University of Iowa Student Government
GENERAL SENATE MEETING

February 7, 2012

A.) Call Meeting to Order (7:01)

B.) Quorum Call – Roll Call (7:02)

C.) Swearing-In Senators (7:03)

Senator Muntz, Senator Hanson, Senator Brown, Senator Chin were sworn in.

D.) Public Access (7:07)

Jane Holland from the Council on the Status of Women

The Council on the Status of Women (CSW) is dedicated to promote the leadership of women and the visibility of women, as well as the voice of women. There are students on the council. They are hoping to implement a survey sometime this spring. The survey will be to assess the experience of unwanted sexual behavior on the Iowa campus. The survey will focus on the experience of undergraduate students. The goals of the survey are to hear the experiences of undergraduate students, to identify situations in which misconducts occur and strategies to serve and protect, to provide survey data and to look at the 2005 survey in comparison with the 2012 survey.

The Chief Diversity Office, Iowa Social Science Research Center, UISG, IMU Marketing and consultants are all partners with CSW. The target date for the survey is still to be determined. The institutional review board is reviewing the survey currently. The focus will only be on undergraduate students based on the 2005 survey. The survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete. All of the responses will be very confidential. They have met with several administrative groups across campus to discuss the survey. Jane thanked UISG for all the time and effort they have provided to this. UISG members are encouraged to tell their friends about the survey or take it themselves; it is voluntary. There will be a report committee.

Senator Horsfield asked if there is an incentive for undergraduates to participate. Jane said there is an incentive but it hasn't been approved yet. Senator Phillips asked what the return rate on the last survey was. Jane said their goal is a 20% return rate.

E.) Presentations (7:19)

Brody DeBettignies from the Committee on Diversity

Brody is one of two undergraduates serving on the Presidents Charter committee on Diversity. Their main effort at the beginning of the year was solidifying their purpose. No one has ever come forth to address any issues so their main goal is to collect literature and present a summary of everything that has been learned about diversity over time and present suggestions for future research. They hope to do diversity training in the future and possibly become facilitators. The University ranks pretty low on diversity. They have reached out to other Universities to see what they have done to improve diversity. They are re-evaluating their stance on diversity and how they move forward with the committee's goals.
Christopher Merkle from the Council on Teaching

Christopher said six Institutional Improvement Awards were awarded in fall of 2011. The award goes to innovative programs with needs that wouldn't be met with the school regular funds. In spring there are two separate awards to be given out for outstanding teaching and the outstanding teaching assistants.

F.) Old Business (7:25)

G.) New Business (7:25)

S.S.R. 32 – FERPA Support
President Higgins gave a brief overview of the resolution. In January UISG Leaders went to ABTS. FERPA protects the rights of students and only students to view their academic records. The Iowa delegation at ABTS supports this resolution.

Senator Horsfield motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Phillips.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.R. 32—Passes.

S.B.S. 33 – ABTS Big Ten on the Hill Priorities
President Higgins gave a brief overview. It was discussed at ABTS what the focus of Big Ten on the Hill will be in April. In Washington D.C. student government leaders will go with these priorities in hand: maintaining lost interest rates on Stafford Loans, Preserving Pell Grant funding, Preserving federal research dollars, maintaining funding for fellowships

Senator Horsfield motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Westercamp.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.B. 33—Passes.

S.B.S. 34 – Committee Assignments
New senators were assigned new committees.
Senator Dickinson motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Horsfield.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.B. 34—Passes.

S.B.S. 35 – Student Elections Board Commissioner Appointment
Senator Sproul spoke on behalf on nominations of Student Elections Board. The committee elected Patrick Grim, they asked for the support of UISG.

Senator Horsfield motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Phillips.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.B. 35—Passes.

S.B.S. 36 – Support of Peaceful Protest
President Higgins presented on behalf of Speaker Pottebaum. This legislation is in response to the students who were victims of police brutality at University of California at Davis. This legislation says we stand for our rights to peacefully protest. President Higgins motioned to Friendly amendment the 5th Wheras. President Pottebaum motioned to friendly amend David to Davis.

Discussion:
Senator Oskvig motioned to delete the 5th “Wheras.” Second by Senator Horsfield.

Discussion to delete the 5th “Wheras”: None.
Senator Branson motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Horsfield.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote to remove clause—Passes.

Discussion on the amended legislation: None.
Senator Horsfield motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Tarnoff.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.B. 36—Passes.

✓ S.S.R. 37 – Opposition to Iowa Voter ID

Senator Branson presented the legislation. This legislation opposes the Voter ID law because it will be costly and it will suppress student voter turnout. Many out-of-state students will not be able to vote because they will have to get an Iowa ID. There is a clause in the law that allows students to vote if they have a student id with an expiration date but Iowa IDs do not expire.

Discussion:
Senator Horsfield said that if the law were to pass then the university would work to make sure all student IDs would have an expiration date and would have two years to implement this. Most students have IDs coming to college. It would not be that big of a detriment to students who are here right now. Senator Sproul said you don't have to have an Iowa ID to vote. There was a study done by the Wall Street Journal said that this law didn't suppress voter turnout in states that have implemented similar laws. Senator Horsfield said that the state would waive the cost of photo identification. A voter with ID can vouch for another voter without ID. Senator Branson said a main concern is the cost of implementing this law. This ID law is one more barrier between a person and voting.

Senator Kelmme said voter fraud from people intentionally voting for someone else is very low. There are some groups that are discriminated against with this law. Senator Tarnoff said people aren't legally required to have an ID. The cost associated with everyone being required to have an ID is unnecessary. Senator Phillips said all students have IDs. It is our job to make the best decision for students. Senator Branson said voting is a right every citizen deserves whether or not they have an ID. Senator Zhou said this is a free voter ID. This legislation will help avoid fraud and raise confidence in voting system.

Senator Mitchell motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Branson.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.R. 37—Passes.

✓ S.S.R. 38 – Opposition for House File 396

Senator Dickinson and Senator Klemme presented the legislation. This legislation opposes a bill that would fine people who knowingly serve alcohol to underage people. There are exemptions to the law including parents, medicinal purposes and several other circumstances. People might not be trained to check identifications if they are hosting a party. Senator Dickinson proposed to change the wording of the 5th “wheras.”

Discussion:
Senator Phillips asked what legal measures are already enforced on house parties. Senator Dickinson said noise complaints, disorderly house and landlord obligations. Senator Oskvig said the second “Therefore be is resolved” is a little off, it seems that this law will increase underage drinking. Senator Horsfield said he does not agree he did not agree with the fines and suspensions imposed on people who violate this law.

Senator Phillips motioned to previous question. Second by Senator Brannon.
Vote to move to previous question—Passes.
Vote on S.S.R. 38—Passes.

H.) Reports (7:56)

✓ Senator Student Organization Assignments
Senator Horsfield explained that the process of pairing Senators with organizations was random. There is an example of an e-mail that all senators should send to the student organizations. It is only a suggestion that Senators attend the organization's e-mail.

✓ Executive Reports

President Higgins said executives will now send out written reports rather than oral reports at the end of meetings. They are almost finished with the process to get Horizon's Credit Counseling back on campus. There will be an independent number for SafeRide.

Vice President Caplin said the Wingman program is launching in two weeks. They are still working on expanding the Ubill with student organizations, CAB and SCOPE events, and Parking. They are working on the off-campus housing website. There will be a UISG week later in the semester.

I.) Announcements (8:09)

✓ SABAC Supplemental III is due Friday, February 10 at 4:00 pm
✓ SABAC will meet on Sunday, February 12 at 11:00 am in 245 IMU
✓ No meeting next week (Tuesday, February 14)
✓ Next Committee Meetings on Tuesday, February 21 in the Penn State Room (IMU)
✓ Next General Senate Meeting is on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm in 2520D UCC

AN ACT, relating to the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) support of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA) Act; and

WHEREAS, the official name of this legislation shall be the University of Iowa Student Government supports FERPA; and

WHEREAS, President Elliot Higgins, Chief of Staff Navi Bajwa, Executive Associate to the President Kevin Paulsen, Sustainability Advocate Kelsey Zlevor, and Speaker Pottebaum attended the January ABTS Conference at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from January 13 – 15; and

WHEREAS, all ABTS student government delegations present unanimously approved legislation to support the continuation of FERPA; and

WHEREAS, the FERPA is a federal law administered by the Family Policy Compliance Office in the US Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, FERPA applies to all educational agencies and institutions that receive funding under any program administered by the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, all institutions within the Big Ten Conference, with the exception of Northwestern University, are required to be in compliance with FERPA; and

WHEREAS, FERPA explicitly ensures a student eighteen (18) years of age or older the right:

(1) To Access his/her educational records,
(2) Seek to have records amended,
(3) Have control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from records,
(4) File a complaint with the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, there have recently been concerns regarding protection of students’ personal information; and

WHEREAS, numerous higher educational institutions and private organizations have stepped forward to protest the release of student records; and
WHEREAS, ABTS, as the active collective voice of students of the Big Ten Conference, reaffirmed its support in the principles of FERPA; and

WHEREAS, the ABTS supports the protection of student records to ensure a respectful and dignified environment for higher education; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the University of Iowa Student Government supports the continuation of FERPA; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Iowa Student Government affirms its support in the protection of student records to ensure a respectful and dignified environment for higher education; and

SO BE IT ENACTED, by the University of Iowa Student Government.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE
Nicholas D. Pottebaum

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) during the 2011-2012 Student Senate Session and is known as SS - Resolution - 32

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Jessica H. Tobin

APPROVED ______________, 2012

UISG PRESIDENT
Elliot W. Higgins
AN ACT, relating to the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) support of specific legislative priorities for Big Ten on the Hill in April; and

WHEREAS, the official name of this legislation shall be the University of Iowa Student Government supports the ABTS Big Ten on the Hill legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, President Elliot Higgins, Chief of Staff Navi Bajwa, Executive Associate to the President Kevin Paulsen, Sustainability Advocate Kelsey Zlevor, and Speaker Pottebaum attended the January ABTS Conference at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from January 13 – 15; and

WHEREAS, all ABTS student government delegations present unanimously approved legislation to support four legislative priorities for Big Ten on the Hill in April; and

WHEREAS, the ABTS Big Ten on the Hill legislative priorities are:

1. Maintaining low interest rates on Stafford Loans,
2. Preserving Pell Grant funding,
3. Preserving federal research dollars,
4. Maintaining funding for fellowships (i.e. Fulbright); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Iowa Student Government representatives to the Big Ten on the Hill in April will lobby on the stated priorities as supported by all ABTS delegations and the University of Iowa Student Government; and

SO BE IT ENACTED, by the University of Iowa Student Government.

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) during the 2011-2012 Student Senate Session and is known as SS - Bill - 33

APPROVED __________________, 2012

UISG PRESIDENT, Elliot W. Higgins
Student Senate Committee Assignments
Student Senate Bill 34
Submitted by: Speaker Pottebaum

Student Senate Action: Passed/Failed/Tabled
February 7, 2012

AN ACT, relating to membership of Student Senate committees; and

WHEREAS, the official name of this legislation shall be Student Senate Committee Assignments; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker meet with all Senator's being placed on a UISG Senate Committee to gather interests for the coming year in Senate, goals, and committees each Senator would like to be on; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) Governing By-Laws 2.2.9 the Speaker shall appoint all committee members with advice and consent of the Senate requiring an affirmative majority vote of seated senators, unless otherwise noted; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker would encourage the approval of the recommended membership; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Senate shall consider the following person(s) for membership; and

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DIVERISTY
✓ Stephanie Chin
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GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
✓ Joelle Brown
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STUDENT SERVICES
✓ Bianca Long
✓ Nik Muntz
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SUSTAINABILITY
✓ Amy Hanson
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the UISG shall entrust to these representative(s) to be objective and un-bias in representing the students of the University of Iowa; and
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, and we endorse these person(s) who are qualified in merit to represent the UISG to the best of their abilities; and

SO BE IT ENACTED, by the University of Iowa Student Government.

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SPEAKER OF THE SENATE
Nicholas D. Pottebaum

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) during the 2011-2012 Student Senate Session and is known as SS-Bill - 34

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SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Jessica H. Tobin

APPROVED _________________, 2012

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UISG PRESIDENT
Elliot W. Higgins
AN ACT, relating to appointment of the Student Elections Board Commissioner (SEBC); and

WHEREAS, the official name of this legislation shall be the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) Student Elections Board Commissioner Appointment (SEBC); and

WHEREAS, the SEBC spot was vacant after the passage of Student Senate Bill 8, which dissolved the Student Elections Board and created the SEBC; and

WHEREAS, Nominations Committees collected applications and interviewed the nominee for the SEBC and encourages the approval of this recommended SEBC; and

THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Senate shall consider Patrick Grim for SEBC; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UISG shall entrust to Patrick Grim to be objective and un-bias in representing the students of the University of Iowa in the 2012 UISG elections; and

THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, and we endorse Patrick Grim who is qualified in merit to represent the UISG and SEBC to the best of his abilities; and

SO BE IT ENACTED, by the University of Iowa Student Government.

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SPEAKER OF THE SENATE
Nicholas D. Pottebaum

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) during the 2011-2012 Student Senate Session and is known as SS-Bill - 35

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SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Jessica H. Tobin

APPROVED __________________, 2012

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UISG PRESIDENT
Elliot W. Higgins
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Student Senate
Support of Peaceful Protest
Student Senate Bill 36
Submitted by: Speaker Pottebaum on behalf of President Higgins

Student Senate Action: Passed/Failed/Tabled
Date: February 7, 2012

AN ACT, relating to University of California Berkeley and Davis protests in recognition of their right to freely participate in peaceful civil disobedience; and

WHEREAS, the official name of this legislation shall be the University of Iowa Student Government Peaceful Protests; and

WHEREAS, President Elliot Higgins and Vice President Caplin were contacted by Northwestern University Associated Student Government Senator Ani Ajith to sign a letter supporting peaceful protests; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States ensures “the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights ensures those same rights for all people of the world; and

WHEREAS, at student protests across the country, particularly at the University of California at Davis and University of California at Berkeley, police and university administration have forcefully denied students their constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, the University of Iowa students and the larger University of Iowa community supports the constitutional and human rights of all persons; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the University of Iowa Student Government stands in solidarity with the peaceful protesters of the University of California Davis, of the University of California-Berkeley, as well as all those around the world who seek to affect change through peaceful protest, free speech, and free assembly; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the University of Iowa Student Government President Elliot Higgins will sign the letter administered by Northwestern University on behalf of UISG; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Iowa Student Government condemns the actions of those who seek to repress, censor, or forcefully deny individuals their constitutional and human rights; and
SO BE IT ENACTED, by the University of Iowa Student Government.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE
Nicholas D. Pottebaum

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) during the 2011-2012 Student Senate Session and is known as SS - Bill - 36

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Jessica H. Tobin

APPROVED ________________, 2012

UISG PRESIDENT
Elliot W. Higgins
January 2012: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ADMINISTRATIONS OF UC BERKLEY, UC DAVIS, AND ALL AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

On November 9th, 2011, students and faculty members peacefully protesting in University of California, Berkeley’s Sproul Plaza were brutally repressed by campus police in full riot gear equipped with batons and bean-bag guns used to violently disperse the protest. In response to the events at UC Berkeley, students at UC Davis participated in a non-violent protest; while sitting in an expression of non-violent resistance, over a dozen students were assaulted with pepper spray at close range and subsequently sustained injuries.

As representatives of our respective student bodies, we are appalled by the unnecessary use of force sanctioned by university administrations and carried out by campus police against non-violent protesters at UC Berkeley and UC Davis. We believe that the use of violence to quell peaceful civil disobedience and protest violates the rights of university students and faculty as guaranteed under the United States Constitution and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and as reinforced by numerous freedom of speech and excessive force court cases (e.g., Headwaters Forest Defense v. County of Humboldt).

In a recent open letter to the UC Davis chancellor, one of the university’s associate professors, Nathan Brown, said: “I am writing to tell you in no uncertain terms that there must be space for protest on our campus. There must be space for political dissent on our campus. There must be space for civil disobedience on our campus. There must be space for students to assert their right to decide on the form of their protest, their dissent, and their civil disobedience—including the simple act of setting up tents in solidarity with other students who have done so. There must be space for protest and dissent, especially, when the object of protest and dissent is police brutality itself.”

University administrations are responsible for promoting and maintaining a tolerant and safe environment that permits and encourages political discourse and dissent. While safety and security needs—used as justification for dispersing peaceful protest—are legitimate concerns, police violence is dangerous, counter-productive, and unconstitutional. University administrations must pursue alternative methods to maintain safety and security while upholding the rights of students and faculty to protest freely without fear of violent repression.

We exhort the administrations of UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and universities across the United States to avoid the use of force in dealing with peaceful student protests. We call upon our respective administrations to engage in open and honest dialogue with community members. We encourage them to review and craft transparent, fair, and non-violent policy to protect students and faculty exercising their right to peaceful civil disobedience. Most importantly, we insist that our universities work to uphold the freedoms of free speech and peaceful assembly guaranteed to us by our collective conscience and the law of our land.

Signed (as of January 19, 2012):
Northwestern University Associated Student Government
Associated Students of the University of Oregon
Williams College Council
Harvard Undergraduate Council
Georgetown University Student Association
Wellesley College Government
AN ACT, opposition to Iowa Voter ID law on the basis that such legislation would enact unnecessary barriers to voting and have high costs for taxpayers in particular the University of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the official name of this legislation shall be resolution against the proposed Voter Identification law in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the Brennan Center for Justice released a study that found that voter identification laws "could make it significantly harder for more than five million eligible voters to cast ballots in 2012" nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the legislation is similar to a Voter ID law passed in Wisconsin which it cost taxpayers nearly $6 million—those costs include a substantial education program, $2 million to cover additional employees at the Department of Transportation and the cost of free IDs; and

WHEREAS, a study by the Iowa State Association of County Auditors concluded that providing free photo IDs would cost the state of Iowa $420,660 per year and the cost of providing free birth certificates $1,261,980 per year; and

WHEREAS, therefore would potentially cost Iowa taxpayers millions; and

WHEREAS, University IDs are only valid if they include an expiration date, something that is not standard practice in the state and would require that IDs be updated before they are valid; and

WHEREAS, In Wisconsin the re-issuance of student IDs that do not comply with the new law costs over $1.6 million therefore would potentially costs the University of Iowa similar amounts; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Iowa Student Government does not support a law that would cost the University of Iowa and state of Iowa millions in taxpayer money and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UISG does not support legislation that would put more barriers in place for students to vote; and

SO BE IT ENACTED, by the University of Iowa Student Government.
I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) during the 2011-2012 Student Senate Session and is known as SS - Resolution - 37.

APPROVED ___________________, 2012

UISG PRESIDENT
Elliot W. Higgins
AN ACT, relating to the opposition of the Iowa House File 396; and

WHEREAS, the official name of this legislation shall be Opposition of House File 396; and

WHEREAS, House File 396 would make it illegal for the owner, lessee or a person who has control over a property that is not a licensed to distribute alcohol to persons under the legal drinking age of 21 to consume or possess an alcoholic beverage on their property; and

WHEREAS, House File 396 will be fining people of legal age who are knowingly serving, allowing, or consuming alcohol with people that are under the legal drinking age. Those who are exempt are parents drinking with their child in their home, as well as those who have medicinal needs, and employees that might handle alcohol; and

WHEREAS, First time offenders would be fined with a simple misdemeanor punishable by a $200 fine, while second time offenders would carry a $500 fine and may be punished with a serious misdemeanor, and subsequent offenses would result in a $500 fine and possible suspension of the violator's vehicle driver's license for up to one year; and

WHEREAS, Those who are also exempt are parents who allow their child to consume wine, beer or liquor in their private home, but would not cover other underage friends at the residence; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UISG opposes House File 396, because this measure may cause warrants and breathalyzer testing, and would force hosts to have people show them identification proving their legal age; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UISG feels there are already legal measures that local law enforcements can place on unlawful house parties and House File 396 as it is currently worded is just an additional burden, which has no evidence for reducing underage alcohol consumption; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UISG stands in opposition of proposed House File 396; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, As House File 396 continues to be worked on and changed in the Iowa legislature, UISG will continue to monitor the legislation, and change our stance if seen necessary; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UISG stands in opposition to the current wording of House File 396; and

SO BE IT ENACTED, by the University of Iowa Student Government.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE
Nicholas D. Pottebaum

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated in the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) during the 2011-2012 Student Senate Session and is known as SS - Resolution - 38

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Jessica H. Tobin

APPROVED ________________, 2012

UISG PRESIDENT
Elliot W. Higgins