



November 3, 2022 | [Zoom Link](#)

1. Review last week's [minutes](#): vote to approve
  - **Minutes unanimously approved**
2. **Special Election Update**: [Election packet here](#)
  - a. We are having a candidate forum today to vote in a new senator

-There are two candidates here, Django and Carly

-Sophia: How would you communicate with admin and students?

- **Carly**: wants to give opportunities to students to give anonymous feedback. She is involved with multiple campus groups/ clubs and has a wide range of students who can give her their opinions.
- **Django**: thinks word of mouth is powerful. They want to be involved in town halls and participate in spaces where students can speak free

-Kate asks Django about the bathrooms in their campaign statement

- **Django** talks about a bathroom in Spruce that has remained gender-segregated, the school says this is for people with religious reasons. They want to have a larger conversation about this issue on campus and canvas students about their use/ opinions

-Kate: What ideas do you have regarding student outreach?

- **Carly** has no specific project in mind, but wants to do something related to sustainability. She's noticed invasive ivy on campus and wants to possibly host an event to help this.
- **Django** says getting the word out about ASB is important. They like the idea of stickers and other wearable swag, even more emails so students know more about ASB and what it can do.

-Sophia: How would you handle a disagreement between yourself and someone else?

- **Django**: it is important to hear what the other person has to say, even if you don't agree with them. They value holding space for opponents and seeing disagreements as important.

- **Carly:** it's important to go into it with an open mind, not just to emphasize your own belief. She values staying open to changing your perspective and then moving towards compromise in the argument.

**-Vasty:** Will you be able to fully commit to this position and your responsibilities as senators, including committees?

- **Both candidates say yes**

**-After the candidates left, senators talked about how they felt about the candidates**

- **Katie and Maddy both like Django's confidence and preparedness**
- **Tallulah thinks Carly's experience is better suited to the role of senator; she was involved in a lot of different things in high school and is involved in several clubs on campus. This brings perspective from different areas and shows community involvement.**
- **Destiny also likes Carly. She talked about how the bathroom issue in Spruce that was referenced has already been solved (she lives in Spruce).**
- **Vasty liked Carly's campaign statement and her emphasis on compromise**
- **Marty liked how Django emphasized that they want to represent the voice of the student body, as well as concrete things they want to do as a senator**
- **Sophia clarifies that both senators would likely be on Finance Committee or EOC**
- **Multiple senators were put off by the first sentence of Django's campaign statement, in which they say joining ASB is vital to progressing as a student involved in politics.**
- **Rocky thinks both candidates are great, he encourages us to try and get these students involved in student government in some capacity regardless of how the vote turns out**
- **Sam C. says there will be another special election in January**
- **Votes: we need more than ½ majority**
  - ❖ **Django: 4**
  - ❖ **Carly: 11**
  - ❖ **Carly wins!**

3. Resume our discussion about the [bill](#) from last week (if time permits)

- **We are talking about the bill that proposes to remove the signature requirement for Senate/ Cabinet applications**
- **One senator talked to students outside of Senate, there was strong support for Cabinet members getting signatures and fairly strong support for Senate members getting signatures**
- **Tallulah agrees, emphasizes how there are other ways to get into ASB**
- **Rose asks if it is possible to reach out to NDSU and get their take on the accessibility issue**
- **Maddy (NDSU rep) thinks signatures can be a sort of popularity contest, it can be hard for neurodivergent people to talk to new people. Maddy doesn't**

**know if it is necessarily an accessibility issue but thinks it is important to keep in mind**

- **This discussion was tabled because Eric Staab got here**
- 4. **Admissions Town Hall with Eric Staab and Hollie Elliot**
  - a. **An open information session on LC's recruiting and admissions process**
  - b. **5pm - 6pm**
- **Eric is the VP of financial aid**
- **He opens the floor for questions about what he should talk about tonight**
  - **Sam C.: housing on campus: how does the college plan to keep admitting more students but not build more housing?**
  - **Rose: Covid policy. If one roommate gets sick other healthy roommates have to stay in the room with them because there is no isolation housing**
  - **Isa: Is tuition being increased? Is room and board being increased? Will current students have to pay the tuition increase?**
  - **Marty: Are there any programs to help students pay differently if they have to graduate in 5 years? What kind of aid do you give to students living out of state?**
  - **Finn: What is the goal of admissions right now? Are we trying to increase class size?**
  - **Maddy: If students who are already here do have to pay the tuition increase, will financial aid be adjusted to match up?**
  - **Katie: How will accepting more students impact the value of our degrees?**
  - **Marty: How will increasing class size affect the student/teacher ratio?**
- **Eric says he is not involved in housing or Covid protocols, but he understands why the questions are coming to him.**
- **He provides a graph showing the history of enrollment for the college, which shows that the class size is exactly what the college wanted him to matriculate. Last year, the class size was larger than what the college wanted by over 100 (wanted 550; got 667) because the percentage of students who accepted the admission offer jumped. Typically 12% of students accept the offer, last year 15.5% accepted.**
- **The college has had to cut the budget a lot over the past few years while trying to protect the student experience. This is because expenses (insurance, salary, food etc) are increasing exponentially. However, the amount that students can pay has been flat. Having a larger freshman class last year helped mitigate budget cuts. The college matriculated a class of 625 to further help the budget.**
- **The college only projects forward one year at a time. The incoming class will also be matriculated at 625. There is a lot of classroom space, and with 1,500 beds the college should be able to accommodate all freshmen and sophomores. In the past years with smaller classes, the housing department has been able to accommodate**

all upperclassmen who want to live on campus. Now, they are working on warning the upperclassmen that housing will be less available.

- The current CAS enrollment is 2,126. The college has been a lot larger some years in the 2010's. The student experience and the student/teacher ratio has not changed since this, but it feels like it has because in the late 2010's and in 2020 there was lower enrollment.
- Kate asks what the criteria are for student housing. A lot of students have had concerns about close quarters in housing and the lack of dining options.
- Eric responds that he doesn't know anything about the future plans for the number of students in rooms or dining options, but the cost of building new housing is astronomically high right now. Evette is looking at expanding dining hours.
- The budget is built on a one year basis because so much changes year to year, so that is why Eric only knows the projected matriculation for this upcoming year.
- Yonus asks: do more students require more facilities?
- Eric says this requires a comprehensive assessment of the capacity of the college. This has been done in past years and it might happen again, but we have the academic facilities to accommodate a larger student body.
- The current retention rate (first year to second year) is around 86%. There have been lower rates in recent years due to COVID. The hope is to get back up to 90-91%. This rate increases once students come back for sophomore year.
- The college knows that tuition is high, this is why they offer pretty good financial aid. Tuition will increase every year because the cost of living and the college's budget get higher every year, so the college has to garner more revenue.
- Hopefully, families are getting salary increases to be able to accommodate this.
- The Board of Trustees finalizes the tuition and room and board.
- Students who come from low-income backgrounds and are eligible for Pell Grants will pay the same amount every year.
- For middle class students, the scholarship's percentage will be increased (not dollar-for-dollar). So these families have to pay more, but not the exact amount tuition has been increased.
- Families who don't qualify for need-based financial aid are asked to pay for every dollar increase.
- Students do leave the college because of cost, but most students leave for issues that are not related to cost
- Due in part to the larger classes, the college is in much better financial standing than it has been in recent years.
- Our largest student population comes from CA (35%), 9% from WA, 9% from OR
- There is not an incentivized aid package for out of state students
- Eric changed the aid policy 2 years ago. 20% of students are Pell Grant eligible and another 40% have some financial need. The rest have low/ no need financially.

- **Merit scholarships are still given to wealthy students because students will go to other schools if they aren't. If wealthy students don't come, there will be no one to pay for low income students.**
- **The meeting is adjourned due to time.**

I now yield the floor for any open comments, questions and concerns