Student Government Association Minutes from October 16, 2013

October 16, 2013 Attendance:

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

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

Motion to accept the minutes from October 9, 2013 (Lee, Alsaqri)  
Passes Unanimously  
SG14-043

Ratification of Election Results

Move to ratify election results for the 2013 Fall elections (Berriault, Ott)  
Motion Passes  
SG14-044

Dr. Tordenti reads the Oath of Office

New senators are sworn in and take their seats at the senate table

Public Hearing: None

Guest Speakers: Center Stage

$22,200 is a large sum of money but it is vital to produce RENT. We need a professional director, musical director and choreographer. This is a lot of money for them but they’re being called on six days a week for three months so it’s really like getting paid minimum wage. The musical director needs to be able to learn the music and follow and adapt to the actors live, same thing with the band. $1300 for costumes is important to be able to tell the story of who these characters are. Props and scenery $2400, the sets are simplistic and not colorful but it’s a lot of wood and metal which does get expensive. We’re trying to reuse things from past productions.
Sound and microphones, $3000 we need some new mics and we need to get the ones we have on the right frequency or the FCC can fine us because it is illegal, even CCSU can be punished. We’re investing in three mics but when we return our old ones we get a $500 credit for each so they’re only $700 apiece. We thought about rechargeable batteries but it’s not worth the investment and would end up paying double in the long run.

Royalties: $2500 we can’t do the show without these.

There is no wiggle room; this is consistent with what we’ve been using for past productions. We also ask $500 for a cabaret devils den, $400 which would be for a pianist. We’re doing fundraisers for next year and we are trying to lower the cost in the long run.

Kitchener: why is this worthy of the $22,200.

Center Stage: this is a startup and an investment, musical theatre is expensive in general but the money will not be wasted and we will try to cut back for next year and are talking about club dues. This isn’t just a musical club we plan to do more with the community and local theatre.

Moreno: the hockey team has a high cost but club members pay at least $1500 in dues what are you guys paying.

Center Stage: people who play are automatically able to play it’s not like that for the musical you can only have so many people in the production. We’re asking them to pay for other things outside of the musical.

Fallanca: where would it be okay to cut and what is fair to pay.

Center Stage: what we’re asking for is the bare minimum now we don’t have the department to fall back on, we’re not greedy we just expect a high caliber from our show.

Perry: can we get in writing that you won’t ask for this much again in the future.

Center Stage: it’s hard to say how much we will need each year but a lot of this is an investment so it will be less we’ll always ask for $10-11,000 but we plan to fundraise and makeup the rest in the future.

Student Affairs Report: Dr. Tordenti.

The university will be sending out an award letter to the building team who won the bid for the new residence hall with $64 million and that should begin in the spring.

**Treasurer’s Report**
1. Contingency: $44,214.96, I’ve budgeted $8000 a month for contingency and we are vastly under budget
2. Reserves: $323,515.90, this may be inaccurate because club revenues have not been taken out of this account yet so it’s not all of our money but I’ve been assured it’s still a healthy amount and we should still have $300,000
3. Musical: I didn’t mean to tell people how to vote last week I just wanted to avoid being unethical but if this confused some people I’m sorry, I just have your best interests in mind

**Vice President’s Report**

1. To the new senators you were given a padfolio that has the constitution and by-laws along with your stipend contract which has to be signed and given back to me
2. You are required to attend our weekly meetings that start at 3:05. If you come past 3:20p you are considered late and the earliest you can leave without consequence is 4:20p
3. Everyone should now have the updated by-laws
4. I sent out a doodle for the retreat but the majority was Jan 10-12, the 12th is move in day so that may change your mind

**President’s Report**

1. To vote on a motion you can say three things, yes, no, abstain
2. In a debate you cannot speak unless you are called on
3. If you have a question say “point of information”
4. You all have a copy of Robert’s Rules, read through them it doesn’t take long and if you have any questions let me know
5. Before we vote today I will make sure to read the motion again for the new senators
6. Congratulations to the new senators, that should have been first
7. I have been told I may come off mean in my reports, I’m sorry and I’ll try to work on that. I like critique so if I’m still doing it tell me
8. Musical is usually a hot debate so let’s talk about it before 4:20 when a lot of you have to leave

**Committee Reports**

Ott: Public Affairs: we’ll be finishing the bulletin board by the office at 12p on Friday

Lee: we’ll be hosting an open student forum for advising Oct. 28 from 3-5p more info will be coming. Sen. Christiano has been working on a resolution but we want to get people’s opinions on it first so read it through and let us know your thoughts
Sonet: Friday 4-7p in Clock Tower for our nest meeting we'll be decorating Competition for a Cause bins, which is Oct. 21-Nov 15. We're having a volunteer info session Thursday at 3:30p. I am thankful for Dr. Tordenti for providing funding for competition for the cause for funding. Next coffee talks will be Oct. 20 and 21 in the library from 11-12p and then 12-1p to deal with midterm stress and library hours

Rodriguez: is any of this information on Facebook or twitter

Sonet: yes

Perry: there is a general consensus that the library aren’t enough

Sonet: that’s something that academic affairs is working on

Gregonis: the 20th is a Sunday

Sonet: I’ll look into it and send out an email with the dates

Mills: thank you for student life for getting me the receipts

Spanish club is asking for money to buy tickets to a show in NYC, they are charging students and it’s an event that usually sells out, base budget was very vague and gave no reasoning as to why this was cut

Volleyball is asking $650 for a tournament they are hosting on campus, it’s the first one and they need money for refs, EMTs and refreshments

PRIDE has come up again and we are recommending the same thing

Construction Management: they want to go to a competition in NJ with 17 members and are asking for transportation, hotel and registration

Anthropology came with a line item for transportation to Chicago

UCC came with a line item to be able to 28 people to the conference in Canada instead of 17

THS presented but we still need more information so there is no recommendation this week

The musical, a portion of what we will be allocating is already there’s because they do not keep their revenue but we give it to them every year. Last year we asked them to become a club but they weren’t recognized in time so I’m asking these come from the reserves, there are other time sensitive issues that we also need to discuss today

Kitchener: is it a rule that they get this money back or is it a precedent
Mills: we told them every year they would get this money

Christiano: I’ll be having a fishbowl in the office tomorrow at 3p to get everyone’s opinion on the new name for disability services

Dr. Tordenti: October 22 at 6p in Alumni there will be a memorial service for Jamar Johnson

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Move to approve finance committee recommendation FC14-025 (Mills, Hudobenko)

For: Mills: the Spanish Club wants to bring 45 people to a show on their NYC bus trip there was no reason for why this was denied last year so we’re allowing them to ask for it again

Vote: 3Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kane, Khan, Lee, Measho, Moody, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa) 0N 3A (Fung, Kitchener, Perry)

**Motion Passes**  SG14-045

Move to approve finance committee recommendation FC14-022 (Mills, Gomez)

For: Mills: UCC is going to a conference in Canada and they want to bring 28 students but only have enough money for 17 and they are splitting the bus with UHart

POI Rodriguez: It’s $191?

Mills: yes

Vote: 32Y (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Bosworth, Cahill, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fernandez, Fox, Frey, Fung, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kane, Khan, Kitchener, Lee, Measho, Moody, Moreno, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Rongey, Sonet, Swan, Testa) 1N (Ott) 1A (Perry)

**Motion Passes**  SG14-046

Move to approve finance committee recommendation FC14-021 (Sonet, Hubbard)

For Sonet: we put them into a club which they didn’t want but we can’t compare them to other clubs. At CCSU we endorse excellence and that is the same for the musical they are asking for the bare minimum to produce RENT and they are only asking for what they need. We can’t compare them to other clubs like hockey because they are two different things
with different needs. This is a kick starter, they want to do more like the cabaret on Nov. 14. Hopefully SALD will get them their revenue from last year and it’s hard to ask for membership fees because so much of them have to cut back on work hours in order to be in the show. They need everything to be able to have the opportunity to put on a high caliber show, they’re putting in money in other ways to the club that doesn’t involve the musical and I want them to get off on the right foot. I told them next year they will not get this amount of money because we don’t want them to get a sense of entitlement and I will ensure that doesn’t happen and we are talking about club dues for next year but like I said this is for them to kick start the club. Let’s give them the money they need to respect artistic quality.

Against: Lee: I want this to happen but they are a club and we always require student contributions, which there is none and quotes which they haven’t provided. For clubs who don’t get all the money they requested they find other avenues. We only had four clubs who requested over $20,000 this year and they didn’t get it thank about that.

For: Berriault: this is different than ice hockey, the musical is educational, hockey is for fun. Over 100 people are involved and it’s one of the biggest things we fund with the most benefit. They gave us numbers of what they are expecting it to cost and they broke it down beautifully. No one has given a good reason as to why we should cut any of these line items, if you want to cut it justify it because no one has. I’ve seen a lot of bad requests and this isn’t one of them. Don’t look at the number look at the effect it’s going to have on this campus.

Against: Kitchener: I think I have a compromise because we have cut clubs who have asked for the minimum, we cut every club. I think we should take the average of all our clubs give them the revenue and then give them a $4000 fundraising loan which will bring them to about $13,000. I think that’s fair, they aren’t contributing anything and I don’t pretend to be knowledgeable about this but if you vote yes you can go back and explain to your clubs who were cut that this was passed and why.

For: Mills: we’ve already had a lot of these arguments in finance, read the minutes before you ask questions and restate the arguments. I disagree with the way budgets were handled last year and I want club events to get more money we have the funds in the reserves so if we can afford this we should do it.

Against: Swan: they did not provide quotes just arbitrary numbers and only three of the finance members were present when this was passed.

For: Hubbard: how are you deciding what to cut? How are you evaluating the events? Because how can you cut this and still have them be successful how can you make cuts after telling them to be a club and them doing everything we’ve asked them to do. I want them to
be successful and this is the money they need to be successful. We have a healthy amount in reserves so we should pay for this.

Vote: 17Y (Mills, Berriault, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fox, Frey, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Measho, Moody, Ott, Rodriguez, Sonet) 9N (Anderson, Alsaqri, Cahill, Fallanca, Kitchener, Lee, Moreno, Pietrycha, Swan) 3A (Kane, Rongey, Testa)

Motion Passes SG14-047

Move to approve finance committee recommendation FC14-024 (Hudobenko, Pietrycha)

For: Hudobenko: it’s the first tournament and this is a great opportunity for the club and school.

Vote: 20Y (Anderson, Mills, Berriault, Cahill, Cassidy, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fox, Frey, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kane, Lee, Moody, Moreno, Pietrycha, Swan, Testa) 1N (Germaine) 5A (Christiano, Measho, Ott, Rodriguez, Rongey)

Motion Passes SG14-048

Move to approve finance committee recommendation FC14-023 (Berriault, Hudobenko)

For: Berriault: construction management wants to go to a competition in New Jersey with 17 members, it’s a good idea and something that’s been happening for years. They’re paying out of pocket about $1200. This is something that should have been asked for but the president last year didn’t do a good job and the new eboard is trying to get back on track.

POI Measho to Mills: can you explain contingency?

Mills: an unanticipated event can ask for something that was denied if you can prove circumstances have changed but you cannot supplement your base budget.

Against: Hubbard: I like giving money but this is not unanticipated and I don’t like going against our bylaws. $4500 is a lot for a contingency and we shouldn’t be funding because of club issues. This is something they did for 22 years because it didn’t come up during base budget isn’t a justifiable reason.

For: Ott: I’m afraid unanticipated is becoming unforeseen they’re a club who is trying to get back together after a poor eboard we shouldn’t punish them for that.

POI Measho to Mills: what account is SG9016?

Mills: contingency
Against: Lee: look at how finance voted, it was a tie and Treas. Mills voted to break it, I agree with Ott but unanticipated is not expected or predicted, I don't know how this is unanticipated

For Mills: unanticipated for me means they didn't ask for it in their budget last year and it wasn't denied

POI Berriault to Mills: if it violated the by-laws would you hear it

Mills: not in finance but in senate my opinion isn't what counts

Vote: 10Y (Berriault, Cassidy, Christiano, Fox, Germaine, Gregonis, Measho, Ott, Rodriguez, Sonet, Testa) 12N (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Fallanca, Gomez, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kane, Lee, Moreno, Pietrycha, Swan) 3A (DiBacco, Moody, Rongey)

Motion Fails

Move to approve finance committee recommendation FC14-019 (Hudobenko, Mills)

For: Hudobenko: you knew this was going to come up when we approved them for Chicago with no way of getting there, they just need transportation to Chicago it's a 6 day trip and they are bring 7 people

Vote: 22Y (Mills, Alsaqri, Berriault, Cassidy, Fallanca, Fox, Germaine, Gomez, Gregonis, Hubbard, Hudobenko, Kane, Lee, Measho, Moody, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha, Rodriguez, Sonet, Swan, Testa) 0N 5A (Anderson, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Rongey)

Motion Passes

Move to deny the construction management contingency request (Lee, Hubbard)

For: Lee: I want to give the club a decision and we voted this down so let’s make it official

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Germaine: don't we have to be in open floor to make the motion

Choplick: no the motion can be made at any time

Motion to postpone indefinitely (Berriault, Christiano)

For: Berriault: we have members absent and since it's so close it should be decided by a full senate and this doesn’t have to go back to finance if they don’t want to hear it lets postpone and just bring it up next week

POI Swan to Berriault: are you aware that postponing indefinitely would make it against the rules to be brought back up

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Berriault: to deny yes but not to approve
Against: Mills: this is unnecessary it will be on the finance agenda next week
Point of order Anderson: not speaking to postponement
Well taken
POI Rodriguez: when is the competition?
Choplick: Nov. 15
Berriault: I withdraw my motion
POI Measho to Mills: what happens if this motion fails?
Mills: it will go to finance and we find a compromise
Lee: I withdraw my motion

Move to approve finance committee recommendation FC14-020 (Berriault, Testa)

For: Berriault: this is for the ally appreciation event, its $150 for food and it was an unanticipated event this is a good promotion to the LGBT community
Hubbard: point of privilege to the consideration of the motion
Choplick: I cannot hear this objection only before debate has started
For: Berriault: this is a good event and if we're going to argue, argue on the substance of the request
Against: Hubbard: it’s not unanticipated
For: Fox: this is a benefit to the entire campus and they didn’t ask for it last year, it’s unfair to assume about the club decisions
POI Lee: is this dilatory
Choplick: it is ok to be brought up as long as not in the same meeting
Against: Sonet: I believe in the democratic process and some things we lose, this is one of them
Point of order: Berriault: too noisy from the table
Well taken
Against: Sonet: it failed and even though I hated that we have to recognize that

POI Anderson: is this the same motion that was voted down last week

Choplick: yes

For: Christiano: it's only $150 we were just arguing about $20,000 lets just pass this

Call to previous question (Measho, Berriault)

Vote: 9Y 17N 0A

Fails

Original Motion vote: 13Y (Berriault, Cassidy, Christiano, DiBacco, Fallanca, Fox, Gomez, Gregonis, Kane, Measho, Moody, Rodriguez, Swan, Testa) 9N (Anderson, Mills, Alsaqri, Cahill, Germaine, Hubbard, Moreno, Ott, Pietrycha) 3A (Hudobenko, Rongey, Sonet)

Motion Passes

Open Floor

Choplick: I don't like the argument that it's just a small amount of money we should be debating and arguing the heck out of everything, everything we do should have some substance

Mills: I may not be the best at writing by-laws but I changed them to avoid this unforeseen argument lest argue on the intent of the motion

Sonet: student life is going to Michaels after the meeting for bin decorating and for those who don't know what competition for a cause is, it's a can drive between the clubs, faculty and administrators against the city of New Britain which we started last year. It's a great cause and last year we raised 3500 cans and helped keep a food pantry open

Berriault: college democrats and republicans are holding a voter registration drive Oct. 23 from 11a-3p and contingencies are a useful tool for clubs to get more money from their base budgets we should stop arguing about what is unanticipated

Anderson: we have rules for a reason so we need to also be consistent with those

Ott: I was a little sketched out how Cory Manento was appointed last week and it is something that should be voted on by the students and that is something I am looking into and I did not like the idea of executive session people who are running should not be using their spot on senate to discuss election related things
Choplick: we did not violate the by-laws in the way Cory was appointed we were much more transparent then we have been, it’s up to the SGA who gets appointed and in the past it has just been an eboard decision.

Rodriguez: I just wanted to thank all the veteran senators and congratulations to all the senators who were voted in with me

Motion to adjourn (Gregonis, Moreno)

Meeting is adjourned at 5:40p

Respectfully submitted by SGA University Assistant Brittany Burke.