

Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Advocacy Committee Meeting #2

10/14/2024 4:00pm CST

Student Union Teche 116

Start Time: 4:03pm

1. Opening Remarks
 - a. Introduction and Meeting Objectives
 - i. The meeting was changed from in person in Student Union Teche 116 to a zoom meeting because Vice President Garbie was not going to be able to attend in person.
2. New Business
 - a. Transportation Initiatives
 - i. City Bus System Merger: Is this a viable solution?
 - a. Vice President Garbie asked the committee to think of any potential benefits and drawbacks to merging the City Bus System with the UL Lafayette Bus System. The benefits mentioned by the committee were the greater reach in the city of Lafayette, which would allow more students to be able to come to campus without the need to drive. However, drawbacks include safety concerns and delays, according to previous users of the City Bus System.
 - b. Vice President Garbie also mentioned how this merger would work; UL Student swipes their UL card and at the end of each fiscal year, UL pays the city by the number of swipes. Vice President Garbie asked the committee if they think this system's benefits would be worth it if it takes funds away from the UL Lafayette Bus System.
 - i. The committee strongly believes that merger would not be worth it if it takes away from the reliable and safe UL bus system.
 - ii. Inviting Mr. Hammet or Mr. Glaeser to speak at Meeting #3.
 1. Input and recommendations from the committee on extending the invitation.
 - a. Vice President Garbie asked if the committee would love to invite the transportation administrators, Mr. Hammet and Mr. Glaeser to GSO to discuss these initiatives and possible further expansions, as well as the ins and outs of how to run a transportation service and what are the challenges that they face. This is to provide the committee with a deep

insight so that requests and initiatives can be formed with a larger knowledge of how the system works.

- b. Committee agreed that an invitation would be beneficial to the discussion of initiatives and expansion.

b. Advocacy Committee structure

i. Roles

1. According to the bylaws, delegation of responsibilities is permitted. I want to ensure we respect everyone's time effectively. Would you be willing to take on additional responsibilities if needed?
 - a. Vice President Garbie asked the committee if they would be willing to have tasks be delegated to. Vice President Garbie gave the example of drafting an advocacy letter.
 - b. Some committee members showed enthusiasm towards the idea.
2. Should we consider establishing specific roles within the committee for better organization?
 - a. Vice President Garbie asked the committee if they would be willing to have specific roles within the committee, as well as the idea of subcommittees. An example provided by Vice President Garbie was that of a transportation subcommittee within the advocacy committee to focus purely on the transportation initiatives.
 - b. Committee members welcomed the idea of subcommittees.

ii. Concerns

1. Enthusiasm has been observed during general meetings, but not during committee meetings. This discrepancy may lead to inefficiency.
 - a. Vice President Garbie has concerns to the general meeting being a point of new advocacy concerns being brought up by members of the general council but not members of the advocacy committee. While the general council is for deliberating and then voting on actions for the advocacy committee, some members of the general council bring up new advocacy concerns that just cannot be discussed in depth during the general meeting due to time constraints.
 - b. Rep Bilal Khan stated that he's very interested in attending the advocacy committee but other commitments (academic) bars him from doing so.
 - c. Rep Brianna Doucet recommends that before every general meeting, the advocacy meeting agenda is available for all the department reps to see what was discussed. Vice

President Garbie agrees and that will be the policy moving forward.

2. I will take a more active role in ensuring that members who signed up for the advocacy committee participate consistently. Regular reminders will be issued to encourage attendance?
 - a. Thoughts?
 - i. Vice President Garbie has concerns about members of the general council signing up to the advocacy committee and not attending. Vice President Garbie keeps the committee open for any attendance regardless of written commitment, but low attendance which currently isn't an issue could be later on with major initiatives coming out of the advocacy committee.
 - ii. Committee deliberates but there was disagreement so the committee agrees to keep the status quo until a change is needed.
3. Old Business
 - a. Shopper Shuttle Services
 - i. Vice President Garbie briefly states the concerns seen with the expansion of the shopper shuttle to include a stop at Cajun Village. While there is obvious benefits, Vice President Garbie stated GSO's position again which is any expansion before first perfecting the first iteration would be detrimental and cause delays. Vice President Garbie received concerns of students at Walmart waiting more than 40 minutes for the shopper shuttle. However, given that neither Vice President Garbie nor President Tkolo has met or heard from Transportation Administrators, firsthand accounts from students are all the information we have.
4. Floor Opening for Any Concern
 - a. Vice President Garbie opens the floor to any concerns that committee members have.
5. Closing Remarks

End Time: 4:57pm