Student Government Association Minutes from August 11, 2013

August 11, 2013 Attendance:

Present: President Choplick, Vice President Anderson, Treasurer Mills, Senators Berriault, Cahill, Christiano, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gregonis, Hudobenko, Kayan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Swan, Testa

Meeting called to order at 1:09 p.m. by President Choplick

Motion to accept the minutes from May 1 (Fernandez, Ott)

Passes Unanimously  

Student Affairs Report:

Scott Hazan: Dr. Tordenti is excited to get the year started and there is a lot of changes coming up that everyone is excited about. In Memorial Hall where the Bursar’s Office once was will be a new Fitness center with a cycling facility and dance studio. The Nutmeg Room will be utilized as a tranquility center/quiet space and they are redoing the Connecticut Room. The old Financial Aid Office will be a new study lounge for the time being and new floors have been laid down in Devils Den due to water damage.

We will get Orientation, Homecoming and Family Day Dates to you soon and we love that SGA plays a role in these days. Right now Homecoming is 10/5 and Family Day is 9/21.

Germaine: Where is the new Bursar’s Office?

Hazan: Davidson

Choplick: can you talk about the UPass system?

Hazan: there is going to be a new bus pass system which allows students to ride the city buses for free. It is my understanding that there will be a limited number of these passes but for those who need them; they will be able to get them. This isn’t just limited to this area this is all city buses for free. You should be proud because this program started in here by the SGA and was worked on by Sen. Rodriguez. Eventually the school will get rid of the shuttle system they currently have.

Fernandez: do you know anything about the Fast Track/ Bus way
Hazan: the stop near school is under construction behind Stop and Shop. It is not an easy walk but I encourage you if you guys here of problems or things that should be changed to address them in senate and in committees

Berriault: the Stop and Shop stop will have a connection to CCSU so we don’t have to walk

Hazan: it will go to Hartford but won’t stop in Blue Back Square

**President’s Report:**

1. On the agenda under New Business will also be a resolution proposed by Sen. Berriault
2. We have had two senators resign, Sen. Rodriguez and Sen. Sanchez so there seats will be open during the Fall elections
3. Just one negative in regards to the committee sheets, when something has clear instructions please follow them. Don’t stand in the other’s way if you follow the directions it just makes everyone’s lives easier
4. With that said I’m really happy with the way the retreat has gone. We were willing to be uncomfortable especially in group dynamics and I think that’s a great thing. I appreciate that you guys feel I am a strong leader but I liked seeing that other people were willing to come forward and take charge and when the time called for it the others were willing to listen to them. That says a lot about the kind of group we have here this year
5. Thank you to all of the returners (we were out-numbered) who helped with the retreat this year
6. Please this year, take your time with decisions. It is worse to make an uninformed decision than it is to maybe wait a while and get all of the information you need
7. In meetings it is good to debate but if you’re on the losing side of that debate please do your best to work on the decision that was made. If it was voted then the majority of the Senate felt it should happen so don’t stand in anyone’s way
8. Be consistent with decision making, last year we did a lot of flip flopping
9. Read Robert’s Rules and learn them. We’ll be lenient at the beginning of the year and always ask questions. With that said I am also learning so bear with me

**Vice President’s Report**

1. Thank you to everyone for participating this weekend
2. I’ll be forwarding a Safe Zone survey that Crystal is sending me along with a retreat survey so please take the time to fill those out
3. I’ll be sending out an email that details the dress code
4. If you had problems with your polo’s please let me know
5. We met with Internal Affairs on Friday, I have minutes that I will send out

**Treasurer’s Report**

1. Later I’m going to propose a motion that states how much money is going into each of our accounts so I urge you to pass that
2. Our reserve account is healthy we had $358,000 at the beginning of the new fiscal year. It’s gone down a bit but we still have $338,000. We created a new account for the club P-Cards that has $20,000. It used to be that P-Cards would be attached to our account and clubs would use them and then the money would get put back but it was really difficult to
keep track of how much money was in the account because of it so we created the new account just for club P-Cards. We won’t get that money back but it’s easier to keep track of now. We also had to move about $19,000 from reserves for the club base budgets which we do every year and money for the endowment will be taken out

3. I am going to be proposing by-law changes in regards to contingencies and co-sponsorships

4. We now have a coffee pot in our office (UA Office)

Committee Reports:

Public Affairs: Ott: I want SGA to have a big impact and presences this year

Student Life: Fox: we want to work close with Public Affairs this year and we also want to get scholarships done ASAP so if you want to help please let me know. We have a tentative meeting time of Fridays from 4p-7p but I have to talk to Simms.

Academic Affairs: Lee: we’ve got a good project list going that we’ve prioritized. I’ll have more information when we really get going

Old Business:

Choplick: we still have to vote in co-chairs of two committees so if you were nominated you will get three minutes to talk about why you should be voted

Public Affairs:

Testa: I was the treasurer of Carroll Hall and we did programs each week based on what the residents wanted. We would go door-to-door and get the residents to come to the programs. This is similar to what Public Affairs should do. SGA has great ideas but we never have the attendance we would want and I want to help change that. People say we’re not a programming board but that shouldn’t be an excuse not to try and get more people involved. I want to help build our connections and get more people involved in what we do

Choplick: Sen. Gomez is not present so he will not be able to speak on his behalf

Vote:

Testa: 18
Gomez: 1
1A (Fung)

Sen. Testa is the new Public Affairs Co-Chair

Finance Committee:

Fallanca: I was on finance last year and I’m an accounting major so I love this stuff. I learned a lot from Nick Alaimo, attended the majority of the meetings and was present in the base budget
process. I really enjoy this and I was nominated by our treasurer so if he has faith in me and feels he can work with me then you guys should have faith in me too

Berriault: I am no longer a candidate for this position

Fernandez: I’ve had extensive experience on finance and I have one goal and that’s to look into the increase of student activity fees or to get part time students to start paying them and getting them involved. Right now as it stands they technically aren’t allowed to participate in off-campus events or big events. It’s not a surprise that more clubs will continue to be created and we will have less funds to give them especially with enrollment down. I’ve had preliminary conversations about this and I have outlets to get this done so whether or not I’m voted in I’m going to work on it

Vote:

Fallanca: 12
Fernandez: 7
1A (Gregonis)

Sen. Fallanca is the new Finance Committee co-chair

New Business

Move to accept the Standing Rule for the 2013-14 academic year that all motions dealing with financial decisions be voted by roll call vote (Berriault, Kitchener)

For: Berriault: we’ve done this in past years and this is just a way for everyone to be held accountable.

Against: Mills: I understand the reason for this but I don’t like the wording it’s very vague it may be better to specify a monetary amount or change the wording a bit

POI Fox: do we have to redo all the standing rules from last year

Choplick: the standing rules ended with the fiscal year so yes

POI Kitchener to Mills: would you honor the roll call vote it it didn’t have to necessarily do with money

Mills: this is a Senate voting matter so it’s better to ask President Choplick but I will always do roll call vote for finance

POI Testa: if this passes can it be moved to Internal Affairs and made into a By-Law

Choplick: Yes and then the standing rule would be killed

POI Kitchener: how would you interpret this standing rule
Choplick: anything that has to do with money or would directly affect a dollar amount
For: Measho: the idea of a recognized vote on a monetary value, would it be better..
Point of Order: Kitchener: he is asking a question not speaking for the motion
Well Taken
POI Measho: did we do this last year
Choplick: anything over $50 was done by roll call
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Lee: does the chair hold the power to best decide how to do the voting
Choplick: Yes
For: Berriault: this motion does not apply to the committees, it applies to the Senate. We have been doing this for the past two years and I literally took the wording form last year and changed the dates. Financial and monetary mean the same thing so this is an issue of politics not substance. This is only to be transparent for the students
Against: Mills: just because we did it last year doesn’t mean we should do the same thing this year. I’d like to make small changes, that’s the only way we grow
POI Christiano to Berriault: can you repeat the motion
Berriault: it’s in the agenda packet
Move to amend to strike out “dealing with financial decisions” and insert “regarding to monetary decisions” (Lee, Pietrycha)
Against: Anderson: I think this should be amended but maybe not this exact wording
Vote: Y10 N8 A0
Amendment Passes
Original Motion
POI: Measho: if we want to change the wording can we do it now
Choplick: yes
Against: Kitchener: motions are cool
Move to amend and insert “regarding monetary transactions over $50” at the end (Measho, Pietrycha)
For: Measho: this gives a concrete value so all the clubs know
Against: Fernandez: clubs asking for just $50 is rare if you want a roll call vote for monetary decisions then we should just do it
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Berriault: are you willing to entertain a roll call vote for this

Choplick: I consider it

Vote: 2Y (Measho, Kitchener) 18N (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fung, Germaine, Gregonis, Hudobenko, Kayan, Lee, Moreno, Ott, Pietycha, Swan, Testa) 1A (Fox)

Motion fails

Original Motion

Vote: 20Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Kayan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moreno, Ott, Pietycha, Swan, Testa) 0N 2A (Gregonis, Hudobenko)

Motion Passes

Motion to accept Finance By-Law Change- Co-Sponsorship (Mills, Swan)

For: Mills: I didn’t change much I just wanted to make it clear that this is a collaboration with the SGA

Vote: 22Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gregonis, Hudobenko, Kayan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moreno, Ott, Pietycha, Swan, Testa) 0N 0A

Motion Passes

Motion to accept Finance By-Law Change- Contingency (Mills, Pietrycha)

For: Mills: I don’t like the way base budgets were handled last year and I think this makes it easier for clubs to get money to put on event and get the money this year. I took out unforeseen and put in unanticipated and added a section on denial so it is clear for the clubs

POI Germaine: why did you strike out food funding

Mills: it’s already in the By-Laws tht we won’t fund food for regular club meetings

Against: Lee: this is changing what contingency means. By definition it is something that cannot be predicted and this is ruining what that does

For: Ott: this isn’t killing it it’s just transforming it to make the funding easier for clubs especially when it comes to having a poor e-board the year before

POI Christiano: where in the By-Laws does it talk about food

Choplick: section 4-2 H 2 and under K
Vote: 15Y (Anderson, Mills, Senators Berriault, Cassidy, Fallanca, Fernandez, Germaine, Gregonis, Hudobenko, Kayan, Kitchener, Measho, Ott, Pietrycha, Swan) 3N (Testa, Moreno, Lee) 4A(Christiano, Cahill, Fung, Fox)

Motion Passes SG14-009

Move to approve the resolution to thank Quinnipiac for their hospitality (Berriault, Kitchener)

For: Berriault: this is our second year at QU and they have done a wonderful job in helping us and it takes a lot of work to make this happen and this is just to show our appreciation

Move to postpone indefinitely (Kitchener, Fernandez)

For: Kitchener: I think resolutions should be saved for major things like when we stood up to tuition increases last year. I think in this case a thank you note would be just as sufficient because when we do resolutions constantly I think we’re watering down their importance. This way if we postpone it we’re not voting against it because that is sending the wrong message

POI Fox: with something like this what else would you do other than a resolution?

Choplick: there’s a lot of choices so it’s hard to answer

Against: Berriault: this is standard procedure of how the government works to thank someone. Postponing indefinitely is just like shooting it down. Vote on the content of this

Point of order: Fernandez: talking about the resolution not the postponement

Well Taken

For: Lee: just because it’s standard of the state doesn’t mean we should follow that. Resolutions are fantastic but we should reserve them the more we use them the less people listen

POI Measho: if we pass what happens

Choplick: I’ll print this out on nice paper, sign it and send it to QU

POI Mills to Lee: are you aware of how many times we used a resolution to thank someone

Lee: once

Call to previous question (Fernandez, Testa)

Vote: 18Y 2N 1A (Moreno)

Debate is ended

Berriault: Point of Parliamentary inquiry: can we do a roll call vote

Postponement Vote:
Postponement Passes

Motion to place $96,676.00 into SG9195, $106,877.04 into SG9120, $321,766.36 into SG9015, $48,264.96 into SG9016, $28,000 into SG9017 and $4,044.08 into SG9018 (Mills, Fernandez)

For: Mills: Rosario asked that I motion each amount into the separate accounts so we can have it on record for the auditors. This doesn’t change anything because all of the money is already in there

POI Christiano to Mills: can you clarify SG9120 and SG9015

Mills: one is our operational and one is our club base budgets

Vote: 21Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, Fallanca, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gregonis, Hudobenko, Kayan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Swan, Testa) 1N 0A

Motion Passes

Open Floor:

Mills: on the point of the changes to contingency changing the meaning of the account, we can change the account name if Sen. Lee would like. That works for me

Choplick: when anyone does anything nice for us I assure you I will make sure to thank them on the behalf of the SGA

Lee: can you tell us about the decisions made by the e-board this summer

Choplick: they were in regards to the retreat when I have the final numbers I’ll make sure to email them to everyone

Ott: don’t be afraid to speak up if you’re new

Fernandez: since the President has the power to appoint students to different committees can you tell us of the criteria you’ll be looking for

Choplick: ill have more at the Sept. 4 meeting but I was going to try and not appoint senators to faculty committees to get other students involved but I’m going to require they report back to us

Hazan: don’t be too hard on yourselves if not everyone knows who the SGA is, it’s more important that they know the good that you’re doing for the students and the school. Not everyone knows their state senators, it happens
Berriault: please don’t use that argument that just because everyone else does it we have too, going against the society just because isn’t right. When we graduate and go into the working rules we’ll have rules to follow and we can’t be ignorant. I don’t mind hearing an opposing vote but one that’s based on substance not ignorance.

Kitchener: we shouldn’t just deny something that’s why it’s so important to have committees and meet and debate before bringing anything to senate.

Ott: I want people to know our name because we are so passionate and we do a lot, Congress may not be our best go-to example.

Motion to adjourn (Germaine, Hudobenko)

Meeting is adjourned at 2:40p

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.