Student Government Association Minutes from November 28, 2012

November 28, 2012

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

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

Motion to approve minutes from November 14 & 19, 2012 (Mills, Marcelli)

**Passes Unanimously**

**Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Tordenti: We’re waiting to hear from the Governor’s office about the budget cuts, when and how much money will be cut. We’ll keep you updated when we get more information.

Mgushi: do you have details of what’s being cut

Dr. Tordenti: not at this moment, but the Executive board is prepared and ready for the cuts

Ott: are these cuts what the general announcement was referring to

Dr. Tordenti: yes

**Public Hearing:** None

**President’s Report**

The tentative date for the winter retreat is Jan. 25-27, which is after the spring semester begins.

I tried to set a system up with Centix for the Nightlife shuttle, but they wanted the okay from Dr. Tordenti, but it has to go through the special assistant to the President, which happens to be the University lawyer. She wants to check into some things before signing off on anything so the shuttle won’t happen this semester. I’m frustrated with the decision but I understand why it’s being made.
Radden: is this all just for this semester

Bergenn: they want to look through everything and talk to some people so they just need time. If they okay it after that then we move on to next semester

Mgushi: did you foresee this happening

Bergenn: I spoke with everyone but never anticipated this road block

Dr. Tordenti: we should have run this all by the attorney to begin with but we didn’t. She just wants to explore the subject more. The SGA cant go into a contract without the university approval, so I have asked Scott Hazan not to sign off on anything until we get some clarification.

Narcisse: is there no resolution?

Dr. Tordenti: we’re hoping for one, but it’s best to wait to get advice from the council

Towler: how could we be more exposed?

Dr. Tordenti: this is about management risks and the best thing to do is slow down and see how to make it happen for next semester

Bergenn: this is frustrating but I understand the situation

**Vice President Report**

The Internal Affairs committee is meeting Friday to discuss stipends, if the decision is made where you do not get your stipend you will get an email with the information about your option to appeal

Sonet: is there an updated list with our information

Braun: I’ll email a list out tonight

Narcisse: what is the soonest we will receive our stipends

Braun: it depends on Rosario but you should get them this semester. You can either pick it up or it will get mailed to you

Towler: what about direct deposit

Braun: if you have direct deposit then it will go right into your account

Towler: what is the date of the last meeting we had

Braun: Nov. 19

Towler: does that count
Braun: yes

**Treasurer’s Report**

I apologize that we couldn’t meet this past Monday but we did meet the Monday before.

We received $85,000 from a revenue account that was just found so it was put back into account SG90101, which bumps our reserves to about $277,000.

We got a line item from ASME to move $75 from travel to memberships to be part of a larger chapter so I encourage someone to make the motion to approve this in open floor.

Braun: why aren’t we requiring them to provide a quote like we did with YSA

Alaimo: we can ask them to come back with a quote

Mgushi: can you elaborate on the $85,000

Alaimo: there was a revenue account that was supposed to go back to the SGA but never did, so it’s now coming back

Scott Hazan: Each club has two accounts, an SG account and an SR account. The revenue goes into the SR account and SA/LD reviews it to determine actual revenue at the end of the year and we thought the extra money was going back to the SGA but it’s been sitting in an account so now we’re giving it back

Ott: for the line item, did they just not need that money for travel anymore?

Alaimo: I can’t answer that

Baldassario: did they provide quotes during the base budget process

Alaimo: I can look and find out for you

Bergenn: Nick and I spoke about the musical and because finance was cancelled this week we agreed if the finance motion was brought up today we would support that

Alaimo: feel free to look through last week’s minutes

**Committee Reports**

Sonet: Competition for a Cause was a huge success. Even though CCSU lost we managed to collect 3,500 items, with CCSU collecting about 1500 of them in a little under two weeks. We also managed to help keep the Spanish speaking center open through the holiday season. The food was weighed and in total close to a ton of food was collected.
Kitchener: the Coffee Talk is scheduled for next Wednesday in the Student Center lobby so if there are any surveys you want filled out give them to me

Radden: NCSL applications are due Monday by 5p in the office. For the door decorating contest we’re doing a Murder Mystery theme so send us a picture of yourself or else we’re going to have to go on Facebook and pick one. We’re decorating the door 4p on Sunday

Baldassario: I’m working on the idea of getting a white board either outside our office or downstairs where we can post questions and students can write responses

Marcelli: the Financial Planning Seminar was successful and we’re thinking about turning it into a series so if anyone wants to help with that let Sen. Narcisse know. We’re still working on the library hours

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

Move to approve Finance Committee recommendation FC13-048 (Mills, Marcelli)

For: Mills: the Outing Club applied for a co-sponsorship for their 3day ski trip which they’re putting on with Ski and Snowboarding and RECentral and CAN, it was successful last year but they are trying to wean themselves off this event

Vote: 28Y (Anderson, Baldassario, Choplick, Dattilo, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Khan, Kirk, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Rodriguez, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo, Testa, Towler Zohlman) 1N (Truex) 6A (Alaimo, Braun, Baldassario, Kitchener, Lee, Radden)

**Motion Passes**

SG13-065

**Open Floor**

Motion to allocate $13,532 for the Spring Musical from account SG9010 (Berriault, Gomez)

For: Berriault: I like to think towards the future, but we need to think about this year first and worry about next year later. It’s good to support the arts. We just found out about an extra $85,000 and we were going to give them money anyway so lets give the this and let finance deliberate about the future.

Motion to amend adding at the end, “Contingent on starting to become a recognized club” (Alaimo, Towler)
For: Alaimo: my big concern is the future. This makes it an even playing field, they get two accounts, the SG account and the revenue account. This is not a co-sponsorship every year so this should be an organization we give funds to and it should come out of the base budget process. We can work with them and they never ruled out becoming a club, if we give them money with no future plan how can we enforce it? It has to come with the motion that’s the only way to do it

Against: Mills: I don’t think right now is the time for them to become a club, I want them to be club but not right now. If we want them to become a club it should be left to finance committee

POI Dattilo: do we have to change account numbers with this amendment

Bergenn: no

POI Narcisse: can we reject this amount or give a lower amount

Bergenn: this is contingent on them starting to become a club, this has no effect on this year’s spring musical, it just says they need to start the process

For: Ott: This will just come back to senate anyway so we should vote and this makes them on par with everyone else

Against: Berriault: the constitution doesn’t give us this power to restrict someone like this. If we give them this money and they don’t become a club then what are our options? I don’t see where the senate gets the power to do this and we shouldn’t have to force someone to do something if they already want to do it

POI Sonet: so if they say no to becoming a club then they get no money and what happens if someone else says no to them becoming a club

Bergenn: if they say no then they get no money but if they are shot down by someone else then they still started the process and will still get it.

For: Towler: everything has to go through a process and they shouldn’t be an exception, it’s not fair

Against: Lee: I just don’t like the wording of this amendment, it’s not specific enough and doesn’t allow for a true judgment of what starting is

POI Kitchener: so they have to start the process before getting the money

Bergenn: yes

POI Towler: how much money did they initially ask for and how much was it for the band

Bergenn: $23,100 and the band was $3,000
For: Alaimo: we have to have them start with the end goal of becoming a club by base budget season, this won’t hurt them and will put them on the right track. We can’t force them to do anything but if they want to play the game then they have to play by our rules. I’d be fine with them getting any amount of money as long as they start the process and I don’t want to dictate to future senates what they have to do

Szabo: What’s the minimum requirement to getting started?

Alaimo: I think that should be left for the finance committee to decide

Rodriguez: does finance have the say to do that?

Alaimo: I just want to have a common end goal to get them to base budgets

Dattilo: finance would have the say of whether or not they got started?

Alaimo: right

Narcisse: would this automatically approve what they request

Alaimo: no

Fallanca: what are the repercussions if we gave them the money and they didn’t become a club?

Alaimo: all organizations go through a process and I just want them to go through the same process

Dattilo: what happens if they don’t try and become a club?

Alaimo: the money would be voided-but starting the process if vague enough

Against: Mills: finance discussed this and agreed its best to focus on a number now and worry about the future later, we should set an amount and have this amendment should be its own motion

For: Truex: we do have a set amount in the motion, this kills two birds with one stone

Call to question (Baldassario, Mills)

Vote: 23Y 10N 1A

Debate ended

Amendment Vote: 23Y 13N 0A

Amendment passes
Original Motion: Motion to allocate $13,532 for the Spring Musical from account SG9010 contingent on starting to become a recognized club.

Move to amend the motion to stipulate the money not be used for lighting, gel and gobos, microphones, batteries, special effects, haze fluid and piano tuning (Mills, Truex)

Chair is passed to Vice President Braun

For: Mills: we discussed this in finance and had a number and that number was decided by cutting a few things which the school should already have or provide

Against: Bergenn: I have a problem dictating what the clubs can spend money on, letting them have the freeist use of the money allows the money to be used in the best possible way. Unless against the rules we should dictate like this

For: Baldassario: this is fair all we are saying to do is use the resources we have at school. This makes sense and is more efficiently using the money

Poi Kitchener: was the number in the motion taking into account these deductions

Braun: I don’t know

POI Sonet: does the theater department have to lend them their equipment

Braun: I don’t know I would ask finance

Against: Rodriguez: the equipment is for basic use we’re just denying the little things now

For: Radden: they also asked for this last year so it doesn’t make sense for them to ask for the same things every year they have to learn to reuse and utilize the resources they already have

Against: Berriault: it’s not right to assume their needs. We’ve cut their budget so let them decide, we shouldn’t dictate their needs

For: Choplick: if we’re going to treat them like a club we need to treat them as one all the way across the board

Call to previous question (Truex, Towler)

Vote: 18Y 13N 1A

Debate continues

Against: Testa: I know they are asking for mics because the way the show is set up every person needs to be wearing one and that’s about 18 of them

POI Sonet: do they rent or purchase the mics
Braun: I can’t answer that

Poi Manento: to Mills: why do you want to cut special effects?
Mills: we had a set number contingent on what we cut
For: Dattilo: by selecting specific items this number is no longer arbitrary
Against: Narcisse: it’s not the SGA responsibility to fund the whole thing
Point of Order-Hubbard-Not germane to the motion
Well taken

POI Towler: how much are the mics
Braun: $3000

Amendment Vote: 7Y 20N 3A
Amendment fails

Original Motion: Motion to allocate $13,532 for the Spring Musical from account SG9010 contingent on starting to become a recognized club.

Call to previous question (Berriault, Towler)
Vote: 15Y 16N 0A
Debate continues

Against: Mgushi: if they wanted to become a club it is something they should have done before. Now we’d give money to something with no e-board, no advisor, a just a department, a department that doesn’t even fully back them up. We shouldn’t keep approving them just because that’s what we’ve done in the past. If we deny this it’s not our fault if they can’t find other ways to get the money
For: Truex: give them the money and have them go through the right process to get the ball rolling

POI Mills to Berriault: is this number an arbitrary number, if not how did you get it?
Berriault: I’m using the first amount finance recommended
POI Marcelli: Senate made it clear they weren’t happy with that number which is why finance went back and lowered it, so why not use that number
Berriault: it’s the number finance originally came up with so it’s the number I used
POI Sonet: is the $500 new club budget in the by-laws or a standing rule

Braun: a standing rule for this year

Against: Narcisse: people always seem to get a third of what they request anyway so that shouldn’t change

POI Bergenn: are you aware of any other clubs who get faculty with faculty leave time

Braun: not that I’m aware of

Call to Question: (Towler, Radden)

Vote: 19Y 9N 1A

Debate is ended

Original Motion:

Vote: 15Y (Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Fallanca, Fellows, Fung, Gomez, Kirk, Ott, Radden, Rodriguez, Szabo, Testa, Towler Truex) 14N (Choplick, Fernandez, Hubbard, Kitchener, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Zohlman) 2A (Bergenn, Dattilo)

Motion Passes

SG13-066

Move to approve the ASME line item request (Baldassario, Mills)

For: Baldassario: this is a decent, straight forward request, they’re moving money from travel to memberships which is good and they already have the money with a better eboard.

Against: Kitchener: they should have a quote before we vote to be consistent

For: Mills: YSA wanted a huge conference, membership fees are different no one gives us quotes for that in base budget season, they wrote what the fees were, this is simple

Vote: 26Y (Braun, Treasurer Alaimo, Baldassario, Berriault, Dattilo, Fallanca, Fellows, Fernandez, Fung, Gomez, Hubbard, Lee, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo, Testa, Towler, Zohlman) 4N (Choplick, Kitchener, Rodriguez, Truex) 0A

Motion passes

SG13-067

Move to excuse Senator Fung from the Nov. 19 meeting (Marcelli, Fung)

For: Marcelli: she’ll get removed from Senate if she doesn’t get excused and there was a misunderstanding about this meeting being required
POI Choplick to Fung: why did you tweet about skipping class on that day then?

Fung: I had class, my internship then I had to baby sit

Vote: 21Y 5N 4A

Motion Passes

Berriault: next spring memorial will be open until 7p on Fridays/ Community Central are organizing a toy drive through Dec. 11 and toys can be collected in Willard 112. Any ideas you have that you would like me to discuss on the policy committee let me know

Truex: In regards to co-sponsorships: when we give money to clubs for a co-sponsorship that’s like a contingency and I don’t like when clubs ask for co-sponsorship money without using any of their own money and it’s something we should look into

Braun: I asked Nick what to do and did it exactly the way he explained it some maybe there needs to be a universal understanding

Bergenn: right now it is loosely described in the by-laws so it’s something internal affairs will have to look into next semester

Motion to excuse Sen. Towler from the Nov. 19 meeting (Narcisse, Marcelli)

For: Narcisse: she was home sick with a fever

POI Braun: did Sen. Towler approach you before or after the meeting

Bergenn: not to my knowledge

Against: Dattilo: I told Eric I was sick but didn’t ask for an excusal so I don’t think this is appropriate

For: Towler: if I had known it was required I would have come

Vote: 16Y 7N 6A

Motion passes

Motion to excuse Sen. Lopez from the Nov. 19 meeting (Rodriguez, Mills)

For: Rodriguez: She had an LSAT class she had already paid for and she needed to review to take the LSATS on Saturday

POI Braun: did she approach you before or after the meeting

Bergenn: not to my knowledge
Lopez: I didn’t know it was mandatory

Point of Order: Braun: we’re on points against

Well taken

Vote: 20Y 2N 4A

Motion passes

Bergenn: I heard the excuse that you didn’t know it was mandatory, but those rules are in our by-laws and it is our job to know them

Radden: I’m running a program through Dec. 15 called Holiday Heroes where we donate toys to two children’s hospitals; we’re also bringing back Humans vs. Zombies

Motion to excuse Sen. Dattilo and Sen. Szabo from the Nov. 19 meeting (Anderson, Towler)

For: Anderson: it was last minute and everyone else was excused

Against: Braun: everyone but Sen. Fung could have kept the absence, we only have one meeting left so it wouldn’t have mattered. I vote no for everyone if they didn’t tell one of the eboard members before or after the meeting. President Bergenn explained this was being counted as a regular meeting so all of these excusals are absurd

For Dattilo: I don’t care either way but the email gave the impression that you would only be excused if you had work and it also said to go to Senate if you wanted to be excused

Against: Berriault: we have to adhere to the by-laws if we want our stipends and it’s not fair to spend time with excusals for people who aren’t carrying through on responsibilities

POI Truex: how many unexcused absences can you have

Bergenn: one unexcused puts you on probation; two has you removed from senate

Vote: 17Y 4N 6A

Motion passes

Sonet: I have a poster to email out with the Community Central toy drive, so please post it if you can and we should all help with Legairre’s program too

Motion to adjourn (Truex, Manento)

Vote: 13Y 10N 4A

Meeting adjourned at 5:20p
Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.