Student Government Association Minutes from February 26, 2014

February 26, 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, Rodriguez, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa

Meeting is called to order at 3:10p by President Choplick

Motion to accept the meeting minutes from 2/19 (Berriault, Cassidy)

Motion passes by unanimous consent

Public Hearing: none

Student Affairs Report: Dr. Tordenti

Chris Murphy would like CCSU to join the tobacco free college initiative, some colleges such as SCSU have already joined. I as well as the Chief Human Resource Officer will talk to more groups like IRC and the Unions and Dr. Lovitt will speak with Faculty Senate so we can figure out what the best route would be to take.

Treasurer’s Report:

1. Congrats to Sen. Fallanca for chairing the finance committee successfully
2. I was at COSGA and the finance committee presentation with Sen. Khan went really well and we had a ton of great comments from people afterwards
3. Base Budgets are due on 3/7. There is a box in Brittany's office to put them in, make sure you sign the sheet in the box and suggest that the club sign up for a time to present-time sheets are on the bulletin board
4. If you think we need another info session let me know
5. Contingency we have about $19,942
6. I will have a better update of for use by senate next week
7. There has been no change in the reserves

Fox: what if the UA office is locked
Mills: you have access to it with your blue chip

**Vice President’s Report:**

1. Contact your clubs as much as you need to leading up to base budgets
2. The attendance check lists are on the UA window, if there are any mistakes let me know
3. There has been a lot of conversation about the banquet so we should talk about it more
4. I am going to go over some motions I submitted now because I may have to step out during the meeting
   a. There has been a lot of talk about not having a meeting on the retreat because students cannot be present for it so this would change the by-law to make meetings at the eboard’s discretion
   b. Retreats should still happen and this would make sure that occurs and information is released to the senators as soon as possible
   c. Retreat needs to be inserted to make the by law make sense but I didn’t want to do it without the okay
   d. Right now we don't have office hours if it was a shortened week but this would make it where even if we have an early dismissal we’d still have them and it would be at the discretion of the VP to cancel them if need be

Kitchener: what if the senator can only do office hours one day and that day got cancelled would they miss office hours for the week then

Anderson: it is up to the discretion of the VP, that senator can be excused

**President’s Report**

1. It was recommended that B, E and F on the agenda not get made today because they are being recommended back to committee
2. In regards to the smoke free campus I think we should let Student Life discuss it but we can still talk it out in full senate
3. There is a proposed 2% tuition increase and 3 ½% housing and food increase this is coming below the 10 year average for increases. I don’t have too much more that I am comfortable explaining

Rodriguez: how would we as a senate go about helping tuition

Choplick: we did rallies last year but have no say in what tuition is

Perry: could we implement a tuition safety net like UConn has where what you pay as a freshman is what you continually pay

Choplick: that is a Dr. Gray question and something to talk about with Alex Lee, but there is nothing in place right now and I can’t speak on UConn’s practices

**Committee Reports:**
Public Affairs: Ott: devils den is tomorrow at 10p and there is a sign up sheet going around to help out. This is Battle of the Clubs like last semester/ in regards to the SGA shirts, PA is still trying to figure out what to do with the shirts so please no one touch them. If there is a dire circumstance contact one of us / Props to Sen. Pietrycha for organizing NCLC and COSGA

Internal Affairs: Christiano: thank you to those who came we have a few motions some are off the agenda but there is one that would increase the amount of part time senators to two. We will be meeting Friday at 12

Kitchener: how was the number chosen?

Christiano: there was back and forth but two because we don’t know if there would be enough interest I also recommend F go back to IA because it is our old business

PA: Testa: please come out to devils den and sign up to help

Student Life: Sonet: scholarships are due 3/13 but please tell people they can still come and pick up packets/ thank you to the Recorder for the article on the Wellness initiatives / thank you to my hard working committee / Friday 5-7 we’ll be talking wellness and Vermin Supreme

Swan: are there scholarships for study abroad

Sonet: yes there are two $1500 ones meant for those studying over winter or summer break

Fernandez: who is eligible?

Sonet: full time undergrads

Finance: Fallanca: there are two MSA line item changes, one moving $950 from conferences to refreshments because their conference got cancelled due to lack of organization by the host organization and then $300 from speakers to refreshments because all of their speakers have volunteered their time / we are waiting to talk about the longboarding contingency until next week

Rodriguez: are the senators who are volunteering at Devils Den supposed to wear their polos

Ott: yes

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Motion to transfer $1,544.60 from SG 9195 (reserves) to SG 9120 (For use by Senate) (Berriault, Christiano)
For: Berriault: at the previous meeting President Choplick said he would entertain a motion to move the remaining money from reserves to For Use by Senate for the retreat. We allocated $12,000 but it was $13,544

Move to amend to strike SG9195 and insert SG9010 and strike SG9120 and insert SG9195
[Mills, Sonet]

For: Mills: the original would move money from for use by senate to operational and the intent is to move it from the reserves

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Hubbard: would this change the intent

Choplick: no

Vote: 31Y 0N 1A (Ott)

Amendment Passes

Original Motion

Against: Kitchener: we already spent the money we should leave it in reserves for the clubs and not for use by senate for us

Vote: 12Y (Anderson, Alsaqri, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Frey Gregonis, Khan, Moody, Moreno) 13N (Mills, Fox, Germaine, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kitchener, Ott, Perry, Pietycha, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa) 6A (Bosworth, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fung, Gomez, Rodriguez)

Motion Fails

Motion to approve the Muslim Student Association Line Item Change (Hudobenko, Kitchener)

For: Hudobenko: the MSA is doing a charity event and they want to move money from speakers to refreshments because the speakers have come for free, overall it is a really good event

Vote: 30Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kitchener, Lee, Moody, Moreno, Ott, Perry, Pietycha, Rodriguez, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa) 0N 2A (Alsaqri, Khan)

Motion Passes

Motion to add Section 5 - E. Two (2) Senators elected by and from the SGA member who are part-time to the SGA Constitution (Christiano, Rodriguez)

For: Christiano: there is not much part time representation on senate, we only have one part time senator and we should have more. Having more people on senate would only help us and I think this is a great idea
Against: Berriault: in our constitution it says the at large senator spots can be filled by either part or full time students, what happens if we only get one part time student to run for two spots? They just walk right on that’s not a competition; I am recommending we add two more at large spots which would allow for the possibility of two more part time students. There are better ways to get more senators on senate. Part time students do not pay student activity fees (SAF) and so this isn’t the right way to do things

For: Cassidy: it’s not hard to get part time students involved I’ve had part time students come up to me and express interest if the seats were available there would be participation

Move to refer back to the Internal Affairs Committee (Kitchener, Berriault)

For: Kitchener: I am in favor of part time seats but I don’t like the way the math was done and we shouldn’t be adding arbitrary numbers to the Constitution

Against: Christiano: we had three voting members in IA and we have the whole senate here so we should talk about this now

POI Rodriguez: if this passes what area would the seats be added to

Choplick: section e would be added

Rodriguez: why not to the at large seats

Christiano: it’s hard to get part time students in those seats

For: Berriault: I couldn’t make it to IA because of appointments and a lot of senators were in COSGA there will be more there this week and we should relook at it

Against: Mills: I don’t think it’s necessary to go back to committee being at the conference is invalid the meeting happened before we left for COSGA. We should deal with this now

For: Hubbard: important conversations still need to happen with SALD there are a lot of outside factors that go into this that we have to talk about

Against: Fernandez: I here the need to have more individuals at At-Large seats in the past when they were for part time students we couldn’t fill them we should talk about this and not prolong it

Alsaqri: what motion are we on

Choplick: motion to refer back to IA

For: Kitchener: I know how many part time undergrads we have but I need a better breakdown we shouldn’t be adding arbitrary numbers to the constitution

Call to previous question (Moreno, Khan)

Vote: 13Y 17N 1A

Debate continues
Against: Fox: there are more of us here now lets just talk about it, I’d be in favor of tabling and moving to open floor

Kitchener: I withdraw my motion

Sen. Berriault seconded the motion and is not okay with it being withdrawn

*Motion remains on the table*

For: Berriault: in finance our quorum is 6 and the same for the other committees so why is IA different? The recommendations from the committees should carry more merit and there were only two people there the whole time. This wasn’t a proper assessment of the motion and we need more people to talk about it

POI Alsaqri to Anderson: does the committee have standing membership

Anderson: no

Against: IA is supposed to be special...

For: Sonet: there are different views of what makes up part time and we should talk about that

Against: Fox: I don’t think we should let this fall by the wayside we should just deal with it now

POI Mills: when did this debate become about IA membership

Choplick: no answer

For: Hubbard: this is not about people showing up for IA. This is about this motion affecting a lot of people who do not sit at this table and it is unfair and unwise to decide on this now without stepping away and talking to them

POI Fernandez to Hubbard: cam you elaborate on that

Hubbard: there are a lot of things that go into for instance part time students, stipends, retreats...I understand at large can be filled by part time but things can change when there are chairs specifically for part time students and SALD needs to be talked to whether we like it or not

Against: Perry: we had a good discussion and we can lay out a blue print with the stipends we get them because senate is like a job and we originally wanted to add two for each committee but that was too much

Point of Order: Fernandez: not germane

Well taken

Kitchener: I withdraw my motion
Motion is withdrawn

President Choplick passes the chair to VP Anderson

**Original Motion:**

Against: Choplick: I am strongly opposed to this for numerous reasons. SAF are not paid by part time students and they cannot go on school trips or serve on club e-boards including this one. This would be allowing part time students a stipend and a say in our budget even though they do not pay. Yes part time students can serve as At Large senators, but that is because they were voted above full time students, but to have two seats specifically for part time is very wrong and is a conversation that needs to be had outside of the meeting

Yields time

Sonet: would part time At Large senators get a stipend

Choplick: yes

Alsaqri: would the two seats give part time students access to things no other part time student would have access to in regards to SAF

Choplick: with the At Large seats students have chosen them as the best candidate over full time students

Ott: what is the purpose of the stipends?

Choplick: to compensate us for the work we do

Berriault: would there be any legal issues

Choplick: it’s hard to speak on policies but part time students are not required to have insurance and we cannot pay for them to go on the retreat

Christiano: would their work be any different than ours

Choplick: no

Sonet: would part time benefit from SAF

Choplick: that is difficult to answer because it depends on your interpretation of benefits but I do because of what senate offers like conferences and the Senate gets promo items before the student body

Berriault: how much time do you think senate needs for this

Choplick: it’s not time sensitive but I would say two weeks we have to investigate matriculated students versus non-matriculated, there is a lot to look into

Kitchener: how would it be different by adding more at large seats
Choplick: it’s different because right now anyone can fill the at large seat, the student body votes them in but this is giving part time students two direct seats on the senate

Perry: if it doesn’t work can we just move the seats to at large

Choplick: no that wouldn’t be very democratic

Bosworth: would only part time students be allowed to vote for them

Choplick: I assume so yes

Berriault: if this passes would you veto it

Choplick: no

Sonet: how would we run the retreat with them?

Choplick: they would have to pay for their way

Measho: why are you entertaining this motion?

Choplick: because it was referred to us by IA

Mills: Point of Order: time is up

Well taken

VP Anderson passes the chair to Treasurer Mills

Move to create an ad hoc committee at the discretion of the President to review the compensation of the senate and that committee will have to report back to senate by March 24 (Lee, Hubbard)

For: Lee: we want to do something about this and this can help us come up with a legitimate referral by a group that is specifically tasked to work on this and report back to the senate on it

Yields time

Berriault: what is the due date?

Lee: March 24

Berriault: we are on break the week before are you open to an amendment to push the date

Cahill: how is this selected?

Lee: at the discretion of the President

Kitchener: I don't know if the date matters if this can't go into effect until the fall

Hubbard: assume the President is the chair?
Lee: there is no specification

Christiano: how would the ad hoc committee affect the stipend?

Lee: I am not qualified to answer that but it is not included in the contract

Christiano: can we choose the people now

Lee: if that is what the senate wants

Frey: can we postpone the motion

Lee: after I sit down

POI Frey: can we postpone the motion to next meeting

Mills: yes

Against: Berriault: I am in favor of this but it was said we need two weeks and spring break is in 16 days so I think this should be pushed back as far as possible

For: Fox: lets just get this done we've been talking about this for a long time

Against: Christiano: this would just be creating IA 2.0 let's talk about this now

POI Cahill to Christiano: would making them nonvoting members change the intent

Christiano: Yes

Vote: 16Y 7N 1A (Frey)

**Motion Passes**

Chair is passed back to President Choplick

Motion to amend Title 1 Section 1 of the SGA By-laws as written in the Agenda packet (Pietrycha, Berriault)

POI Kitchener: will VP Anderson be back

Choplick: possibly around 5p

Move to divide the question so they are all separated (Mills, Khan)

Vote: 21Y 1N 1A (Fernandez)

**Motion Passes**

Motion to strike “and also at the summer and winter retreats” from Title 1, Section 1-1 from the SGA By-Laws.
For: Pietrycha: we had this argument at the retreat about not having a meeting because the students can’t be present. We can have meetings but they are not necessary and we can save money by not having them on the last day.

Against: Mills: not having the meeting doesn’t make the retreat shorter. I like that we have this meeting it’s good to have one once in a while just among us.

For: Lee: remember this doesn’t stipulate that we don’t have to have a meeting but we should be as transparent with the students as possible whenever possible.

Against: Kitchener: how many people think we should wait for VP Anderson to get back.

For: Pietrycha: we can have meetings but it is up to senate beforehand. If the eboard thinks we should have one or not they make the choice and it gives us more freedom.

Against: Fox: no ones to say we can’t have a retreat on campus.

For: Berriault: I like options vote yes.

POI Measho to Fox: can you elaborate.

Fox: we get a lot of work done at the retreats but there are alternatives.

POI Christiano: what is the likelihood of not having a meeting.

Choplick: it is difficult to answer but I wouldn’t have one.

Against: Fernandez: unlike in past years we have the retreat when school is not in session so it is a slim change that money will be brought up. We should have meetings because for a lot of new senators the retreat meeting acts as a buffer.

POI Kitchener to Lee: if elected to eboard would you be open to having a meeting just for internal affairs.

Testa: Point of Order: inappropriate.

Not well taken.

Lee: I am not comfortable answering that in a senate meeting.

For: Hubbard: we can have a meeting, but we just had a conversation about part time students and we need to have more of a conversation that is an IA issue but part time students want to have a say.

POI Berriault: in the future if this fails and we need to have a meeting but there is no business would we still have to have the meeting.

Choplick: hypothetically the eboard would have to call the meeting to order and then could immediately adjourn.

POI Measho: does it say in the bylaws when we have to have our first meeting.
Choplick: the first Wednesday of the Academic semester or the first Wednesday after the retreat

POI Sonet: do you know when VP Anderson is coming back

Choplick: no

Against: Mills: when we plan a retreat the meeting doesn't affect the length we still do work on that second day. We need to have them

For: Kitchener: we are missing a fair chunk of the senate, are any in favor of postponing

Majority was no

POI Measho to Kitchener: why aren't we postponing

Kitchener: no one wanted to

Against: Berriault: not against the motion but I am against acting on it now

POI Mills: did VP Anderson email all of us with the explanations of her motions

Choplick: yes

POI Kitchener: can she speak on rebuttals this way

Choplick: no

Motion to postpone until 5:05 PM (Ott, Measho)

For: if we want to postpone this is a good way to do it

Motion to amend until 5:10PM (Measho, Perry)

Lee: Point of Order: motion to postpone is not amendable

Not well taken

Against: Pietrycha: no one has any knowledge that she will be back it's already detailed out to us she we should just vote on it

POI Measho: what is your opinion?

Christiano: Point of Order:

Not well taken

Choplick: it is better to lay on the table

Berriault: point of parliamentary inquiry: Do we have Quorum

Choplick: yes
Measho: I withdraw my motion

*Motion withdrawn*

Ott: I withdraw my motion

*Motion withdrawn*

**Motion to lay the question on the table (Christiano, Khan)**

Vote: 10Y 6N 1A (Sonet)

*Motion is laid on the table*

POI Ott: since this is new business can we talk like we’re on open floor

Choplick: yes

Ott: it is inappropriate to ask a question about a candidate and a campaign while in Senate I am very strongly against this

Kitchener: I apologize; I did not think this through

Move to Open Floor (Fox, Mills)

**Open Floor:**

Berriault: Sen. Murphy approached us about the smoke free campus and this is something I have been working on for a long time

*Motion to take the question from the table (Pietrycha, Measho)*

Passes

**Motion to strike “and also at the summer and winter retreats” from Title 1, Section 1-1 from the SGA By-Laws.**

For: Testa: I wouldn’t want to have a meeting and this saves money because we could potentially just spend one night

POI Anderson: are we arguing not to have a retreat

Choplick: no, whether or not to have the meeting

Against: Measho: there may be issues that the senate has to discuss and get done

For: Anderson: the retreat isn’t just a meeting, it helps us bond and get to know each other. We get business done, the committees are formed on retreats and we plan for the semester ahead

POI DiBacco to Anderson: did we have a meeting before or after the retreat
Anderson: we had one after

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Kitchener: Quorum?

Choplick: it’s 18

POI Measho to Anderson: what is your opinion of having a meeting on the retreat

Anderson: I don't think we should have them

Vote: 11Y (Anderson, Berriault, DiBacco, Hubbard, Khan, Lee, Moody, Ott, Pietrycha, Sonet, Testa) 5N (Mills, Christiano, Fox, Kitchener, Measho) 2A (Cahill, Perry)

Motion Passes

Motion to insert Section 1-2: Retreats to the SGA By-Laws. (thus reordering the rest of Section 1)

For: Pietrycha: it’s all laid out and we do this all anyway. This would have the retreat come from reserves so it is old money, we wouldn’t spend more than $10K on it and it allows for optimal transparency

Move to refer to Internal Affairs (Lee, Sonet)

For: Lee: there is a good amount of new ideas that we should discuss in a committee first before coming up with a conclusion

Vote: 11Y 3N 0A

Motion is referred to Internal Affairs

Berriault: Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: what was the last vote count?

Choplick: 11Y 3N

Berriault: that is not accurate

Choplick: we will revote

Revote: 11Y 5N 0A

Motion is referred to Internal Affairs

Motion to insert “retreat” after “or” in subsection b of Title 1, Section 1-2.

For: Pietrycha: retreats are mandatory and it's just not written in the By Laws

POI Hubbard to Anderson: if you are absent at the retreat would it be like an absence of a meeting
Anderson: yes

POI Lee to Anderson: what if you came a day late
Anderson: then we can treat it like a tardy

POI Sonet: is it mandatory because of the meeting?
Choplick: you are required to attend all sessions

Against: Fox: it is stated that the VP can change any grammatical issues

POI Measho to Fox: can you clarify that
Fox: no

For: Anderson: currently in the By Law there is no word after “or” and yes I can change that but I wanted to bring it to senate first

Against: Kitchener: I don’t think we should use past precedent to think like this the way we do retreats now may not be the way future senates do them

For: Hubbard: it is treated as a meeting and you can be excused from the retreats, you won’t get removed if you miss it. This is used to help the senate bond we want to be a more cohesive group

Against: Christiano: if we don’t make something mandatory it fails

Pietrycha: point of order: is he speaking for or against

Well taken

For: Khan: the retreats are a good thing and I think we should all have that opportunity

POI Anderson: would this make attendance mandatory
Choplick: yes

POI Measho: is there any punishment for not attending
Choplick: it would be considered an absence

POI Measho: how did that count if it’s not in the By Laws?
Choplick: it states you are required to have a meeting at the retreat so attendance was taken

Vote: 13Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, DiBacco, Hubbard, Khan, Lee, Moody, Ott, Perry, Pietrycha, Testa) 4N (Christiano, Fox, Kitchener, Sonet) 0A

Motion Passes
Motion to strike from Title 1, Section 1-3, Subsection a, i, “unless that week is shortened or canceled due to school holiday, severe weather, or”

For: Anderson: as it reads if we have a shortened school week for holidays or cancellations then we don’t have to have office hours, but for three weeks now they have been cancelled and that technically means no one had to help students who come in the office. We should still have them and this leaves it to the VP's discretion to still cancel them if they see fit.

Against: Ott: say you can’t do office hours on the day school is open

Pierych: point of order: quorum

Choplick: we can still talk about things

Not well taken

For: Sonet: the VP has the ability to excuse people and we shouldn’t go multiple weeks without them

Move to postpone to our next regularly scheduled meeting (Berriault, Pierych)

Berriault: I withdraw my motion

Move to temporarily lay aside (Berriault, Pierych)

Passes

Hubbard: will this be on unfinished business

Choplick: yes

Sonet: we will talk about the smoke free campus on Friday

Berriault: I’ve been working on this issue for a while and I am sending an email out to let everyone know about it

Khan: MSA is having a comedy event Sun. March 9 at 5-. $10 for students, $15 for adults and $50 for families if you want to go but can’t afford it we can get a sponsor

Motion to adjourn (Pierych, Khan)

Meeting is adjourned at 5:48p