Student Government Association Minutes from November 13, 2013

November 13, 2013 Attendance:

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

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

Motion to accept the minutes from November 06, 2013 (Christiano, Cassidy)

Passes Unanimously

Public Hearing: None

Student Affairs Report: Scott Hazan

SSI is going on please encourage your clubs to take it and if you haven’t please do we’d like to reach 20% by Dec. 2 and we’re only at 13%.

Scott Kazar: SALD now has an Instagram so please follow us on all social media our goal is 500 followers

Treasurer’s Report

1. If everything passes this week we will have $28,913 for contingency and we would have spent over $4000 and it’s only the second Monday of the month
2. For Use By Senate is hard to keep track of because a portion of it is for the committees
3. Reserves: $326,000
4. We have a co-sponsorship request coming up I will explain further in my finance report

Vice President’s Report

1. Liaison reflections are due by 11:59 tonight
2. I need your ID numbers for the retreat

Rodriguez: when do senators get their stipends

Anderson: Internal Affairs has a stipend review process and you will get an email letting you know you either are getting your stipend or you’re not. If you’re not you have a chance to appeal it but if you do get it it will be a little after Thanksgiving

President’s Report

1. LAX: There is a motion to put them on probation I want to make it clear in my opinion what happened is no worse than a club over spending which happens every year and when that does happy they get put on probation. I don’t want people to look negatively on LAX throughout the year, probation doesn’t mean to deny their further requests automatically

2. I have proposed two standing rules on the agenda which would be putting responsibility on the eboard and senate to say yes on behalf of using the SGA logo, there was some confusion at the beginning of the year with voter registration packets so that eliminates that confusion

3. I will be away at a conference this weekend, if I don’t answer you I’m not ignoring you

Committee Reports

Sonet: Student Life: thanks to everyone who helped with the coffee talk it went well // we are extending Competition for a Cause to Nov. 22 so please let your clubs know // if you agreed to be a volunteer please help! // scholarships are almost done

Ott: Public Affairs: conference applications are due Nov. 15 by 5p in SALD

Christiano: I passed around information on an info session with the Student Disabilities Services on Monday Nov. 18, if you’re interested in going please let me know

Sonet: we are collecting cans at the Cabaret Devil’s Den

Anderson: Internal Affairs: internal affairs will meet directly after this

Measho: what is on the agenda

Anderson: same thing as last week, the By-Law and Constitution change

Measho: regarding elections?

Anderson: partially
Mills: praise to Conner for handling audits/ the food for thought line item is no longer necessary/ we came to a chemistry compromise having the 9 members pay $150 out of pocket/ theatre unlimited has a line item for train tickets to NYC because they found cheaper show tickets/ men’s rugby is requesting $1500 for hotel rooms in NH after qualifying for regionals/ college democrats is requesting a co-sponsorship of $80 for refreshments for their debate with the college republicans/ LAX we are recommending they be put on probations we are hearing two different things but I spoke with Sue and they told her something different

Sonet: did Jeremy Truex present for rugby

Mills: no but he was there

**Unfinished Business: None**

**New Business:**

**Motion to approve the use of Student Activity fee money for SGA scholarships (Berriault, Gregonis)**

For: Berriault: we've been waiting a long time for this debate and I am in full support of this. We are not here to just fund for organizations and events we have to provide a service for the students as well and scholarships do that. So many students still ask about them even in the summer and they are still looking to apply. We too often think about the financial cost we need to think about the students, everyone loves them

POI Hudobenko to Sonet: will we still have scholarships without student activity fees

Sonet: yes we still have the endowment

**Motion to limit debate to five minutes (Kitchener, Mills)**

Vote: 30Y 0N 1A (Sonet)

**Motion Passes**

POI Measho to Mills: in the past how were they funded

Mills: I can only speak with how long I've been here, the first year a large amount went to scholarships and we always have the endowment, last year Student Life set a total amount not to exceed $20,000 and whatever wasn’t covered by the endowment we supplemented

Against: Kitchener: I don't think student activity fees (SAF) should be used to fund scholarships, I don't think a fee I pay to go to events should be used, scholarships should
not use SAF to pay for someone else’s education when they are not vetted properly, I know I sound selfish but I would rather this money go to sending more people on conferences

POI Measho to Mills: how was it funded in the past

Mills: a portion of the endowment, the interest and allocated SAF, Last year we passed a by-law that 20% of our reserves at the end of the year not to exceed $20,000 would go to the endowment so eventually the interest would pay for the scholarships totally

For: Hubbard: there are roughly 103 clubs on campus that e fund but it is unrealistic to suggest all students are part of those clubs, we are willing to fund $4000 for 9 members of a club to go to a conference which benefits them and maybe their club but not the student body, look at the clubs who are selective in nature the sports clubs or the A Cappella Society you can be in them but only in a limited role but we fund them. Cant wrap my mind around speaking on behalf of the student body when we don't know what they want, make this decision based on what you would do. I personally would be okay with a portion of my $44 going to scholarships, yes it’s a selective process that is heavy in writing but that can be reformed and anyone is allowed to apply

Against: Rodriguez: I think it's our responsibility to protect the interest of the student body and using SAF to help with scholarships wouldn’t be doing that we have the endowment to fund them

POI Perry: how would the interest pay for itself with rates fluctuating

Choplick: the more money in the endowment the more money we would always get back

For: Gregonis: we do use SAF to support and sustain clubs but that's not all we do, all full time undergrads are eligible to apply

POI Measho to Mills: which students pay SAF

Mills: full time undergrads

POI Cassidy to Mills: if not funded with SAF will the amount be cut

Mills: if they’re not funded they would only have the endowment which would be around $7500 and a $12500 cut

Against: Fernandez: I understand it’s necessary to talk bout this year after year but our organizations grow and we continue to debate financial responsibility while cutting these clubs, I don’t feel comfortable giving money to an individual for next year with what I paid this year, I’m a senior I won’t be hear next year, adding SAF to scholarships is wrong

POI Germaine: how much time is left to debate?
Choplick: its five minutes per speech

For: Hubbard: we spent $20k on Center Stage under the idea that funding them now will benefit them in the future we do the same for new clubs and base budgets, we always make the argument we have the money why not just do it, but why void that argument now?

POI Swan: is the money from SAF this year used for next year's base budget

Choplick: no we estimate the amount in the account for next year

Against: Lee: said we can only vote based on personal preference I'm okay with using the fees I pay but I'm not okay with the concept of using SAF, it says it right in the title, activities. Scholarships are not an activity they only go directly to one person everything else affects multiple members and students and the way they are picked writing gives certain students the upper hand

For: Mills: the reserves are money from previous years that we use and if you only think we're here to cut budgets you're wrong. Scholarships help in assisting students

Point of order: Fernandez: not germane to the motion

Not well taken

For: Mills: I survived Hartford public schools and only ever received one scholarship so I may not agree with this but I know our budget and we can afford this

POI Cassidy to Sonet: any stipulations how the money gets used

Sonet: no

POI Hubbard to Sonet: amount of scholarships given out in the past year

Sonet: under 20

POI Germaine to Sonet: about how many apply

Sonet: under 200

POI Fernandez: total allocated

Point of Order: Measho: not talking about the amount

Not well taken

Choplick: about $12,500 in SAF

POI Berriault to Sonet: in order to apply is it just an essay
Sonet: we’ve made some changes so we have that, we have a photo one and one that is based on proposals made to improve the school

POI Perry: how many years until interest is fully self-funding

Choplick: you would need about $660,000 in the endowment and we have $367,000 so about 15 years

POI Sonet: would student life still be able to make a donation at the end of the year

Choplick: yes any one can motion to add money at any point with the majority of the vote

Against: Rongey: 142 students’ full SAF would be going to fund under 20 scholarships

For: Measho: some people aren’t in clubs this allows them to make use of their SAF anyway

Vote: 18Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, DiBacco, Fallanca, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Kane, Khan, Measho, Moody, Ott, Testa) 11N (Cahill, Cassidy, Fernandez, Kayan, Kitchener, Lee, Moreno, Perry, Rodriguez, Rongey, Swan) 6A (Christiano, Fox, Fung, Hudobenko, Pietrycha, Sonet)

**Motion Passes**  

**Motion to Allocate Men Rugby $1,213.17 for Accommodations from SG9016 (Berriault, Pietrycha)**

For: Berriault: they qualified for the regional tournament for the first time in almost a decade and are now requesting money for seven rooms in Concord for 24 people we went with the lowest priced room

Vote: 33Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Kane, Kayan, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Moreno, Ott, Perry, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Rongey, Sonet, Testa) 1N (Hudobenko) 0A

**Motion Passes**  

**Motion to approve Theatre Unlimited Line-item with $341 moving from Entertainment to Travel (Fallanca, Pietrycha)**

For: Fallanca: theatre unlimited found a cheaper show price ticket and they want to move the rest to train travel

Vote: 32Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kane, Kayan,
Motion Passes

Motion to place Men Lacrosse on Probation for the duration of the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year
(Mills, Khan)

For: Mills: it’s the view of the committee that LAX acted inappropriately and putting them on probation would require that they sit with us and we let them know what they did was wrong and if it happens again their accounts will be frozen

POI Sonet to Mills: is what they did grounds for probation

Mills: nothing in the by-laws but that’s the view of the committee

POI Measho to Mills: would the club be allowed to ask for more funds

Mills: the only thing that changes on probation is if they screw up again but they can continue to ask for funds

Against: Christiano: I don’t think they should go on probation for this it was a miscommunication maybe we should just meet with them and explain how things work

For: Hubbard: the members told SALD that they were having two separate events, the second event was never planned whether they intentionally lied or not, probation doesn’t restrict them it just assures the eboard meets with us and understands not to do it again

Against: Measho: I don’t have enough info to comfortably put them on probation

POI Khan to Mills: are you expecting any more info

Mills: no if they get put on probation I will meet with them but I talked with Sue and emailed them

For: Berriault: probation doesn’t mean punishment they’ll just meet with Kory who will help them do things right

Point of Order: Hubbard: too much noise

Well Taken

Berriault: this isn’t to assign blame it was a miscommunication this just helps them

POI Christiano: where is probation defined

Choplick: By-Laws 4-3
Appeal the decision of the chair (Lee, Fox)

Lee: not comfortable with voting be changed to majority unless that’s what senate wants

Measho POI: Is it raise of hands with 2/3 now

Choplick: yes, I did majority because that what I thought everyone would be comfortable with but if you want the majority vote, awesome

Vote: 2Y 18N 2A (Gregonis, Mills)

Appeal Passes

Vote: 20Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Cahill, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Kane, Lee, Moody, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sonet, Testa) 4N (Christiano, Germaine, Measho, Moreno) 0A

Motion Passes

Motion to approve Food for Though Line-Item with $100 moving from books to promotion (Fallanca, Berriault)

For: Fallanca: want to move money from books to movie tickets that correlate with the book they are reading, but I would like to withdraw my motion

Berriault: not comfortable with that until I know the reason

Against: Mills: the president of the club ask the motion be withdrawn because they did not have the amount of money in their base budget that they thought

Fallanca: I withdraw my motion

Motion withdrawn

Motion to approve College Democrats Co-Sponsorship with $80 going towards refreshments for their Debate from SG9010 (Mills, Alsaqri)

For: Mills: college democrats wants to co-sponsor, with us paying for refreshments that will be at their debate next week with the college republicans

Against: Testa: I don’t like funding food if it doesn’t match their mission statement

For: Hubbard: $80 Is so trivial and we don’t get a lot of co-sponsorships so we should pass this, it’s a good event

Against: Fox: shouldn’t just pass because it’s a co-sponsorship the club can line item for this we shouldn’t do this just because it’s political
POI Measho to Mills: is the co-sponsorship with the SGA or two clubs

Mills: we would be paying $80 for refreshments for a debate between the college republicans and democrats

For: Ott: I don’t care how you vote but this should be based on merit not the club

Against: Mills: Sen. Testa changed my mind yes we can co-sponsorship but we have to decide if we should, it’s a trivial amount and I don’t see the need to fund it, usually when we co-sponsor it’s a larger amount of money

For: Sonet: yes I agree with these points but I support this this is a good thing for senate to do and endorse and we constantly say don’t look at the amount look at the merit and I think that’s what we need to do here

Vote: 14Y (Alsaqi, Berriault, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Lee, Measho, Moody, Ott, Sonet, Testa) 7N (Anderson, Mills, Cahill, Fox, Kane, Pietrycha, Testa) 3A (Bosworth, Moreno, Rodriguez)

Motion Passes

Motion to create a standing rule such that any use of the SGA logo or SGA name in advertisement must be approved by a member of the SGA Executive Board, or by a majority vote of the Senate. (Mills, Pietrycha)

Chair is passed to VP Anderson

For: Mills: this is a very useful standing rule and allows our name and logo not to go on things unless it’s agreed on

POI Measho to Choplick: does this effect previous motions

Choplick: no in the future only

POI Sonet to Choplick: only one member of the eboard?

Choplick: the way it’s written yes but I would be open to an amendment

Motion to amend to strike out “a member” and insert “2/3” (Christiano, Fox)

For: Christiano: better if the majority of the eboard had to approve it

POI DiBacco: isn’t 2/3 just the majority

Anderson: yes
Against: Ott: what happens when you have something urgent? We shouldn’t have to wait if we want to put the name of the SGA or logo on something

POI Measho to Choplick: there is no clarification of how it would be approved

For: Fox: yes a committee needs to do things quickly but it should never be that urgent where you can’t wait a day, 2/3 approval makes it less shady

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Berriault to Choplick:

Anderson: you can’t do that it has to go to the current chair

Berriault: if the amendment passes wouldn’t they have to be in an eboard meeting, that’s what executive board means

Anderson: no it wouldn’t have to be in one of our meetings

Measho: Motion to amend and insert after approved “in writing”

No second

POI Sonet: was the amendment including 2/3 and the members or just one

Anderson: 2/3

Against: Testa: it’s frustrating if something has to be done quickly especially since it’s our committee’s job to promote the SGA

For: Sonet: I understand from the committee perspective maybe something can be added to include that

POI Mills to Choplick: anything already approved, is that covered already

Choplick: anything the eboard funded or senate approved is okay

Against: Berriault: if you read our constitution and by-laws executive board is when they are in a meeting, it should be changed to officers

POI Mills to Choplick: your interpretation of executive board

Choplick: the three members being president, vice president and treasurer, what Sen. Berriault is speaking to is the executive board meeting

Sonet: this is why we need a Supreme Court of Internal Affairs

Measho: must approve 2/3
Anderson: is that a POI
Measho: no
Germaine: point of order: not germane
Not well taken
Against: Measho: ask each person to use the SGA Logo? We still don’t know how it would be approved

Call to previous question (Germaine, Cahill)
Vote: 18Y 3N 0A

Debate is ended
Amendment Vote: 7Y 12N 1A (Cahill)

Amendment fails

Original Motion
Ott: point of order: no comments in voting
Well taken
POI Berriault to Choplick: it the motion passes does it apply to everyone or just senate
Choplick: everyone
POI Berriault to Choplick: is this retroactive
Choplick: no just looking to future things
POI Testa to Choplick: what happens if we break the rule
Choplick: no punishment is outlined
POI Fox: so nothing happens if we don’t follow this
Anderson: no
POI Measho to Choplick: clear understanding of approval?
Choplick: approval is not defined
Vote: 16Y 1N 3A (Rodriguez, Fox, Sonet)
Motion Passes

Motion to create a standing rule such that any use of any committee name or logo in advertisement or communication must be approved by the Chair or Co-Chair of the committee, or by a majority vote of that committee. (Choplick, Mills)

For: Choplick: same thing we just passed on a smaller scale and we put things in the by-laws and constitution without punishment all the time, like the dress code, they are guidelines for running our senate

Vote: 19Y 0N 2A (Fox, Rongey)

Chair is passed back to President Choplick

Motion to Allocate the Chemistry Club $3,748 for Travel for their Conference from SG9016 (Berriault, Pietrycha)

Berriault passes on his chance to speak

Point of Order: Ott: once a vote is starts you cannot speak

Well taken

Vote: 12Y (Berriault, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Measho, Ott, Rodriguez, Testa) 5N (Mills, Fox, Kane, Lee, Rongey) 6A (Anderson, Alsaqri, Cahill, Moody, Pietrycha, Sonet)

Choplick: where was the debate

Measho: I didn’t get a chance to ask my question

Choplick: I didn’t see you raise a hand and I looked around

Open Floor:

Mills: please if you are recommending a finance recommendation speak on it’s behalf because it’s obvious not everyone pays attention to my report

Fox: so if you don’t speak for it it immediately goes to against

Choplick: yes that’s procedure
Berriault: everything you need to know is in the agenda and in the minutes I didn’t think it necessary to restate the reasons. Don’t blame me for what happened you could still ask questions/ Speaking as a club president now I never thought I would hear the argument that the request isn’t for enough money Sodexo is expensive and I tried to do the SGA a favor and you tried to deny it

Sonet point of order:

Not well taken

Berriault: if you voted for that you were playing favorites to the organization? I abstained from all of them and have my 60 club members to keep in mind

Lee: you can always vote to reconsider chemistry if you voted yes for it

Sonet: I agree with reading the minutes but there is a human factor still/ scholarships wasn’t too painful come to the meeting If you want to help

Choplick: to be recognized raise your hand, stand up or say Mr. Chair// #CCSULockdown is going on now in Founders Hall regarding Nov. 4

Mills: I apologize to Sen. Berriault I wasn’t attacking or blaming him but please as a favor speak on the motions

Christiano: we are trying to get a handicapped door into the SGA Office and I’ve attached the letter I’m sending if you have any questions please ask me

Anderson: IA is happening ASAP after this meeting

Gomez: next week the student center is having a blood drive

Berriault: who is the letter going to

Christiano: Director of the Student Center

Motion to adjourn (Pietrycha, Sonet)

Meeting is adjourned at 5:30p

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.