Student Government Association Minutes from April 9, 2014

April 9, 2014 Attendance:

President Choplick, Vice President Anderson, Treasurer Mills, Senators, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Moreno, Ott, Perry, Pietrycha, Rongey, Rodriguez, Sonet, Swan

Meeting is called to order at 3:23p by President Choplick

Motion to accept meeting minutes from 4/2 (Berriault, Alsaqri)

Motion passes unanimously

Public Hearing: None

Student Affairs Report: Dr. Tordenti

I have no report today, but I just wanted to say it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with all of you this year and I wanted to say thank you. I hope you are proud of the service you’ve given to the university and I am looking forward to working with the returners next year. If I don’t see you before graduation good luck to the seniors!

Treasurer’s Report

1. We had very long base budget deliberations this past weekend. We spent 34 hours going over 107 clubs. We allocated 103 with five not given budgets with the recommendation they come back in the fall.
2. We had $812,000 in requests and allocated $414,811 which is the most in five years
3. Finance cut $407,000 from the budgets but we need to move about $62,000 from the reserves
4. Contingency: $11,320
5. For Use By Senate: $18,900 but we have $29,000 in the account
6. Reserves: $251,314
7. The e-board has made some decisions, we passed Item A for the longboarding club, we passed the BSU line item, SASA co-sponsorship for holi with the stipulation our logo be used as well, line items for ASCE and IABC were passed as well as one with a collaboration between COLADA and LASO
Measho: is there a reason why the clubs weren't given a budget

Mills: lack of information

**Vice President's Report**

1. The banquet is next week at 7:30p
2. This is the last week for office hours
3. Stipend review will be Friday at 12p in the SGA office
4. Task Force Update: we have proposed a reworking of the makeup of senate. Rather than breaking seats up by commuter, resident, At-large and freshmen we are proposing it be changed to 30 at-large seats and 6 freshmen seats with the option that if part-time students eventually pay student activity fees (SAF) they can also participate in senate. This needs to sit on the table for two weeks but I will answer any questions

Yields Time

Fox: can part time join now as at-large

Anderson: yes

Germaine: where is the banquet?

Anderson: Wednesday at 7:30 in the Constitution room

Hudobenko: do the part time at large senators currently pay SAF

Anderson: no

Christiano: what is the reason for increasing the freshmen seats?

Anderson: it creates a more even split for the committees and we are investing in the future of senate

Measho: so what happens to the labels?

Anderson: they will be gone. Anyone who pays SAF can run and vote

Kitchener: are we voting on this next week or the week after

Anderson: the week after it will come up with the new senate

Ott: why is SAF added like that?

Anderson: a lot of people want part time students to be a part of senate but opposing that, students who don’t pay SAF shouldn’t get a say in how that money is spent so this appeases both sides
Rodriguez: could commuter seats just become at large seats instead

Anderson: there’s a million different combinations but this is what we came up with as the best solution

Bosworth: so if this passes each student would get 30 votes?

Anderson: voting would be like it is now but yes you could click up to 30 names

Gregonis: how do you account for commuter students who do not have access to reslife

Anderson: as it stands now commuter students have no reason to get into the dorms, but if this changes everyone will have equal chances

Measho: who proposed this

Anderson: it’s changed but was originally proposed by President Choplick

Measho: how will we be able to debate this when he is no longer president

Anderson: we are passing the info along now, returners were on the task force and we will still be around if you have questions

President’s Report

1. Elections are going on and we need help at tables so if you’re not running and have time please volunteer
2. Budgets were this weekend, so thank you for everyone who was there
3. SUBOG recognition dinner is April 30, all the graduating seniors are invited so please see me
4. I wanted to extend my thanks to Dr. T for all the hard work and being so helpful to be throughout this past year

Committee Reports:

Student Life: Sonet: thank you to everyone who helped with the yellow roses, we have some requests for the senate

1. We are asking $500 for Pay it Forward: we are working with Sodexo and the different Devils Den eateries as just another small act of kindness. There will be notecards that when the meal is paid for, saying it was from the SGA
2. We would like money for two coffee talks so we can gain more student perspective on the Smoke Free campus initiative

Social Work club is putting on an event on April 26 and needs volunteers so I will pass a sheet around, if you can help please sign up/ the alcohol awareness fair is next week from 11-2 and SGA usually has a table so if you can help next Wednesday please do
Ott: can you explain pay if forward

Sonet: it’s this recent character phenomenon where the person in front of you covers your order and you’re supposed to pass it on, it’s a very simple but powerful gesture. So we want to take $500 and set up which meals would be covered and just add on to the random acts of kindness

Kitchener: is the idea for us to encourage them to do it to someone else

Sonet: we will also hand out cards that say to pass it on and encourage they do so

Christiano/Gregonis/Moody/Frey: It’s Not Easy Being Green Event:

- We are asking for $6400 for this event which is basically telling students to walk a mile in the shoes of someone who is differently abled
- We will have different stations like wheelchair tours, walking blindfolded, trying gluten free food different things like that to help instill empathy in the campus community
- This is open to the campus and will get our name out there
- Student Disability Services is completely on board
- We are asking for money and volunteers
- Money for:
  - Gluten free food and a food cart
  - Shirts to be given when you participate
  - Money for Michaels and Target for supplies
  - $3000 for wheelchairs which will be donated to Chariots of Hope after the event
- We only need $6400 though the agenda says $6500

Sonet: date

Christiano: 4/22 12-3p

Hudobenko: what day is that

Christiano: Tuesday

Alsaqri: where

Christiano: the student center circle

Kitchener: what kind of gluten free food

Christiano: whatever can be provided by Sodexo
Kitchener: so the food cart is just to draw people in

Christiano: yes

Kitchener: do you have quotes

Christiano: all the numbers are from quotes

Kitchener: how much is it per wheelchair

Christiano: it varies but we want 15

Hudobenko: if you foresee this being an annual thing would the wheelchairs be a constant cost

Christiano: we haven’t thought about making it annual but I like the idea of donating them

Measho: do you have a rain date

Christiano: no but I’m crossing my fingers and will find one

Perry: where are they being donated

Christiano: Chariots of Hope

Measho: where is that

Christiano: I’m not sure but they work with community central

Public Affairs: Ott: the blood drive is coming up so please hang up posters if you can

Hubbard: is there a process for getting them hung in the res halls

Ott: you have to go through the reslife office

Gregonis: there will be a therapy dog on campus Thursday from 12-2, stop by and see him!

Finance: Mills: I gave everyone a copy of the base budgets, I’d like to get them passed as soon as we can but if you have any problems contact me

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Motion to allocate no more than $400 to purchase SGA Graduation Stoles from account SG9010 (Alsaqri, Khan)
For: Alsaqri: the idea behind this is that as a senate we put in a lot of hard work and countless hours and students with academic honors get cords so I think we should have stoles with the SGA logo and class on it

Yields Time for Questions

Fox: is there any money coming out of pocket

Alsaqri: currently no

Perry: has this been done before

Alsaqri: not recently

Hazan: are they available to seniors who were once on senate but are no longer

Alsaqri: not currently but if we need more money we can split costs

Measho: what is the price

Alsaqri: $36 each which is why I say not to exceed

Cassidy: do graduates pay for their own caps and gowns

Alsaqri: yes which is why I ask this be covered

Against: Kitchener: I don’t think anyone joined to get recognition and we should pay for these ourselves

Motion to amend an insert with the stipulation the stoles be used for future senates (Fernandez, Christiano)

For: Fernandez: it’s a nice gesture but if we don’t put the class they can be used again, this would be an investment like uniforms

Against: Hudobenko: if I was graduating I would want to keep this

POI Kitchener to Alsaqri: was the point to reward for hard work?

Alsaqri: this was not to reward us but to show who the student government is, this is not an ego boots

Vote: 6Y 22N 4A (Berriault, Alsaqri, Fernandez, Moreno)

Amendment fails

Original Motion
**Motion to amend and insert at the end, “with the stipulation the students receiving the stoles contribute $18” (Hubbard, Khan)**

For: Hubbard: I like the idea and the sentiment a lot but we talk about how we should treat ourselves more like a club and while we aren’t a club, a precedent that has been set is if they pay for 51% of uniforms they can keep them and that’s what this amendment does. This covers all bases

Against: Mills: I disagree with we should pay. I’ve spent a lot of hours working for the SGA and I don’t think the students getting stoles for graduation is a big deal. We just spent $415,000 on clubs, more than ever so we can take some time to honor the members on senate

POI Measho to Mills: if this passes would it be annual

Mills: the motion would have to be brought up again

POI Ott: does the school pay part of the caps and gowns

Choplick: that’s a better question for Scott

For: Kitchener: if this passes at all it better pass with this amendment, we get a lot of things clubs don’t and they put in work too

Against: Perry: it’s a good gift for the seniors for the effort on senate

For: Hubbard: I’m a senior and I don’t mind playing

Against: Mills: this money would be coming from the reserves, money that has been rolled over because clubs don’t use it. if this was coming out of this years SAF I would be for this but we can afford this especially since we’re taking out $62,000 for the clubs

POI Measho to Mills: what is in the reserves?

Mills: $251,000

For: Rodriguez: I am torn, it shouldn’t be entirely funded by senate and this isn’t unreasonable

Against: Ott: we are no better than the students who elected us

Point of Order: Mills: speaking for

Not well taken

Ott: we pay in full for the robes

Point of Order: Mills: speaking for
Not well taken

Ott: so we should pay in full for the stoles, I am against this because senate shouldn’t have to pay any of them

POI Hudobenko: do other organizations pay for stoles

Choplick: I don’t know

POI Rodriguez to Mills: should the original motion pass would you approve stoles for other clubs

Mills: I can’t speak to the entire senate on that

For: Germaine: we’re very privileged on senate, we should at least contribute something

Vote: 17Y (Alsaqri, Bosworth, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fox, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Pietrycha, Rongey, Sonet) 9N (Anderson, Mills, Cahill, Fallanca, Moody, Ott, Perry, Rodriguez, Swan) 6A (Berriault, Fernandez, Frey, Fung, Hudobenko, Moreno)

Amendment Passes

Original Motion:

Against: Berriault: I like the idea but SAF shouldn’t be used to purchase these, we can afford to use the stipends we get. Now what about the clubs we represent, we always say we work hard and every time I think about the clubs who work hard. We feel entitles so we ask for students to purchase these items, this isn’t our money. Do we really need to use the student body’s money to buy them? If this does pass other will want them and it’s not fair to hold ourselves to a higher standard

For: Measho: I agree that senate should be recognized we work hard and they will be paying half

Against: Hudobenko: we are here to learn and we have majors that recognize us with cords and I don’t think we should be recognized for a non-educational purpose

POI Cahill: would the stoles be available to any senior

Choplick: I think the intent was to provide them to those graduating

For: Mills: I tell you what’s not fair, the amount of emails I get from clubs who are not happy with their budget. I don’t get thank you, we have a large budget and a lot of what we do does get unrecognized. I think the senators deserve recognition we can afford a little from the reserves because that money wouldn’t be put directly to students anyway

Motion to amend and insert “at least” before $18 (Fox, Christiano)
For: Fox: this is a slight change to cover all views and appease both parties

**Voice Vote: Amendment Passes**

**Original Motion:**

Against: Fernandez: I’m a senior and I’m not even paying for my cap and gown, the work we do goes unseen regardless lets just vote this down, it’s irrelevant

**Call to previous question (Christiano, Gomez)**

Vote: 16Y 8N 0A

Debate is ended

**Original Motion Vote:** 17Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fox, Germaine, Hubbard, Khan, Lee, Measho, Moody, Moreno, Pietrycha) 7N (Berriault, Bosworth, Kitchener, Ott, Rodriguez, Sonet, Swan) 3A (Fernandez, Frey, Gomez)

**Motion Passes**

Motion to allocate $6,500 to the Student Life Committee from SG9010 for the It’s Not Easy Being Green Event. (Frey, Germaine)

For: Frey: this will help spread awareness of students living with disabilities

**Motion to amend and strike $6500 and insert $6400 in its place (Pietrycha, Rodriguez)**

For: Pietrycha: the presentation said they needed $6400 not $6500

Vote: 25Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sonet, Swan) 0N 1A (Christiano)

**Amendment Passes**

**Original Motion**

Against: Kitchener: I think if we get rid of the food truck because that takes away from the gluten free food

POI Germaine to Christiano: could you just not get the food truck and have the money go back to SGA

Christiano: we could but we can only get a certain amount of Gluten Free food

POI Kitchener to Christiano: why only a certain amount

Christiano: Sodexo needs it to feed the people with a gluten allergy
POI Rodriguez to Kitchener: can you reiterate your point
Kitchener: it takes away from the gluten free food option
For: Measho: this is a great event to engage the campus
Against: Sonet: I hate Kermit the Frog
POI Lee to Christiano: can you discuss the $1500 for shirts
Christiano: you only get one for participating
For: Cassidy: this is a fantastic event for campus and the issue with the food truck, gluten free food is expensive and hard to feed all the people at the event
POI Fernandez to Christiano: what gluten free food
Christiano: I can bring up the email if you want
Against: Kitchener: maybe we can get a gluten free food truck, it will be more expensive but it goes with the event
For: Fox: we tried to cut cost as much as possible for this and they don’t have a large amount of gluten free food available and if I remember Public Affairs got a bouncy house to attract people

Vote: 25Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sonet, Swan) 0N 2A (Christiano, Frey)

**Motion Passes**

**Motion to allocate $500 to the Student Life Committee from SG9195 for Pay It Forward (Sonet, Cassidy)**

For: Sonet: it goes along with random acts of kindness, we will have more concrete information next week

Yields time for questions

Khan: do you need your blue chip

Sonet: as long as you’re a student you’re covered

Measho: who will have the list of what can be paid for

Sonet: the SGA and workers so we keep the element of surprise
Vote: 22Y (Anderson, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kitchener, Measho, Moody, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sonet,) 1N (Swan) 2A (Lee, Ott)

Motion Passes SG14-171

Motion to allocate $400 to the Student Life Committee from SG9195 for coffee talks on the smoke free campus (Sonet, Hubbard)

For: Sonet: we want to have two locations, $200 for each to get more student input on a smoke free campus

Yields time

Cassidy: do you have a date

Sonet: not yet we wanted the money first

Ott: do you know what food you’ll have

Sonet: not yet

Mills: how much do you have left in your budget

Sonet: we have $200 in discretionary but it’s being used

Against: Anderson: I don’t think we ned to spend money on food to talk to students

For: Hubbard: faculty senate has endorsed smoke free campus and I think we need to talk to students and this is the best way to get a quick response

POI Measho to Simms: locations?

Sonet: I don’t know yet

POI Kitchener to Simms: where would you like to have them?

Sonet: library and student center

Vote: 24Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Khan, Kitchener, Measho, Moody, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sonet, Swan) 0N 2A (Lee, Ott)

Motion Passes SG14-172

Motion to allocate $2886 to the Center Stage revenue account. (Sonet, Cassidy)

For: Sonet: this is their ticket revenue from last year that we promised them
POI Measho to Sonet: how much was their budget and what do they need this for

Sonet: they got $22,000 and I’m not sure

POI Hubbard to Mills: why wasn't it just taken?

Mills: this wasn't in the motion but they were told they would be getting this money

POI Kitchener to Mills: was it in the motion

Mills: not but we stated last year that they would get this, last year they just made two motions

POI Kitchener to Mills: what do you mean by last year

Mills: fiscal year 2012-13 we made two motions, first revenue and then a budget. This year they got a budget but haven't been given their revenue yet

Against: Lee: I never thought they would be getting this money in addition to the money they already received

For: Mills: I agree that they do get treated differently but we did promise them this and we should keep it

POI Cassidy to Mills: is this money they earned through ticket sales that would just sit in our account

Mills: yes, it went to us because they didn't have an account

POI Lee to Mills: who is we that promised them this

Mills: last year's senate and it was talked about when Sen. Sonet made the motion

POI Lee: is there a motion from senate

Mills: no

Against: Kitchener: unless there is a motion we are not tied to this promise

For: Fernandez: we have been better at keeping our word and we should continue to do so

POI Pietrycha to Mills: is this to be expected every year

Mills: my understanding yes but that can change

POI Fox to Mills: did you give them their base budget this year with the impression they would get this money
Mills: they won’t get money in their revenue account unless they break even, so if we want to keep doing this it has to be in writing.

Against: Lee: who promised them this? If it was in the minutes that means it was one person not senate.

For: Sonet: my intent was to give them this as part of the investment that way they would ask for less in the budget.

POI Kitchener: what clubs get revenue back.

Choplick: there are some but they have to break even with the money we give them.

POI Christiano to Mills: how detrimental would it be if they didn’t get it back.

Mills: they musical would have $14,000 but when I voted yes I assumed they would get the revenue back.

Vote: 17Y (Anderson, Alsaqri, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Measho, Moody, Pietycha, Rodriguez, Sonet, Swan) 6N (Mills, Hudobenko, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Ott) 1A (Bosworth)

**Motion Passes**

**Open Floor:**

Sonet: I apologize for all the last minute Student Life requests we have been working on a lot of things that are now coming together.

Mills: chairs who are here, I need your receipts by Tuesday for an end of the year report.

Bosworth: I am embarrassed to be a part of Senate right now, to the 17 that voted for the stoles you should be ashamed. We want recognition? Wear your shirt, hold your binder, tape your nameplate to your chest. Senators make $400 a semester, the treasurer and Vice President, $1000 and the president $1400. We cant use any of that for stoles? You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Choplick: I am proud to be a part of this organization, whether I agree or disagree with the motion that was passed, and whether you agree or disagree, you shouldn’t be ashamed because this is not a true representation. Look back at the work that was done this year, we’ve done a lot of good and you should be proud so please don’t be ashamed. I am proud of everyone in this room.

Berriault: yes we work hard and everyone deserves to be recognized but that shouldn’t come with a price. I’m proud of the club too. According to the by-laws you need 400 signatures to send something to referendum and I will get those 400, this should be an issue voted on by the students and no one will support this. Why do we get this privilege?
Lee: I do not want this meeting to end like this so I just want to say it’s been great to work with all of you this year.

Alsaqri: I wish I had the chance to speak before because it want not my intent for this to be such a big deal, Senator Moreno and I have decided to cover the cost of the seniors so disregard the motion, if you have questions you can reach out to me.

Fernandez: we are definitely passionate and I have never witnessed a debate as silly as the stoles. Moving forward try not to take things so personally because it’s not worth it what we do goes far beyond this room. The bickering is irrelevant.

Measho: should this be put on paper then.

Choplick: we can move to rescind this week, amend or rescind something previously adopted next week or I can veto a motion for the first time.

Bosworth: I wanted to say my emotions got the best of me, I don’t hate this organization, it is a big reason why I’m not transferring to UConn and I love you all.

Cassidy: thank you to everyone who donated money for St. Baldrick’s, I am now bald if you didn’t hear and I was also able to donate my hair to locks of love.

Mills: I wanted to make clear I am president of COLADA not LASO but we have an end of the year event coming up and you should all come. It’s $3 for students and $5 for guests, thank you again to finance you’re all amazing.

Hazan: there is a SALD survey up take it if you can and get others to take it as well.

Kitchener: I just wanted opinions on the constitutional change.

Khan: I think having six freshmen seats is great to build our future.

Fernandez: it’s a good template for better equality and student involvement.

Motion to adjourn (Khan, Christiano)

Meeting is adjourned at 5:40p.