University of Iowa Student Government

STUDENT SENATE SESSION

December 10th, 2019

A.) Call to Order (7:00)

B.) Quorum Call – Roll Call

C.) Public Access (15 minutes)

✓ Emily – P3 update

▪ Presentation
  - Engie and Meridian won the bet for the P3. They won because of their bet and also because their values align with the university’s value. Originally the university committed to being coal free by 2025 but now they are committed to 2023 and also reducing carbon emissions. Engie will be offering a position to anyone who wants one. They are committed to internships for students as well. You can find more information on our website and the P3 website.

▪ Question
  - Senator Drahos: What was the regent final vote tally?
    o I didn’t read that
  - Senator Kohodor: Is Engie and Meridian also with Ohio State?
    o Engie is but not Meridian.
  - Senator Schnack: Will employees moving to a job with Engie and Meridian have the same pay and benefits?
    o I’m not sure but I’d assume so.
    o Muller: Current University employees will keep the same benefits.
  - Senator Verry: Would the benefits be the same?
    o I’m not sure again.

✓ Contingency – Zoe Hamstreet
- We have around $25,000 left to spend from now until May. That means this is money that can be spent on initiatives. With sports clubs, we only fund them if they go to national events. This money sadly came out of contingency not out of finance committee account and we can’t transfer it to SABAC account.

✓ UISG Bylaw Quiz – Senator Heid

D.) Old Business

E.) New Business

✓ S.S.R#7- Fair Trade Resolution

✓ S.S.B#24- Election Code II (Veto Override)

- Presentation – Senator Correa, Senator Roeder
  - Senator Roeder: I will not be taking up too much of your time because I’ve made my points very clear in the statement. I ask you to overturn the veto because it removes the barrier that makes UISG inaccessible and
  - Senator Correa: Thank you to everyone who interacted with students on this piece of legislation. I’d like to address that hearing from multiple different sources that I am running for president and that is my motivation. I want to make it clear that I would never use my position of chair of internal affairs to try and skew the election. I am not even going to participate in the next election cycle and if you’d like to know more I can talk later.

- Discussion
  - Rep Muller: One point of discussion that I did not mention in my statement. I really feel like there is a lot of good in SSB 24 but based on my constituents and my own opinion, I feel like it is too late to make amendments to the election
  - Senator Hamstreet: When did you draft the bill and talk to SJC about it?
    - Senator Correa: These changes have been in discussion since the beginning of the term in May.
    - Senator Roeder: Yield to Cameron about when I approached him.
    - Cameron: We were approached in the beginning of the summer and Sydney and I were able to draft our opinions in the beginning of August. Because the legislation regarding the bylaws was pushed back so far, we didn’t want multiple people working on multiple changes at the same time. But, once the revisions to the constitutions and bylaws were done, we started to work on the election code with Teagan and Anna.
  - Senator Stucky: I don’t think the statement that the current system prevents outsiders from joining UISG
- Senator Turnquist: I’d like to emphasize Senator Hamstreet’s remarks about the timeline. With the independent senators I think that we think that the remark that we should just emphasize that option will reach more students. I don’t think that’s true because our social media does not reach a lot of people and just advertising that isn’t going to make more people sign up.

- Senator Heid: No matter the timeline for election code reform it is always not going to be ideal. Last year we started discussion in September/early October and tickets were already forming and people were still upset. I personally think we need to make changes because no matter the time, it’s always going to be

- Senator Barron: When talking to constituents

- Senator Kepner: I strongly support President Mills veto. The main argument is that it will create more accessibility, but I do not think that this will even help accessibility. Beyond accessibility the next argument is executive overreach. While executives do choose their senators, there needs to be a cohesive idea of how we all want to improve the student experience. Regardless of the ticket senators can think for themselves. Campaigns that run with a president and VP really show if the president and VP can even be a good president and VP. In modern UISG system, the ticket system has even helped senators on a ticket.

- Senator Verry: I’m going to speak to the biggest point that I’ve made in my response. We did early this semester pass legislation where the executives pick the executives and I had my own issues but decided that I just want to. I’m recognizing that we all know how tickets work, 40% of the branch is by executive branch if all the senators on the ticket get elected. 100% of the executives are chosen by executives and that’s scary to me.

- Senator Hagadorn: I don’t see how this will change how tickets are formed because

- Senator Roeder:

- Senator Heid: I agree that senator kepner that senators should be running individually. But right now, since that isn’t an option, I do think that this legislation is going to work towards that. I believe that are ton of people that want to be in student government but don’t know who to talk to or don’t know the rules. I think that a lot of people are opposed to this because it’s going to derail their own plans.

- Senator Brennan: Can I ask Senator Correa a question. On our peer institutions they do it separately too?
  
  o Senator Correa: I’ll yield to Sydney
  o Sydney: A lot of other big ten universities do have separate tickets or go by college.
  o Senator Brennan: Were there similar concerns about accessibility?
  o Sydney: Yes, there were challenges with accessibility and challenges with voter turnout. But these were unique to each school.

- Rep Muller: There is a compromise, we can have the executive tickets should be able to do endorsements for other tickets.
- Senator Barron: I just want to tell Senator Brennan that he needs to check his privilege. For you it might not be that deep but for me and people that look like me, it is that deep. I want to be able to see more people who look like me. It was easy for you, but it wasn’t for me and I know so many people that want to be here but can’t because they don’t know how to get here.

- Senator Caleb Smith: I think we need to make sure that we make everything more accessible. I do think that this legislation is a step in the right direction. I don’t think the current system is accessible. I tried to run many times and it was hard to get in. When we talk about accessibility, I think we need to recognize that we will always need to

- Senator Pinho: Being a freshman I don’t know anything about how elections work. When speaking to other freshman, it seems to be that many people think that senators already run independently or with other senators. Since it’s what the student body is already expects.

- Senator Kerst: Is there data on how many independent senator seats were run and filled?
  - Senator Roeder: SJC probably has more accurate information.
  - Sydney: The ones that were run for, we had a steady decline of people running for independents.
  - Senator Kerst: I think it’s important that we need to fill out all of our independent seats because it would show that people are

- Senator Harvey: I wanted to run for student government, and I had no idea how to even run as an independent and the rules.

- Senator Laur: I don’t support this legislation because I could see the impacts of it regurgitating the elitist system because senior senators could be just doing what the executives are going to do for the ticket. I think we are doing a disservice because of how late it is in the year. Even though people are forming tickets already we need to be addressing that rather than skirting around the issue.

- Senator Haggerty: I would like to say that if this legislation passes, we need to take personal action to advocate for UISG and have people form tickets. As senators we need to let people know how to run so people actually run.

- Senator Heid: I have some thoughts about tickets. Tickets are being formed and that’s how it kind of works. That has potential to detract from the work that senators are doing now. Thinking about what you’re going to do next election is taking away from what you’re doing this semester and it’s not okay. Having such a large organizational role in elections makes you have to work more in the current election

- Senator Dickens: I think the best argument that I’ve heard that is for the veto is that it can prepare executives for being executives. But I think that having a ticket of 20 senators that split all their work is going to be more productive and better. Also having executives run on their own can also help create more people to run for executive positions.

- Senator Folkers: I ran as an independent two years ago. I had a similar experience as Senator Roeder, and I went to the senator interest meeting and felt overwhelmed because everyone knew each other, and the tickets were already formed. The only reason I ran was because another senator reached out to me and encouraged me to meet with someone that ran as an independent as well. I’m thinking of people that are not in this room that have no idea what the election cycle is like.

- Senator Haider: If I was an outsider of UISG I don’t know if I would even run because my chances would be low going against the people who are already in student government.
Senator Schnack: I think if people are not able to market a senatorial ticket it would

Senator Rodriguez: From my constituents, they have been saying that it is saying that it’s too hard to get into student government.

Senator Cooke: I have not seen a clear path to UISG and was not invited to any tickets. I tried to run my freshman year

Senator Roeder: Yield to Sydney

  Sydney: This thing that I found with the issue was not how to get into just senator positions. It is also hard to get in if it’s executive tickets. Timing is not an issue unique to us, Penn state has texted me that they are

Senator McGovern: Can we get that data?

Senator Correa: Senator Schnack made this point, if we can’t find 37 people out of the thousands of people that are at the university that is on us not on the election code. Senator Heid did say that tickets are always forming. So, there is no good time to make these changes and that is true. If we take the executive overreach out yes, we still need to hand select but, senators are willing to go out and reach more students.

Senator Heid: Call previous question

  Seconded by many

  Aye have it

- Voting

  Aye have it. Legislation passes.

F.) Announcements

✓ Herky’s Hero

G.) Adjourn and Move to Committees (60 minutes)