Student Government Association Minutes from October 10, 2012

October 10, 2012

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

Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m. by President Bergenn.

Motion to approve minutes from October 3, 2012 Meeting. (Mills, Ott)

Motion Passes Unanimously

Student Affairs Report

Dr. Tordenti said the Board of Regents Finance Committee approved the funds for the new CCSU residence hall. The request will now go to the full Board of Regents where it’s expecting to pass. The groundbreaking will be in January and it is expected to be officially open for the Fall 2014 semester.

Public Hearing

None

President’s Report

The Faculty Senate Committee positions are filling up. And at Faculty Senate Dr. Mulrooney addressed the Senate and gave a speech saying he realizes the University is a business and its students are the customers and the faculty should focus on pleasing the customers. He also recommended giving students their midterm grades.

Celeste Roche went to a meeting last Tuesday with the business owners of New Britain as well as some landlords. At the meeting they discussed putting together a rally to stand up against the new ordinances. President Bergenn feels there are other ways to go about that and the Senate agreed.
Shuttle Survey: There were a lot of good responses to the survey. There were 588 responses with 7 questions and over 130 additional comments. All the information will be on the SGA site. The survey showed most people would only be willing to pay up to $5 but would prefer free and wouldn’t use it if it cost $10. Results showed that Thursday, Friday and Saturday are the most in demand days while Downtown Hartford, West Hartford and the Berlin Turnpike are the most popular spots.

Per day with the Dattco estimate it would cost $525 for one bus that holds 46 people and $87.50 for a security guard, which comes to $612.50 a night, $1837.50 for three nights and $1225 for two nights.

Student Life and Finance Committee should look over the information and come back to Senate with recommendations.

It would be best to start off with a 6-week trial.

If it went really well we could break even, which would be good because we’re providing a valuable service.

There are still some more steps to work out before anything gets started.

Sen. Hubbard: Would it be $5 roundtrip?

Pres. Bergenn: Yes

Sen. Berrialut: If successful would we buy our own bus and have a student worker drive it like at UConn?

Pres. Bergenn: Haven’t thought of that.

Sen. Ott: Will this just make our current shuttle system more efficient?

Pres. Bergenn: No this is just for night life.

Sen. Towler: Can we expand the current service?

Pres. Bergenn: I spoke with Bashoo and the funding for that shuttle service is the hardest thing in his budget, but this has a different goal.

Sen. Towler: Have you considered extending the service and us covering the difference?

Pres. Bergenn: I haven’t spoken with him on that.

Sen. Manento: What happens if all the people who go on the first three buses want to come home on the last bus?
Pres. Bergenn: Things like that are still being worked out like paying in advance for a ticket for the last bus.

Sen. Dattilo: How do they feel about being charged $5 when they can just drive there?

Pres. Bergenn: Because of the trial we want to make it free and look into charging for the future.

Sen. Ott: Are you anticipating a drop off when it goes from free to $5?

Pres. Bergenn: I still want to wait to hear from the committee because there is so much to go over.

Sen. Dattilo: is it $525 to run every half hour or make multiple spots.

Pres. Bergenn: It’s based on a time period.

Sen. Dattilo: So it would run consistently in that block of time?

Pres. Bergenn: Yes.

Sen. Towler: Will there be a contract?

Pres. Bergenn: I would imagine so but I don’t know for the working model.

**Vice President’s Report**

None

**Treasurer’s Report**

There was a great turnout for Contingency and co-sponsorships. Not all of them are done but we do have four recommendations for you, which I encourage be passed. We will do more work at the next meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

Public Affairs:

Sen. Radden: Thursday night Devils Den will be a school spirit theme. We’ve bought a ton of supplies to make banners. If anyone wants to help please sign up. We’ll also be doing a minute to win it game. The Kizer mascot will be at pep rally but not devils den. We’re keeping an eye on the weather and if it goes south Thursday we’ll call pep rally to save the inflatables for another day.// The shirts are counted and separated by size so please don’t take them, it messes up the numbers.

Academic Affairs:
Sen. Marcelli: Sen. Khan and Lopez are meeting with the Director of Library services and Sen. Manento and I will be going to the assistant dean’s meeting.

Sen. Truex: There was a mix up with the Spanish contingency, I was put on as the seventh voting member but I wasn’t there, who was the seventh vote?

Treas. Alaimo: I voted to make a tie.

Internal Affairs:

Vice President Braun: On Sept. 28 we made changes to Sen. Berriault’s proposed amendment. We discussed appointing the person next in line in the polls, but decided that wasn’t a good option because they weren’t voted for a reason and we may only have just enough people running. We also discussed voting for the appointment to be made by roll call and decided it was a good idea for transparency.

We discussed stipends, but that won’t really be a problem until it passes the referendum vote.

Sen. Ott: Can you explain the minutes when it says appointments are always structured this way?

VP Braun: That’s how most governments do it.

Sen. Hubbard: Senate has integrity?

VP Braun: We were back and forth on whether or not the Senate has the integrity to make appointments.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

New Business

Move to approve Finance Committee Recomendation FC13-015. (Mills, Marcelli)

For: Sen. Mills: Line-item changes generally tend to be good. The marketing club talked Six Flags into coming here so they want to divide the budget for one trip to three other events.

Vote: 27Y (Braun, Alaimo, Senators Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Dattilo, Fellows, Fernandez, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Khan, Kitchener, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Rodriguez, Sonet, Towler, Truex, Zohlman) 0N 2A (Hubbard, Narcisse)
Move to approve Finance Committee recommendation FC13-016 (Mills, Kitchener)

For: Sen. Mills: In the minutes it says we denied it because it was too much like a base budget but we also denied it because when asked how their requests were unforeseen they said because of an e-board miscommunication, and we don’t go by that. Also, we felt the other requests were inappropriate.

POI: Sen. Narcisse: Did the organization have a budget?

Pres. Bergenn: Yes

Sen. Narcisse: so they want to do more events with this request?

Pres. Bergenn: Yes this is all on top of their base budget.

Vote: 20Y (Braun, Treasurer Alaimo, Senators Anderson, Berriault, Choplick, Dattilo, Fellows, Fung, Gomez, Kitchener, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mills, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Rodriguez, Truex, Zohlman) 2N (Fernandez, Germaine) 7A (Baldassario, Hubbard, Khan, Mgushi, Narcisse, Sonet, Towler)

Motion Passes SG13-033

Motion to approve Finance Committee recommendation FC13-017 (Baldassario, Marcelli)

For: Sen. Baldassario: This is a fair contingency, the team is expanding to include a women’s team and catering to both sexes is good. Plus, the CCSU name will be spread at volleyball tournaments.

Vote: 27Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Dattilo, Fellows, Fernandez, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Kitchener, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Rodriguez, Sonet, Towler, Truex, Zohlman) 0N 1A (Choplick)

Motion Passes SG13-034

Motion to approve Finance Committee Recommendation FC13-018. (Kitchener, Marcelli)

For: Sen. Kitchener: LASO put together a good contingency request and due to circumstances out of their control they can’t have their retreat where they planned to so they’re moving it to the student center for a more affordable option.

Vote: 23Y (Braun, Alaimo, Anderson, Berriault, Choplick, Fellows, Fernandez, Fung, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kitchener, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sonet, Towler, Truex, Zohlman) 3N (Baldassario, Dattilo, Germaine) 3A (Mgushi, Mills, Rodriguez)

Motion Passes SG13-035
Move to approve both Internal Affairs Recommendations. (Berriault, Mills)

For: Sen. Berriault: I had some doubts on this matter, but I am standing by my principles. This amendment is to be able to add to the constitution that if a Senator has to leave for any reason during the semester the President can appoint a new person who meets the requirements to then be 2/3 favored or disfavored by the Senate. Some may complain the amendment doesn’t go far enough but remember more content can be added through by-laws. This does not give the President excessive power, this just sets boundaries but the President should be able to nominate people.

This is vital to the SGA’s success, we need to have the proper amount of Senators.

Point of Order. (Mgushi): I can barely hear the speaker.

Well taken

Sen. Berriault: This isn’t about stipends, or excessive power. If the whole Senate had say it would be chaos, but if you had ideas you can talk to President Bergenn. I urge the Senators to postpone voting on this until next week once the new senators have been sworn in.

Move to postpone the discussion of the recommendation until next week’s meeting, Oct. 17. (Baldassario, Ott)

For: Baldassario: Next week we’ll swear in the senators so why not let them have a say.

POI Sen. Truex: When do the new senators get sworn in?

Pres. Bergenn: Next week.

Sen. Truex: So they’ll get sworn in and vote the same day?

Pres. Bergenn: Yes.

Vote: 18Y 7N 4A (Anderson, Narcisse, Towler, Zohlman)

Motion Passes

Open Floor

Sen. Radden: If anyone wants to help with Pep Rally Friday we’ll be meeting in the office at 4p.

Sen. Towler: Next week the Student Life budget will be proposed and in it is the Transfer Thursday event, everything for that is set so I hope it goes through.

Sen. Baldassario: Encourage everyone to vote on the final day and if you want to report any violations you have until Friday. Results will be posted Monday.
Scott Hazan: Pep Rally is Friday, the Homecoming game is Saturday come and support the team but be safe.

Pres. Bergenn: Whenever something is bought and in the office please send out an email so everyone knows where it is and where it’s supposed to go.

Sen. Mills: Our intermural soccer team is doing well!

Sen. Fernandez: My fraternity is doing our “Stuff the Freezer” event and collecting turkeys. We want to make it a multi-student organization event to make it a huge campus initiative. We want to match the club who collects the most turkeys and are thinking of awarding a gift card or something along those lines. Any help would be appreciated.

Sen. Marcelli: if anyone wants more information on the arguments against Sen. Berriault’s proposal come talk to me.

Motion to adjourn (Fernandez, Mills)

Meeting adjourned at 4:19p.

Respectfully submitted by University Assistant Brittany Burke.