Student Government Association
Internal Affairs Meeting Minutes
9/11/13

Attendance: Anderson, Ott, Moreno, Mills, Christiano, Fox, Fallanca, Berriault, Cahill, Pietrycha, Testa

IA1401: Motion to strike the words “and CCSU Foundation Board of Directors Representative” from section 5-3 d (Ott, Berriault)

Fox POI: What happened to the position?
Ott: It doesn’t exist anymore and no one knows why.
Y: 9 (Testa, Pietrycha, Cahill, Berriault, Fallanca, Fox, Christiano, Ott, Moreno) N: 0 A: 0

Cahill: Do we get new copies if it’s updated?
Christiano: Can they be blue?
Anderson: sure.

Unfinished Business
Berriault: I don’t think that we should add any changes to our bylaws regarding the stipend of chairs and cochairs. It would add further complication to the stipend process. We should not raise stipends for these positions because they are not elected by the student body. Adding additional incentives or responsibilities to the chair and cochair positions is more of a luxury. The people advocating for the increase in stipends are the people who are already chairs and cochairs. This is unethical. Doing this would be a waste of student activity fees and am 100% any pay increases because I don’t think we should be getting paid as is. This is unnecessary. The jobs are being done, the goals are being met. The current system in place already works.

Anderson: not a money issue

Moreno: There is already oversight for this. Cochairs are to report to chairs and chairs are to report to the eboard.

Testa: Spelling it out for new people can pick up on it easier. So far we have just been lucky because previous chairs and cochairs have relayed information.

Berriault: Already a system in place to remove chairs and cochairs. (3-1 e.)

Mills: That’s after the fact, if we had something in place already, chairs and cochairs could be better held accountable.

Cahill: What would the new responsibilities be and what would their stipends be raised to?

Anderson: That’s going to be decided in this meeting. We need to run through everything.
Pietrycha: Order of things to do- first, define committee to committee what the responsibilities are

Berriault: You can’t punish someone for them possibly not doing their job. There would need to be an incentive
Moreno: Treasurer Mills is looking to mitigate a problem not to punishment.

Straw poll: Who wants to add responsibilities to the chair and cochair positions?
Y: 5 N: 2 A: 2 (Cahill, Fox)

Testa: No complication, very simple. (eg- Finance committee will deliberate) Keep it to a sentence or two. Committee specific.

Fox: This is going back to what Pietrycha said before. In our bylaws, it already says the things that each committee has to do. We should first focus on the things that the committee as a whole is responsible for rather than the leadership positions. Committees do not have equal responsibilities so this would be unfair.

Berriault: RROO already states some things about chairs, cochairs, and committees. Committee goals change year to year. Committees have their own bylaws which change year to year depending on the groups of the club. The more we add to the bylaws, the less flexibility we have as senators. Committee goals should be decided on during the retreats, not now. If we insert things into the bylaws describing what the committee should and should not do there will be no flexibility.

Christiano: Compromise? Have them come up with goals and check in to eboard

Fox: Not every committee even has bylaws in place.

Anderson: RROO comes after bylaws

Mills: Transparency is our goal. The entire eboard ran on it. Flexibility is important- but it’s always best to have things clearly stated. The best thing for the SGA is to clearly state what each chair and cochair needs to accomplish. I would be okay with talking about committee structure. Maybe next meeting we can have a rep from each committee here. We should add some sort of structure into the bylaws.

Testa: Can we talk about 3-1 l next week?

Anderson: It will be added to next week’s agenda or we can talk about it in open floor.

Berriault: Not everyone is on the same page about our constitution and bylaws. Our constitution states that each committee may define its own bylaws to be approved by senate.
 Committees already have basic responsibilities (reports, meeting times, etc) Each committee then has their additional requirements listed. There’s no real issue with the way things are already set up. We should not spend any more time to this.

Anderson: As an organization we always go to our bylaws first, THEN RROO. We definitely should put anything in the bylaws that we want so that we reference that first.

Mills: Senator Berriault mentioned earlier what we have in our constitution. A reasonable thing to do would be to add a smaller section in the normal bylaws saying that each chair and cochair has to follow what is already in the bylaws for that committee. These documents are made to change.

Christiano: Maybe we should bring this back to each committee and see how they feel about it. Just sayin’.

Testa: I agree. Before we add anything or make changes, we can’t until 3-1 l is fixed by each committee.

Anderson: * refer to committees *

Open Floor

Berriault: Let’s not talk about this now, but be mindful. I have a motion dealing with adding something into the bylaws that I would like to discuss next week. It involves making some changes to the election of chairs and cochairs section. I would like feedback ahead of time so that we don’t waste too much time discussing here.

Motion to adjourn (Testa, Pietrycha)