Student Government Association Minutes from March 13, 2013

March 13, 2013

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

Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m. by President Bergenn.

Motion to approve minutes from March 6, 2013 (Mills, Ott)

Passes Unanimously   
SG13-126

Student Affairs Report: none

Public Hearing:

Benji Miller: I’m from Hillel and we are screening “My So Called Enemy” with a dinner & screening with the director and we would like to extend an invitation to the Senate. It will be Wednesday April 3rd, the dinner is at 4p the screening is at 6:30p.

Treasurer’s Report: None

Vice President’s Report

1. New Senator shirts have arrived and are in your mail boxes
2. If you want to know how you’re doing with meeting attendance and office hours a new list will be on the window in the SGA office each Wednesday before our meetings.

President’s Report

1. We were put in a weird situation and had to make an executive decision for the Design Club. We made a motion taking everyone’s concerns into account and we tried to express the full voice of the senate. It wasn’t easy but we decided to allocate them $1000 for the fashion show for two hairstylists and clothes only to be purchased at second hand shops. Treasurer Alaimo chose to wave his vote.
2. Next week Cindy Cayer will be here to talk about the scholarship endowment
3. Chris Galligan will be here the week after speaking about corporate relations
4. Thursday at 10:30 the BOR Finance Committee is meeting
5. There will be an updated Constitution and By-Laws on the Website
6. IRC is hosting a mud volleyball tournament on April 21st and invited us to make a team or two so if you’re interested sign up on the sheet that’s going around
7. The SUBOG recognition dinner will be April 29 at 6p and it is Oscars Themed with a red carpet and after party for specified student leaders

Motion to suspend the rules so that on March 20 Vice President Braun can take attendance, the Senate meeting can be tape recorded and the 48-hour time period for minutes can be extended while our UA Brittany is in China. (Fernandez, Marcelli)

Motion Passes

Baldassario: on the March 7 decision did you give them the mandates like that before

Bergenn: yes

Braun: they had something similar on Oct 13 as well

Committee Reports

Public Affairs: Radden: we are doing a Devils Den on Thursday so if you can come and be there for around 9p to help set up and wear your SGA Polos. This is to help promote elections. On Monday and Tuesday we will be going around to the hall councils and we have tables reserved for next week and need people to help with the laptop setups

Berriault: do you have times

Radden: they’ll be posted

Baldassario: the info will be sent and packets will be available Thursday.

Truex: the lecture at Vance with Rudy Giuliani should be over around 9p so you may want to make an announcement when it’s through about Devils Den

Bergenn: also the Governor will be at New Britain high school at 7p Thursday

Academic Affairs: Marcelli: if you want info for the open forums for the new dean of the Department of Educational Studies let me know

Finance Committee: Truex: we put in a lot of work this week so there are a lot of recommendations. Remember base budget packets are due next Wednesday at 5p.

COSGA Presentations

Kitchener: We’ve included the most important things in the packet but some things that stuck out was to turn our passion into action and if most the student body knew what we were doing we would have the same approval rating as Congress. What we do echoes into reality
Choplick: if you build it they won’t come if they build it they will come and bring their friends. It goes back to the roots and making sure you work with students

Kitchener: we should match our goals in line with the university and ultimately get more done

Truex: Texas A&M does the “Big Event” where they have a day for students to go do projects out in the surrounding community. It takes months of planning and funding and finding sponsors but it’s to thank the surrounding community and it’s something we would like to try and implement.

Choplick: a school did “fishaides” which “fish” are freshmen and they aide different communities around campus and it’s another thing we are looking into getting done but right now it is in the RAW stages

**Unfinished Business**

The chair is passed to Vice President Braun

*The last meeting left of with the proposal to postpone: Move to disassociate the Student Government Association with the Students of Connecticut Universities for Democracy (Alaimo, Pancak)*

For: Bergenn: this is to postpone indefinitely. In today’s context this motion wouldn’t make sense. The idea was to have the logos taken off the banner but the banner is coming down this week. Alaimo isn’t here and he originally proposed the motion so we can postpone it and if someone feels the need to they can bring it up again

Against: Baldassario: the more we postpone the more that doesn’t get done. We should at least have a conversation when everyone is here

For: Berriault: there’s a lot more important things to do today and this is taking time away from those things

Against: Mgushi” this needs to be talked about right now. Lets get it done and close the issue

For: Bergenn: Alaimo is missing and he is a big part to all of this. The only thing “associating” us with SUD was the banner and that’s coming down so it’s irrelevant now. It just doesn’t feel pertinent anymore and as for communications you cant stop one person from talking to another person

Against: Baldassario: last week we argued this until 6pm and it should be continued to be talked about. The banner may be down but the idea is still relevant

For: Berriault: the original motion talks about joint logos being removed. The rally was two days ago this is no longer an issue. This won’t be brought up again unless someone in the future thinks it is necessary. The person who brought up the motion isn’t present today to defend himself so we need to put this issue to rest
Against: Truex: just because you don’t want to deal with it doesn’t mean we shouldn’t. yea the pep rally already happened but the BOR is meeting next week and we have people here with similar views that should be able to speak

Call to previous question (Fernandez, Ott)

Vote: 23Y 7N 1A

Debate is ended

Original Motion to postpone

Vote: 14Y 13N 4A

Motion Passes

Motion to suspend the rules to move to open floor (Baldassario, Truex)

Objection to the consideration of the question (Marcelli)

Vote: 12Y 15N 3A

Fails

Motion to suspend the rules

Baldassario: I withdraw my motion

Chair is passed back

New Business:

Motion to excuse Senator Testa’s early dismissals for the remainder of the Spring 2013 Semester. (Testa, Anderson)

For: Anderson: most of you know Alyssa’s situation and how she has to leave before 4:20p because of a nursing class at 4p that she can’t switch out of because of the regimented program and now that we have the ability to excuse we should. She won’t get off senate but she can lose her stipend and she does everything else she needs to as well as coming back to meetings if they’re still going on after her class

Against: Baldassario: if this is because of the stipend then I don’t know how I feel about it but I’m for her being excused

For: Mills: Sen. Testa comes back after class now that we can excuse her we should

Against: Braun: I feel uneasy about the wording. I’m not against her early dismissals for class but the wording should be more precise
POI Baldassario: do you have the power to excuse

Bergenn: I do yes

For: Marcelli: if this is considered and something comes up we can go back and amend something that was previously adopted

Against: Hubbard: I don’t feel comfortable with the wording or the precedent it will ultimately set. Plus a stipend is a case by case basis

**Move to amend the motion so after Spring 2013 Semester it reads “for the sole purpose for attending her class.”** (Berriault, Szabo)

For: Berriault: there were some wording concerns and I’m in favor of helping her so this makes it clear that this motion is to only excuse her for class

Against: Manento: I don’t think we can necessarily tell where she is going when she leaves

For: Berriault: yes it’s hard to tell but we’re not necessarily good at keeping secrets from each other so I don’t see not knowing as an issue

Vote: 22Y 6N 3A

**Amendment passes**

POI Sonet: does this limit her from not being excused from anything else

Bergenn: no

Vote: 25Y 4N 2A

**Motion Passes**

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-084 (Mills, Marcelli)

For: Mills: straightforward the Tea Club came in for a new base budget they have a strong following and just want some tea, cups and plates from Sodexo

Vote: 31Y (Braun, Senators Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo, Truex, Zohlman) 0N 0A

**Motion Passes**

Motion to approve finance committee recommendations FC13-086, FC13-089, FC13-092 and FC13-095 (Baldassario, Ott)
For: Baldassario: these are all line items and most of them are minor. They’re not breaking the rules because finance recommended them so we might as well get them done and move on to ones that may cause more discussion

Vote: 30Y (Braun, Senators Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo, Truex, Zohlman) 0N 1A (Germaine)

Motion: Motion Passes SG13-129

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-085 (Mills, Marcelli)

For: Mills: we not only denied this because it’s not a contingency but we’ve seen them ask for this similarly multiple times. We always deny them and they haven’t learned anything

Against: Mgushi: they came to us in February and we just voted on this recently. We denied them trips to New York City and DC so they came back with a thorough request for Chicago. We’ve denied similar trips to clubs so why deny them

For: Truex: they’re asking for $5k for eight people to do touristy things. There’s no educational value and it’s not contingency

Against: Berriault: they asked for Chicago and $200 for an end of the year event but both were denied. They requested to trips in the base budget but they were denied for lack of information. Now they have all the quotes. This trip fits the club’s objective. They want to take 9 people for three days to say no because it was denied before isn’t a good enough reason

POI Choplick to Truex: so they would be taking 8 members and a faculty member

Truex: yes, 9 total

POI Hubbard to Mills: was this something denied in the base budget

Mill: I believe so but you would have to double check on collegiatelink

For: Mills: we didn’t go over their request because they just recently presented. Year after year it is denied because it is unreasonable and we rarely approve trips of this nature. It’s too much money and they’ve been there in the past

POI Kitchener: are we allowed to fund faculty members

Bergenn: it’s not against our By-Laws

Call to previous question (Truex, Radden)

Vote: 16Y 6N 1A
Debate is Ended

Original Motion

Vote: 15Y (Braun, Anderson, Choplick, Fallonca, Fellows, Kitchener, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Ott, Pancak, Truex, Zohlman) 6N (Berriault, Fernandez, Fox, Khan, Mgushi, Sonet) 4A (Baldassario, Gomez, Kirk, Narcisse)

Motion Passes

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-088 (Truex, Manento)

For: Truex: Natural Helpers came to us about a co-sponsorship which we do with them every year for the Alcohol Awareness event. It’s a good event with a lot of participation and I think it’s a good event to invest in

Against: Mills: I don’t agree with why this was passed, just because we’ve done something in the past doesn’t mean we should continue to do it though I’m not against the event

For: Berriault: every year Natural Helpers does this they want money for food for the BBQ and t-shirts it may seem like a lot but it’s for a good cause

Poi Baldassario: has Natural Helpers worked towards making this funded by the organization

Bergenn: I don’t believe it was ever brought up

Vote: 15Y (Anderson, Berriault, Choplick, Fallonca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Kirk, Kitchener, Manento, Marcelli, Narcisse, Pancak, Sonet, Truex, Zohlman) 5N (Baldassario, Braun, Lee, Mills, Ott) 1A (Germaine)

Motion Passes

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-090 (Berriault, Baldassario)

For: Berriault: soccer is a new organization with a new club budget for $500 they requested a large amount and the committee thought $1080 for refs for home games and $254 for needed equipment was fair

Against: Truex: this is a base budget new club or not it shouldn’t be supplemented through contingency the argument that it’s unforeseen because they are a new club is invalid

For: Mills: it is unforeseen they’re new so that means they didn’t exist last budget season so there is no way they could have foreseen this

Vote: 18Y (Braun, Anderson, Berriault, Choplick, Fallonca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Kirk, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Sonet, Zohlman) 1N (Truex) 2A (Baldassario, Mgushi)
Motion Passes

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-087 (Baldassario, Choplick)

For: Baldassario: they have money to build the moon buggy they just need money to get there and compete. They are also being supplemented by the engineering department so they’ve looked to other sources and this is good branding for the school and state because they are the only team from CT competing

Vote: 20Y (Braun, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kirk, Kitchener, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo, Testa, Truex, Zohlman)

Motion Passes

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-093 (Baldassario, Choplick)

For: Marcelli: this is straightforward and very clear that it had nothing to do with contingency

Vote: 18Y (Braun, Anderson, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fox, Germaine, Kitchener, Kirk, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Ott, Pancak, Truex, Zohlman) 2N (Baldassario, Fernandez) 2A (Narcisse, Sonet)

Motion Passes

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-094 (Marcelli, Ott)

For: Marcelli: again straightforward, not a contingency request

POI Baldassario: is this the Ebony Chorale Ensemble wants to do another show

Truex: they want more funding for it to make it bigger

Vote: 15Y (Braun, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Kitchener, Kirk, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Ott, Truex, Zohlman) 7N (Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Mgushi, Narcisse, Pancak, Sonet) 0A

Motion Passes

Motion to approve finance committee recommendation FC13-091 (Truex, Ott)

For: Truex: The Broadcast Journalists came to use for a co-sponsorship for a conference for 8 people. They’re not a club but part of a new major and we didn’t think this was appropriate; it’s more of a media board thing

Against: Lee: we just approved the Natural Helpers and last semester the musical both of which aren’t clubs so that’s not reason enough to deny.
For: Berriault: this is a social media conference and I don’t see what that has to do with broadcast journalism. This conference is for 8 people involved in an elections newscast to attend. They’re not a club and should be a media board concern. The Natural Helpers co-sponsorship benefits the entire campus but this is to use fees for a non-group to go to a conference in Las Vegas that isn’t open to the entire student body. This isn’t hypocritical to deny when it’s almost $7000 for just eight people

Against: Mills: we can’t argue that they’re not a club and they should be part of the media board because right now the fact is they’re not. It is our job to do good things and represent the student body and that is what they’d do, they’re even competing and are up for an award

For: Baldassario: this isn’t the best use of activity fees maybe if they can raise some of it but this is just too much money

POI Ott: are they a club

Bergenn: technically no

Against: Lee: this should be brought back to finance so we can analyze it more and get costs down

For: Marcelli: yes this is student driven and I can understand the Natural Helpers and Musical comparison but they are not contributing anything so how could this be seen as a co-sponsorship

POI Berriault to Lee: do you have an alternate plan you can propose to Senate

Lee: not right now

Against: Mills: I suggest you vote this down so we can rework the numbers like Alex and I wanted to and were working on. They are willing to pay $100-$400 each which significantly lowers the cost

For: Braun: this literally goes against our By-Laws. If you look at section 4-2, the Club Funding Section, Section L #3 funding can be available through co-sponsorship if this is open to the entire campus. For 8 people to go to this conference is literally against our By-Laws. I can understand wanting to give them money but not when it’s against our By-Laws because if we just break them what’s the point of having them

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Truex: would lunar exploration also fall under this

Bergenn: I’d have to look into it based on what was said

Vote: 18Y (Braun, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallonca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Germaine, Kitchener, Kirk, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Truex, Zohlman) 0N 2A (Mgushi, Narcisse)

Motion Passes
Open Floor:

Choplick: thank you to Chris Marcelli, the first senator to attend a Club Sports Board meeting. As for the Lunar Exploration Club it is open to the entire campus to join the club. But do we really know what co-sponsorship is? Talk to Liz or I so we can figure something out in internal affairs

Truex: it seems a lot of us have tunnel vision, we aren’t just a bank and there may be more important stuff on the agenda other than finance committee recommendations. When someone objects the consideration we don’t even get to hear point of views and everyone has a right to say what they’re thinking

Berriault: I don’t see us as a bank I see us as student leaders that are trying to help the campus be a better place for everyone. I want to help get the word out that what we do is important. The senate doesn’t have an image and a lot of people see us as people who argue about petty things but I was upset about the suspension of the rules because it went against the majority of Senate. Respect the majority outcome

Sonet: student life meeting today at 5:30p

Mgushi: I liked the idea of the rally but we failed to get our point across to the legislature. A group of people came in unrelated to us and represented messages unrelated to the ones we wanted to get across ones that weren’t our fight. We have a say and someone else coming in and telling CT who they are, what their message is isn’t doing anything for us. It’s unacceptable we need to do better

Bergenn: the idea of someone else organizing us? I’ve organized all of it. I haven’t slept for 6 weeks because I’ve been working on this. We couldn’t have done better because it was us. I do agree with the misrepresentation the view we wanted to portray wasn’t the only one but it was a public rally and they were students with something to say. Yes the message needs to be clear and I would never walk into the legislation and say “free tuition, stop war,” because it just wont happen but I’m not going to turn students away. The letter/opinion that I wrote will be passed to legislators and the figure that I came up with is going to try and become a secure figure. I started all this and yes we got help along the way but if you have an issue with anything blame me.

Berriault: there was only a handful of us making signs so we had to reuse some we needed help we need to work together

Truex: the lecture will be tomorrow with Rudy Giuliani so you should go to that followed by the Devils Den// Base Budgets are due next Wed at 5p members of the finance committee are going to be coming in and out of the Senate meeting to help with those

Motion to adjourn (Mills, Germaine)

Meeting is adjourned at 5:16pm

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.