Call to Order

The meeting of the Thirty Third Regular Legislative Session was called to order by Speaker Westbrook. A moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senator Taylor.

Public Input

Senator Schwartzenburg motioned to adopt minutes seconded by Senator Thompson.

New Business

SGCR No. 17 a Concurrent Resolution to appoint Emily Smith as a Senator for the Graduate School was hereby referred to the Committee on Rules by Speaker Westbrook.

SGCR No. 18 a Concurrent Resolution to appoint Jevan Bandlamundi as a Senator for the Graduate School was hereby referred to the Committee on Rules by Speaker Westbrook.

SGCR No. 19 a Concurrent Resolution to appoint Akash Pasumarthi as a Senator for the Graduate School was hereby referred to the Committee on Rules by Speaker Westbrook.

SGCR No. 20 a Concurrent Resolution to appoint Avinash Pasumarthi as a Senator for the Graduate School was hereby referred to the Committee on Rules by Speaker Westbrook.

SGCR No. 21 a Concurrent Resolution to appoint Christopher Kunz as a Senator for the Graduate School hereby referred to the Committee on Rules by Speaker Westbrook.

Senator DeBlieux motioned to suspend the rules and immediately insert SGFB No. 4 into New Business seconded by Senator Boudreaux. Seeing no objections, Speaker Westbrook so ordered. SGFB No. 4 was hereby referred to the Committee on Budget and Appropriations by Speaker Westbrook.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs

No meeting, no report.

Budget and Appropriations

No meeting, no report.
Campus Affairs and Sustainability

No meeting, no report.

Rules

Rules Committee met last Thursday. Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell informed the floor that they will be hearing SGCR No. 16. Rules also wrote a proposal to send to the Chancellor in. The floor would also hear that The Judicial Branch also changed the Rules of Court and hopefully approve of those changes.

Student Auxiliaries and Services

No meeting, no report.

Student Life, Diversity, and Community Outreach

No meeting, no report.

Caucus Reports

Black Caucus

No meeting, no report.

Greek Caucus

No meeting, no report.

Executive Officer Reports

Nicholas Smith, Director of Programming

There will be a Straight Talk on Wednesday, February 20th. The Straight Talk will be the only SO Point opportunity for this Legislation Session, so Senators are urged to sign up. On March 6th, there will be an Artist Release Party from 11 – 2 p.m. in front of the Union, to discuss about artists coming to Groovin’ on the Grounds, which will be held on April 13th, estimated start time of 7:00 p.m.

Speaker Westbrook asked if Director Smith will need any Senators to volunteer for Groovin on the Grounds. He replied that it is probably and that he will get back to Speaker Westbrook.

Thomas Rodgers, Director of Academics

Director Rodgers gave the floor an update on the plus-minus grading system proposal that there might be a potential compromise mediated between the students and the faculty on the issue. A task force will meet on March 1st to discuss the changed proposal lessening the impact on GPA.
Judicial Officer Reports

Justice Keller

Student Parking Appeals Board did not meet last Thursday, but will meet tomorrow. Meetings are 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursday as of current, but will soon only be on Tuesday. There are also a few vacancies on the board and applications are available in the Student Senate Office. Last week chief Justice Faulk discussed the SEC Exchange and the board will continue to meet with her throughout the semester. The Judicial Branch meeting will be held on Thursday from 6-8 p.m. in the Calcasieu Room. SG members and students are welcome to attend. If you have any questions regarding the Judicial Branch, send an email to Justice Faulk at sgjudicial@lsu.edu.

Senator Thompson moved to suspend the rules and remove SGR No. 3 from the table and bring it up for immediate consideration, seconded by Senator Cavell. Seeing no objections, Speaker Westbrook so ordered.

SGR No. 3 by Senator Thompson, Ardoin, Boudreaux, Geymann, McMillan, Miranne, Pinac, Rees and Swinburn a Resolution to create a Temporary Task Force on University Center for Advising and Counseling.

Senator Thompson addressed that there was a lot of confusion last week about the UCAC Task Force so he yielded his time to Thomas Rodgers, Director of Academic Affairs. Mr. Rodgers explained that the Task Force was a campaign initiative. There are 2,500 students in UCAC that are not getting services equal to the remaining of the university. There is often a 2 hour wait period to be able to talk to UCAC counselors. Mr. Rodgers went on to describe the three types of students that can be found within UCAC: pre-professional students, students who have changed their major, and students who are “lagging behind”, who need the most help, but are receiving the fewest resources.

Senator Schwartzzenburg asked if there was an issue with adding six (6) Senators to the Task Force all at once. Mr. Rodgers answered that having a group that large can potentially cause problems, but ideally in business management the ideal group size is about nine (9) members. Mr. Rodgers would be more comfortable with keeping the group size to nine (9) members.

Debate

Senator Cavell showed his support for the Resolution. Senator Cavell was a student in UCAC at one point and had a difficult time “going through the counselors as well as others.” He noted that it was an issue among many other UCAC students and encourages support for this.

Senator Schwartzzenburg asked if there was a reason why there is only one administrator on the Task Force. Mr. Rodgers answered that it was because it was strictly a student-led effort. Senator Schwartzzenburg asked if there were any administrators within UCAC who would be beneficial to the Task Force. Mr. Rodgers explained that other administrators are occupied with engagements of their own.
Senator Beadle asked to have some of the issues identified that students face in UCAC. Senator Cavell stated that he received wrong information from a counselor about how to apply to the College of Business twice. He was “basically sent on a goose chase” to find out what specific courses he had to take and what other requirements he had to fulfill, and how to transfer credit received abroad into a credit that could fulfill Humanities courses. He was astounded at the lack of knowledge that was present in UCAC.

Senator Beadle gave his input that before sending in the legislation, there should be a conversation had with UCAC about the issues that students are facing. Mr. Rodgers insisted that he has had “countless meetings with Paul Ivey and that there isn’t a problem and that President Cox can attest to that, also.” He has talked to countless students that have said that there is a problem and that swift action should be taken. Senator Beadle also expressed his trouble with UCAC with Double Majoring.

Senator McMillan also had trouble with UCAC and he had a hold on his schedule that wasn’t lifted until a week later, and thus he waited for 3 hours before he was able to get ahold of a counselor to schedule.

Favorable Passage was urged.

98% in Favor SGR No. 3 Enrolled

Unfinished Business

SGCR No. 16 by Senator Faulkner a Concurrent Resolution to place a Referendum before the Louisiana State University A & M Student Body in the Spring 2013 Election to repurpose the Paid Admissions Concert Fee, a self-assessed student fee awarded through the Programming, Support, and Initiatives Fund (PSIF) Committee, to one of the options listed.

Senator Faulkner explained to floor that she had been working on the Resolution since the fall. The student fee is $0.90 and the fund has grown to a little less than $250,000 and there is a need to get rid of the fee by repurposing it. It is very hard to add a fee, so repurposing it will eliminate the hassle. The idea of an Organization Initiatives Fund has been brought up that will repurpose account. Organizations will be able to come to PSIF with their initiatives. The Resolution will open up the account to a lot more organizations and make funds available. Currently organizations have to go through an extensive process in which they have to prove that they can fiscally give the money that they borrowed back into the account; it is basically a loan. Because no organizations have come to collect the money, the money has not been utilized.

Senator Baumgartner asked which organizations can use the fund. Senator Faulkner answered that any organization that is registered with Campus Life or a department.

Senator Zeringue asked to explain what the account was used for. Senator Faulkner informed that there have been no records for what the account was used for.
Senator Grashoff asked for clarification about what the flaw was with the setup of the account. Senator Faulkner answered that money was being put into the fund but was not being brought out, so the fund has continued to grow without being used.

**Debate**

Senator Schwartzenburg stressed that the change to the account is “very, very necessary” and that there are so many restrictions on the account that “it’s basically useless”. The account has $250,000 worth of funds that have not been used in years. This restricting will open up a lot of restrictions and will make it a much more useful account for students. It also “opens up SG.” He went on to say that SG would merely fund the initiative while the initiative is run by organizations, so that students take ownership of their own initiatives and it is not treated as merely an SG initiative.

Senator Baumgartner pledged his support for the Resolution as will because with $250,000 in the account a lot of positive changes can be made that can spread to the community. SG already has a solid foundation with the account so a lot of initiatives can be supported and things can start off strong. Senator Baumgartner thinks that repurpose of the fee is a very strong and useful one.

Senator Rees asked what measure would be taken to have student organizations informed that they can access this fund. Senator Faulkner answered that if the Resolution is passed, it will be a referendum that the student body votes on during the spring elections. It will then be SG’s responsibility to let organizations and students know that these funds can be accessed and they’re ideas can be supported financially. Point of Clarification by Speaker Westbrook, the Resolution will go through a length process and once it’s passed through the student body, it will go through the proper channels to the Board of Supervisors to have it approved. Once that happens, SG will be able to advertise it to students.

Senator Beadle yielded to Director of Communications, Josh Bergeron. Director Bergeron informed that the Board of Supervisors meets March 1st, and asked if the Resolution will be approved in time or will it have to be done in April. Senator Faulkner explained that a notice of the repurposing has to be submitted thirty (30) days before the election. Point of Clarification by Speaker Westbrook, it is unclear if the Resolution will be heard in March, and also that it will not take effect until the next fiscal year, which happens in the summer.

Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell expressed that he was also in favor of this Resolution. The Resolution shows the students that SG do care and that the fees that students pay can be utilized. Organizations are not even aware that SG has a fund that they can utilize, and thus he is in strong favor for the Resolution. Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell informed the floor that line 59-74 of the Resolution will be placed on the student ballot so that they are aware of whether or not they want the fee to stay or if they want to the fee to go to something else.
Senator Schwartzenburg asked to read what exactly what will be on the referendum:

“To Repurpose the Paid Admission Concert account and its future fees into an “Organization’s Initiatives” Fund, where currently the Paid Admissions Concert Fee collects 90 cents per student per semester with the intention of holding a paid admission concert for students. The fee has only been used once since its implementation in 2001 and has accumulated $247,325.49 in Student fees.

Whereas, the “Organization’s Initiatives Fund would give organizations the opportunity to apply for financial support to launch unique student initiatives.

In Favor of...
Against…”

Speaker Westbrook yielded to Chief Justice Faulk asked if there would be any limitations on accessing funds. Speaker Pro Temp explained that currently there are only PSIF limitations, where they have to be a registered student organization with Campus Life, be Undergraduate and Graduate only, and they have to be students. There are not currently any limitations placed on the Resolution yet outside of PSIF limitations.

Senator Faulkner made some amendments. Anywhere it said “Organization ‘Ideas to Action’” it will be changed to “Organization’s Initiatives”. Senator Faulkner also added co-authors to the Amendment: Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell, Senator Landry, Senator Schwartzenburg, Senator DeBlieux, Senator Cavell, and Senator Beadle.

Senator Schwartzenburg asked if there was any ambiguity in the Resolution. Senator Faulkner stated that she thought that the amendment gets the point across and is straight forward.

Speaker Westbrook yielded to President Cox. President Cox thought the Resolution is something that is very helpful to the students and that the thinks it will definitely be passed through the Board of Advisors.

Senator Faulkner’s closing comments consisted of the Resolution bridging the gap between SG and the student body. Favorable Passage was urged.

98% SGCR No. 16 Enrolled

SGB No. 3 by Senator Cavell a Bill to Amend the Rules of Court.

SGB No. 3 was brought to Senator Cavell’s attention by Chief Justice Faulk to amend the Rules of Court. He then yielded his time to Chief Justice Faulk, in which she went to explain that one of the motions more frequently used is not listed in the Rules of Court (Motion for Supplementary Evidence).
Senator Frias asked if there has been discussion brought up to define bullet 10 (Motion for Supplementary Evidence), as was discussed in Rules. Senator Cavell stated that during debate the amendment can be clarified, but not during opening comments.

Senator Beadle asked if this motion has been used in the past recently that Chief Justice was aware of and the validity of previous court cases. Chief Justice Faulk answered yes to the former question and then went to say that the Rules has “tricky wording” and that the Chief Justice can entertain any motion and that she wanted Motion for Supplementary Evidence to be added in because it was frequently used.

Senator Cavell made an amendment to the Bill that allows the court to consider additional evidence after the submission of the brief.

Debate

Senator Schwartzzenburg wanted to make an amendment to the Bill on line 30 to add after “recognize” to add in “but is not limited to these ten (10) motions”, so that there was additional clarity that the motions listened are not the only motions that are recognized. Senator Cavell deemed the amendment friendly. Speaker Westbrook thus adopted.

Senator Beadle brought up the issues on transparency and thus proposed in line 29 to amend “any” to “the following” so that “any student knows beforehand what motions can be made” and thus prepare for their case. Senator Cavell deemed the amendment hostile for the sake of debate.

Senator Matthews asked that isn’t there a Public Defender that advises the students. Point of Clarification by Senator Beadle there is currently no Public Defender and hasn’t been for some time.”

Senator Gibeson asked if it would be amenable to either list all the motions or to make it clear that motions listed are just an example and is there a comprehensible list of all the motions. Additionally he asked if the goal of Senator Beadle was to make it comprehensive. Senator Beadle would rather have the Rules of Court list all the possible motions. Chief Justice Faulk answered that there is no list that she is aware of. Senator Beadle assumed that one would refer to the Louisiana Rules of Court. Senator Beadle affirmed that his goal was to make the Rules of Court comprehensive.

Senator Faulkner asked to yield to T-Graham Howell, who informed that one should indeed refer to the Louisiana Rules of Court.

Senator Schwartzzenburg was next for debate and was against the amendment made by Senator Beadle, in that there should be one amendment made, and that the floor should pick one or the other because having both would be ambiguous.

Senator Beadle if his amendment was sufficient enough to clarify to students that the motions listed are not the only ones that can be made. Senator Schwartzzenburg clarified that he was aware of Senator Beadle’s intentions and that if SG was to go through with his proposal than the list should be “expanded more before they do that.”
Senator Thompson asked if he thought that leaving the list “open and not entirely comprehensive” and gives advantage to students who have prior knowledge of motions.

Senator Schwartzenburg stated that he didn’t “go that deep into it” and “it should be left open”.

Senator Thompson asked Chief Justice Faulk if in her opinion having only the ten (10) motions listed would be “fairer rather than leaving it open to any motion that has ever been used.” In Chief Justice Faulk’s opinion it is “hard to say because it’s a case-by-case basis” and that in the event that there is a case where a motion not listed will be needed to use, she would not want to deny that motion because it is not listed; however, she knows that currently the motions listed are the most commonly used.

Senator Beadle moved to extend questioning by two minutes, seconded by Senator Zeringue. Seeing no objections, Speaker Westbrook so ordered.

Senator Baumgartner moved to call Previous Question on the amendment, seconded by Senator Rees.

There was an objection, which thus moved into a voiced vote on Previous Question on the amendment. It was the opinion of the Chair that the Ayes had it.

Senator Beadle urged Favorable Passage on the amendment.

The amendment was then moved into a voiced vote, which requires ¾ of the vote. It was the opinion of the chair that the nays had it. The amendment was not adopted.

The meeting was then moved to a vote on the bill as a whole.

Senator Cavell was then up and stated that he was in agreement with the amendment that was passed.

Speaker Westbrook then yielded to Chief Justice Faulk and stated that she was in agreement with Senator Cavell and Senator Schwartzenburg that the Rules of Court should be limited to just the motions listed “because they are the most frequently used.”

Senator Muehleman asked if the Judicial Branch Holder would forward the motions to Senate. Chief Justice Faulk affirmed yes.

Senator Rees was then up for debate and stated that he was not in favor of changing the bill because the “wording of the bill now makes it ambiguous” and that a “number of motions could be added” and it would give “unfair advantage to those who have more legal advantage” than others. Speaker Westbrook yielded to Chief Justice Faulk who made a Point of Clarification that there is someone going through Rules to fill the Public Defender position and she asked if Senator Rees wanted no motions listed or more motions listed. Senator Rees wanted more motions listed.

Senator Beadle asked if Senator Rees owned a book containing the Louisiana Rules of Court and if he thought that many students would. Senator Rees replied negative to both questions.
Favorable Passage was urged.

67% in Favor SGB No. 3 Enrolled

LO. No. 10 by Speaker Westbrook a Legislative Order to appoint the Standing Committees of the Thirty-Third LSU Student Senate.

The Budget and Appropriates Committee had only seven members and needed an additional member. Senator Watts transferred from Campus Affairs and Sustainability.

There was no debate or questions.

Favorable Passage was urged.

98% in Favor LO. No. 10 Enrolled

Advisor Reports

None

The meeting was then moved to the election of the UCAC Task Force members. Senator Baumgartner motioned to open the floor was to nominations, seconded by Senator Thompson. Seeing no objections, Speaker Westbrook so ordered.

There were motions made to nominate Senators Geymann, McMillan, Faulkner, and Muehleman.

Each of the senators expressed their problems with UCAC, such as problems with scheduling and obtaining the correct answer to their questions.

The floor then moved into a vote. Senators McMillan, Geymann, and Falkner were elected as the Senators of the UCAC Task Force.

Legislative Officer Reports

Speaker Westbrook gave her approval and thanks to the senators who debated and asked questions she also has a long list of initiatives as well as initiatives by other senators.

Petitions, Memorials, and Other Communications

Senator Rees a discussion he had with the Tiger Card Officer Coordinator about there being a process to have emergency numbers on the back of the Tiger Card that will be issue spring 2014. Beginning after Spring Break there will be a campaign to design your own tiger card. Senator Zeringue brought to his attention about having a mini tiger card to put on your keychain. There is also another initiative to look
into using bracelets at the Urec instead of Tiger Cards. The new Tiger Card will not have a magnetic strip but more like a “scan-and-go”.

Thomas Rodgers informed that the Academic Affairs will have a meeting on Friday, February 15, from 11:30-3:30.

Josh Burgeon informed the floor that if anyone has a really good idea that they are passionate about, please email him so that you will be able to meet with him and work together on a press release to let inform the student body. Also if there are any ideas floating around within the committees, please email him.

Adjournment

Senator Catalanoto moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Senator Zeringue. There was an objection, so the floor moved into a vote.

86% in Favor of Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.