



**Agenda of the Senate**  
**Hofstra University Student Government Association**  
**April 11th, 2024**  
**Hofstra University**

**Call to order**

Meeting Called to order at 7:02 PM EST

**A. Quorum Call**

- a. Quorum set 21

**B. New Business**

- a. Chair Wrazin moves to open the gallery

- i. Motion seconded
  - ii. Motion passed

- b. Alumni Panel!

- i. Please welcome:

- 1. Pete Desilvio: Graduated in 2009, two term president, soft-seating in the commuter lounge, Speed Bump sign, and Music Fest!
    - 2. Akeem Mellis: Started as Academic Affairs chair, then Rules Chair, and then finally as VP 2009-2010
    - 3. Tara Stark: Facilities and Operations chair, and then 2020-2021 President
    - 4. Russell Akiyama: Sat as Rules Chair and then later VP with Pete

- ii. Senator Tso: How has your time at SGA opened you up to opportunities either inside or outside hofstra?

- 1. Tara: I would say SGA did a lot for me. This is where I learned how to foster connections with people and gain an idea of how to advocate, especially useful in my career as a therapist and mental health instructor. It also helped me build confidence, gave me a voice, and skills in professionalism. My seat at the table matters, and SGA showed me that.
    - 2. Akeem: For me, I would say that it was more impactful right out of college and during. A lot of things you learn in SGA you use later

in life, but indirectly so. It is the building of skills that you need here and outside of Hofstra; be a sponge, and learn everything you can. You gain the confidence and internal strength to succeed.

3. Pete: Everything I have can be traced back to this room. I am pretty involved in politics, so the communication skills I have learned have been quite helpful. I used my experience running elections through student government to help officials in Nassau, which really helped me move my way up in the county. If I never participated in SGA, I would not have used my experiences to help with that election, which has ultimately brought me everything.
4. Russell: Inside of Hofstra, I would say it gave me some great friendships I have to this day. Those of us who find each other in spaces like SGA or interest groups/clubs, recognize the commonality between us, which allows connection in spite of differences. For example, my year was really concerned with plastic use here at Hofstra. These groups help solidify the “why” behind our actions.

iii. Chair Jackson: Could you reflect on your experience and what led you to join SGA?

1. Pete: I came with the intention that I was not going to get involved in student government. But, in the first couple weeks of class, I noticed people had been getting signatures, and I helped a classmate get his signatures, and he eventually brought me to get a packet of my own. I liked the idea and responsibility of looking out for the students at Hofstra.
2. Akeem: I wasn't involved in high school, and didn't even start right when I got to campus. I needed to wrap my head around college/campus living first. I am a politics nerd, so I found myself joining SGA naturally. I wasn't very talkative, but I eventually worked my way up. The path varies for someone to get into SGA, and I don't regret my path at all to wait instead of jumping right in.
3. Tara: I was a transfer student and came here my sophomore year. Frankly, I wanted a way to make some friends, had done student government in high school, and decided SGA was the place that I could go and make friends. But then that evolved into so much more, and released passion I didn't realize I had.
4. Russell: I was a HUHC freshman very overwhelmed with work, and someone who lived in the Netherlands with me spoke to me about her involvement with SGA, and so I sat in on a few meetings, and was hooked! It was like a class that was never put

into the course catalog. I wanted to meet people who I could connect with in the same way at Hofstra.

iv. Senator Caba: What was your biggest satisfaction or accomplishment while in SGA?

1. Akeem: I would say my biggest satisfaction from my involvement in SGA was that I was able to work with so many different people with so many different point of views, perspectives, all at different stages of life, and we all got to be in the Greenhouse and the office together to get things done for this campus.
2. Tara: I will always have a soft spot for the library, and always wanted to get the library a revamp. That gained some momentum during my presidency, and we did a walk through of the library, wrote proposals, and we were actually being listened to. I loved the mentorship component, but even more so loved the mentor position I got to do towards the end. I liked giving people the push to show that they have what it takes! I loved watching people grow and inspire me in their own positions.
3. Russell: The biggest accomplishments are the ones that I felt made an impact on something; being there for a friend, or senator, or chair if something may come up. At one point, our SGA got sued, and we were able to make our way through that situation.
4. Pete: I would say my biggest accomplishment was Music Fest. It was not very much supported by most of the admin, but we pitched as a fundraising opportunity and we ended up getting it. I am also proud of the Fredrick Douglas statue that is outside of Monroe and the connections I made with the minority organizations. I also got to write in support and eventually see the presidential debates here. Everyone here has so much power and it's so important!

v. Chair Guenfoud: Name 1 positive memory that comes to mind when you think of SGA?

1. Russell: I have a lot of happy memories of when we would have to be out late, even until 1:30 in the morning, just working on things and talking. I also really enjoy spring on campus, in general and with the SGA events!
2. Tara: I was a GA here, and my last day working in OSLE I had a really bad day. The office was all decorated, but the idea of leaving Hofstra freaked me out. I was so upset leaving, and I was just flooded with memories of this place. It was full circle to have that moment of such sadness yet gratitude for Hofstra compared to when I first transferred. At the time that I ran, anyone in the school

could run, and two guys from the Lacrosse team ran against us. I got really competitive, and was so overjoyed when we won that year.

3. Akeem: There were a lot of late nights for budget weekend. One week we were here until 3:23AM. So many long days working here. But, that builds a certain comradery that is very hard to break. Some of the best memories and first memories come from these moments and these late nights. When you achieve what you have been working so hard to do, it gives an unbeatable feeling.
4. Pete: I have great memories with late night chats with Russell. Those were some of the best memories of my life. But, after I ran the first time, there were some issues with classes and could not rerun right away. And, I wasn't going to, but my dad was so supportive even after I didn't run. So, when I stayed for a 5th year, and decided to run again, my dad was so thrilled when I had won again. He cheered for me over the phone, and even now that he has passed, that is a great memory I have of him and SGA.

vi. Chair Jackson: Most frustrating SGA memory?

1. Russell: There were a few meetings with other activities and orgs that were frustrating. But, also meeting with individuals that were frustrated with us, that meeting seemed insufferable.
2. Tara: To be honest, when I was President, I didn't like it. For context, it was also Covid and major transitioning at the school. It was just a really weird time for everyone. The University wasn't doing enough for the BLM movement and they were putting that responsibility on our shoulders, which wasn't necessarily fair and put a huge pressure on us to say what the administration wasn't saying but should have been. There was just a lot going on. I have no regrets and would never change the experience, but I wish I had known that being a senator is just as important and worth it, and I didn't need to have the pressure to keep "climbing" positions.
3. Pete: My one VP was very rude against me- carved into the desks, stole items from me, etc- and they never got any repercussions. So, that was probably the most annoying because the school did nothing about it.
4. Akeem: I think cliques were the biggest annoyance here. They wanted to make these groups in SGA, and put themselves above the students and fellow senators. These groups caused a lot of trouble and made the organization hard at times. They didn't treat SGA the way it was supposed to be treated, and they had to be

convinced to do their responsibilities, and it was draining. I wanted to uphold a standard, but I could sense that it would all be lost after I left, which was a frustrating thing to me. You have to remember why you are here, and don't lose sight of that.

vii. Chair Giovannangelo: Do you have any questions for us?

1. Akeem: What has been the most important thing you have learned in SGA so far?

a. VP Livingston: I say it a lot, but sometimes we just need to remember that frankly, it is not always that deep. Sometimes we just need to acknowledge and set boundaries. It's about perspective.

b. Chair Jackson: Sometimes you have to put yourself first, and that doesn't mean you are doing a bad job in your positions. You can care about extracurriculars, but it shouldn't consume you completely.

c. Chair Wrazin: A learning curve does not mean you aren't doing things right or advocating correctly, but it's merely an adjustment.

d. Chair Barone: I learned along the way to have confidence in myself, and I do know what I am doing even if I don't always know how to voice it.

2. Russell: How do you know when to apply wisdom (having the courage to know when to make an exception) in your life? Who do you bring together?

a. Senator Mahlait: The entire principle behind equity is knowing when to have the courage to make an exception, for instance admissions exceptions due to socioeconomic disadvantages. We shouldn't necessarily try bring together everyone, but instead, we should bring together those who are diametrically opposed, homophobes and gays etc. This would make a greater impact, and may be a more plausible outcome.

b. Chair Vickers: I have to remember that I am here for a reason and that I went to college for a reason and deserve to be here as a first gen student. I think I had big ideals going into college, and I think that it has been good this first year to realize that I don't always need to achieve the biggest or the best things. And I think that is a sense of wisdom I can bring into new spaces. I want to make sure I can bring people who look like me into spaces where they may not think I belong.

c. Election Commissions Report

## C. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Chair Jackson moves to pass the Senate minutes from 4/4
  - i. Motion Seconded
  - ii. Motion Passed
- b. Chair Jackson moves to pass the Cabinet minutes from 4/10
  - i. Motion Seconded
  - ii. Motion Passed

**~~D. E-board Reports~~**

- a. President
  - i. Meeting with VP Eads tomorrow.
- b. Vice President
  - i. No formal report :)
- c. Comptroller
  - i. F24 Accounting File is all set!
    - 1. Calculations done
    - 2. Club categories
  - ii. Voting on budgets next committee!
  - iii. Hi from Paris (Buffalo, New York) I miss y'all
  - iv. YAY MADDIE THANKS
- d. Secretary
  - i. Do ya office hours.
  - ii. FORMAL absolute final deadline is April 19th (next friday!)
  - iii. Ask me about my position :)

**~~E. Committee Chair Reports~~**

- a. Appropriations
  - i. Saw one club!
    - 1. Allocated \$100.
  - ii. Passing budgets next week :)
- b. Club Resources
  - i. No formal report :)
- c. Communications
  - i. Thanks for a great Alumni Panel!
  - ii. No formal report :)
- d. Programming
  - i. SPRING INTO ACTION WEEK
    - 1. 649 total responses
  - ii. SEX FEST: April 17th @7pm in Plaza room s
  - iii. Relay For Life: April 20th 6PM-2AM
    - 1. Sign up!!!!
- e. Academic Affairs
- f. Equity & Inclusion

- i. Plans for the future of Equity
- ii. Hofstra Law School Implicit Bias & its Implications for Law and Policy Lecture
  - 1. Tuesday, April 16 from 12-1:00PM123
  - 2. California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu
- g. Facilities & Operations
  - i. Pages & People event on April 17th, 1-2:30pm @ library lounge!
  - ii. Karaoke Night April 29th
  - iii. Shuttle fliers around res halls, s/o Cristopher and the committee!! <3
- h. Wellness & Campus Safety
  - i. Take Back the Night is tomorrow!!
  - ii. Stop the Bleed on April 16th! [Sign-up link](#)

**F. Approval of Committee Minutes**

- a. Chair Jackson moves to pass the allocations from 4/9
  - i. Motion seconded
  - ii. Motion passed
- b. Chair Jackson moves to pass the committee minutes from 4/11
  - i. Motion seconded
  - ii. Motion passed
- c. Chair Jackson moves to strike snap cup.
  - i. Motion seconded
  - ii. Motion passed
- d. Chair Giovanagelo moves to close the gallery
  - i. Motion seconded
  - ii. Motion passed

**G. Collaborative Business**

**H. For Good of the Order**

**I. Announcements**

**~~J. Snap Cup~~**

**K. Adjournment**

- a. Chair Jackson moves to adjourn this meeting
  - i. Motion seconded
  - ii. Motion passed
    - 1. Meeting adjourned at EST 9:06PM

Club/Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated	%
ASTA	\$100	\$100	100%

