Student Government Association Minutes from April 24, 2013

April 24, 2013

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

Student Affairs Report: Dr. Tordenti

I just wanted to salute those leaving the SGA and for the graduating seniors if you ever need anything please feel free to call me

Motion to accept meeting minutes from April 17, 2013 (Baldassario, Marcelli)

Motion passes unanimously SG13-158

Public Hearing

Scott Hazan: I just wanted to thank the senate for this year, especially the graduating seniors. This has been an exceptional senate and this will be a great new class. It was a pleasure to work with you all and for the new e-board I’m sure we will be talking more on a one on one basis.

Treasurer’s Report

Alaimo: this past weekend we spent time with base budgets and you can see all of the recommendations. There were 100 different requests and we averaged about $3400 a club. You can see the breakdown of the different motions for the recommendations. We did a good job so please look over in detail and if you have any questions please ask.

I wanted to thank everyone who helped and a big thanks to Jim Greene and SALD. It’s been fun for the past three years, we’re leaving the SGA in good hands

Vice President Report
Braun: if you haven’t handed in your voting sheets please do so. I will pass out everyone’s “owls” because you’ve all been accepted into Hogwarts. This year’s end of the year SGA banquet is Harry Potter and it will be amazing so please come

Radden: can we dress up

Braun: yes. I’m going to save what I wanted to say until the banquet but I just wanted to say you are all my SGA family. We pushed the time back to 7p so if you have the honors graduation you’ll only be missing a bit of it. I have the honors graduation schedule so if you are attending come see me. And to the new senators, I just wanted to give some advice. Don’t quit and don’t give up. You will have a lot of questions but wait until the retreat. This has been the best part of my five years here so please don’t quit. Don’t take anything personally, when you leave this room forget all the arguments, because they will happen but don’t take them to heart. Respect your e-board because they were elected to lead and be looked up to. I wish you all the best of luck.

**President’s Report:**

Bergenn: just to start off this report I wanted to let you know I am breaking a vow of silence for the meeting. A vow that is protesting the silence that the LGBTQ community and its allies are forced into. So please next time you’re talking about a crush or relationship take the time to remember that not everyone has that freedom.

The e-board made some executive decisions. One was to get an office coffee maker another was to carry on the tradition and purchase President Elect Brian Choplick his own gavel set so he can take leadership his own way.

Thank you to all who helped the SGA out this year, it’s been a pleasure. Thank you to SALD and the staff of the Recorder we owe you a big thanks.

I’ve left an open floor before new business in case any of the current senators would like to say anything, but I recommend waiting until the banquet.

This is my last time leading the senate and I am proud to say we have established a strong voice for the students that can only be continuously improved upon. Thank you to our treasurer and our incredibly organized Vice President, she exemplifies what a student leader should be. To the new senators you have a huge task ahead of you in continuing our work. Make decisions that matter and always think about why you are here on senate because there is so much required of you. Funding clubs is a big part of what we do, but it isn’t the only thing. Stand up for what is right and don’t accept the status quo. Be ready to battle but even more so be ready to win through sound arguments and facts. Don’t be afraid to be humble if you don’t seek information and do what’s right for the student body then you’re not doing everything you can as a senator. Don’t
sleep until everything is accomplished that can be. I have great confidence in the new eboard and
I have confidence in you. Blow us out of the water.

Committee Reports

Public Affairs:

Radden: the elections went great with the highest turn out in four years. Thanks to Michelle and
everyone else who was so willing to jump in and help with the Athletics’ Day of Giving event
and a big thanks to my committee, you did a great job this year. My co-chair Ryan was more like
a chair in his own right and was always there to help. Hannah was there to keep us in check and
Raul and Aida could always be counted on to get things done. And Matt was like the committee
teddy bear, always there for us. And a big thanks to Dean who wasn’t even on the committee but
was there to help and go to meetings. Remember it’s the little things that matter not just the pep
rallies, it’s a bigger goal to unify everyone

Student Life:

Kitchener: scholarships are done so thank you to everyone who helped with them, an email will
be going out late this week early next week

Academic Affairs

Marcelli: this committee has done a fantastic job this year and I feel dumb for not giving you
more in depth reports of what has been going on and I feel responsible that only one member of
this committee aside from Ashley will be back next year. Kim pushed and pushed the math
department and they are now doing something for people who need help with stats classes. Javi
was always fearless and got us the meetings and always acted professionally, Monique
continuously ran the academic seminars and Brianna was always there to pick up the pieces.
Sahar got the library hours extended during finals week, which is huge for the students and
Ashley got a majors fair set in motion for next year. And my co-chair Cory did so much I can’t
even begin to list it, he did a better job than I did! For all the new senators I have created a binder
for academic affairs with a logo much like the Avengers, because we are the Avengers of the
Senate be ready to fight and tackle the impossible and don’t feel afraid to contact me with
questions

Bergenn: thank you to Academic Affairs, it’s a committee I worked a long time in getting
formed and it’s done more than I could have imagined

Sonet: Student Life members you’re not forgotten we love you too!
Open Floor:

Alaimo: any questions for finance?

Rodriguez: you denied a budget completely and suggested they go to media board was that the only reason?

Bergenn: the media board constitution said the publications need to be recognized as organizations and they did that, it is best because it is a satirical magazine that they be under the protection of the media board because chances are they will take jabs at the Senate and when coming to us for money we don’t want to have any issues. I’ve spoken with Ethan and he wants to be a part of the media board as well

Truex: can you give us examples of some consistent cuts?

Alaimo: all apparel except if you needed uniforms, we cut a lot of travel and instead gave full registration and hotel rooms for conferences though there was a few exceptions, we funded all day trips and gave $150 per event for refreshments, for club sized events

Narcisse: how much was allocated?

Alaimo: we came under budget and I was shocked we shot for $400,000 and came in at about $341,000

Rodriguez: how did you come up with the $150 number?

Alaimo: we felt for most club-sized events $150 was sufficient but we gave more for major events

Choplick: can you explain the $400,000 number?

Alaimo: we didn’t want to go over that and usually we give a little under that

Choplick: what is our actual amount to allocate?

Alaimo: $330,000 is in the line item and we always take more from the reserves to make up the difference

Braun: Jim sent out an email for a shout out book, it will be amazing but the only way it will work is if you respond to him!

Baldassario: with the four new committees please don’t be okay with just working within your own committee. Don’t feel boxed in, reach out to other committees and do more with the students and the New Britain community this is a good time to have the SGA active in the community and not reaching out more is something I regret doing
New Business

Ratification of Election Results

Baldassario: Voting Numbers:

   Resident senator: 342
   Commuter senator: 245
   At-Large: 605

All the numbers can also be found on the SGA Website

Move to ratify the election results for the 2013-2014 senate elections (Truex, Zohlman)

1A: Baldassario

Motion Passes SG13-159

Move to ratify the election results for the 2013-2014 E-Board elections (Baldassario, Marcelli)

5A (Radden, Baldassario, Mills, Anderson, Choplick)

Motion passes SG13-160

Dr. Tordenti swears in the new E-Board and the new senators

Attendance:

President Choplick, Vice President Anderson, Treasurer Mills, Senators Ahmad, Alsaqri, Beriault, Cahill, Christiano, Dwyer, Fallanca, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kania, Kayan, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sanchez, Sonet, Swan

President’s Report

Choplick: Congratulations on getting elected, it was a tough campaign this year

Senator Cassidy has class at this time and with that I wanted to say things will be different with excuses from me. I will only be excusing class related items or last minute health/family emergencies. You can petition the senate at any time but those are the only things I will be excusing
When you’re voting by roll call there are three ways you can vote, yes, no and abstain. When voting yes say either yes or aye when voting no say either no or nay. Use abstentions sparingly when you feel you don’t have enough information or that you cannot be unbiased.

Please take into consideration what the old e-board said and let’s work together.

I’d like to continue the safe ride initiative started by former President Bergenn.

I’d like to have the agenda out 24 hours prior to the meeting so if you have anything that needs to be included get it to me earlier than that.

I’d like to spend more money next year it is an injustice to the student body not to use it for them.

Chairs and co-chairs can be nominated this week but I want to hold voting until next week.

**Vice President’s Report**

Anderson: I’m passing around contact sheets please fill them out and add your preferred committee.

Jim requested card access for the senators so it will be going through which means you will be able to unlock the door. The e-board and UA office doors should be shut if there is no senator in the office.

Usually we sign stipend contracts but we will do that at the retreat.

The retreat is mandatory and we’re thinking of doing it Aug 2-4 so keep those days open.

Measho: how will we get there?

Anderson: we will leave together from the student center circle by bus.

Measho: will we be spending the night?

Anderson: yes.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Mills: we allocated $341,384.10 for about 101 clubs so that was awesome.

We came up with some rules when deliberating they were:

- **Trips to NYC:** Buses, not tickets for exhibits.
- **Buses:** Account for $10/person contribution.
- **Dinners:** If you’re putting on a dinner, yes. If you’re going to a restaurant, no.
Speaker refreshments: $150 per event.

Uniforms: If we fund >50%, include a stipulation that they must be reused.

Other clothing: No

Printing/promotional/office-type supplies: No

Individual membership fees: No

Deuces Wild met with media board and they will be funded by them this fall

I’m not a fan of every single thing on this base budget but we spent a lot of time in finance sorting this out

Finance committee will meet Mondays at 3:05p for the foreseeable future

I am looking to define contingency and co-sponsorship more clearly

A lot was cut from the base budgets and we’re looking into additional ways we can help clubs run more smoothly, we did this to stay on budget

Measho: is there a limit to the number of finance members

Mills: there will be 9 voting members but you don’t need to be on the committee to go to the meetings. If a voting member isn’t there then the first nonmember senator who is there can vote

Christiano: is that during university hour

Mills: no but it’s the same time as Senate but on Monday so we figure if you can set time aside on Wednesday then your Monday will also be free

Measho: this room?

Mills: no the blue and white room in devils den

**New Business:**

Motion to create a standing rule for the 2013-2014 academic year that when point of information is called, the person asking for the point of information may direct their question to another person through the chair with the chair’s permission. (Berriault, Lee)

For: Berriault: it’s very important that this passes. It is something the old senate did and it allows us to ask other senators questions during debate rather than just arguing for or against

Vote: 21Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Christiano, Dwyer, Fallanca, Fox, Germaine, Hudobenko, Kayan, Khan, Lee, Measho, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sanchez, Sonet, Swan) 1N (Kitchener) 0A
Motion to accept the base budget recommendations for the 2014 fiscal year (Mills, Sonet)

For: Mills: it’s very important that this passes because we have an obligation to let the clubs know what their base budget is so they have time to meet and plan for next year.

Against: Berriault: this is not a good budget. I won’t vote against it but I will abstain because we can do better. We have more money to spend and we denied clubs a lot of money. We still have $55,000 left over and I think it is wrong for the SGA to make a profit off the student body, it’s not our business. We need to serve the student body and this budget doesn’t do that. But this need to pass because if it doesn’t no one gets money but we can do better.

POI Ott: can we make a profit?

Choplick: no we can’t we only has $330,000 as a variable per the by-laws.

For: Mills: we don’t make a profit and we don’t have an extra $50,000 we take that from the reserves. The way our budget works is students pay $44 a semester in student activity fees and that money gets split up into our six accounts. We will use more money from the reserves to help clubs but finance did what it could to stay on budget.

Vote: 18Y (Anderson, Mills, Cahill, Christiano, Fallanca, Fox, Germaine, Hudobenko, Kayan, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sanchez, Sonet) 0N 4A (Berriault, Dwyer, Measho, Swan)

Motion to approve Resolution Concerning Funding for the ConnSCU System (Berriault, Germaine)

For: Berriault: I’ve been working on this with President Choplick and former President Bergenn and the goal is to get this sent to the House of Representatives and the Senate as a way of expressing the support of the student body to get an additional $140 million in funding for the ConnSCU system. This is strong statement to make and I hope it passes.

Yield time.

No questions, back to the floor.

Move to postpone indefinitely (Lee, Kitchener)

For: Lee: this makes a strong statement and all we’re doing is asking for more money without offering an alternative. This is embarrassing and we’re just repeating an argument we’ve been saying all year this doesn’t need to be resaid.

Against: Berriault: we spent months on this issue and this is an insult because we have been making progress and have already gotten additional money. Saying we should postpone because
we haven’t gotten anything done is a lie. This affects us all and we need to act if you disagree vote no don’t just postpone it. This is a time sensitive issue.

Measho: move to amend

Choplick: we are on a motion to postpone so you can’t amend, if this fails you can amend the original motion

POI Mills to Berriault: how many people have seen this resolution?

Berriault: mostly the previous senate but it

Point of order: Lee: he is speaking in favor of the resolution

Well taken

For: Lee: it’s most important to send the right message it’s better to postpone and not send any message then to vote yes or no and send the wrong one

Against: Ott: we have an obligation to do this for students and we could always vote to amend

For: Mills: the new people and even some of the old senators are confused, only Bobby and Brian have seen this we should postpone and look over to make a more informed decision

Against: Ott: indefinitely doesn’t give us a time limit we can vote this down and postpone until next week’s meeting

For: Kitchener: we can bring this up next week, it won’t go away if we don’t want it to. But we should be careful with our resolutions and be wise with which ones we pass

Call to previous question (Germaine, Berriault)

14Y 4N 0A

Debate is ended

Original Motion

Vote: 18Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Dwyer, Fallanca, Fox, Hudobenko, Kayan, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Sonet, Swan) 2N (Germaine, Measho) 1A (Christiano)

Postponement passes

Open Floor

Motion to excuse myself from the summer retreat (Sonet, Kitchener)

For: Sonet: I’ll be on a school sponsored trip to Scotland from July 30 to August 12.
Vote: 19Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Christiano, Dwyer, Fallanca, Fox, Germaine, Hudobenko, Kayan, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Swan) 1N (Sonet) 0A

Motion Passes SG14-003

Choplick: pay attention when a motion is being made because if you have a question you can always ask a point of information. If you want to get my attention raise your hand, say Mr. President and stand up doing all of those things will get you called on over a person who only does one. If two people do them all at the same time I will call on the person who hasn’t spoken first

Kitchener: with motioning to end debate I think it’s unfair everyone should get a chance to speak if they have something to say and we should let them

Mills: finance did a good job with the budget and over summer we will be thinking of ways to help the club further. We will make up the money to the clubs but a little under $400,000 is still vastly over budget. Everything was done for a reason

POI Measho to Mills: can you clarify what you mean from between this year and last year

Mills: last year is the 2012-2013 academic year this year is the 2013-2014 academic year

Berriault: I don’t get angry but I can be passionate. But if you have any questions about the resolution please ask me

Scott Hazan: I just wanted to introduce myself to the new senators, I am Scott Hazan, Director of SALD and in the sense the SGA advisor. There will be a graduate intern, he/she will be new and when we have more information we will let you know. But welcome aboard

Lee: I nominate myself as chair of academic affairs

Accepts

Kitchener: I nominate Dean Ott as chair of public affairs

Accepts

Mills: nominate Conner Fallanca as co-chair of finance committee

Accepts

Sonet: nominate Alex Kitchener of co-chair for Student Life

Accepts

Berriault: I nominate myself as chair of Public Affairs

Berriault: can we hold off on voting until next week
Choplick: yes voting will be May 1

Ott: nominate Simms Sonet as chair of Student Life

Accepts

Fallanca: nominates Caroline Fox as co-chair of internal affairs

Choplick: internal affairs co-chair is actually chosen by the vice president so it doesn’t need a nomination

Ott: nominates Alyssa Testa as co-chair of Public Affairs

Choplick: I will get an acceptance in writing from her

Motion to adjourn (Germaine, Berriault)

Meeting adjourned at 5:06p

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.