Student Government Association Minutes from April 10, 2013

April 10, 2013

Present: President Bergenn, Vice President Braun, Treasurer Alaimo, Senators Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Rodriguez, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo Testa, Towler, Truex, Zohlman

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by President Bergenn.

Motion to approve minutes from April 3, 2013 (Marcelli, Manento)

Passes Unanimously

Student Affairs Report: Dr. Tordenti and Dr. Diamond

Tordenti: we have gone through a reorganization and now Dr. Diamond is the Director of Student Wellness Services

Dr. Diamond: We are combining Health Services as well as Counseling and Wellness into Student Wellness Services. How do you separate medicine from mental health? We want to create a world for the Wellness needs and to promote a better collaborative practice to better meet student needs and in doing so cross department lines

Baldassario: is it going to be in one centrally located place

Diamond: I think colocation is critical and we’re working on possibly moving to one location but right now all services are in one location and that’s as much as we can do

Lee: I know previously if I went to Counseling and Wellness no one would know about it, would that change

Diamond: confidentiality won’t change but we will have new privacy and consent to treat policies so not everything has to be known but we would like to have a certain permeability. Like if I was treating a student who was also being seen by Counseling and Wellness I would be able to know which medications a student has been prescribed, but not know for what reasons. You will still be in control of your information
Tordenti: if someone doesn’t have a right to your information they won’t get it without permission

Sonet: will there be any new services?

Diamond: there won’t be any long term counseling but we hope to be able to staff a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner to work with counselors, I’d love to hear ideas

Radden: have you considered working with RECentral

Diamond: always, we helped support their Healthy Lifestyle Challenge. It’s important to make connections with organizations like RECentral, the Women’s Center and the Natural Helpers

**Public Hearing:**

Elvis Moreno: Running for Commuter Senator: I just wanted to introduce myself. I am running for commuter senator. Before this I spent 12-years with the United States Marine Corps and I think I would be a good fit for this organization

**Senior Class President Report:** Legairre Radden

There are three events for senior week

- Alumni Cocktail
- Mohegan Sun
- River Cruise

Cocktail: 5/3 Constitution Room: open to all seniors. It is free and you get 2 vouchers for wine, it’s a good networking event with alumni

Mohegan Sun: You get two food vouchers and $30 in start up money. It won’t be over night but will be from 8p-2a. for four buses it would be $4000 and each person would pay $10 and guests would pay $20

Cruise: the deposit was $5000. It goes up and down the CT River. It would be $84 a person for 215 plus 5-10 chaperones. Seniors pay $20, guests pay $84

The bundle price is $25

Guests have to pay full prices

Total: $22,480-$5000=$17,840

Truex: are you required to take the bus to the casino

Radden: yes
Berriault: where can seniors get more information

Hazan: if this gets approved we’ll send an email to all students who are in senior standing

Bergenn: we can also make a page on our website

Narcisse: how many guests can you bring

Radden: one

Baldassario: if it costs almost $18,000 what happens if no guest go but all seniors go, will we be able to cover the cost

Radden: yes this that I am asking for pays for the trip any money we get back is just revenue that goes back into the account

Braun: we always pay for the senior class trip and usually it is an e-board decision

Radden: right I chose to present it to the Senate instead so everyone knew what was going on and this is the cheapest trips in a while

Baldassario: so are we making a separate motion

Radden: I will be doing that today

Bergenn: we had to make a decision on the deposits so Legairre could keep the dates

Berriault: so we’re being asked to cover this up front

Radden: yes then revenue generated gets brought back

Ott: what have past costs been

Hazan: it’s year to year but last year was over $20,000

Truex: dates

Radden: tentatively May 10 and 14 with the cocktail on May 3

Lee: why are we giving $30 to start off

Radden: it’s not us Mohegan includes it in the package

Bergenn: do we get drink vouchers

Radden: no

Towler: could we up however many guests the seniors can bring
Radden: we don’t want to limit the number of seniors that can go, this is a good balance

Towler: what if there are extra seats

Radden: in the past they’ve sold out but it’s something we can look into if that doesn’t happen

**Treasurer’s Report:**

We’re half way with presentations and will have more on Friday and Monday and deliberations start Tuesday

We have two requests, a line item and a co-sponsorship

**Vice President’s Report**

1. I received a complaint from a student about your actions in the office during prime office hours. That is not acceptable. I don’t ever want to hear a complaint like that again. We worked extensively at the retreat of how to act and having something like this come up is not okay so never let me hear that again
2. Everything is due by 3p on Friday and Stipend review will take place at 3:30p. I still suggest doing office hours even if it doesn’t go toward your stipend
3. We have extra stuff from COSGA so please everyone take something

Berriault: do you know about when the chair is getting fixed?

Braun: a work order is in

Baldassario: if the work order is placed it should be done within the week

**President’s Report**

1. I’m passing around for a sign-up sheet for the Rich Royster and Brittany Mariani scholarship flag football tournament on April 14th I’d really like to have a team so please sign up
2. Tonight at 6p if you have nothing else going on I’m moderating a debate on whether or not we should bury the “N” word
3. In regards to the SUBOG recognition dinner, myself, Erin, Nick and Ian are hosting an after party and Erin wants to know if we would help with the costs. The idea is to celebrate the enhanced collaboration between the major governing boards on campus
4. For the third internal affairs recommendation Liz has asked me to pass the chair in case I need to answer any questions

**Committee Reports**
Student Life:

Kitchener: we will be having scholarship deliberations until 6:30p today in the 1849 room after the meeting and next week we should finish

Narcisse: will this be weekly

Kitchener: we can talk about doing something like that or just getting them all done at once

Public Affairs:

Baldassario: Next Thursday from 12-4p is the Blue Devil Social so please stop by. This week we will be targeting students, faculty invites have already been sent out, remember elections are next week, 16, 17, & 18

Radden: for elections, I’m going to send a sign up of who can help run the voting tables but I think that we should try to fill the tables with people who are not rerunning. It wouldn’t be right to have people running helping the voters

Academic Affairs:

Marcelli: Sen. Khan has gotten the library hours extended during finals week. we have two resolutions coming up and there will be a Financial Planning Seminar this Thursday 3-4:40p in Vance 105

Towler: we have found the largest amount of dropped, withdrawn and failed courses so we will be giving attention to them

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Move to approve Internal Affairs Recommendation IA13-006 (Baldassario, Choplick)

For: Choplick: you can look at page four in the packet. Every year we fund scholarships with about $14,000 coming from money that would be directly used by clubs that year and another $6000 from the endowment. I was looking for a way to put some of the roll over money that we get back into our accounts into the endowment. We have $189,000 in the endowment right now but I think if we put more money into it, in the long terms we would have more money and be able to put more endowment money into the scholarships. So I’m suggesting 20% of the roll over money go into the endowment each year

Yield Time

Narcisse: if approved how much would be available for scholarships

Choplick: you can have as much as you want, there won’t be a huge jump right away in how much you can take from the endowment but it will help in the long run
Towler: will this limit the money available

Choplick: no this is just a plan to put more money in the endowment

Towler: will we be able to put the same money toward scholarships next year as we did this year

Choplick: Yes the senate can still motion to add money to scholarships this just helps with the endowment return

Kitchener: was student life in favor of this

Choplick: very much so

Bergenn: if this passes in 20 years if the SGA decided to give no student activity funds to scholarships will scholarships still exist

Choplick: yes

Narcisse: is there any way to give $5000 and build to $20,000

Choplick: $20,000 is just the max we can give in doing 20% of our roll back money

Towler: which scholarships are you talking about

Choplick: SGA scholarships, the only ones we deal with

Truex: with this change the yearly percentage we get from the endowment

Choplick: each year we get 5% and that doesn’t change

**Motion to amend IA10-006 to replace “each” with “the” and change the word “account” from “accounts” (Berriault, Germaine)**

For: Berriault: how this is written we could be spending more than $20,000 from each of the accounts

Yields time

Braun: 20% of the individual accounts and 20% of the whole would be the same thing

Berriault: if you take 20% of each account you can have more money in one than the other so it could be more than $20,000

Kitchener: are you sure about that?

POI Rodriguez: so this is just to change account to accounts

Bergenn: it would also change the first word in the second line from each to the
Against: Braun: this isn’t necessary. It does the same thing and is just creating an unnecessary step

Berriault: I withdraw my amendment

Main Motion

Against: Truex: not against the intent but we need to add a stipulation to put in that we’re not adding more than $20,000 in a year

Motion to amend to add after $20,000 “per year” (Berriault, Truex)

For: Berriault: you don’t want to add more than $20,000 a year, it should be limited

Against: Mills: it’s not our job to tell future senates what they can and can’t do if there’s money for it and they want to do it then we should let them

Point of Order: Mgushi

Not well taken

Against: Mills: it’s up the future senates we shouldn’t tell them either way

POI Alaimo: if this passes how would you interpret the motion

Bergenn: I’d see it as we can’t give more than $20,000 at the end of the year as of the last transaction date

POI Radden to Choplick: do you read it the same way

Choplick: yes

Vote: 9Y 16N 4A

Amendment fails

Original Motion

For: Baldassario: I don’t agree with scholarships but this is just putting an end of year max and isn’t limiting anything so it’s good to do

Vote: 25Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Rodriguez, Sonet, Szabo Zohlman) 3N (Fernandez, Towler, Truex) 1A (Zohlman)
Bergenn: almost everyone was talking again and if the vote is affected by that that is not okay and I heard someone speak for someone who had left which also isn’t acceptable

**Motion to accept the Academic Affairs resolution, Clocks (Manento, Marcelli)**

For: Manento: I’ve been working on this for a while and this just shows we want clocks in the classrooms. It would be easier for timed exams and we wouldn’t always be going against a professor’s no-phones policy

POI Sonet: analog or digital

Manento: it’s not specified

Vote: 21Y 0N 2A

Motion passes SG13-149

**Motion to approve the Academic Affairs Commencement Resolution (Marcelli, Manento)**

For: Marcelli: I sit on the Academic Standards Committee and this is something that’s been talked about. Hundreds of students have problems walking in the spring commencement because of credits, especially education majors who do student teaching in the fall. We graduate 1800 students and of those 700 graduate in the winter and either wait until spring to walk or don’t walk at all so we want to pass a joint resolution supporting fall commencement that will go from us to the Academic Standards Committee to Faculty Senate

**Motion to amend and strike “and” at the end of the third line to “venue” (Manento, Marcelli)**

For: Manento: we’re not 100% sure how accurate this is and we want it to be accurate as possible

Amendment Passes

Original Motion

POI Berriault to Marcelli: do you know why CCSU stopped having fall commencement

Marcelli: a number of reasons that could be money and the lack of time needed to plan a huge event like that

Vote: 19Y 1N 2A

Motion passes SG13-150

**Motion to approve Internal Affairs Recommendation IA13-007 (Braun, Choplick)**

For: Braun: this is just a reorganization to make it more organized because that is what I do. There is now a senator responsibility section and the responsibilities of the e-board are now laid
out because they weren’t before. The thing that was debated over email is separate just so everyone knows.

Germaine: where does it talk about excusals, office hours and such

Braun: under Senator Responsibilities

Vote: 18Y 2N 1A

Motion Passes SG13-151

Chair is Passes

Motion to accept Internal Affairs recommendation 1A13-008 (Marcelli, Mills)

For: Marcelli: anyone confused by the reason for this, it’s to prevent the President from being able to pocket veto something. Right now the President can choose to ignore something by not signing it or putting it in his “pocket.” If he vetoes it okay it can go back to senate but if we don’t know about it then we can’t do anything to stop it and that’s not right.

Yields time

Alaimo: business days or school days

Marcelli: can do either or I was going to go business but it can go either way

Alaimo: okay because school days are Saturday

Amend to strike “pass/veto” and insert “act on” (Bergenn, Marcelli)

For: Bergenn: pass/veto can still allow for pocket vetoes so can sign/veto act on means to sign

Vote: 20Y 0N 0A

Amendment Passes

Original Motion

Amend to strike “within one week” and put “within 7 school days” (Baldassario, Marcelli)

For: Baldassario: this better and guarantees the students will be here when it needs to get signed and it’s more definite

Against: Bergenn: I’d like to see a longer period of time for the President. Something has to be looked into and researched then it will take longer than a week or we should be able to request more time because I don’t want the senate blocked

For: Marcelli: I don’t think the limit is too short but I agree with the extensions. This limit stops the President from sitting on something which is what we wanted.
Braun: keep with the amendment

Against: Alaimo: I think we need to define what a school day is more

POI Truex to Baldassario: how long does it take for a pocket veto in government?

Baldassario: I can’t answer that

For: Berriault: if we just had a week we could count break, holidays and snow days this should be when the SALD office is open

Pt of Order: Baldassario: is this in favor?

Not well taken

POI Sonet: will internal affairs meet again, if not can it

Braun: we’ll meet for stipend review and elections but if the changes are submitted we can look at it

Baldassario: I withdraw my amendment

Original Motion

Move to refer the motion back to Internal Affairs (Bergenn, Truex)

For: Bergenn: there’s a lot of different sides to this but it shouldn’t be passed until it’s in its final form

POI Marcelli to Braun: would this be talked about this week or next week

Braun: if changes are submitted this week then we can go over it this week

Vote: 18Y 1N 1A

Motion passes

Chair is passed back

Open Floor:

Move to fund the cost of the senior class trip in its entirety from account SG9010 (Baldassario, Marcelli)

For: Baldassario: we’ve set a precedent to fund the trip and it always sells out so this is a good thing to do
Vote: 17Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Rodriguez, Truex, Zohlman) 1N (Pancak) 2A (Baldassario, Lee)

**Motion Passes**

Mills: I have to present on behalf of COLADA so I’ll present but I won’t speak on it. We have an emergency with our end of the year event. It’s the largest Latin American event on campus and each year we need a salsa band that has usually 11 people in is and a DJ. The student center can’t accommodate that many people so we need to hire a sound engineer. The price rose to $2500 we got a line item change for $400 but still need $2100 and he won’t go any lower.

**Move to allocate COLADA $2100 for their End of the Year event from account SG9010 (Fernandez, Rodriguez)**

For: Fernandez: this is a great event and they’ve worked on getting the price lowered, it’s the biggest Latin event each year and it always sells out

POI Ott: is this past the co-sponsorship deadline

Bergenn: yes

Against: Truex: I understand this is last minute but it is past the deadline we have to be consistent and we barely have quorum

POI Braun to Mills: how many people attend?

Mills: 450

Braun: how much are ticket

Mills: $5 for students $7 for guests

For: Marcelli: I understand where Truex is coming from and I agree, I didn’t like the Ebony Chorale motion last week but I don’t like doing the same wrong thing twice we have to be fair and this is a fantastic event that just one an award. Quorum isn’t an issue because it wasn’t when we voted on the senior class trip

POI Germaine: if it costs $2100 and they have co-sponsorships for $1450 why aren’t they asking for $650?

Mills: those costs are being used for other things for the event

Against: Choplick: consistency, this is not the same as Ebony Chorale, their paperwork was submitted before the deadline and never made it to finance, and this is submitted afterward
For: Berriault: this deadline is for finance not the full senate and it’s something we should support

Against: Braun: if you don’t go by the deadline it affects the other clubs it’s not good to be consistently inconsistent. Just because other deadlines have been extended doesn’t mean finance is on board for this this is why they created a calendar. Nick changed the calendar when it was suggested but that was an official change. Everyone got the same emails and to allow clubs to do this is a disservice, maybe you can raise ticket prices to overcome the cost. There are other ways to do things then going through a deadline, especially if you are a senator

For: Rodriguez: LASO and COLADA will also be losing a lot if this doesn’t happen we can lose more than $2000 we cant raise prices because tickets go on sale tomorrow with the prices already advertised.

POI Fernandez: does it say anywhere you can’t go to senate for funding

Braun: no

Against: Truex: a similar thing happened with YSA this year and this is just as inappropriate

For: Marcelli: if the deadline and paperwork was brought up with Ebony Chorale last week then I would be saying no to this but it wasn’t so it shouldn’t be argued this week

Against: Ott: it’s not right to make exceptions for everyone and it’s not right to give money just because the event is so soon

For: Lee: this is a great event and that’s what co-sponsorships are about

POI Truex to Mills: when did COLADA find out about this

Mills: the day before spring break

Vote: 14Y (Baldassario, Berriault, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Narcisse, Pancak, Rodriguez, Testa, Zohlman) 5N (Braun, Alaimo, Choplick, Ott, Truex) 2A (Anderson, Mills)

Motion Passes

SG13-153

Marcelli: the vetoing issue is going to Internal Affairs so if you want to talk about it get that there this week because there’s a big difference voting on it next week with this senate than in two weeks with a brand new senate

Move to allocate $1500 to SUBOG for the recognition dinner after party from SG9010 (Choplick, Marcelli)

For: Choplick: it’s an awesome event and the other organizations are doing their part so we should too
Against: Baldassario: not comfortable with $1500. $500 for food is fine but $1000 for a group to play for a limited amount of time when we already have a recognition dinner is a bit much

Amend to strike $1500 and insert $500 for food (Marcelli, Fernandez)

For: Marcelli: everything Ryan just said

POI Germaine: when is the dinner

Bergenn: April 29th ill send an email

Vote: 17Y (Braun, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Ott, Pancak, Testa, Zohlman) 1N (Alaimo) 2A (Narcisse, Truex)

Amendment Passes

Original Motion

POI Braun: how much are other organizations putting in

Bergenn: SUBOG is doing novelties but I don’t know about the others

Vote: 8Y (Alaimo, Anderson, Berriault, Fox, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Testa) 8N (Braun, Baldassario, Choplick, Fallanca, Fernandez, Germaine, Ott, Pancak) 4A (Lee, Narcisse, Truex, Zohlman)

President Bergenn votes yes to pass it

Motion Passes

Bergenn: a lot of organizations have approached their liaisons to see if they can still get money and they’ve been told no because it’s past the deadline. We just gave money to an organization with at least 6 affiliate members on this senate there are 100 some odd clubs here and maybe 20 or so have a senator directly involved, doing something like just happened is a direct violation of ethics. To gain an advantage for a small group when every other group was told no and had to change how they did things was wrong and I don’t like it

Alaimo: I agree with Eric. I know something about all of you. If someone wants something passed they just have to sit in front of you because you have a hard time saying no to people’s faces. It’s not appropriate. As treasurer I set an agenda and it is passed by the finance committee and a treasurer should always do that. I don’t agree with not following the rules, it puts others at a disadvantage. Be fair in the future and follow the rules

Fernandez: first NCSL was great so thank you, second we have a our Greek Rep the Yard event from 7-10p tomorrow in Welte, third if a club comes to be I tell them to go to Senate because I know the rules
Alaimo: to put in perspective, there is a line item here that isn’t talked about. Who is here representing them? Now today this won’t be voted on

Marcelli: I fully intended to vote on this but we lost quorum

Testa: on behalf of IRC- the USA Today newspapers were almost voted down by IRC and there are a lot of members who are upset that the signs have been broken and right now we’re using the ones with just the SGA and SUBOG logos on them

Braun: I don’t think the eboard knew about that so we’ll look into it

Choplick: I’m looking into that for next year and I just wanted to say it is an improper representation of the student body to stay here for your own club’s co-sponsored event and then leave right as it was voted on so we lose quorum and then can no longer vote on something, it’s total bullshit

Narcisse: I voted yes because I voted yes last week so what should I do now going forward

Braun: to stay consistent vote yes or to be consistently inconsistent with the SGA By-Laws vote yes

Ott: lets learn from this and move on and help student life with scholarships

Motion to adjourn (Truex, Choplick)

Meeting is adjourned at 5:46p

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.