ASA Minutes
9:00 pm Haugo Room
4/23/2014

Attendance: (22) Absent: (4)

New Business:

Matt A: I guess we know how everything turned out with the online vote and the controversy that occurred over our email conversation. The reason we decided to have an online vote is that we had a conversation last Wednesday. Clearly my perception of having discussed it enough was wrong so I apologize for anyone who was offended. I felt I was partially responsible for getting that information sent out for the fairness of the group and Jeff had that information. I didn't veto the action of the senate because I felt like this group should not be recognized, but that I felt that we should get together and talk in person. I thought it would be good to get back together one more time.

I think we need to have a protocol for online voting because that is not in our constitution and there is no wording about a cutoff for how many people vote. As we proceed in the future I think we need to discuss how we hold online votes. It's something we try to avoid, but it does happen. Additionally, we need clarity of what our senate's power really is. It doesn't say a lot about who we are and what we have to say about who is a group on campus. The first thing I want to talk about are our by-laws.

The way student groups are recognized by the student activities office are by meeting certain requirements: Constitution, faulty advisor, purpose and mission (in line with values of college), operate in compliance with college policies, and leadership hierarchy. Jeff verifies these things are in place. Senate recognition must be approved by student services, there can be no less than 10 members, there must be a leadership structure, they must provide a financial report, and participate in community service. The way I interpret it, we don't have any reason to be denying a group approval if they meet these requirements. If they uphold our core values according to school, they should be allowed to become a group.

Jesse F.: Do they receive the $150 next year? They have to follow our budget mandates next year. If they don't have ten members because five are seniors then do they qualify as a student group? They have to do a community service project this spring.
Crystal O.: That requirement would extend to every student group. Any group would need to do that.
Matt A: If a group wants to form at the end of April, are we really going to require them to get a service project done during finals?
Jesse F.: If they are formed now then they don't do much the rest of the year and some of their members are seniors are they really a group?
Maggie D.: It's the same situation with other groups.
Matt A.: When a group is forming Julie Danielson and Jeff help out with the transition of leadership to ensure the group is successful next year. I don't think we are in a position to deny them recognition.
Kirsten T.: If it was any other group we wouldn't be looking for those gray areas. We shouldn't try to get them on technicalities.

Jim B.: Jesse, my sense is you are asking a question relative to ASA acknowledgement for the purpose of financial eligibility. I think the comments are in line with how I would respond. At the same time I would respond that when ASA takes action to approve an organization, most recently debate club was approved and another one will come up this semester (Better Together), I think all those actions were taken with the assumption that those recently approved would not be eligible for funding until next year.
Matt A: Is there anything else people have questions about or that we need to go over?
Joel H.: With a core value being Christian does that carry any value with this decision? How does this line up with Pro-Choice?
Krista Y.: Did you read what Crystal sent out?
Matt B.: 40% of the student body isn't Lutheran.
Maggie D.: Catholics are open to dialogue between different opinions whether you agree with them or not you should be open to dialogue.
Krista Y.: This is going to be a good discussion and it is going to be done with full respect. Please feel free to reiterate your vote, whatever happens let's keep it here.
Jesse F.: Can this not be in the minutes?
Matt B.: It should be.
Matt A.: Would you feel more comfortable to have names not attached to the minutes?
Kirsten T.: I don't necessarily agree with this group, but I think they fit the schools values and would be a good group.
Kat V.: You need to own what you say.
Amanda J.: Just because this group is affiliated with a Pro-Choice organization doesn't mean they are not open to dialogue. They do say they will host lectures, panels, and debates. Usually debates mean both sides of an argument. This doesn't mean they will be shoving their opinion down people's throats. By having a group like this you can open dialogue.
Jessica J.: Students should be educated in this social issue. They should have complete understanding of either side.
Kirsten T.: When I saw they were affiliated with that group it concerned me because of an outside group. If they were already affiliated with this group they could still be an active group and do things on campus. They could still have a presence and we could not monitor them as well.
Jesse F.: I think it is good to provide condoms to students. They might do the same thing next year. My problem is with the title of the group. Reproductive Justice League. Justice does not have the same meaning to everyone. I think sex education is great, if it was Reproductive Information League. I don't see what they are doing as justice so much that I don't like the name. I see it as a viewpoint.
Emily G.: Is that something we can deny them?
Krista Y.: That is not this group; RPL did not provide condoms in the commons during dinner.
Ray A.: People define justice differently. Maybe this is something we can share with them about their name.
Emily W.: (joking) I personally joined Augie Green and thought I would make a lot of money and in my first meeting I quickly found out that I was deeply opposed to this group, thankfully they let me quit without any hesitation.
Seth V.: My major concern is every time this has come up on campus, it seems like there are some people that have issue and some that don't. When they want to do something like hand out condoms, is it the same issue that is going to come up on the senate? I feel this issue will perpetually come up and need to be addressed.
Matt B.: My biggest concern is student money will go to buy contraception. I don't think I should have to pay for someone else's contraception. There are some people on campus whose religion does not agree with this. That's why I voted no.
Jesse F.: We don't know they will do that, but past experiences have shown this to be true.

Emily G.: GSA sponsors events like drag shows (GSA) and I don't know what the viewpoint on that is. It is controversial, but student money has gone toward those shows. Our money is going to sponsor events like that because we are a diverse student body.
Joel H.: I think this is different than buying contraception.
Krista Y.: But we still did give them money.
Kofi G.: I just want to say that I like dialogue, but I think we should create that environment where different views are heard. On the surface this group starts out talking about dialogue and how they will create debates and panels and talk on the issue. In the same paragraph they go ahead to say they will use the political process to guarantee individuals have the right to choose abortion. This is a very contradictory statement. If you talk about dialogue, taking this position of using the political process to push this agenda is different. Other groups have a history of doing things we don't like. I know the people here and they are great, but what about the next group of executives for this group. As we go ahead we would want a group that doesn't take advantage of very vague and contradictory constitution. Just to put it out there, if this was a Pro-Life group I would not support them if their constitution were written similarly.
Amanda J.: Personal decision doesn't mean you have to agree with them. You can disagree with what they are saying. It's your choice whether you want to or not.
Kirsten T.: What he was saying about going through the political system: The only way for it to be two sides is for abortion to be legal and it looks like it will be for a while. If people are going to have abortions then they need to be educated and participate in dialogue. Even for us as college students, making a decision on what you think is right is important. In terms of using student money to buy condoms, they are affiliated that with other group and we could make it clear that they can't use student money to buy condoms. That does create a gray area. If we approve them then we can talk to them. If not, we have less ability to talk about this.
Emily G.: If our rational is we are worried about future leadership you need good leadership every year to continue to be a recognized group with the new budget so this is taken care of.
Emily W.: If people are politically promoting things, GSA tastefully promoted gay marriage by giving information.
Kofi G.: Two wrongs don't make a right.
Ray A.: The way I look at it, they are obviously Pro-Choice and leaving room for dialogue, but they need dialogue.
Kofi G.: We don't know that though.
Ray A.: We need to give them a chance.
Amanda J.: There was controversy my freshman year with GSA having a runway show and it turned out to be popular.
Joel H.: I think we need to fall back to what Matt said and the potential that they can buy contraceptives with student money. Whether we allow it or not or we say we are ready to approve your group if you don't buy contraception.
Kirsten T.: It says that they sign on a contract with us each year in the Constitution.
Matt A.: Seth could verify that.
Kirsten T.: We should have all groups sign this, but with this group it would be important to spell this out saying you can't buy pizza or condoms with student money.
Emily G.: There is already a section in the by-laws that tells you what is not okay to buy with student funds if that makes you more comfortable. I don't know what the student handbook says about contraceptives.
Matt B.: Whether an outside group funds them, it is all going in the same pot. They are still using student money and they can just ask for money for something else.
Matt A.: The problem then is not that we are funding condoms, but that condoms are what they have?
Emily W.: This is all on receipts.

Elliot B.: If we are going to say they can't use our money then they can't use someone else's money?
Maggie D.: I'm still struggling to see why it's such an issue. I don't see the difference for me paying for the Republican group funds and students getting condoms. When do we determine what is appropriate?
Crystal O.: What's important to me is not what a student group potentially could do, but it's our responsibility to give them the opportunity to do something. Maybe it's a flaw in our by-laws that we don't check in regularly with groups. Do they have the structure yes, do they have ideas, yes. It is my responsibility that if I don't agree with some of the initiatives it is still my responsibility to support them
Matt A.: That's the way the by-laws are written to give groups the opportunity to succeed.
Seth V.: I see two big issues compared to other groups on campus. The big thing for people have is the dialogue versus the services provided. The difference is people providing a service and enabling that to happen. It is sex versus sexuality: talking about these things and providing condoms to enable people to do that. That's the issue people are having with the group. If there was a group titled "We Love Beer" and they gave out tickets to go to Buck's, we would have an issue with it.
Ray A.: The way I see it, we give money to student groups and we don't tell them how to use it and now there's a group coming in and they are controversial and we are telling them how to use it. We aren't telling Debate Club what they can debate about. If we are going to vote for this to be passed, I don't want to pay for anyone's contraceptive, but telling them how to use their money is bad because we don't do the same for everyone else.
Jesse F.: Is anyone on the fence about this issue?
Matt B.: Is there anyone who hasn't made up their mind?
Maggie D.: Why did we have this meeting then?
Krista Y.: Because people were upset that we are having this conversation online.
Matt A.: Any further questions?
***Emily W.*: I motion to vote on matter.**
***Amanda J.*: Second.**
Ray A.: Are we going to write another clause in our by-laws to determine how funding is used?
Emily G.: It only says inappropriate items. Is there anything in the student handbook that says something about this?
Jim B.: No.
Krista Y.: Are condoms considered inappropriate items?
Joel H.: Can we vote on that? They need to say they aren't going to buy contraceptives.
Ray A.: Contraceptives are really inappropriate.
Amanda J.: I didn't see them handing out condoms as saying "go have sex," I saw it as them saying please be safe if this happens.
Krista Y.: Would this be considered inappropriate, and then it already is in our by-laws?
Jesse F.: We need to come up with a statement saying we approved them or denied them based on this or with a condition.
Emily G.: We are talking about hypotheticals and we don't know what we are doing.
Matt B.: I want to do the due process right now.
Maggie D.: I think we should vote on whether they could buy contraceptives.
Jim B.: For the better part of 20 years off and on, the health service has always made condoms available to students and distributed them in a discrete manner, always with information. Contraceptive information for males and females has always been available for students and this has been supported through student activities fees. Last year the controversy that came up with condoms distributed in the dining room was about the appropriateness of the venue for how the distribution took place. On top of that, it was an off-campus organization with one student representative who had another student organization reserve the table. It was the intent of one student to bypass the college's protocols for reserving the tables. Some of you heard my comment

that was so inappropriate because it was someone coming to your dinner table and putting things in your face while you were eating. There was no discussion, no information about it. That is where the college draws the line. In many ways I think some of the concerns you are raising are some of the concerns the administration has. My office, Jeff, and others really want to be partners with you. As we've talked about reproductive health issues, we are totally in line with where you are. We don't always have to agree on everything.
Joel H.: You are saying that as a student group, you agree with what we are saying. Are you saying a student group should not be able to buy condoms with student funds?
Jim B.: No. I did not pose a position on that issue. My sense of that issue is for the small amount of money a group is given, I don't think they are going to buy condoms. If that becomes an eventuality, RPL will submit a CDF request and it is going to be up to the senate to make a decision at that particular time if the senate is okay funding that proposal. If a CDF were to come before this particular senate it would not be funded. I think you need to have confidence in yourselves to address the issue in the future.
Amanda J.: By recognizing them as a student group, we are able to monitor what they are doing. If they weren't then we don't have any control over that. If they are a student group, we can say they can't use the CDF to buy condoms.
Kirsten T.: What we are voting on right now is whether we can approve them as a group. According to our by-laws we are breaking our own rules if we vote against it. The whole conversation about providing condoms is not relevant. Condoms are already being provided on campus. They are not going to blow their whole budget on condoms. Also, this is about the health and safety and our fellow classmates. It doesn't mean they are going to go out and have sex.
Naras P.: What Kirsten said is true. This is about helping students in the community. There might be someone looking for support. I don't want to compare them to GSA, but student groups like this make someone feel included. If there were people who were having a problem, they would know someone was there for them and that would be beneficial. Helping your fellow friends and community means a lot.
Matt A.: Motion on the table is to approve RJL as an ASA recognized student group.

Motion to approve RJL as an ASA recognized student group: Emily W. | Second: Amanda J. | 16 aye, 6 nay motion passes (72.5%)

Krista Y.: Thank you for coming this evening. It is really important to have these conversations. It is good to have this dialogue so thank you for sharing your opinions. We all respect each other so please don't take anything said personally. If you have any further comments please talk to Matt, myself, or Jim.
Matt A.: Make sure you approve minutes from last week.

Adjourn
Motion to adjourn: Jesse F. | Second: Naras P. | Motion Passes

SENATE MEETING MOTION SHEET

FILED BY ASA DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AIMÉE FISHER

DATE 04/23/14 MOTION # 0423141

REGARDING:

Motion to recognize Reproductive Justice League as an official Augustana student group.

MOVED: _____ SECONDED: _____

FURTHER ACTION:

Matt Anderson
ASA PRESIDENT

VOTING RESULTS:

AYE 16 NAY 6 ABSTENTION 0

COMMENTS:

Nay: Matt B, Kofi, Hanna, Jesse F., Scot, Joel

SENATOR	PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
Amanda Johnson	x		
Brittany Dardis	x		
Elliot Blue	x		
Emily Grandprey	x		
Emily Weber	x		
Hanna Werling	x		
Jesse Fonkert	x		
Jessica Johnson	x		
Joel Hermann	x		
Katherine Van Gerpen	x		
Leah Murfield	x		
Matthew Bell	x		
Naras Prameswari	x		
Taylor Lambert			x
Dan Schmidtman		x	
Kofi Gunu	x		
Katelyn Johnson	x		
Kaitlin Romano	x		
Ray Asmah	x		
Crystal Ortbahn	x		
Kirsten Titze	x		
Scot Missling	x		
Sam Hoskins			x
Maggie Dally	x		
Kale Merrel	x		
Jesse Nelson			x

OFFICER	PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
Matt Anderson	x		
Krista Youngberg	x		
Seth Vogelsang	x		
Aimee Fisher	x		

ADVISOR	PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
Jim Bies	x		