Student Government Association Minutes from February 13, 2013

February 13 2013

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

Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m. by President Bergenn.

Motion to approve minutes from February 6, 2013 (Baldassario, Marcelli)

Passes Unanimously SG13-099

Public Hearing:

Baldassario: the bubble was damaged because of the storm but they’re hoping to open it in a few weeks. Any questions can be referred to Liz Urcinas

Scott Hazan: people are going to be out to assess the damage tomorrow and they’re hoping to start renovations soon. Best case scenario it can be back up in a week, worst case scenario it will take a few weeks

Committee Reports

Student Life: Kitchener: Scholarships will be available Thursday

Internal Affairs: Braun: the topic of absences, automatic excuses and overlapping class times will be moved to the top of the agenda. We may have to start meeting twice a week but I’ll have more information as it comes

Treasurer’s Report

1. We met today at 12p because we weren’t able to have a meeting Monday and we can’t meet next Monday because of the holiday.
2. We will meet next Wednesday at 11a in the Club Shop in the CAN Office because we still have presentations to hear
3. We’ve made recommendations for the Education Club, Lacrosse, Physics and Earth Science, Phi Delta, the History Club and the Chinese American Student Association

**Vice President’s Report**

1. Good amount of the surveys were turned in but if you still have them you can have a little extra time because of the snow
2. The liaison emails I received were good, but more still need to be done
3. Your position on Collegiatelink will change to Club Liaison so if you haven’t joined your club’s pages then do so as soon as possible

**President’s Report**

1. I sent an email to Lori James in business services but I still haven’t heard anything back
2. Reminder: send a committee report to Brittany and CC me by Tuesday
3. I’ll be passing the chair to Liz in Open Floor to discuss a banner purchase for a tuition rally

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business**

**Move to accept Finance Committee recommendation FC13-066. (Marcelli, Gomez)**

For: Marcelli: it’s a straight forward Line item. The Education Club wants to move $200 from Devils Den because they couldn’t get a date to a special event where they help improve a Waterbury public school.

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

**Motion Passes**

**Move to accept Finance Committee recommendation FC13-067. (Choplick, Baldassario)**

For: Choplick: Lacrosse came to us last semester and got denied and then came back with a $3000 request to go to Pittsburgh instead of North Carolina and they’re using some of their own money to fund the trip

POI Baldassario to Alaimo: how many players and rooms do they need?

Alaimo: 32 players and 8 rooms

POI Hubbard to Alaimo: what did they argue to make this a contingency?
Alaimo: last semester they weren’t approved because of the money, but they have to play 3-out of conference games to qualify for championships and PA is the closest. They didn’t know about the league requirement during the base budget process.

POI Towler: are the players paying out of pocket

Bergenn: they’ll have to since the trip is more than $3000. But they’ll be using $590 of their own and doing fundraising

Against: Hubbard: I don’t see this as unforeseen. If they were expecting to make the championships they should have thought of this to qualify

For: Braun: I think Sen. Hubbard is mistaken. This is the first time they’ve had to play three out of conference games to qualify. This is a new rule and therefore unforeseen.

Vote: 31Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo, Testa, Towler Truex, Zohlman) 2N (Hubbard, Khan) 1A (Rodriguez)

Motion Passes

Move to accept Finance Committee request FC13-068 (Marcelli, Fernandez)

For: Marcelli: they asked for $600 for travel and another $1200 for the APS conference in MA but we decided not to fund it because we thought it wasn’t unforeseen. They went to a conference in the fall that was practically identical to this one and there was no reason it shouldn’t have come up originally. They then asked for refreshments and money for speakers. We thought it was a good idea to give the $300 for speakers

Against: Berriault: in the original base budget they were given $500 and asked for $800 that’s a $300 difference that they’re now asking for. I don’t see this as unforeseen or a true contingency

POI Towler: is this a new club

Bergenn: they were existing

POI Braun to Marcelli: how does this not break the by-laws?

Marcelli: my understanding was that because they were given a vague speaker line during base budget like most clubs and are now coming with two specific speakers that they want to compensate this wouldn’t be breaking the rules

Vote: 22Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Khan, Kirk, Lopez, Marcelli, Mgushi, Narcisse, Ott, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Towler Truex) 11N (Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Hubbard, Kitchener, Lee, Manento, Pancak, Rodriguez, Testa, Zohlman) 1A (Szabo)

Motion Passes
Move to accept Finance Committee recommendation FC13-069 (Baldassario, Marcelli)

For: Baldassario: it’s straight forward and contingent on whether or not they get the weekend central grant. It’s a good thing for the student body to have and it’s good to support Weekend Central

Vote: 29Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Rodriguez, Sonet, Szabo, Testa, Towler Truex) 2N (Germaine, Narcisse) 3(Kitchener, Sejdiraj, Zohlman)

Motion Passes SG13-103

Move to accept Finance Committee recommendation FC13-071 (Mgushi, Marcelli)

For: Mgushi: The Chinese American Student Assoc. wants to go to Boston to learn about American heritage. They originally asked for a bus for $2150 and we thought it would be better to allocate $1550 and have some of the students contribute as well

Against: Baldassario: this is a lot for a new club and I think this is more a co-sponsorship than anything, but it’s not unforeseen

POI Braun to Alaimo: when did they present

Alaimo: they didn’t

POI Kitchener to Alaimo: did they choose not to present?

Alaimo: they signed up and didn’t show up

Motion to postpone until next week’s meeting (Towler, Mgushi)

For: Towler: they’re a new club and deserve the chance to present

Against: Baldassario: they were given the chance but didn’t show up. We’re still motioning to approve something so we’re still doing right by them. There’s no finance on Monday and they may not be able to make the special meeting time Wednesday

Vote: 6Y 24N 3A

Postponement fails

POI Narcisse: are they a brand new club

Bergenn: most likely reestablished

For: Mgushi: they didn’t exist last year so they couldn’t foresee this trip which makes it a contingency. We didn’t think it was fair to deny the whole thing but we didn’t want to approve the whole thing either. We felt for the 30 people they want to bring to contribute $20 wasn’t bad. It’s not mandatory for them to present so we shouldn’t deny them because of that.
Against: Choplick: a contingency is unforeseen in the base budget process. They should present because it’s important for us to have all the information to make an informed decision it’s difficult to do if all you do is assume

POI Manento: if we deny this can they go and present to finance?

Bergenn: if circumstances change they can resubmit

POI Towler: can they propose a co-sponsorship

Bergenn: yes

For: Fernandez: they’re only allowed a $500 base budget so if they did ask they would have been denied and couldn’t ask for it now. They want to take 30 people for $1500 that’s less money for more people then we usually spend and they’re trying to learn about American history, there’s no better place than Boston

Against: Lee: they were denied a trip to New York so it just seems like they’re asking for this because of that. I don’t see this as unforeseen

Vote: 16Y (Braun, Alaimo, Berriault, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Gomez, Khan, Kirk, Fox, Lopez, Marcelli, Mgushi, Narcisse, Radden, Sejdiraj) 15N (Baldassario, Choplick, Fung, Germaine, Hubbard, Kitchener, Lee, Manento, Ott, Pancak, Rodriguez, Sonet, Szabo, Truex, Zohlman) 2A (Anderson, Towler)

Motion Passes SG13-10

Move to accept Finance Committee recommendation FC13-070. (Fernandez, Germaine)

For: Fernandez: the History Club is asking for funds to go on a Gettysburg Civil War Commemoration. They did something similar but couldn’t ask for it because they weren’t sure if they were going to get the same grant which they did a few weeks ago.

Yields time for questions

Sonet: do you know what the grant is?

Fernandez: we couldn’t come to a conclusion but one of their professors who is working with them got them a discounted admission price so we’re assuming the grant goes to that

Rodriguez: so they knew about this last year but didn’t ask for it because of the grant

Fernandez: I can’t answer that but I know they didn’t ask for it in the base budget

Baldassario: so the students are all paying $90

Fernandez: no $70

Vote: 27Y (Alaimo, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli,
Motion Passes

Open Floor

Baldassario to Braun: in the By-Laws didn’t we change the time so we can leave at 4:20

Braun: yes, I’ll change it

Berriault: I’m disappointed in the senate in passing this motion today. We need to stay consistent and motions like the Physics & Earth Sciences motion isn’t consistent with what we’ve done in the past. I’m not a fan of rushing through things and today we didn’t have the time or proper information. We shouldn’t rush through things where members are voting blindly. The only way a democracy works is if we have all the facts. If something like this happens again we should wait a week

Marcelli: there is a difference between the Physics and Earth Sciences club and the others who didn’t pass, the motion we passed didn’t break any rules. We had all the information on the projector and people were given the chance to ask questions and everyone did. If you change your mind because of an argument that’s not a sign or weakness that’s a sign of robust debate. If people change their minds that’s ok. I know we had an uncomfortable timeline to work with but we had the chance to wait to make a decision and we decided not to

Chair gets passed

Move to allocate $380 for a banner to publicize a rally against tuition increases from account SG9010 (Bergenn, Marcelli)

For: Bergenn: this isn’t the lowest priced banner we could get but this company for this price will help with the design and send us pictures so we can make any changes before it gets made. This is part of a bigger picture that I’m trying to organize with academic affairs to really make an impact. We want to hang a large banner to advertise and I want it to be done in the most objective way possible. It’s important to lobby with the legislators about the higher ed increases because it’s been continuously happening

Marcelli: how long will it be up

Bergenn: Feb 21 to March 11

Manento: where’s it going to be hung?

Bergenn: I’m working on it hopefully being placed on the library balcony or from the top of Memorial hall

Berriault: can we use both sides of the banner to make it more efficient

Bergenn: I think we can but it might change the price

Sonet: has the BOR set a set percentage
Bergenn: we won’t know until around 3/21
Alaimo: can we just add extra money not to exceed
Bergenn: yea we can just make the amendment

Motion to amend and add “not to exceed” and change $380 to $480 (Berriault, Manento)

For: Berriault: we should invest the extra money to be able to use the other side for the future.
Vote: 20Y 2N 2A

Amendment passes

Against: Baldassario: I don’t want to allocate anything without a set number

For: Towler: this is something we can use every year

Against: Baldassario: the extra $100 may not cover the back side printing

For: Berriault: it was not to exceed so if he can’t get it printed for $480 then the back side doesn’t get printed

Against: Sonet: I’d want to look into the second organization that’s going to be on the banner first

For: Narcisse: the second side can be a general thing which will be good

POI Braun to Bergenn: can you tell us about the organization?

Bergenn: it’s made up of present and past Student Government members at the 5 major CT universities and run by a former WCSU SGA Senator

POI Rodriguez to Bergenn: is this a set price

Bergenn: yes the color and design can change within this fixed price

POI Choplick to Bergenn: in your opinion is $100 adequate

Bergenn: I don’t know what his cost is but as long as it doesn’t go over cost he’ll accommodate us.

Call to Question (Towler, Narcisse)

Vote: 15Y 7N 1A

Debate is ended

Original Motion

Vote: 15Y (Bergenn, Alaimo, Anderson, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Kirk, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Narcisse, Rodriguez, Sejdiraj, Towler) 5N (Baldassario, Germaine, Ott, Truex, Zohlman) 4A (Fernandez, Fox, Kitchener, Lopez)
Truex: There will be no finance meeting on Monday so we’re going to have to have more hasty meetings like the one we had today// On 3/14 at 7:30 the Vance Lecture will be the Rudy Giuliani so make sure to get your tickets!//I think we need to seriously consider department classes overlapping with the Senate meeting time

Towler: we can’t give full representation to the full student body and maybe we should reconsider our senate times

Marcelli: To speak on Physics & Earth Sciences they had to use the speaker money to pay for something solid that had a payment due, they’re not asking for the $300 they didn’t get in the base budget they’re asking for the money to compensate speakers they’ve recently had committed come speak

Berriault: I still think it’s unfair this was passed

Bergenn: the idea that we have the power to automatically remove a member of senate I feel isn’t democratic. This may be a way to go about the absences issue

Fernandez: I’m going to speak to Student Life about students wanting to see if we can get Stop and Shop to accept blue chip and I’d like some input

Baldassario: blue chips are like not accepting certain credit cards because there is a fee to use the service so this may be a corporate decision because they’ll be gaining business but losing profit

Berriault: I don’t think it’s in the by-laws who gets the stipends just how much we get so that’s something that could be talked about

Braun: I believe it is in the By-Laws

Motion to adjourn (Fernandez, Bergenn)

Meeting is adjourned at 4:40p

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.