Student Government Association Minutes from January 22, 2014

January 22, 2014 Attendance:

Present: President Choplick, Vice President Anderson, Treasurer Mills, Senators Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fox, Frey, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kayan, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Moreno, Ott, Perry, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa

Meeting called to order at 3:09 by President Choplick

Motion to accept minutes from 1/19 (Pietrycha, Gomez)

Passes by unanimous consent  SG14-096

Public Hearing: None

Student Affairs Report: Dr. Tordenti

1. We are searching for a new position, the Veteran Retention Assistant Coordinator for the Veteran Office and we will be having an open forum for that
2. Dr. Michael Gargano has been named the system’s first provost and will begin in early March
3. The rumor that we are closing Copernicus garage is false

Student Activity Fees (SAF) Presentation: Bobby Berriault

Full time students currently pay a SAF, $44 of which go to the SGA per semester but the part time students do not pay that fee. We currently fund 105 clubs and last year we were only able to fund 43% of what the clubs asked us for. The last time the funds were raised was 10 years ago when the SGA was funding just 62 clubs, enrollment numbers have increased and so has the number of clubs. To help our funding crisis we can do two things, increase SAF or increase enrollment, but we have no control over enrollment. P/T students pay no fees but can participate in all of the activities I am proposing that matriculated P/T students pay a fee. This presentation shows $25 but that number is flexible. There are three options, we can have P/T students begin to pay a fee, we can decrease what F/T pay and
increase P/T or we can increase both. But to do so we need to act quickly because it has to go from us to Dr. Miller and then the BOR. The campus is expanding and in order to ensure that we can provide for the students something need to happen to increase the revenue streams.

Ott: would this change the way our elections are run

Berriault: P/T can run for at large positions but any change would have to be constitutional

Khan: why are our numbers different then the presentation numbers

Berriault: one is just for the semester the other is for the whole year

Hubbard: would the $25 only go to SGA

Berriault: yes because we fund a lot of student life

Kitchener: could we develop an AD HOC committee to deal with this and is there a way to check if the student is P/T before letting them take place in activities

Berriault: yes we can and it’s on their blue chip

Sonet: don’t they not pay due to insurance issues

Berriault: I don’t know, I’ve never heard of that

Swan: which numbers are correct ours or the power point?

Berriault: power point

Perry: is there a way to implement that when tuition gets increased so do SAF

Berriault: the ConSCU process is different, though it is like that in the community colleges, I’m not proposing anything but the conversation needs to happen

Measho: we don’t have a good representation of P/T students so we need to get their input

Berriault: no one wants to pay more money but they want more and to do that we need to at least talk about it

Christiano: have you talked to CAN or IRC

Berriault: IRC doesn’t get SAF but I haven’t talked to CAN, SUBOG or the Media Board

**Treasurer’s Report**
1. We are working on changing the percentages I will present something when it’s finalized and it goes to Internal Affairs
2. We allocated $12,000 for the retreat and spent a little less, when I have final numbers I will let you know
3. Committees give me your receipts!

**Vice President’s Report**

1. Send your club liaison emails out by next Wednesday
2. Please respond to the retreat survey email
3. Office hours start next week
4. Please respond to the internal affairs meeting doodle if you want to attend
5. If you anticipate having problems meeting your stipend requirements, let me know ASAP

**President’s Report**

1. Thank you to everyone for making the retreat so successful
2. Got an email in the MySGA account asking when our meetings were, so that’s awesome
3. I have been working on something to increase SAF for quite some time now and I intend to sit down with the heads of the major organizations so we can come up with something

Hubbard: will it be an executive summit or can others sit in
Choplick: we will get input from other members of the organization as well
Measho: what would it be about
Choplick: the proposal for SAF

**Committee Reports:**

**Student Life:** Sonet: we will meet Friday in the SGA office from 5-7p, we will be finishing scholarships and those will be available on Feb. 3/ Jim Malley from the Compassionate Action Group will also be at the meeting to speak

**Finance:** Mills: Info Session Dates will be as followed:
   
   Tuesday: 2/11 & 2/18 in the SGA Office at 5p
   
   Wednesday: 2/12 & 2/19 in the SGA Office at 1:30p
   
   Thursday: 2/13 & 2/20 in the SGA Office at 1:30
Base budgets will be available beginning Jan. 31 and will be due by March 17. Deliberations will be April 4, 5, 6 and to sit in on the deliberations you would have had to come to at least 50% of the presentation dates so we can make informed decisions. I will email the clubs with the guideline information.

Fox: were those dates for the presentations?

Mills: the info sessions

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Standing Rule for the 2013-2014 academic year that requires the chair of our Senate meetings to allow for debate on any additions and subtractions of line items proposed as an amendment to any committee recommendations, so long as the proposed amendment does not conflict with the SGA Constitution, SGA By laws, and SGA Standing Rules. (Berriault, Gregonis)

President Choplick Passes the Chair

For: Berriault: as it stands right now we only have two options, to deny a recommendation in full or deny it, but I like options. We may not all agree with every line item every time someone makes a recommendation, this way we don’t have to reject the entire motion, we can hear debate if C wants to be added to A and B. this will allow us to be more efficient because we can just amend. We spent the retreat talking about opening lines of communication and listening to one another and this does that.

Against: Mills: I am emphatically against this. This is putting the hard work of the committees into question. Why work so hard if it can just be changed? If it is changed then that is no longer a recommendation of the committee. We were elected as an eboard to lead the group and our chairs were chosen to lead the committees, the chair has the right to hear a motion and not hear it if he thinks it will change the intent and if we don’t like his decision we can appeal it we are not our predecessors and we do things differently

For: Kitchener: if you can sit through an appeal process then okay, but know yourself and if you can’t then vote for this

Against: Choplick: this is taking away my power to deny a motion that would change the intent of the original motion. You have more than two options because you can vote it down and remotion for something else. I was voted as president to make decisions based off of Robert’s Rules and my interpretation, that is a minimal power and this is taking that away. And don’t forget about the appeal process.

Yields Time
Measho: can you re-read the rule

Choplick: “reads” the standing rule currently proposed

Measho: no the one we currently have

Choplick: there isn’t one, it is just my job

Measho: and this would take away that ability?

Choplick: with the way I interpret things

For: Berriault: ...

Point of Order: Hubbard: he already spoke twice

Anderson: this is a different motion then from the retreat

Not well taken

For: Berriault: I recognize that President Choplick isn’t Eric Bergenn and so on, but there was a precedent set last year in that this has been done before and it has worked in the past. Why even bring it to senate if we can’t make amendments? If this doesn’t pass then why have finance even bring it to senate? We need to be more efficient and this does that, it is not taking any power away.

Against: Lee: yes committees don’t make final decisions but we are the ones who are doing the work

POI Measho to Mills: when given a line item what options are there to change them

Mills: it depends on the stipulations that are attached, often we allocate money for a reason specifically

For: Ott: this doesn’t have to be negative, this could be good because what if Senate has a better idea?

Against: Alsaqri: committees are a group of people who do work, if you disagree with the way things are done then go to the committee meetings, everyone can attend and everyone can have a voice. Those committee members are working in that field all year and they know what they are doing I think we just need to do a better job at reading the minutes

POI Kitchener to Ott: did Public Affairs change the logo or did you decide to go to Senate and if you did, why?

Ott: because all of Senate should be able to decide
POI Cahill to Choplick: how many times did you deny the debate because it changed the intent of a motion

Choplick: three separate occasions in back to back meetings

For: Berriault: what is the point, Senate ultimately has the final say any how

Call to previous question (Rodriguez, Christiano)

Vote: 4Y 26N 0A

Debate continues

Against: Hubbard: we focus a lot about the intent of a motion but that is not even brought up in this verbage, you can amend anything to say anything the way this is written. Senate doesn’t make amendments, individuals make amendments and it is then up to them to convince the senate, this is just getting the way of our current process

POI Kitchener to Choplick: with the way it’s written would you need a second

Choplick: yes

POI Berriault to Choplick: if this passes would be you forced to hear all amendments

Choplick: if it adds or subtracts a line item

POI Measho to Choplick: is it just a dollar amount

Choplick: not necessarily

Vote: 9Y (Berriault, Bosworth, Christiano, Fox, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Measho, Ott) 17N (Mills, Alsaqri, Cahill, Cassidy, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fung, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Khan, Lee, Moody, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa) 3A (Choplick, Frey, Kitchener)

Motion Fails

Chair is passed back to President Choplick

Open Floor

Sonet: I don’t like that the last few POI seemed to be targeted at the opinion of a specific person, I don’t think that is appropriate to do just because you may or may not agree with something/ we will be talking scholarships this Friday we will make 100 to start and packets will be stuffed next week
Mills: I didn’t know if I should say something in the debate but it was said that this was not directly for finance committee, but every person who stood up made mention of it. If you have a problem with how I run my meetings tell me or come to a meeting.

Berriault: I was not targeting anyone, I sat down with President Choplick for two months trying to get the wording right to make the best motion and I think he was asked the POI because he has to interpret the rules but we have to realize the implications of our actions. I think the Senate should be able to check the work of the committees.

Motion to excuse myself from the Jan. 19 and 29 meetings (Cassidy, Sonet)

For: Cassidy: I was cast in Illusions and the first rehearsal was the 19th, I tried to find a way to go back and forth but with no car I couldn’t get to Newport and I need this to be able to audition for the BAF program. On the 29th I will be in Cape Cod with Theatre Unlimited for a festival/conference.

Vote: 23Y 1N 2A (Cassidy, Anderson)

Motion Passes SG14-097

Measho to Ott: are the election dates tentative

Ott: the eboard ones are pretty set but we may push general elections back a week

Measho: okay because with spring break a lot of students could forget about it

Mills: don’t forget, next Friday is the CAN Snoball

Motion to create a task force on student activity fees whose membership is to be created by President Choplick (Kitchener, Christiano)

For: Kitchener: this is an important issue and should have its own committee

POI Cahill to Kitchener: do you have a specific number of people

Kitchener: however many he feels is necessary

POI Mills to Choplick: do you want to create a task force

Choplick: I intended to do it regardless

Vote by voice

Motion Passes SG14-098

Lee: as you student advisory committee rep, Dr. Gray will be speaking with us so if you have any questions for him please let me know.
POI Measho to Lee: is that about the 20/20 plan

Lee: this is about Excel CT, the 20/20 plan is different but I can resend the email

Hubbard to Ott: is there ways students can get the hats

Ott: we have a list of events coming up but right now if they can prove they liked our Facebook and twitter they can have a hat

Berriault: will be get an update on the SSI results

Scott Hazan: I will be presenting on them soon

Choplick: I will forward the preliminary email I received

Kitchener: if you give the hats to the hall councils make sure you give a proportionate amount to commuters

Christiano we have a handicap door in the office!

Motion to adjourn (Hudobenko, Khan)

Division 13Y 11N

Meeting is adjourned at 4:44p

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brittany Burke, SGA University Assistant