Student Government Association Minutes from December 5, 2012

December 5, 2012

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

Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m. by President Bergenn.

Motion to approve minutes from November 28, 2012 (Mills, Marcelli)

Passes Unanimously

Student Affairs Report

Dr. Tordenti: The Governor has cut state budgets up to 5% and we’re waiting to hear from the Board of Regents. CCSU will be cut about $3.475 million but we have been preparing for this to happen. We don’t know where or when the cuts will end but we are continuously working on a plan.

Narcisse: the total budget cut was $7 million correct?

Dr. Tordenti: for the four state universities

Narcisse: it seems as if CCSU was cut the most

Bergenn: it goes by size of the school so CCSU is comparable to SCSU and WCSU and ECSU are similar

Dr. Tordenti: we are fairly equitable to SCSU. There will probably be more cuts and we’re unsure of what the tuition increase will be but the cuts are significant to every state agency and we will focus on what is absolutely most important to the studies of the students

Marcelli: with the hiring freeze how many open searches will be closed

Dr. Tordenti: I’m not exactly sure right now we don’t know what these cuts and freezes entail
Public Hearing: None

Presentation: Ethan Pelletier: Communication Club Line Item Change

I was speaking with Sue Sweeney and she mentioned the media board trip to Washington D.C. for the Presidential Inauguration. The trip costs $100 which includes the bus, hotel and ticket to newseum. The comm club wants to send six people. We elected seven new e-board members with myself as President, but it is not necessary for me to go. I want this trip to help the members get more invested in the club and it would be beneficial for them to go. We want to move the $600 from the travel line item to go toward the trip. I didn’t make the budget and this line was for an unnecessary trip to Florida that wouldn’t happen. This is more beneficial and a good way to get the club revived

Kitchener: did you never intend to go on the trip to Florida

Pelletier: this trip wouldn’t have happened

Kitchener: what about the $360 is this for the same time

Pelletier: you can wait to decide on that but that is money for a film contest we want to hold next semester working with the film club and the Helix

Kitchener: and it’s being taken from membership

Pelletier: I didn’t make the budget and to have a membership line didn’t make sense

Berriault: are you going with the media board or taking your own bus

Pelletier: everything is paid for by the media board and each person will pay $100 so it will cost no more than $600

Lee: are you sending members from SA/LD

Pelletier: no I just thought they were sponsoring it with the media board

Truex: do you have any quotes

Pelletier: we’re using all of the resources of the media board our only expense it the ticket

President’s Report

Look over all the budget cuts, it will be very important to understand

This is the last meeting before break so check your email over break for updates on the retreat

I’m going to be sending out a doodle for the chairs and co-chairs because I want to meet with them before the retreat
Remember TGFI performs in Torpe at 7p

Thanks for a good semester I think we did a good job over all

**Vice President Report**

The stipend reports are out so look over the criteria

Three senators did not get their stipends due to failure to complete office hours or the club liaison program. You are allowed to appeal and they must be in by Friday. I’ve sent out emails regarding stipends so let me know if you didn’t get them

Stipends can be picked up Monday from either Brittany or Eric during finals week. If you don’t pick them up they will be mailed and if you have direct deposit they will go right into your account. If you appeal and it is over turned then your stipend will get mailed to you at a later date

**Treasurer’s Report**

We need to decide on the communication club today

There was only one discrepancy in the audits with ASO other than that we have a base budget, two line items and a contingency because we went back and re-recommended the lacrosse club

Thanks for a great semester

**Committee Reports**

Kitchener: thank you for everyone who came to the coffee talk today and keep an eye out for a survey being emailed to you

Baldassario: please print out a small picture of yourself for the door/ the NCSL application deadline has been postponed until Friday at 5p due in the office and the price has been reduced from $75 to $30/ we’re looking into promotional items for next semester and we’ll have quotes for the retreat

Fernandez: the COSGA selectees have been emailed please fill out the travel waiver by the end of the day so we can make arrangements

Braun: the two senators who were able to do everything this semester with a perfect record are Senators Choplick and Marcelli.

Marcelli: we’re still working on the library. They have a budget and want to extend hours so they’re just waiting to hear what the students want. According to the survey students want the library to be open later on Friday and Saturday and opened earlier and Sunday
Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion to approve finance committee recommendations FC13-050, FC13-051 and FC13-052
(Berriault, Baldassario)

For: Berriault: these are three routine recommendations with the Chinese American Student Association getting a $500 base budget and two other simple line items

Amend to strike out FC13-050 (Hubbard, Manento)

Bergenn: you can motion to divide the motion which takes out the FC13-050 without amending it

Motion to divide FC13-050 from the motion (Hubbard, Berriault)

Vote: 25Y 6N 3A

Motion Passes

FC13-050: Move to allocate the Chinese American Student Organization $500 from SG9018 for either refreshments for their end of the year event and or refreshments and or transportation for their Chinese New Year dinner in NYC

Vote: 34Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson. Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Dattilo, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez. Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Testa, Towler Truex, Zohlman) 0N 0A

Motion Passes

FC13-051 & FC13-052:

- FC13-051: Move to approve the Psychology Club line-item change with $15 going from faculty awards to copy rights

- FC13-052: Move to approve the line-item change for the volleyball club.

Vote: 33Y (Braun, Treasurer Alaimo, Senators Anderson. Baldassario, Berriault, Dattilo, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez. Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Testa, Towler Truex, Zohlman) 0N 1A (Choplick)

Motion Passes

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-053 (Mills, Manento)
For: Mills: the lacrosse club asked for over $6,000 to play three out of conference games. The original recommendation was sent back to finance so we decided to recommend $4200 for the hotel for 4 nights with 7 rooms. During base budgets we usually give either hotel or travel so we decided to give hotel

Against: Baldassario: I don’t agree with these plans. Over $4000 for a hotel for three games is excessive. They looked for closer games but had reasons they couldn’t play. Just because they’d have to take more than one trip doesn’t mean they can’t do that. With this their budget is more than what we gave the musical

Vote: 9Y (Braun, Fallanca, Fernandez, Lee, Manento, Mgushi, Mills, Ott, Sejdiraj) 15N (Alaimo, Anderson, Baldassario, Choplick, Dattilo, Fellows, Germaine, Gomex, Hubbard, Kitchener, Marcelli, Narcisse, Pancak, Testa, Truex) 11A (Berriault, Fox, Fung, Khan, Kirk, Lopez, Radden, Rodriguez, Sonet, Towler, Zohlman)

**Motion fails**

POI Baldassario: what would you use an abstention vote for

Bergenn: if you feel it necessary to not vote usually because of ethical reasons

**Motion to approve Finance Committee recommendation FC13-049 (Truex, Manento)**

For: Truex: I did the ASO audit and they were allocated $8500 in their base budget but spent $74.99 outside of their line item. I spoke with the President and what they bought were skirts for the Belly Dance class but said they’ll be used for Culture Shock. They were denied the belly dance class but approved for Culture Shock. I recommend they be placed on probation, nothing gets taken away from them this is just a warning

POI Narcisse: what is probation?

Truex: they can still spend the money this is just a warning and they’ll have to meet with us and go through a re-training

Dattilo: do you think this is an error on the club or SA/LD

Truex: it’s more on the club yes SA/LD didn’t check but ASO was specifically told no

Rodriguez: were they denied this in the base budget specifically

Truex: they didn’t request the skirts for Culture Shock they requested them for the Belly Dancing class and were told no

Towler: why did you say no?

Truex: to stay on budget and they said Culture Shock and the Global Bazar were their biggest priority

Baldassario: if they’re using them for Culture Shock is it a violation
Truex: the skirts were requested for the belly dancing class and they were denied they just said they’d be reused for Culture Shock

Baldassario: did they already have the belly dancing class

Truex: yes they said after they were used they’d be used for Culture Shock

Dattilo: was part of your decision because they had materials from last year

Truex: no

Against: Kitchener: I don’t think this was a violation the base budget was said they were to deny the rest but if these were bought early that’s a way of getting around it not a violation. Maybe we should talk to them after the Culture Shock

For: Mills: Finance gave them multiple opportunities to ask questions and understand the base budget so they should know they can’t go beyond the line item they didn’t go to that training so this will teach them responsibility

Against: Towler: belly dancing is one of their regular functions so buying the skirts isn’t outside the line item

For: Baldassario: even if the skirts are reused they were already bought for a denied event and that’s a clear violation. Buying them just for culture shock would have been okay but we need to hold the club accountable

Vote: 20Y (Braun, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Hubbard, Kirk, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Ott, Radden, Sonet, Testa, Truex, Zohlman) 9N (Dattilo, Fox, Gomez, Khan, Kitchener, Lopez, Narcisse, Rodriguez, Towler) 4A (Alaimo, Fung, Mgushi, Pancak)

Motion Passes SG13-075

Motion to approve the Communication Club line item change. (Baldassario, Mills)

For: Baldassario: you saw the presentation. He’s met with Sue to collaborate with the media board and he’s trying to help the club members get more involved. It’s good to fund events like this and they’re just moving their own money around.

POI Berriault to Baldassario: are you talking about both changes

Baldassario: yes the second change is to help put on a campus competition so it’s another way to put the money to better use

Vote: 33Y (Braun, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Dattilo, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Rodriguez, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Testa, Towler Truex, Zohlman) 0N 1A (Lee)

Motion Passes SG13-076
Open Floor

Towler: reminder transfer Thursdays is Thursday night from 6:30-8:30 any transfer or club leader is welcome

Baldassario: As their liaison I’ll make sure to work with ASO

Bergenn: there is a process to follow once placed on probation they have an opportunity to appeal and I can’t sign off on the process until they’ve been heard

Manento: the college democrats are going to DC for the inauguration and there are open spots so if you are interested email me telling me why you would like to go

Dattilo: with the ASO indiscretion I’ve heard design has done something similar have you heard anything about that

Bergenn: finance is required to do 8 audits which Nick picks the clubs at random, but you can choose to audit a club at any time if you know of a violation

Dattilo: does anyone know what happened

Bergenn: I don’t know personally but I would recommend an audit

Towler: I respectfully request to go somewhere this retreat where there is heat

Pancak: I know we’re part of the spring concert decision so why are we not informed of what happens at the meetings

Bergenn: I can tell you about the meetings but it is such a quick turn around with offers and counter offers and going with the historical norm, this is how its been done. Its usually kept a secret so there can be a big unveiling but if you have any other way of doing it we’re open for suggestions

Radden: can we get an update on options

Bergenn: this is a public meeting and the selection is to be kept a secret

Baldassario: it’s just that is a lot of money to spend without consultation

Bergenn: usually it will be around $50,000

Hazan: last year was about $35,000 per organization with an additional $20-25,000 to be split for production. All the revenue goes back to the SGA and last year there was about $25-30,000 in revenue

Bergenn: the decision is based on popularity and what we think will give us the best possible revenue

Dattilo: Is the process different from last year

Bergenn: no, but the selection is based on the people in the room and that changes yearly
Mills: remember OL application packets are due Friday

Berriault: any questions on the cuts you can talk to me and I think we should think about sending students to speak at the capitol at the meetings regarding the cuts

Testa: in the nursing program we need to have a certain amount of clinical hours so if you need you flu shot stop by Devil’s Den

Towler: can we have an email thread going about the concert

Bergenn: this has to be kept under wraps and an email thread between over 30 people leaves a lot of room for error

Sonet: the next planning committee for Competition for a Cause will begin at the start of next semester

Marcelli: a motion needs to be made about men’s lacrosse or it will just go back to the finance committee

Baldassario: I think we can deny specific things just not the entire trip

Hubbard: if we make a motion to deny can they still do a line item change

Bergenn: the only restrictions is the what’s set in the motion

Kitchener: if anyone feels strongly about scholarships come to student life where we’ll be discussing them

Dattilo: we can talk about lacrosse then make a motion

Narcisse: what was their total base budget?

Bergenn: $13,304

Baldassario: looking from a financial point of view if lacrosse knew they had to play these games they should have put it in the base budget

Lee: this needs to be decided today so it’s not in limbo for a month, they need to schedule everything

Bergenn: remember the next senate meeting will be before our retreat

Motion to deny the men’s lacrosse club contingency request for $4200 (Baldassario, Kitchener)

Motion is retracted

Move to deny the lacrosse club contingency request (Choplick, Kitchener)

For: Choplick: I still don’t think this is a contingency they started planning it last year

POI Dattilo to Mills: why do you think it is a contingency?
Mills: I see a contingency as something new and didn’t ask for something. If you didn’t know about it then you couldn’t foresee it

Against: I want them to go to the conference but $4200 is only the hotel there is no way for them to get down there

Point of Order: Mills: this isn’t germane to the motion

Another point of order is called and well taken due to excessive talking

Original point of order is not well taken by President Bergenn because the motion is to deny the contingency request and he is speaking about the contingency costs

Motion to appeal the decision of the chair (Baldassario, Marcelli)

For: Baldassario: though the conversation is about the process he is explaining the finance committee rationale and it is still not germane to the funding itself

POI Testa: can the team get fined

Bergenn: we’re only speaking the the appeal of my decision

Against: Berriault: I was speaking why I don’t think it all should be denied

POI Manento: a no vote will uphold the decision?

Bergenn: correct

For: Baldassario: this needs to be well taken because we had a discussion of the recommendation this is only to deny

POI Narcisse: if we vote yes to the appeal can they ask for a lower amount

Bergenn: this isn’t about the lacrosse club this is about the decision on the point of order// if you vote to deny or don’t want to deny you should speak to why or you are voting without reason and argument.

Vote: 7Y 14N 2A

Appeal fails

Against: Berriault: finance only recommended the hotel money and I don’t want to deny them travel too I want them to have both. How can you give hotel but not transportation?

Vote: 12Y (Choplick, Dattilo, Fallanca, Fellows, Hubbard, Kitchener, Kirk, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Mills, Zohlman) 5N (Braun, Anderson, Berriault, Ott, Testa) 4A (Baldassario, Fung, Narcisse, Truex)

Motion Passes
Motion to adjourn (Mills, Ott)

Meeting adjourned at 4:52p

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.