



**ASA SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**9:00 P.M., HAUGO ROOM**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015**

**Attendance: (15) Absent: (1)**

*Welcome from Paige*

*Senate Introductions*

*Re-brand of Augieholics*

- Thomas Elness: There was a taskforce that met this summer. They found that people like the community that is the idea behind Augieholics. The budget balance at the end of last year was of \$0, they didn't fulfill their ASA requirements last year, and they were down to one member at the beginning of this year. This is an important club that needs to be stable on campus. Students and student athletes deserve a well-run, well-funded group that can provide that support. We received lots of input and a new constitution and new by-laws were created.
- Alex Guggenberger: What is the name officially?
- Thomas Elness: The task force had the responsibility of renaming the group. We brainstormed fifteen names to start with, and narrowed it down to Augie Nation, SKOL Nation, and SKOL. We created a survey that was distributed to Viking Guides, UBG, and ASA senators. That was narrowed down to SKOL and Augie Nation. We will vote tonight to decide the new name.
- Alex Guggenberger: What's wrong with keeping the current name? I don't think the name is the wrong part. I've asked lots of students, and they say they love the name. I think we should look at keeping the name the same and work on getting the right people in charge.
- Kiri Jacobsen: Augieholics has basically been dead for the past few years so new people coming in don't realize what the name is associated with.
- Alejandro Garcia: But I think it had a negative connotation relating it to alcoholics and the name sounds similar.
- Thomas Elness: We think a new brand, a new logo, a new energy and just a new culture will be included in a name change, and it seems like now would be an excellent time to do that. In past years, lots of people would buy the Augieholic's shirt and wear it, but they wouldn't consider themselves an Augieholic. With a new name and leadership, this is a way to rebrand and include everyone.
- Eric Vander Lee: Are we keeping the main objective of the group the same? Is it going to remain sporting oriented?
- Thomas Elness: We updated the Augieholics to accommodate what the campus desired from the group. The new brand is a broad effort to be inclusive of the arts and to expand beyond its current reach.

- Alejandro Garcia: Isn't SKOL a scholarship group?
- Thomas Elness: Paige and I talked with Mary Toso in Relations. As Mary said, SKOL was a student-alumni relations program that was discontinued about three years ago, and she supports ASA taking the name and rebranding it as a student group. There are already some logos created that could possibly be used for our purposes, which is a benefit of that name.
- Megan Wencil: Is there any carryover of leadership from last year?
- Thomas Elness: Well Nakia Fritz was the only remaining member so she will know about leadership positions.
- Paige Schwitters: Jake Connealy was also on the task force so we invited him to come tonight and he is available for questions.
- Spencer O'Hara: Wasn't the idea to make it more similar to UBG in terms of leadership?
- Thomas Elness: The Constitution and By-Laws are laid out very similarly to UBG. That was intentional to promote consistency.
- Katelyn Graber: Do we have any indication whether Augieholics is going to be successful or not, since we're putting in so much effort to rebrand it?
- Alex Guggenberger: They used to assign 2 people to each sport when it used to be really popular. That obviously takes a lot of people.
- Thomas Elness: There are a few things to change that will promote a healthier, more active group. The committees will be broken up by different tasks. That way you can have bigger events and more people engaged. The weekend of September, 11 and 12 there are two volleyball games on Friday, two volleyball games on Saturday, the football game, and a soccer game. We could have a pep rally Friday, and a grill out Saturday. Then everyone can walk to the football game together. That requires funding though, and currently they have \$0.
- Megan Wencil: I'm an advocate for innovation and promoting groups. There are so many changes on campus. I think it would be more beneficial to tweak things as we go and not completely wipe it out and start from scratch.
- Eric Vander Lee: What happened that led to Augieholics demise? I know the student section used to have way more people than it does now.
- Katelyn Graber: If we do approve it, then they would have funding.
- Kirsten Titze: How soon could they start organizing events? We have football game in 2 weeks.
- Thomas: Our goal is September, 11 and 12, even if we don't have shirts. The idea is to have activities that weekend.
- Jasmin Fosheim: We've been talking about sporting events. The Constitution mentions the arts. How are you intending to ensure they support the arts as well?
- Thomas Elness: The Diversity Inclusion Committee would be making all sporting and performing arts' groups are getting attention and support. Specific measures are in place to ensure those often forgotten groups are included.
- Abbie Sell: How is that group going to choose which groups and events to support with the diversity and amount of groups and events on campus?
- Thomas Elness: There is one committee that will be focused on scheduling and the Diversity Inclusion Committee will be that voice of reminder for less-attended groups' events.
- Eric Vander Lee: Do we have student leadership prepared, or do we need to make a decision on that?
- Thomas Elness: At this point Nakia Fritz is interested, but at this point we're open to whoever is interested in serving. Since it is a new year, we're more urgent in our search for people.

- Ben Konold: What issues are we hung up on? Some people are obviously not satisfied with the name, but I was hoping to have some positive conversation.
- Thomas Elness: We're trying to restore the tradition of Augieholics. We're trying to make this one of the best student sections in DII.
- Megan Wencil: How many people were on the taskforce?
- Thomas Elness: Ten people plus senators who were available to come. Even people who couldn't attend the meeting sent emails, and we asked people to think of themselves as a representative.
- Ben Konold: The biggest issues seems to be the timeframe. One to two weeks until the first football game and we're trying to cram all this in. I don't think all of us got to participate in the discussion as much as we wanted to.
- Kiri Jacobsen: How and when did you start thinking about rebranding Augieholics?
- Thomas Elness: When Paige and I were knocking on doors in the spring, many people were asking about Augieholics. We have been passionate about this since we were campaigning.
- Alex Matson: They were brainstorming about this last year. Everyone has known that something need to change.
- Kirsten Titze: Part of the problem was, Heritage house was right there. It was alcohol free on the lawn, but then you went into the kitchen and did whatever you wanted. Since Heritage isn't a livable house, I think it can change.
- Alex Matson: I think Augieholics was more of an exclusive group of alcoholics last year. If you ask Nakia and some other people to spread out around campus and go to doors promoting the group, we can rally support and build the group fast.
- Spencer O'Hara: Do people have to fill out applications and interview? That's going to take time.
- Thomas Elness: This year will be different because of the haste of it all. My advice would be to reach out to people who might be interested in doing it. It might be slow, but we need to remember that currently there's only one member.
- Kiri Jacobsen: Let's hang posters that say "Run for Augieholics", especially in freshman dorms.
- Thomas Elness: Our idea is that while posters might be effective, there's a lot of ways to find leaders. We have many Viking Guides who are passionate among many other interested leaders, and we're a good group to go out and find those leaders. The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September won't be the biggest event that this group creates and hosts this year. We're ready to see improvements throughout the year and make sure students, athletes, artists, and performers are getting support from their peers that they're currently not getting.
- Jake Connealy: I'm hearing that people are concerned about the timeline, but also keeping the tradition. The name is going to be the name and people will get to know it whatever it is. The taskforce had ideas to make the group more cohesive instead of a small clique. The group will work hard to create more events, do more volunteering, and make a more cohesive, positive group.
- Alex Guggenberger: The tailgate will get more people to know about it.
- Thomas Elness: We don't need to program and create logistics. The Constitution allows for the group to figure all that out. We just want to focus on bettering the structure.
- Kirsten Titze: I think the taskforce has spent a lot of time on it. Ideally, we should get stuff out tomorrow.
- Alex Matson: We should look towards Viking Guides to help spread the word since the freshmen already know them.
- Brianne Bernard: The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> could also be a recruiting event with people who are knowledgeable about this. That weekend will be just after the activities fair.

- Katelyn Graber: I don't think it's necessary to have a leadership team in line by the weekend. It think it's unrealistic in a week and a half.
- Thomas Elness: It's partially dependent on the quality of candidates.
- Jake Connealy: The main focus should just be getting the name out there and recruiting people.
- Thomas Elness: We're going to take a vote on the name.
- Alejandro Garcia: Is Augieholics still included in the vote?
- Megan Wencil: That was my question. The suffix: "holic" seems appropriate for a group this encompassing.
- Spencer O'Hara: Why was this decision left to a taskforce and not ASA?
- Brianne Bernard: I was there, and I like the name Augieholics. The name change had to happen for funding reasons. The name change was necessary for funding from athletics.
- Thomas Elness: We were not comfortable with the Augieholics name. It was more of an exclusive group, and simply rebranding it wasn't something we wanted to do. Names are important as we've learned this week.
- Alex Guggenberger: Is that the problem of the name?
- Kirsten Olson: I like the name Augieholics, but I can see why the name needs to be change.
- Eric Vander Lee: I think some of us are biased, and we saw Augieholics when it was still big.
- Jake Connealy: There are lot of people who don't have the negative connotation.
- Kiri Jacobsen: The other names don't have the ring that "Augieholics" has.
- Ben Konold: I think the t-shirts are a problem. They are closely related to alcoholics.
- Alex Guggenberger: Can we move to vote whether Augieholics is the name or not? I move to vote whether Augieholics is the name or we vote on another name.
- Thomas Elness: We are not going to sponsor a group that has a history of being exclusive and a history of alcohol issues. This is a rebranding effort that will allow for new resources and new energy. This is a way to promote and broadcast new resources, new leadership, and new ideas.
- Brianne Bernard: The seniors and juniors experienced the high points of Augieholics. By the time this new group is going, our emotions with Augieholics and the old group will be gone.
- Thomas Elness: The group was successful, and that's why we're here. We know what the group can be on campus and what kind of energy this group is capable of bringing. We are going to vote between Augie Nation and SKOL. I'd entertain a motion to vote between those two names.
- Kirsten Olson: What does SKOL stand for?
- Megan Wencil: Students Keeping Ole's Legacy.
- Alejandro Garcia: In Norwegian, SKOL means "Cheers!" Aren't we trying to move away from alcohol?
- Kirsten Titze: Last year it said "SKOL" across our bro tanks so I think if admin had a problem with it, we would have heard about it by now.

### **Motion to vote between SKOL and Augie Nation**

Eric Vander Lee Motion | Brianne Bernard Second | Motion Passes

Augie Nation: (2) SKOL: (8) Abstain: (5) | SKOL is the new name

### *SKOL Constitution and By-Laws*

### **Motion to approve Constitution and By-Laws**

Eric Vander Lee Motion | Joel Gullickson Second | Motion Passes

### *Treasurer*

- Mason VanEssen: I suggest an allocation of \$2,000 for the new group. This is half of the budget surplus from last year and seems like a good starting amount.

- Alex Guggenberger: Would that be their allocation for the whole year? Or would we change it later?
- Kirsten Titze: So they get this now and then none later? Could we consider splitting into \$1,000 each semester in case it's a flop this semester?
- Alejandro Garcia: Are they going to volunteer?
- Megan Wencil: Are they eligible for service volunteer money?
- Thomas Elness: They would not be eligible for service volunteer funding, but they could apply for CDF funding.
- Eric Vander Lee: I like the idea of the contingent. \$1,000 is a good sum for a student organization that is just getting started.
- Katelyn Graber: Is this mainly for the weekend ahead? How much does a tailgate normally cost?
- Megan Wencil: A porta-potty costs \$300 alone, and the college requires them to have one.
- Eric Vander Lee: Do you know how much Augieholics was receiving before this?
- Megan Wencil: We can't compare this amount to last year because they weren't doing anything.
- Jim Bies: They have been receiving \$7,000 a year for the last few years. They received the most funding behind UBG.
- Alex Guggenberger: Are we going to give them money for t-shirts. I think we need to go big or go home.
- Alejandro Garcia: How much does it cost to host a tailgate?
- Alex Guggenberger: \$250 for food with discounts.
- Kirsten Titze: I think we should allocate them \$4,000 and use all of the surplus from last year.
- Mason VanEssen: It depends on how it takes off.
- Alex Matson: If you're going to a rebrand, you have to kick it off big. We can't provide them with a low budget to kick off the new group.
- Abbie Sell: \$1,000 isn't enough if we're expecting them to do a tailgate and advertise for fine arts events.
- Megan Wencil: The tailgate three years ago cost them \$1,244.
- Katelyn Graber: I think \$2,000 is sufficient to get them rolling for this tailgate. If it goes great, then we can revisit funding them further. If it doesn't go well, then we tried.
- Megan Wencil: Since they are reformatted, can they apply for service opportunity funding? Or are we just giving them this funding for the whole year?
- Thomas Elness: They cannot receive funding from the service opportunity.

#### **Motion to allocate \$2,000 to SKOL**

**Eric Vander Lee Motion | Kirsten Titze Second | Motion Passes**

#### *President's Report*

- Paige Schwitters: We've had several meetings over the summer, and they have gone well. One of the things discussed with Tom Meyer was an Energy Efficiency Program. There is a lot of waste of energy in theme houses and apartments. Utility costs would be compared to last year's costs. The amount of energy that was spent to heat and cool a house would be compared to this year's costs. The savings or difference in cost of each house or apartment would be cut in half and that money would be distributed to the inhabitants of the house either by direct deposit or credit to the account. We also spoke to President Oliver about a smoke free campus, and he's ready to discuss that further. We'd like to delegate that to committees. We toured campus with Rick Tupper and looked at problems he saw with overgrown bushes and window peeking potential. Since manpower and time are the main reasons these issues haven't been resolved, he has ideas for how ASA could help fix these issues through a service project. Damian in the cafeteria is exploring options with a late night program in the Huddle. He's hoping to introduce a healthier

option down in the Huddle for people who can't eat supper before 7. He's also looking at tray-less dining. These are all things we have discussed, but now that committees are decided we will be delegating these issues. The SDHEA student leadership conference is on September 18 from 9 am – 4 pm. If anyone is interested, the Center for Campus Life has allotted registration funds for thirty students. If anyone is interested, let me know.

- Jasmin Fosheim: What does the acronym stand for and what is the conference?
- Thomas Elness: It is the South Dakota Higher Education Association.
- Jim Bies: It includes private and public higher education institutions. This particular year Augie is hosting the annual conference. The conference has been in place for five years, this will be the sixth annual conference.
- Kirsten Titze: It's on campus?
- Jim Bies: It is on campus and there will be other college and institution leaders present. Registration indicates that it will probably include about 100-150 students from seven to eight other campuses.
- Paige Schwitters: For those of you who have not completed the AlcoholEdu and Haven programs, please finish those. Committees will be finalized by the end of the week. Thanks for helping with PODS. Office hours will be different this year and we are still discussing how we want to proceed with those. The fall election will be September, 16 and 17.
- Kiri Jacobsen: Do we get a say in which committee will be on?
- Paige Schwitters: We used our personal meetings in the spring to determine what committee we thought you'd best fit in. We also discussed the placements with Jim and as an executive committee. If anyone has extreme distaste for the committee they're serving on, please let us know.

### **Motion to adjourn**

**Joel Gullickson Motion | Alex Matson Second | Motion Passes**

Senator	Present	Excused	Unexcused
Brianne Bernard	X		
Jasmin Fosheim	X		
Alejandro Garcia	X		
Katelyn Graber	X		
Alex Guggenberger	X		
Joel Gullickson	X		
Kiri Jacobsen	X		
Ben Konold	X		
Alexander Matson	X		
Spencer O'Hara	X		
Kirsten Olson	X		
Kara Schroeder	X		
Abbie Sell	X		
Kirsten Titze	X		
Eric Vander Lee	X		
Hanna Werling		X	

Officers	Present	Excused	Unexcused
Paige Schwitters	X		
Thomas Elness	X		
Mason VanEssen	X		
Kat Van Gerpen	X		
Megan Wencil	X		

Advisor	Present	Excused	Unexcused
Jim Bies	X		