Student Association Assembly Meeting Minutes
March 5th, 2019, 7:00pm. SU 378

Present:
Mitchel Smigel, Eric Weinman, Destiny Osborne, Mariama Fall, Diana Valentin, Ray Huang,
Sharon John, Timothy Allaire, Judy Mei, Jasmine Greggs, George Graban, Ciara Burke, Andres
Guerrero, Noel Allen-Fowler, Jose-Romarah Chery, Anam Hussain, Adarsh Govindarajan,
Donovan Newkirk, Jibreel Ford, and Leigha Archibald.

Chris Palumbo (Proxy)
Mosammet Asma (Proxy)

Guests:

I. Call to Order
   A. Speaker Mitchel Smigel calls the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

II. Approval of Minutes
   A. Assembly Minutes from February 5, 2019 for Approval
      1. Motion to approve the February 5, 2019 Assembly Minutes by Judy Mei
         a) Second by Destiny Osborne
         b) Minutes approved by unanimous consent

Conclusion: Minutes from February 5, 2019 approved

III. Old Business
   A. None

IV. New Business
   A. Presentation by UBIT
   B. Plastic Bag Reduction Resolution A1819-R3
      1. Mitchel Smigel introduces the Plastic Bag Reduction Resolution A1819-R3
         a) Motion to approve the Plastic Bag Reduction Resolution A1819-R3 by Destiny
            (1) Second Judy Mei
            (2) Motion passes (17-0-1)

Conclusion: Plastic Bag Reduction Resolution A1819-R3 approved

V. Open Forum
   A. None

VI. Announcements
   A. SA Food Drive
   B. SUNY’s Got Your Back
   C. Mental Health Awareness Week

VII. Adjournment
A. There being no further business, Mitchel Smigel entertains a motion for adjournment
B. Motion to adjourn by Destiny, second Judy Mei
C. Motion passes without objection
D. Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM

Eric Weinman has taken the minutes of March 5, 2019 meeting of the Student Assembly.
RESOLUTION 1819-3

TO: Members of the University at Buffalo Student Assembly
FROM: Sadie Kratt, Environmental Affairs Director, Environmental Affairs Committee
DATE: 5 March 2019
SUBJECT: Plastic Bag Reduction Resolution

Action Requested
The Environmental Affairs Committee of the University at Buffalo's Undergraduate Student Associations Student Assembly, requests that we significantly reduce and or eliminate the prevalence of single use plastic bags at the University at Buffalo through the creation of a Plastic Bag Reduction Program.

Resolution
WHEAAREAS the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) Student Association (SA) Assembly may enact resolutions concerning issues of importance to the undergraduate student body in regards to issues of academic policy, student rights, and student welfare; and

WHEAAREAS the State University of New York has committed itself to the environmental preservation of the rivers, lakes and streams by calling upon SUNY Schools to act as responsible waterway stewards[^1]; and

WHEAAREAS “SUNY is responsible for educating students on the social and environmental effects of consuming resources as well as exposing students to the global complexities they will be faced with after their collegiate years”[^2]; and

WHEAAREAS the SUNY Office of Sustainability has stated that “it would like to play a role in creating a generation of environmental stewards and leaders who will work towards solving these global complexities[^3]; and

[^1]: [URL]
[^2]: [URL]
[^3]: [URL]
WHEREAS the University at Buffalo office of sustainability has created Zero Waste and UB Reuse. “Our goal is to reduce the amount of physical waste that is produced across our campuses” [4]

WHEREAS The Erie County Environmental Management Council (ECEMC), a volunteer group that advises Erie County government on environmental issues, has recommended that Erie County build on that good work by passing legislation to reduce single use bag pollution. [10]

WHEREAS low density polyethylene, commonly utilized in the creation of plastic bags, has been found to be one of the dominant components in aquatic & marine debris [4]; and

WHEREAS the excessive use of single-use plastic bags harm animals through ingestion and habitat destruction, harms land by leaching toxic chemicals, and harms water sources through contamination [5]; and

WHEREAS these plastics have materialized in the form of microplastics which are suspended in water and are only detectable by a slight cloudiness in the water; upon consumption by animals, these microplastics ascend the food chain eventually reaching humans [5]; and

WHEREAS medical research conducted by the Medical University of Vienna showed that 100% of human test subjects from 8 different countries had plastic in stool samples - with an average of 20 particles of plastic per 10 grams of stool [6]; and

WHEREAS Dr. Herbert Tilg, President of the Austrian Society of Gastroenterology, presented his research at the 26th annual United European Gastroenterology conference, showing that microplastics could be one of the factors contributing to inflammatory bowel syndrome and colon cancer, which is on the rise among young adults [7]; and

WHEREAS Americans consume approximately 100 billion single use plastic bags each year, each of which on average, is only used for 12 minutes before being disposed of [8]; and

WHEREAS New York State residents use 23 billion disposable bags each year [9]; and

WHEREAS a significant amount of plastic waste on campuses come from services provided by each campus’ equivalent form of their campus auxiliary services corporation, which control the operation of services such as dining halls and retail stores; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we significantly reduce and or eliminate the prevalence of single use plastic bags at the University at Buffalo through the creation of a Plastic Bag Reduction Program.

RESOLVED that such a program should include a working group comprised of representatives from each of the following bodies or their equivalent form: campus auxiliary service corporation, administration, students, faculty and staff and, be it further
RESOLVED that such a program should include alternative (fully reusable) bag options for students to use in place of single use plastic bags and, be it further

RESOLVED that such a program should include a meaningful degree of behavior training for the campus population on plastic waste reduction and, be it further

RESOLVED that such a program should establish the necessary infrastructure and programming to minimize single use plastic bag use and waste on campus by reducing plastic bag consumption and increasing the rate at which they are recycled, and, be it further

RESOLVED that the campus can use the Plastic Bag Reduction Program Resource Sheet, which was drafted by the SUNY SA Sustainability Committee, as a guide for a successful plastic bag reduction program, finally, be it further

RESOLVED that within 20 days upon its passing, the Student Assembly of the University at Buffalo will forward copies of this resolution to the Campus President, the Faculty Senate, the Director of Campus Sustainability, and the Student Association.

Adopted by the Assembly on this the 5th day of March, 2019

Mitchel J. Smigel
Speaker of the Undergraduate Student Associations Student Assembly

Gunnar J. Haberl
President of the Undergraduate Student Association