Student Government Association Minutes from January 16, 2013

January 16, 2013

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

Meeting called to order at 3:09 p.m. by President Bergenn.

Motion to approve minutes from December 5, 2012 (Mills, Zohlman)

Passes Unanimously

Student Affairs Report

Dr. Tordenti: Welcome back after a short break.

She concedes the rest of her time to Scott Hazan.

Presentation on Tuition Increases: Dr. Miller

There are two pieces to the increase. 1- How a tuition increase gets decided and 2- how you decide the amount of the increase.

No one knows what the increase will be and right now there are only estimates out. Right now there is a 5% rescission, which means money gets cut during the year possibly because of a miscalculation or a change. A rescission is harder to deal with than a cut because you’ve already planned how to spend the money. It only really begins to effect tuition when the rescission becomes permanent, which a lot of people believe will happen on July 1, 2013.

Once permanent that means we have at least 5% less coming from the state, it could be more or it could be less but I doubt that. Another issue is, after a two year freeze people are due to get a 5% raise which the state won’t give extra money for. Combined with the decrease in enrollment that all equals less money.
The best way to deal with it is to cut costs but we don’t want the services to suffer from overcutting so that is where the tuition increase would come in. At the end of December each CSUS school had to present to the President of the Board of Regents and give their recommendation. Our institutional recommendation was 4 ½% which was the lowest of all four universities. We could survive and maintain quality with 4 ½%. If the increase did end up at 12% it won’t be because of us, but I don’t think it will be that high. We are working on a new recommendation which would be 6% for tuition and 4 1/2% for everything else and we hope others will lower down to these numbers as well.

Marcelli: what about the hiring freezes and the open searches that have been closed?
Miller: Yes, that’s been mentioned and that was a fear of the Board of Regents but we have not yet been turned down to fill positions. As long as the Board of Regents sees us manage our money wisely then they are reasonable.

Bergenn: What percent of the annual costs are union salaries?
Miller: I don’t know exact numbers but more than half, though it varies from department to department

Bergenn: the new 6% recommendation-is that just tuition?
Miller: it could involve instructional fees

Bergenn: where would the cutbacks come from?
Miller: we have a plan position by position and all the departments are aware of that. What’s done is done for this year and next year is being worked on.

Towler: Where can the list of cutbacks be found?
Miller: I can send it out and will make sure it on the budget web page

Towler: what happens if the rescission is permanent?
Miller: there is no telling for next year but if it stays at 5% then the departments will have to look over things and reshift positions

Szabo: if they make 8% mandatory what happens with the 3% difference
Miller: we would just have to go to rescissions and reevaluate what we already cut and what we should be able to cut. Because enrollment is down 2% we may not need the same services. We just set parameters for dealing with an issue, not telling them what to do.

Towler: if the goal is to increase tuition wouldn’t new courses do that?
Miller: new courses don’t increase tuition, new students increase enrollment and a new program would do that and it’s one of the things we’re looking into. Most of the decrease is in part-time undergrads and grad students.

Marcelli: given the constraints is any of the construction being reevaluated

Miller: nothing we get in construction money can be used for operations. Could the state decide to cut construction? Yes. But for example we have plans for a new res hall for 600 people. We need this building so we can upgrade the others. We can’t upgrade an old building without having another place for the students to go.

Towler: is it an option to get the grad students housing?

Miller: possibly, but that isn’t our market right now

Truex: I thought grad students can live in the dorms

Miller: I believe she was referring to their own residences

Towler: out of state transfers is still a problem

Miller: it’s still even an issue between the CSUS schools and the CT Community Colleges and right now that’s what we’re working on

**Student Affairs Report Cont’d: Scott Hazan**

Clubs are now required to submit meeting minutes specifying when financial decisions are being made. This is a requirement from the state auditors. This goes into immediate effect and if they do not submit the minutes then SA/LD won’t sign off on their purchases.

All club liaisons should mention this to their clubs. I don’t think this is anything new for clubs. Everyone generally takes minutes, now they just have to upload them to collegiate link.

Ott: what are the consequences from the auditors?

Hazan: they could take away our control of our funds

Hubbard: is there a process to see if clubs upload them?

Hazan: we will audit every club once a month to check on them. If there are no minutes we will freeze their account.

Hubbard: will that happen at the end of the month

Hazan: within the next two weeks.
Truex: what if the clubs don’t have traditional meeting times, like sports clubs?

Hazan: they only need to submit them when they meet. If they only meet at the beginning of the semester put all the financial stuff in those minutes. We will work with clubs who are nontraditional.

Narcisse: what about the Human Powered Vehicle club? They’re not traditional and continually are buying parts.

Hazan: the same thing put in whatever meeting they have all their expenses. We know the regular clubs versus the irregular ones.

**Public Hearing:** None

**President’s Report**

Mike Fraiser, the Board of Regents representative from Western wants to work with us on a state level with the tuition increase so I will keep you updated.

The Nightlife shuttle is on hold for right now. We’re looking into the cost of extra liability insurance on the advice from the school’s lawyer.

Dr. Tordenti: This was just Carol’s advice and I feel uncomfortable about signing off on this because of safety concerns.

Bergenn: In the back of the agenda packet there are some suggested changes that are going to Internal Affairs to be reviewed.

**Vice President Report**

There are some committee issues, with some committees being large and others being really small. So I need to know if anyone wants to switch or is willing to switch.

Germaine: which committees are small and large?

Braun: Academic Affairs is low, Student Life and Finance are high and Public Affairs is perfect.

There is a lot more on the Internal Affairs Committee’s plate this semester. The co-chair this semester will be Senator Choplick and our first order of business is to come up with a plan by Feb.1 on how to make elections more effective.
**Treasurer’s Report**

In the agenda we’ve included a schedule of all the finance committee due dates. All requests have to go to SA/LD first where there is a folder and a sheet to sign up for a time slot. Everything is due Friday to be heard on Monday’s meeting. This semester there will be two contingency and co-sponsorship due dates on Feb. and March 1st.

Narcisse: so we have from now until March 30 to come up with a budget for next year?

Alaimo: yes and there is three info sessions that we’re encouraging the clubs to go to. We won’t accept any late paper work.

Towler: are they due Feb. or March 1?

Alaimo: it’s two different due dates for two different hearings

Choplick: can we get an update of the contingency account?

Alaimo: I can send one out but I think we’re at about $30,000

**Committee Reports**

Radden: the COSGA and NCSL tickets are on sale at Centix

Kitchener: Coffee Talk is next Thursday from 11-1p. Also if anyone wants to help with scholarships email me!

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

**Motion for Senate to adopt the resolution concerning the tuition increase (Berriault, Manento)**

For: Berriault: the Board of Regents is meeting Thursday and we need to express the opinion of the student body as a whole

**Motion to strike out “possibly as much as 12.4%” (Baldassario, Marcelli)**

For: Baldassario: based on the conversation with Dr. Miller 12% may not be accurate and it doesn’t need to be in there

Vote: Y: 21  N: 1  A: 2
Motion passes

Move to amend the main motion to add at the end “with a stipulation that the President can make any necessary grammatical changes before sending it to the Board of Regents.” (Braun, Mills)

For: Braun: I found some grammatical mistakes and I am uncomfortable with sending this to the Board of Regents with them.

Vote: Y: 22  N: 1  A: 0

Motion passes

Main motion: Motion for Senate to adopt the resolution concerning the tuition increase with a stipulation that the President can make any necessary grammatical changes before sending it to the Board of Regents

Vote: Y: 17  N: 5  A: 0

Motion passes

Motion to adopt the Resolution regarding the accomplishments made by the IRC Food Committee. (Berriault, Baldassario)

For: Berriault: this is self-explanatory. Food committee has been able to do a lot and we should recognize the amount of good work they’ve done. It’s our job to recognize the good work of the students

Against: Mills: this is not necessary. We just passed a resolution for the Board of Regents, that’s a big deal, this is just congratulating them for doing what they’re supposed to be doing.

For: Berriault: it is our duty to offer resolutions and express official opinions of the student body. We should encourage students

POI Mills: how many resolutions did we pass last academic year?

Bergenn: maybe around 10 but I don’t know the official number

Narcisse: instead of a resolution can we do something else?

Bergenn: any one of us individually can give them a certificate or something along those lines but as a group it needs to be voted on

Against: Marcelli: I don’t want to get in the habit of doing things like this because then it’s just a waste of time. If we start this we’ll have to do it for everyone

Vote: Y: 4  N: 18  A: 2
Motion Fails

Open Floor

Lopez: Because I am the only one here from my sorority’s chapter I have to go to the conference so I don’t get sanctioned so I have to excuse myself from the retreat.

Vote: Y: 19  N: 1  A: 2

Motion Passes

Sonet: in two weeks I’ll be meeting with the city of New Britain for Competition for a Cause so any ideas email me.

Zohlman: Feb. 1 is the CAN Snowball and Orientation applications have been extended by three weeks

Motion to adjourn (Baldassario, Mills)

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.