Student Government Association Minutes from January 19, 2014

January 19, 2014 Attendance:
Present: President Choplick, Vice President Anderson, Treasurer Mills, Senators Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Ott, Perry, Pietrycha, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by President Choplick

Motion to accept the minutes from December 4, 2013 (Ott, Hubbard)

Berriault: can we add that I spoke in favor of my standing rule?

Passes Unanimously

Minutes Pass Unanimously

Public Hearing: None

Student Affairs Report: None

Treasurer’s Report:
- The eboard allocated about $12,000 for the retreat and we will come in just under that. It was split with CAN and we will be reimbursed
- Sen. Sonet has a motion on a table and it’s from the correct account so please don’t alter it

Vice President’s Report

- Shout out to the good work done by the committees, they set good goals and picked dates. I hope the retreat was worthwhile

President’s Report

- There were two eboard decisions made: one was the $12,000 for the retreat and the other was $250 for a white board for the office

Kitchener: will that be from for use by senate
Choplick: operational

- I like that we all got along and really bought into the retreat which is fantastic to see
- Shout out to the committees for exceptional work

**Committee Reports**

**Student Life:** Sonet: there will be no scholarship talk for today

**Finance Committee:** Mills: we talked about changing the percentages of how our money is distributed, so when we finalize everything we will present on it but until then it is a work in progress. It will put about $10,000 more into club budgets right away though. // We talked about guidelines for clubs when asking for a new budget and we will send them out to them beforehand. Things like, paying the majority for a bus but not tickets, paying for club national membership but not individual ones, if the club pays more than 50% for jerseys they can keep them and no office supplies. We will have the dates out soon so the club liaison emails are very important.

Measho: were those guidelines in the packet we got

Mills: those were for this fiscal year these are for next year

Sonet: are those set in stone?

Mills: no we will put a disclaimer that they are subject to change

Sonet: will you send them to the clubs?

Mills: yes

**Public Affairs:** Ott: our winter hats are in all the mailboxes// COSGA alternative applications are due to SALD by 5p. // We really want to promote the SGA and we are starting with help boxes in the academic buildings. // We are continuing to work with the mayor, ordinances and tuition increases// we will have an election debate on March 10 from 7-10p and elections will be March 11-13. There will be a candidate gallery on March 25 from 1030-1230p and elections will be March 25-27// we’re really trying to go to more sporting events so we’ll be at the hockey game Feb. 7 and the basketball game Feb. 8

Mills: everyone should also go to the CAN Snoball on Jan. 31

Hubbard: what’s the method you’re going to use to let people know about elections

Ott: the poster campaign, debate, candidate gallery

Swan: are there scarves left

Ott: yes

Swan: what if we want to learn more about the ordinances

Ott: speak with me Testa or Berriault or come to our meetings

Christiano: what do you want us to do at the games?

Ott: we’ll talk about it when it gets closer
Academic Affairs: Lee: the committee is doing additional office hours to deal exactly with academic issues

Internal Affairs: Anderson: I want to have more regular meetings so I will send a doodle but I’m hoping for Fridays at 11a

**Unfinished Business:**

Move to postpone the motion until the next meeting (Berriault, Measho)

For: Berriault: this is not the correct motion, it has since been reworded to only apply to finance committee and I don’t endorse this

Against: Anderson: we’re all here for three hours so we might as well work on it now

POI: Christiano: can we pull up the motion

Choplick: yes

Move to go into a five-minute recess (Lee, Khan)

Move into recess

Meeting is back in session: 1:36p

*Berriault: I’d like to withdraw my motion*

Withdrawn

*Berriault: I’d like to withdraw my original motion*

Withdrawn

**New Business:**

Motion to allocate $2895 for the “Hookup” speaker event in support of the red flag campaign from account SG9010 (Fox, Sonet)

For: Fox: this focuses on the importance of learning about domestic issues and speaks about safety and awareness. Not everyone attends the sex signals program during orientation but everyone should, this event will be Feb. 12 in Torpe Theater, and will be student driven. It’s by the same company that does sex signals

Berriault: are you charging admission?

Fox: no

Germaine: how do we benefit

Fox: our name is on the banner as a sponsor and we can do something like a coffee talk at the event

Swan: Is other sponsors spending money
Fox: not on the speakers, other sponsors are the Diversity and Equality center, Women’s Center and SALD, plus the Greeks will be volunteering

Kitchener: do you have a projected attendance?

Fox: all Of Torpe Theater

Kitchener: have they had events like this before?

Fox: sex signals in orientation but Hookup is more ambiguous

Kitchener: are classes involved?

Fox: departments have been emailed

Mills: is there a reason it’s not coming out of the committee budget

Fox: we have other things we need our discretionary funds for

POI Kitchener to Mills: how much is in the student life budget

Mills: $7000 and they have about $3700 left

Motion to postpone until Wednesday’s meeting (Lee, Pietrycha)

For: Lee: I am uncomfortable approving $3000 while on a retreat and away from campus when there cannot be any students present

Against: Sonet: there is a time constraint although I understand the concerns, but this helps with a goal for our semester and we don’t have time to wait. I don’t see a reason not to approve this, when we just approved $12,000 for a retreat. Pushing this back will delay the committee and we all know how difficult it is to iron out space

POI Kitchener: any ways to hold someone accountable for letting the students know about this or getting the space booked

Choplick: you could motion for everything

Kitchener: can you amend this?

For: Berriault: I see both sides, but it boils down to how soon student life needs the money

Point of order: Mills: not germane

Not well taken

Berriault: if student life can wait then we should postpone

POI Pietrycha to Fox: is Thursday too late

Fox: the event will happen on Feb 12 so we can wait but they are ordering the banner this week

Against: Mills: they asked the eboard to approve this but I told them to wait until retreat to bring it up, this is time sensitive and needs to be approved
POI Berriault to Fox: what are the ramifications if we didn’t decide this today, could we not sponsor Fox we can still sponsor it but our logo won’t be on the banner

POI Perry: we have drug and alcohol awareness but not special victims awareness.

Kitchener: point of order: not a question

Well taken

For: Perry: there is no special victims awareness and that is what the red flag campaign does, but it’s a lot of money

Against: Measho: it’s not the dollar amount that matters it’s what the event stands for and we shouldn’t delay

Fernandez: point of order

Not well taken

Measho: we’re here so we should discuss it especially because it is so time sensitive

**Call to previous question (Ott, Gomez)**

Vote: 21Y 9N 0A

Debate is ended

Postponement: 1Y 26N 3A (Kitchener, Germaine, Pietrycha)

Fails

*Main Motion*

POI Germaine: do we have a SGA banner

Choplick: yes

Germaine: can we put it up?

Choplick: sure

Vote: 26Y Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Frey, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Khan, Kitchener, Measho, Moody, Ott, Perry, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa 0N 4A (Anderson, Fox, Lee, Pietrycha)

Motion Passes

**Open Floor:**

Choplick: I agree with Sen. Lee that financial matters should be done on campus, but this is a time sensitive manner, but if you voted against this because of our name on a banner then I disagree with
you. This is a fantastic event, but asking how it will benefit us? It’s not about getting our name out there it is about helping this event and that’s the important thing. I can see why some were uncomfortable because this meeting is not attainable to students and there has been some talk of whether or not we should even have the meeting

Kitchener: I don’t like when people motion to end a debate, when some people still have things to say. We need to work on listening to one another and when we end debate we are not serving our constituents properly we were elected to listen and to speak up. I also want to be more transparent and I don’t think putting our agenda on the site is doing enough

Sonet: I don’t see why we have a meeting if we can’t handle our business, it seems hypocritical that we can spend $12,000 on this retreat and not money that would benefit the students and that angers me

**Move to limit speaking time to five minutes (Fernandez, Kitchener)**

Vote: 11Y 17N 1A (Testa)

**Motion fails**

**Move to create a standing rule for the 2013-2014 academic year to limit speaking time to five minutes while on open floor (Fox, Fernandez)**

For: Fox: if you can’t say what you need to in five minutes then just email it, this would only pertain to open floor, not a motion

POI Anderson: how would this effect motions on open floor

Choplick: you would still have the 10 minutes

POI Mills: can you suspend a standing rule

Choplick: yes

Against: Berriault: I don’t know what to think, this standing rule means the senate is not interested in what others need to say and so much of the retreat was spent on diversity

POI Germaine: what does this mean?

Choplick: a non-motion on open floor would be limited to five minutes

POI Berriault: if this passes and the five minutes are up can someone be re-recognized

Choplick: yes

Against: Measho: there is no need to limit to 300 seconds, we should be allowed to speak because it’s our personal issues and we should be allowed to say what we need to say

For: Kitchener: you have to know yourself and I want to hear everyone’s voice and if you can’t sum it up in 5 minutes then an email would suffice

Point of parliamentary inquiry: Berriault: can this be done by roll call
Choplick: yes

Against: Anderson: we just talked about how we have to listen and you can suspend a standing rule so this is a waste of time and it doesn’t make sense that senators who do not want to end debate should want time limited

For: Fernandez: both sides make good points and have something to say but people go off on tangents and this is a way for every one to get a say and a better way for us to practice our articulation skills

Against: Bosworth: limiting someone to five minutes doesn’t mean we won’t get emotional, but we’re getting lazy. We should let everyone speak

For: Perry: after five minutes a lot of people tend to repeat themselves anyway

POI Anderson: ballpark how many times has people gone over five minutes

Choplick: no more than five I had to guess

Against: Mils: I’ve timed many of you and the longest one has been 3.5 minutes so this isn’t necessary, I don’t want to listen to a rant but if we think this is necessary we can motion to limit during that time, this just wastes time

For: Fox: I don’t care either way, but this did what I wanted, it started a debate, but we know that not everything we do has a consequence though I’m still in favor

Against: Hudobenko: sometimes people need to say things and we are getting lazy, how often do we come to 10 minutes

For: Rongey: we can be called on again and this gives us time to collect our thoughts, which is what we want

POI Fox: how many times have call to questions been called

Choplick: the 10-15 ranges

Against: Christiano: I think it we limit time it cuts what we want to say in half, if we have time to speak the heart of what we want to say will be said. We are here for the student body and that should be reason enough to allow us to speak for more than 5 minutes

POI Kitchener: if the student body comes to speak will they be limited

Choplick: yes

POI Anderson: what’s the difference between speaking freely on open floor and for or against in a motion

Choplick: freely has no limit while in a motion you have 10 minutes

For: Perry: if people do repeat it’s just to put different emphasis on things

Against: Hudobenko: if a student comes they may not be able to say what they need to say
Vote: 7Y (Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Khan, Perry, Rongey, Swan) 20N Anderson, Mills, Senators Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Christiano, Frey, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Ott, Pietrycha 3A (DiBacco, Sonet, Testa)

**Motion Fails**

Berriault: it’s ironic that we spent 28 minutes debating on limiting speaking time, if there is something like this we should start talking about it in an email//thank you all for the birthday surprise, it meant a lot to me//I want to apologize for the standing rule, there was a mix up

Hubbard: I’ve been here eight semesters and after each retreat we always seem so productive and this year I don’t want us to lose that. This is the best retreat I’ve been on and the best senate I’ve been a part of and I refuse to have that deteriorate. We spend too much time getting angry over stupid things and I think this senate is too good for that. This senate has been on an up rise and will keep doing so and we will disagree, it’s why we are here but that shouldn’t stop us from doing good work and good things. Remember our pointless arguments aren’t always worth it, staying mad isn’t worth it, remember hug it out and the entire BS stays in the meetings.

Fernandez: this is one of the better senates I’ve been on and it’s only gotten better over the three years and yes we fight but that’s what we need to do, it’s what we signed up for. Don’t be afraid to fight or afraid to get upset, it’s just business. The people we fight with are the people we learn the most from and the ones who teach us the most about ourselves

POI Cahill to Anderson: do we need to do office hours

Anderson: no

**Motion to email the student body the SGA agenda 24-hours in advance (Kitchener, Germaine)**

For: Kitchener: I don’t think the student body uses the website and I think it’s important that they know what is going on and this will increase transparency

Against: Hudobenko: I don’t think it’s a good idea, we all know how people react to the athletic emails and I don’t want people to get annoyed with us

For: Sonet: it’s trial and error, even if one person looks at it and gets interested and we can stop whenever we think we should

Against: Alsaqri: people will auto block us and then we won’t be able to reach them at all

POI Fernandez: can we do a newsletter and free subscription

Choplick: we could

POI Lee: what reaction do you get in the mysga account

Choplick: 5-15 angry emails each time saying we spam the inboxes
POI Kitchener: is it possible to get another email just for that

Choplick: it is but IT may be iffy about it because you need administrative access for it

Move to refer to Internal Affairs (Berriault, Christiano)

For: Berriault: I agree with Alex but I think it requires further study and a way to come up with a better method of reaching the students

Point of order: not about the postponement: Hubbard

Well taken

Berriault: we need a better process to email them and it should be looked into further

Against: Anderson: this is not an IA matter and this is the biggest senate showing we’d ever have

For: Gregonis: maybe we could do a trial because I know I had a hard time understanding them

Fernandez: point of order

Not well taken

Gregonis: we should see the student response first

Against: Fernandez: need to better grasp the student vote and we need to sit down and talk

For: Bosworth: we should really think about it, emailing 12,000 students isn’t something that can be decided on lightly and it should be looked into further. We can do a form board or something

Against: Kitchener: I think if the original motion fails we still need to talk about it and it should go to public affairs if anything

POI Measho to Kitchener: are you suggesting we end debate

Kitchener: yes

Call to previous question (Christiano, Measho)

Vote: 20Y 6N 1A (Sonet)

Passes

Debate is ended

Refer to IA Vote: 0Y 27N 3A (Swan, Fox, Perry)

Motion fails

Kitchener: I withdraw my motion

Motion is withdrawn

Choplick passes the chair Vice President Anderson
Mills: I tell the clubs we deliberate and discuss motions on Wednesday, so they know and they don’t come. I don’t think finance will get all the motions out to have the agenda out by Tuesday at 3p and Public Affairs meets Tuesday night

Kitchener: how do we get students to care about us more and get them involved, we need another way?

POI Alsaqri: is it online beforehand

Anderson: yes

Chair is passed to President Choplick

Ott: lets talk about it and how we can promote to students

POI Gregonis to Ott: can we tweet it

Ott: definitely

Fernandez: I don’t think it needs to be the agenda but maybe we have an opt out options and talk only about what we just passed and tie it into the newsletter

Testa: I think we should stick to things that affect the entire student body

Anderson: mass emails are not good, people get angry and we are not responsible for the email list because the school runs it. We can maybe do a one time thing explaining to people about everything and direct them to our website. Our newsletter has all of our info but twitter is a good way to reach people who have a built in subscription to us already and we can put info on the board downstairs

President Choplick passes the chair

Berriault: I did a quick poll with friends and 2/5 would read the emails

Kitchener: point of order on the room

Well taken

Berriault: I am doing my hall council tours so if it is okay I will get emails of people who want to be emailed just in case, but I like the idea of social media to get info because I do not think the Recorder does a good job at telling the students about what we do especially with the bullet points

**Motion to fix the time of adjournment to 3:30p (Choplick, Berriault)**

For: Choplick: that’s when the bus will get here

Vote: 22Y 8N 1A (Ott)

**Motion Passes**
Sonet: I am sending an email about scholarships so make sure to read it

Ott: elections are coming up so students can vote on the emails

Christiano: I don’t think enough would read the emails but I think a once a month thing would work

Hudobenko: social media is huge for us and tweeting smart things to get people engaged will help

POI Cahill: who maintains the student center and SGA websites

Anderson: the student center is off limits but the eboard, chairs and Brittany can access the website

Mills: getting out the agenda 24 hours prior is hard and I make no promises that it will happen in the future

Khan: a subscription service will cost money social media will be free

Move to strike out what Senator Berriault said about the Recorder regarding representing the student body (Fernandez, Khan)

Berriault: Point of order it is 3:30p

Meeting is adjourned at 3:30p

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brittany Burke, SGA University Assistant