate associated with negativity, but you all have been the best part of being my Vice Presidency.
 - ii. **Matt Ross:** There is a clause in the Constitution that says in the event of an allegation that results in the Election Committee sanctioning someone, there are certain things that are allowed to be released to the public including who is sanctioned and what the sanction is → any appeal process and other specifics are supposed to be kept strictly confidential by the Elections Committee and the Student Senate.
 1. **Colin Brankin:** In the allegation process, the people bringing forth allegations are told that they will be kept anonymous, so anything of the appeal nature needs to be kept strictly confidential.
 2. **Sibonay Shewit:** To clarify, the other two closed Senate meetings were to protect the confidentiality of DACA students.
 - iii. **Sibonay Shewit:** It does no good to lead with anger. I don't want to feed this conversation with negative energy. When we had a similar situation with our cabinet this year, we looked at the message to see if there was any truth to it or if we could accept some kind of responsibility and then we worked to mend from there.
 - iv. **Chris Scott:** I wrote a response to the article. While I agree that student government needs to be more transparent, I believe that the article unfairly portrays us when it claims that we are out of touch with the student body. I am certain that engaging the student body is a priority of this

administration, whether it be in our hall councils or our classrooms. We've had such important conversations with our peers and our dorm communities. The entire student body should be taking student government more seriously. Within our time in office thus far, we have supported Stand 4 IX, participated in task forces for the three year housing requirement, and taken part in DACA conversations. We are doing our best, and we will continue to do better.

- v. **Sebastian Lopez:** O'Neil Family Hall has stood violently in opposition to violence and tyranny. The men of Grace and Flanner halls lit bonfires all across the quads when they found out they were going to be displaced. They became known as the angry mob. After speaking about this in great length with my constituents, I've decided to take a stand against violence and tyranny. From this day on, I made a promise to them that I will motion to close Senate every week.
 - 1. **Sebastian Lopez:** I motion to close this Senate meeting.
 - a. **Mark Spretnjak** seconded this motion
 - i. Motion failed
- vi. **Morgan Peck:** It has come to my attention that people don't know what Senate and Student Government do. When people are aware of the out of the norm, they are presented with a false portrayal of Student Government as a whole. We have open Senate meetings every week, we have the minutes online, we have write ups of our meetings in the Observer, and Francesca livestreams our meetings, but is there a more direct and easy way to reach students?
 - 1. **Jim Deitsch:** I am blessed to represent Fisher Hall, home to some of the more adamant opposers of closed Senate meetings, and in response to this silliness, I made an announcement at hall council and it was well received.
 - 2. **Linde Hoffman:** I send out an email to my dorm after Senate every week giving them the topics we discussed and anything we voted on, and people can read it if they want to.
 - 3. **Chris Scott:** I think all of those ideas are very important. It bothered me that the Observer wrote about the closed meetings without having all of the facts→ I think it's very important to have all the facts. I had to explain to my constituents about why we closed the Senate meetings during which we discussed DACA. If people have those critical facts, they'll know why we close some Senate meetings. We should take the time to explain what Student Government actually does.
 - a. **Sibonay Shewit:** We got to sit down with the Observer after the article came out, and we are working on a public response to the article.
- vii. **Matthew Gartenhaus:** Obviously there are some parts of the closed senate minutes that are more sensitive, but can we release some of the content for transparency's sake?

1. **Sibonay Shewit:** We can't change the rules of elections and closed meetings until after the election season.
 - a. **Matt Ross:** When Senate is closed, the minutes will only be distributed to the people who were at the meeting. Maybe we can work on a system of redaction.
 - b. **Prathm Juneja:** I think the fix to the transparency issue is to allow the parliamentarian or secretary to send a redacted version of the closed minutes to the observer.
- viii. **Zach Spitzer:** In my opinion, it helps when senators speak individually on the issues discussed here. When senators make the effort, it really helps. Patrick was talking to me about how passionate he was about the issues you all work on, and it really made it difference for me.
 1. **Thomas Krill:** I second that.
- ix. **Sibonay Shewit:** How do you all interact with your dorms?
 1. **Mary Hilliard:** The SUB representative and I have office hours on Sunday nights in a really public area of the dorm. Girls know there is a designated time and space to talk to us if they want to hear about Senate or SUB or have any questions.
- x. **Morgan Peck:** Concerning the "We deserve much better article" → why was the attendance record not released?
 1. **Sibonay Shewit:** There was no precedent for that particular situation. Matt, Colin, Peggy, and I came to the conclusion that because there was no meeting, the attendance record did not matter and should not have been released. I wasn't sure why giving the names was important or what the author's intentions were.
 - a. **Colin Brankin:** There are no records of the meeting because there wasn't a meeting.
 2. **Morgan Peck:** There was some way for the author to determine whether we had quorum or not, but it seems like it came down to the author's interpretation of the situation. Not supplying him with a transparent explanation for that most likely increased his frustration.
 - a. **Sibonay Shewit:** We knew it might come off as not being transparent, but we decided that this was the best way to handle it.
 - b. **Sibonay Shewit:** These situations also point out the holes in our constitution, so we will be doing a lot of work in March on this.
- xi. **Chris Scott:** I really believe that dining hall conversations are a good way to interact with our constituents. It's a light and informal setting, but they lead into some interesting conversations with constituents. I can remember a lot of difficult conversations we have had as a Senate, and dining hall conversations are a good way to talk about it.
- xii. **Claire Saltzman:** Can you all talk a little more about the response you all are writing?

1. **Sibonay Shewit:** We are responding to clarify the reasons for why the senate meetings were closed and the separation of Judicial Council and Executive Cabinet. We want to make some clarifications.
 - a. **Prathm Juneja:** Sib is a lot more positive than I am, and the last thing I want you all to do is self blame. I want to point out the content gaps that were missing in the article. When context is absent, it's easy to make assumptions. That article reached thousands of people and we want to deliver a response with the same scope and audience. We want to clarify the work of Student Government, the positions of student government, and the gaps in content.
 - xiii. **Francesca Carfagnini:** I send out the minutes from hall council to everyone, if you have someone who does that, you can ask your secretary to include messages from Senate.
 - xiv. **Sibonay Shewit:** Whose rector is PK?
 1. **Sibonay Shewit:** There was a rector who commented on our facebook live stream.
 - b. Committee Meeting Time
 - i. Reconvened at 7:15pm
 - ii. **Sibonay Shewit:** Peggy has net IDs for new emails!
- VI. New Business
- VII. Announcements
- a. **Jackson Herrfeldt:**
 - i. Acousticafe at 10:00pm on Thursday in DSC
 - ii. SUB move is IT on Thursday at 8:00pm and Friday/Saturday at 8:00pm and 10:30pm in Debart 101
 - b. **Jim Deitsch:** 77 days until the Fisher Regatta
 - c. **Sara Dugan:** 100 Days Until Graduation Dance is tomorrow→ buy your tickets!
 - d. **Matt Ross:** The Student Body Election is going on today, and you still have 30 minutes left to vote!
 - e. **Chris Scott:** Tomorrow (Thursday) night in DPAC→ showing Monterrey Pop from 1963. They have free tickets at the Nanovic Institute.
- VIII. Adjournment
- a. **Morgan Peck** moved to adjourn the meeting
 - i. **Thomas Assad** seconded this motion