Student Government Association Minutes from January 29, 2014

January 29, 2014 Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order at 3:21 by President Choplick

Motion to accept minutes from 1/22 (Pietrycha, Gomez)

Passes by unanimous consent  SG14-099

Public Hearing: None

Student Affairs Report: Scott Hazan:

Orientation Leader applications are due on Friday, if you haven’t applied you should consider it, it’s a great experience. You can get an application in SALD

Tomorrow, Tim Wise Lecture there will be one at 3:15p and a student lecture at 6p in Alumni Hall

Student Affairs Committee Report: Alex Lee

Excel CT is a 5-15 year long term plan for the ConnSCU system in regards to access, affordability, and unmatched education.

It will be announced on Feb. 5 at the State of the State Address, plans can begin on Feb 6 and implementations can happen as early as September

It looks to becoming a full system, examples would be all the colleges and universities would have one calendar, on registration period and one IT system

This will also propose a long term tuition model
Every student coming out of high school will have access to the system
They will try to streamline high school college credits
They will have a system-wide metric to success
They are looking into a regents financial scholarship for $3-5,000 to give students incentive to stay in the system
They are looking into institutionalized specializations to deepen signature programs.

CCSU-STEM, ECSU- liberal arts, SCSU-Allied Health, WCSU-Business

They will look to enhance the teacher certification programs so that every person going through will get their master’s
This will create accountability for the university and college presidents

Hubbard: would this increase funding to the specific special programs or will they get specialized funding
Lee: there will be a lot of grant money, for instance they may increase funding in one university for their program and lower funding in the others
Mills: are they aware of how impractical it is to cut breaks and make the school year shorter
Lee: yes they are aware, a huge change will happen regardless because we have been pushing back dates and the community colleges haven’t
Hazan: they are aware and are trying to standardize it
Gregonis: with the specializations, does that mean they are going to terminate the programs at other schools
Lee: no they will increase funding while other schools stay on the same level
Hubbard: is the tuition increase a binding thing
Lee: they have a plan of how it will be installed
Hazan: they haven’t determined how it will be handled, if it’s a contract then it is binding but they will always have a clause to ensure an out just in case
Hubbard: is this more for the public or private schools
Lee: mostly public
Sonet: how will the access effect academic standards

Lee: each school will maintain their own standards but they want to make the system accessible to any high school student/ the SAC will meet after the state of the state address

**Treasurer’s Report**

- Contingency: $26,914 left in the account for the semester and we will stop either March or April
- For use by senate: $29,906.64 that number is really a little about $50,000 because of the money set aside for committees, public affairs recently spent a lot of money for promos and conferences
- Reserves: $252,720

**Vice President’s Report**

- Liaison emails were due by 3:30p if you didn’t send them please still do

**President’s Report**

- Sen. Kayan resigned
- In regards to the student activity fee task force, I met with the heads of the other organizations to ask for their input and will look into an SGA one shortly
- E-Board Decisions:
  1. Student Life line item change for $1000 from coffee talks to discretionary
  2. $724.55 for 500 base budget folders
  3. Not to exceed $80,000 from the reserves for the spring concert, but that will end up being about $17,000 with ticket revenue

**Committee Reports**

Student Life: Sonet: scholarships will be released Friday we are starting with 150 copies so come to the meeting on Friday 5-7p if you’d like to help. We are looking into more student wellness campaigns as part of one of our components so if there are any little things you think we can do to brighten someone’s day please let me know

Public Affairs: Ott: Devils Den battle of the clubs on Feb. 27 please let your clubs know

Academic Affairs: Lee: our office hours were announced, they are on the sight and on the white board if someone has a question and wants to talk to a committee member in person please let them know when they can reach us or have them email us

Finance: Mills: there is a motion on the table to deny a contingency request made by the college democrats to supplement hotel costs on a trip to DC, we deemed it not a
contingency because in their original base budget request they requested for 8-10 people and are now bringing 10 // base budgets are due March 7 we will not accept any other forms of paper work after that time, if it is urgent the clubs can talk to the eboard and we can have them present in senate // we ordered 500 clubs folders because last time they were useful they wont be in by Friday but for the clubs who don't get one we will transfer their paperwork // there will be a box for all of the completed budgets in the UA office, once the liaison signs off on the packet they will take it and put it in the box and high light the club name then the liaison will direct the club member to the sign up sheet on the board to sign up for a presentation time

Rodriguez: what if a club is just getting started would this disrupt the process

Mills: club recognition is not handled by the SGA but if they are recognized by SALD then we will help them with base budgeting

Internal Affairs: Anderson: IA will meet Friday at 12p, I will send out the agenda

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Motion to deny the College Democrats contingency request (Fallanca, Khan)

For: Fallanca: we didn’t deem this appropriate, they are asking for more money for hotel rooms but only have 2 people to a room

Against: DiBacco: they are already paying out of pocket we should give them the $235.50 they need, they only planned on bringing 8 but it increased to 10

For: Mills: when asked why they needed more money they said to increase the number of rooms because they want to bring 10 now but they requested enough money for 8-10 people last spring so this is not valid. Most of the DC attractions are free and fitting three in a room instead of two would cut back on costs

Against: Swan: it's not up to us to tell a club how many people to put in each room

Vote: 9Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Fallanca, Frey, Hubbard, Khan, Pietrycha, Rongey) 15N (Christiano, DiBacco, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gregonis, Hudobenko, Lee, Measho, Moody, Ott, Perry, Sonet, Swan, Testa) 6A (Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Gomez, Moreno, Rodriguez)

**Motion Fails**

**Open Floor**

Motion to approve the College Democrats contingency request (Ott, Christiano)
For: Ott: it seems like people wanted to fund this so lets do it

Against: Alsaqri: it's not a valid contingency, they originally asked for 8-10 people and it increased to 10 so this doesn't make sense

For: Christiano: they said 8 or 10 and now that they have more members they can take more people

Against: Hubbard: look at the contingency, it is for $350 they need $235 they asked for the extra money just in case something happened

Motion to amend to insert “$235.50 from their contingency request” (DiBacco, Pietrycha)

For: DiBacco: they need $235.50 not $350

Vote: 23Y 1N 4A (Berriault, Gregonis, Rodriguez, Moreno)

Amendment Passes

Original Motion

For: Anderson: Hi

Fox: point of order: not germane

Well taken

Against: Fallanca: I haven't heard one argument as to why we should fund this so I'm a little confused

Yields time for questions

Fox: is $250 the expected number

Berriault: Point of Order

Not well taken

For: Germaine: we just spent $12,000 on a retreat and none us paid anything out of pocket, we should match this club on what they are paying

Against: Mills: please stop throwing the $12,000 around, that is not a set number. The number of the request is irrelevant, this goes directly against our by-laws I don’t know how else to say it

POI Ott to Mills: did you ask if they didn't have enough for 10
Mills: not directly

Vote: 13Y (Bosworth, Christiano, DiBacco, Fox, Germaine, Gregonis, Hudobenko, Measho, Moody, Ott, Perry, Swan, Testa) 9N (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Fallanca, Hubbard, Khan, Lee, Pietrycha, Rongey) 8A (Berriault, Cahill, Frey, Fung, Gomez, Moreno, Rodriguez, Sonet)

Sonet: student wellness is one of our four components and we are working with campus of compassion to do events and find ways to further that message, anything to brighten someone’s day, if you have an idea come to a meeting or shoot us an email. We want to really help positively affect the daily lives of individual students

Berriault: I usually don’t speak for/against something that directly affects me but I want to say it is very hard for clubs to figure out how much we need for travel a year in advance. We have 25 active members now and wanted to give as many the opportunity to go as we could. As college students we don’t have a lot of money and the expenses add up. We were able to find a cheaper hotel so we wanted to bring more people and I don’t think having three to a room is comfortable. Just remember your decisions have real life repercussions

Choplick: just so everyone knows if you want to motion during new business you can even if it isn’t on the agenda

Hazan: there is a lot of counseling that goes in to getting a club recognized so we are here to help, but just because the club is recognized does not automatically give you funding. Remember the last meeting is in March

Choplick: there may not be a direct representation of all the clubs here but there is an indirect one so if you can speak unbiasedly please do, we want you to communicate with your clubs.

Measho: do people usually ask about the spring concert

Choplick: yes but I can’t tell you

Mills: I am president of a club and have been for two years, before that I was treasurer and before that I sat in on eboard meetings. I know how difficult the base budget process is, we all do. We understand the stress but I am going to say this now, I have never heard of a more invalid contingency request you just threw our by-laws out the window

Testa: what do people think about giving all clubs $100 for promotions because we want them to do more and this is a way to

Measho to Ott: what are the events giving out the scarves and hats
Ott: right now a basketball game Feb. 6 and a hockey game Feb. 7

Berriault: next week I will be going to the state of the state address so If I’m not back in time for senate please someone motion to excuse me

Hubbard: point of order: too loud

Well taken

Choplick: the spring concert will be announced at the Snoball Friday

Lee: can you explain the spring concert choosing process

Choplick: the SGA and CAN e-boards meet and we negotiate contracts and figure out cost of production which is usually $20-30,000. CAN usually sets $54,000 aside each year and we put up the rest but we are the only club to get revenue from it

Germaine: is there a student vote

Choplick: CAN does a survey every year to get an idea, we can’t get big name people but we get the genre

Testa: so no to the promotion money in the base budget?

Mills: I don’t think it’s a bad idea to consider, maybe give it to the clubs that ask with the stipulation that it cannot be line itemed out

Hazan: in regards to the concert, it’s an extensive selection process and a lot of things have to work for us like price, availability and if they are in our area at the time. Fortunately we decide early on so we’ve had some great up and coming artists here

Germaine: what is the date?

Hazan: April 26// as a side note remember to remain consistent with the decisions that you make

Testa: only problem I have with Kory’s suggestion is we always say no to clubs they’re not going to know that they could ask for it

Mills: we deny t-shirts but have given promotional items

Motion to adjourn (Germaine, DiBacco)

Meeting is adjourned AT 4:27PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brittany Burke, SGA University Assistant