Student Government Association Minutes from October 31, 2012

October 31, 2012

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

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

**Motion to approve minutes from October 24, 2012 Meeting. (Mills, Marcelli)**

*Motion Passes Unanimously*  
*SG13-053*

**Student Affairs Report:** No report

**Public Hearing**

Ian Mangione: IRC hopes the SGA has a safe Halloween.

**President’s Report**

If anyone has filled out the survey or wants to fill out the survey passed out two weeks ago talk to President Bergenn.

There were a few absences last week, which doesn’t usually happen so if you were marked absent but were here let Pres. Bergenn know. Also, Sen. Truex is excused from the meeting to deal with the aftermath of Sandy.

On Dec. 5, the day of our last meeting, the Board of Regents is holding a meeting and wants our meeting space. Pres. Bergenn is working with the Student Center to possibly get the Carlton Room.

When talking about the shuttle the chair will be passed to VP Braun.

The Student Giving Campaign starts Sunday so if anyone is free to do an event Sunday or Monday let him know.
**Vice President’s Report**

There are no office hours this week, per the by-laws if it is a shortened week there are no office hours.

The Liaison email was due Oct. 31, but will get pushed to Friday because of the storm.

If you haven’t sent your emails yet, make sure to delete the Transfer Thursdays since its been postponed indefinitely.

Send the emails to the club President and Treasurer so you know at least someone in the club received the information.

Inactive clubs have been deleted off collegiate link, if one of your clubs isn’t on there don’t worry about it because that means we don’t have up to date contact info for them.

**Treasurer’s Report**

There was no meeting Monday.

Baldassario: a club came in for a line-item change, but they need the money next week.

Alaimo: because of the short notice it has to go to an executive decision, which we don’t generally encourage but I’ll talk to you about it.

**Committee Reports:**

**Student Life:**

Sonet: Tim Malone has agreed to come to some Student Life meetings. Also, Sen. Berriault checked with Voter Registration Office, 409 students on campus are registered to vote at this address that’s about 20% of the campus community.

**Public Affairs:**

Baldassario: the COSGA application deadline is pushed back to Friday at 3p because of Sandy.

**Student Life:**

Sonet: On Nov. 7 from 9a-11a there will be a Coffee Talk, but I’ll send an email with more information.

**Internal Affairs:**

VP Braun: The Internal Affairs recommendations are just so we stay consistent with the By-Laws. There are inconsistencies with the way we’ve been passing recommendations so we changed it to match how we run now.
We added Section 3-1 (k) so other committees match how the Finance Committee recommendations are passed.

Pres. Bergenn passes the chair to VP Braun

**Unfinished Business**

**Finance Recommendation: Nightlife Shuttle**

*Motion to authorize the President of the SGA or his designee $15,000 for the night life shuttle program (Berriault)*

VP Braun: We’re back on points against the motion

Against: Baldassario: I’m not entirely opposed to this but I’m not comfortable with the motion language, I don’t like the designee concept and it’s budgeted $15,000 for 15 weeks, I thought we were going to do a trial period.

For: Bergenn: Finance came up with this recommendation because I went and spoke to them about this. We got a high response with the survey, about 6.5% of the students responded, and 83.5% of them said they would still ride if it costs $5 and 60% said they would at least ride once a week, so it is necessary to think about doing the entire spring semester. Why charge? It would cost about $30,000 if it was free. But, if we have buses on average half full each night charging $5 it would be about $14,000. That’s 19 people on a bus with money so spare just in case.

I don’t want to do this by myself, I can’t run this on my own but if an adjustment that needed to be made needed a Senate vote every single time that would cost us time and money. The designee was put in in case I wasn’t available, we can put in an amendment but I would want that designee to be a part of the e-board. Any concerns and we can build in stipulations, but the purpose was to make changes based on demand so it needs to be easily adjustable.

This really matters to me, I’ve never gotten so much feedback on something before like I have with this. People know about this and it is a good opportunity for us to listen and respond to the students. This cost 25% less than the musical that we’ve funded for the past decade and can possibly sell 6,000 tickets. Yes, it is a big allocation but it serves a large population, we’ve gotten great feedback already on this.

Berriault: Would the Community Engagement Task Force have anything to do with this?

Bergenn: they assisted me with the idea, but this is SGA sponsored so I think it should stay internal.

Rodriguez: Are we the only ones paying for this?
Bergenn: I’m not asking for funding from anyone else right now, but if it is successful it can be self-sustaining.

Marcelli: shouldn’t there be an account number in the motion?

Bergenn: do we have room in the for use by senate account?

Alaimo: we’d have to look over some of the accounts

Bergenn: we need to amend the motion, but I would prefer the money to come from For Use by Senate or our Reserves

Berriault: Can they use blue chips?

Point of Order: Baldassario: it was more than 10 minutes

VP Braun: I was timing it and they have 10 seconds

Not well taken

Berriault: can they use blue chips and what about guests?

Bergenn: they will be able to go through Centix and guests are $10

Motion to amend to strike out “the President of the SGA or his designee” and insert “an AD HOC committee appointed by Senators and ad after $15,000 add in “from account SG9010” (Dattilo, Baldassario)

Bergenn: can you clarify AD HOC committee more specifically?

For: Dattilo: I’d like a group of people rather than one person or a random few to make decisions, but I’m not uncomfortable with Pres. Bergenn heading the committee.

POI Berriault-Dattilo: would it make more sense to say consisting of members

Point of Order: Baldassario: not a question

Well taken

Dattilo: an AD HOC committee by Senate would already mean consisting of senators, I just don’t want one person designating who is in it

POI Szabo: would the amendment preclude Pres. Bergenn from being on the committee?

VP Braun: Senators can choose Pres. Bergenn if they wanted

Against: Marcelli: the original form of the motion is intended to avoid bureaucracy that this amendment will in-state for time and cost concerns. If a committee needs to be called every time
a change needs to be made it can cost more money, I understand the concern but I don’t feel this is the way to go.

POI Mgushi: SGA, SUBOG and IRC, they’re all involved so how would we include them?

VP Braun: Senators can appoint people to the AD HOC committee who they want to appoint, so they can choose members of those other organizations if they choose

POI Kitchener: the motion isn’t to only appoint Senate members to the committee?

VP Braun: that’s not how it is reading

POI Marcelli: So this means we could allocate $15,000 from SGA accounts and someone from another group can have a say in how to spend the money?

VP Braun: Yes, I guess so.

Vote: 10Y 18N 3A

Motion fails

VP Braun: we’re on points for the motion

Move to amend to insert after $15,000, “from account SG9010.” (Marcelli, Mills)

For: Marcelli: people didn’t seem to have a problem with this in the last proposed amendment and we need an account number in there.

Vote: 31Y 2N 0A

Motion Passes

VP Braun: now on points against

Against: Baldassario: In Previous discussions it’s been brought up that people may not be comfortable with just a President or his designee, but more importantly I thought this was just a trial, not a whole semester. We should see if this works before allocating 7% of our reserves.

POI Mills-Bergenn: why is this a 15-week period and not a trial?

Bergenn: With a trial it would have to be free and some people were worried we would lose people if it went from free and then we started charging. If this completely flops we can stop it.

For: Mgushi: this is a great idea with a lot of work behind it. If you want to argue the language we can change it, but $15,000 isn’t a lot, it’s a good amount with a good cause. This is a good thing to happen.
Move to amend to insert, “the Internal Affairs Committee should provide to the Senate a recommendation at the end of the trial period stating whether or not the shuttle program should continue.” (Berriault, Choplick)

For: Berriault: I think Internal Affairs should provide oversight and recommend to Senate whether or not this should continue. This is a trial and not the real deal so some kinks will have to be worked out and I don’t think we should rely on one person. Without the amendment there will be a lot of debate in the Senate.

Against: Baldassario: this isn’t a trial period, it’s supposed to be the whole semester. People voted no in the past because they don’t want another committee opinion.

POI Towler: At the end of the semester will an analysis be done?

VP Braun: I don’t know

For: Berriault: I hope that is what this amendment would do, look over it and see if this is a good or bad idea.

Against: Bergenn: I don’t think this is the perfect way to get there and I have another option.

Vote: 5Y 25N 1A

Motion Fails

VP Braun: Back on points against

Move to amend and insert the President shall provide a weekly report to Senate regarding cost, ridership and changes and Senate shall be able to overturn the President’s decision or shutdown the program with the majority vote. (Bergenn, Mills)

For: Bergenn: I don’t want to do this by myself, but one person should be doing the changes. The President has no real power, the Senate can overturn anything. I don’t want anything to stop this from being effective.

POI Dattilo-Bergenn: is it possible to shutdown with contracts?

Bergenn: there are not contracts yet so I would set them up to be conducive to this idea.

POI Narcisse-Bergenn: can you do a week by week contract?

Bergenn: because this is over $10,000 we have to put it out to bid so we would put parameters in the contract and get bids within those parameters, it could be harder but still possible

POI Alaimo-Bergenn: Can you give an example of when we would need an executive decision?
Bergenn: For example if we had no riders Friday but so many riders we couldn’t accommodate them all on Thursday and Saturday we may add another bus to one of those nights or if people weren’t riding the first bus we may start it 3 hours later

POI Mgushi-Bergenn: on the second page of slides, where does the money come from?

Point of Order: Baldassario: Not germane to the motion

VP Braun: can you restate your question?

Mgushi: the money missing from the $27,000 where does that come from

VP Braun: not germane to the motion

Well taken

POI Berriault: what happens if this amendment is passed and we over spend?

Bergenn: only way to over spend the $15,000 is if we over spend for 10 weeks or run every day and I would see that coming. It cost $615 a night so at most we would overspend $1800, but I cant imagine that happening.

Vote: 28Y 4N 1A

Motion Passes

Original Motion:

Move to extend debate until 4:20p (Bergenn, Marcelli)

Vote: 11Y 19N 3A

Motion Fails

POI Mgushi: is there still time to change the motion?

VP Braun: Yes

POI Bergenn: how was your weekend

Point of Order: Baldassario: not germane

Well taken

POI Dattilo: can you ask a point of information to allow someone who’s just spoken to speak again

VP Braun: if germane
Against: Berriault: this isn’t perfect and if someone wants to make a motion they should

For: Kitchener: this is a great motion and you should vote for it

**Call to question (Baldassario, Radden)**

Vote: 24Y 8N 0A

**Motion Passes**

Debate is ended

**Original Motion** Motion to authorize the President of the SGA or his designee $15,000 for the night life shuttle program from account SG9010 and the President shall provide a weekly report to Senate regarding cost, ridership and changes and Senate shall be able to overturn the President’s decision or shutdown the program with the majority vote.

Vote: 31Y (President Bergenn, Alaimo, Anderson, Baldassario, Berriault, Choplick, Fallanca, Fellows, Fox, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Hubbard, Khan, Kitchener, Kirk, Lee, Lopez, Manento, Marcelli, Mgushi, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Pancak, Radden, Sejdiraj, Sonet, Szabo, Testa, Zohlman) 0N 3A (Dattilo, Rodriguez, Towler)

**Motion Passes** SG13-054

Chair is given to President Bergenn

**New Business**

Motion to approve Internal Affairs recommendation Section 4-2B. (Baldassario, Mills)

For: Baldassario: we basically already do this, so this just finalizes everything

POI Ott: can we still amend and vote things down?

Bergenn: yes it is all still brought to Senate to be approved

Vote: 27Y 0N 3A

**Motion Passes** SG13-055

Move to approve Internal Affairs recommendation two. (Braun, Mills)

For: VP Braun: this makes sure every committee is consistent. We already do this we just want it to be consistent for future senates.

Vote: 27Y 1N 1A (Mgushi)
Open Floor:

Baldassario: with the committee consolidation in effect, don’t we now have to vote chairs and co-chairs for Public Affairs

Bergenn: any committee named that changed, like Public Affairs and Academic Affairs needs chairs and co-chairs. We can do this a few ways, we can motion to have the chairs and co-chairs who have been serving or we can move it to next week.

Mills: I’m sensing some hostility towards Finance Committee, 2- I’ve already handed in my COSGA application with no power so keep that in mind and 3- How to run a Successful club phase two is Monday at 7:30 and we’re talking about programs

Baldassario: anyone who has already submitted an application can resubmit

Marcelli: I nominate myself for Chair of the Academic Affairs committee

Bergenn: any other nominations

If there’s none we can vote on Chair of the Academic Affairs committee

Marcelli: I’ve been chair for the last two months and I think I’m doing a good job

Vote: 24Y

Chair is Sen. Marcelli

Rodriguez: so any one who wasn’t here cannot run now?

Bergenn: you can make nominations at any time.

Now, Robert’s Rules. Since we have a full senate it is rules that raising your hand isn’t enough to be recognized, I must also hear you and if you and someone else wants to speak on a motion but you’ve already spoken I will choose them.

Ott: I’m proud of Senate for passing the nightlife shuttle

POI Kitchener: why did you ask to extend debate?

Bergenn: I did that to make sure everyone had a chance to speak if they wanted to

Choplick: I’m a little ticked off, I seconded a motion and I got some flak for it across the table. I like to hear what people have to say, so I’ll be seconding a lot of things this year. Also club sports board this Monday
Sonet: Competition for a cause still starts Nov. 1 but bins wont be out right away because of the storm, but people are still encouraged to donate. Registration for clubs is open until Nov. 9

VP Braun: you can email clubs at any time, you don’t have to wait for the liaison email, but avoid being obnoxious with the clubs.

Mgushi: the college democrats had their first meeting and the second will be this upcoming Thursday from 7:30-8:30 in the Philbrick room. We are also going to be streaming the election results live in Devils Den.

Motion to adjourn (Baldassario, Choplick)

Meeting is adjourned at 4:41p

Respectfully submitted by University Assistant Brittany Burke.