Student Government Association Minutes from September 12, 2012

September 12, 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, Pancak, Ott, Radden, Rodriguez, Sonet, Towler, Truex, Zohlman

Meeting called to order at 3:07 p.m. by President Bergenn.

Motion to approve minutes from September 5, 2012 Meeting. (Mills, Ott)

Motion Passes Unanimously

Student Affairs Report

Dr. Tordenti spoke about the loss of CCSU student, Anna Krasnowski. The Council and Wellness department is reaching out to offer help and support. The family does not want a CCSU memorial service at this time, but the school is waiting to see if the students would like to have one.

National Suicide Awareness week is taking place and more information will be available to students. QPR (Quest Persuade Refer) training is also available to students who are interested.

There has been good student involvement at Devils Den and the home football game. There are 3 open slots left to co-sponsor a Devils Den if any clubs are interested.

President’s Report

President Bergenn first recognized Sen. Berriault for his hard work at the club fair this past week.

The Alumni Contingency Initiative gives money to different aspects of the school like, CCSU Foundation, scholarships, athletics and the library. President Bergenn can get more information about it for the senators. He wanted to get an idea of whether or not students would give money to the school before graduating, about 2/3 of the senators said they would.
The Courant has agreed to participate in the newspaper readership program. More information about IRC’s role will be available after their meeting next week.

Next Wednesday a professor will go over and explain what seats are held by the student senators on different faculty committees.

A meeting was held Wednesday night at New Britain City Hall. At the meeting different noise ordinances would be voted on, which could cost students in surrounding neighborhoods $600. Phil Sherwood is here (Senate Meeting) to speak about the ordinances, he is the Mayor’s Deputy Chief of Staff. The ordinances are something that could potentially harm respectful students, but more information will be provided by Sherwood.

Soccer Coach Shaun Green appealed his sanctions and won. A four game was cut to one preseason game and 60 days without pay was cut to 14. The sanction for a written apology was also removed. President Bergenn made it clear he has nothing against the athletics department, but the Recorder is student-run and the SGA is there to represent students and he doesn’t like that the University isn’t backing up its students.

**Vice President’s Report**

Vice President Braun told the Senate the first Club Sports Board was held this past Monday, Sept. 10 and it was very successful. The board is a place for the club sports to come together and work together to have a stronger voice. Sen. Choplick was voted Chair of the board. Meetings are held the first Monday of every month from 6:30-7:30.

If a Senator has problems with meeting their committee times or would like to switch committees come speak to Vice President Braun.

Internal Affairs is still looking for interested Senators. (Sens. Fernandez, Towler and Baldassario expressed interest).

A club liaison email will be ready for Thursday September 13, 2012, so if there is any information senators would like added get it to her ASAP.

If you were not at the summer retreat she will get you your liaison list.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The first Finance Committee went well. The committee went over line-item changes for Food for Thought and the Psychology Club. Food for Thought wants to move $100 from refreshments to other to buy more books. The Psychology Club would like to move $150 from their Brain Trauma Event to their Family Day event.

Treasurer Alaimo will have updated budgets once money starts being spent.
Sen. Towler would like to know how there is money for food.

Treasurer Alaimo points out speaking about books while eating themed food was part of the mission statement, and they don’t want to hurt a club’s mission statement.

On Oct. 5 contingency and cosponsorship applications are due to SA/LD. There are sign-ups for presenting your application on a first come first serve basis. Presentations will be on Oct. 8.

Info sessions originally scheduled for next week will be pushed back to the week after on Monday at 7 and Wednesday at 2 in the SGA Office.

**Public Hearing**

Guest Speaker: Mayor’s Deputy Chief of Staff, Phil Sherwood.

Mr. Sherwood points out that over the past ten years off-campus housing has become more and more popular because of the dry campus and people buying houses to rent out, but problems in the neighborhoods have also become more popular. He pointed out that he lives in the Belvedere neighborhood, which is the problem area being discussed. He also states that students keep the neighborhood stable, but problems are still occurring.

Students have every right to drink, but a line gets crossed with excessive noise and excessive drinking. “Hot Spot” neighborhoods did a good job last year by reaching out to renters and homeowners, but problems are still occurring.

The ordinances will indirectly affect students. There are two ordinances, the first being the “Hot Spot Ordinance.” The majority of public safety calls are to repeat houses, which is costing the city a lot of money. The mayor is looking to fairly help generate the revenue that is being used by the repeat offenders. They don’t want to raise property taxes so they are looking for a fair way to make up costs. The landlord would be charged for public safety visits, which can then be brought to the students.

The “Anti-Blight Ordinance” is fining properties $250 a day per violation, which also encompasses excessive noise and repeat visits. The city can also fine students for drinking, but that is rarely enforced and is dealt with more by the courts.

There will be more foot and bike patrols done in the Belvedere neighborhood, but the police aren’t looking for drinking they are looking for problems. They want to hold students and property owners accountable.

President Bergenn wants to know for the first ordinance, do they get fined with any visit?

Mr. Sherwood said any visit after the ninth, so 10 visits and above and people will begin to be fined. Certain visits are exempt such as domestic abuse, hospital calls, nursing homes and public school 9-1-1 calls will be exempt.
President Bergenn would also like to know with the second ordinance, if a student under 21 gets caught drinking can they be fined?

Mr. Sherwood answered, yes, but they are not specifically targeting students.

Treasurer Alaimo wanted to know on average how many calls are received for a typical party night and if the city is doing anything about the great number of cars being broken into.

Mr. Sherwood said he didn’t have solid numbers, but the phones ring of the hook in the mayor’s office. As for the cars, arrests were made, but the best thing is for the car owner to take preventative measures like hiding valuables.

Sen. Hubbard asked if a group of people living in the house in January got nine ordinances, but then moved out later that year, would the new tenants have those ordinances? And when are visits discretionary?

Mr. Sherwood said yes, the year is from January to January. And a visit is a visit regardless.

President Bergenn would like to know if they can still get fined for an illegitimate complaint.

Mr. Sherwood points out that calling in an illegitimate complaint is a crime.

Sen. Towler wants to know what time the noise ordinance would come into effect.

Mr. Sherwood says no time is acceptable for underage drinking, but 10 p.m. is the city time and it is at the discretion of the officer.

Sen. Radden asked if there are underage people drinking at a party, would the individuals get fined?

Mr. Sherwood answers that the city can’t fine anyone under the age of 18, but depending on the ordinance then yes they can get fined, but keep in mind these ordinance are to target problem properties and repeat offenders.

Sen. Truex would like to know if they’ve gotten any backlash from landowners?

According to Mr. Sherwood, no, they haven’t heard from landowners but they have heard from residents.

Sen. Baldassario questioned about how apartment complexes, like Essex would be fined.

Mr. Sherwood couldn’t answer the question.

Sen. Narcisse wanted to know if there was another possible solution, like community service, rather than a fine.
Mr. Sherwood said the Mayor is open to ideas that require the offenders to take ownership.

Sen. Germaine wants to know what is considered the Belvedere neighborhood.

    North of Allen St. to Blake Rd, Killburn, Pendelton and across from Stanley Quarter Park.

Sen. Truex wants to know how problem properties are ID’ed and notified, and does the Town and Gown help?

    There will be a bigger task force working with everyone.

Sen. Manento wanted to know if it’s hot spots they’re looking for, can’t one group of students just switch back and forth between spots creating new problem areas?

    Yes, but they will be found according to Mr. Sherwood.

Sen. Dattilo wants to know if there is a way to keep track of problem students.

    Mr. Sherwood said yes, names will be kept on record.

Sen. Marcelli wanted to know if there was a new fine for students.

    No, the new ordinance targets the landlord.

Sen. Towler wants to know then, is the city proposing a curfew.

    No, they’re not looking to stop off campus drinking, they’re looking to dispel problems.

Sen. Berriault wants to know how students can find out about the ordinance.

    Dr. Tordenti said it will be on pipeline and in the paper. Students have every right to socialize, but they do not have the right to be obnoxious.

**Committee Reports**

Public Affairs:

Elections are Oct. 9-11 and results will be posted by noon the following Monday. There are going to be two more info sessions, next Monday at 12:15 and Tuesday at 6 in the SGA office.

Packets are due by Friday September 21, but people are encouragess to turn in packets ASAP. There are 4 freshmen spots, 1 commuter, 1 resident and one At-Large.

Senators should sit at voting tables for a few hours to help answer questions. They’re hoping to get tables from 10-6p, but the times are reserved yet.
The Pep Rally is Oct 12 at 5 p.m. they need senators there to help and show support.

They’re looking to do the banner competition again, club banners will be presented at Devils Den on Oct. 11.

Academic Affairs

Sen Marcelli says the meeting will be next Tuesday in the Camp room at 3. He is hoping to get a binder specifically for Academic Affairs with helpful info such as regulations and contact information.

Student Life

Sen. Sonet suggests going to the meeting following Senate in the Blue and White room, there is a lot of new business.

Vice President Braun says minutes will be on the SGA website and sent out with the weekly Senate minutes so make sure to get them in!

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

New Business

Motion to approve Finance Committee recommendations FC13-001 and FC13-002. (Mills, Truex)

For: Sen. Mills says we should support buying books, and Psychology club is just transferring money.

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

Motion Passes

Point of Information: Sen. Sonet would like to know if he could make a motion without filing paperwork?

President Bergenn says he is fine since it isn’t a co-sponsorship.

Motion to allocate $3,920 from SG9010 to RECentral for 800 shirts for the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge. (Sonet, Berriault)
For: Sen. Sonet: A healthy lifestyle is important and benefits students now and in the future. The shirts aren’t the cheapest, but they will be offered as a reward for participation. Ken DeStefanis is looking to give out 25-30 a week, but as rewards not giveaways. This isn’t just about shirts, it’s about getting people healthy. It’s our opportunity to do something important which can lead to a partnership and make a difference in student lives. There is no price on student health.

Against: Treasurer Alaimo: This is a co-sponsorship, which are due by Oct. 5. Things have to be done equally for everyone. I never got a form. We shouldn’t fund things for departments and no clubs got money for shirts, they’re wants not needs. It’s good to help RECentral, but fund it?

For: Sen. Radden: I’ve worked with RECentral as a trainer, this is a partnership and a way to get involved in something bigger than funding. Take a stand and believe in what RECentral stands for, and what better way to get involved? It’s about building community on campus. Don’t we want departments to do co-sponsorships and get involved with SGA? This is just a stepping stone for tradition.

Against: Sen. Towler: I disagree with t-shirts, why not something else, why spend all the money on a want versus a need.

Move to amend motion and strike out RECentral to read, “Motion to allocate $3,920 from SG9010 for 800 shirts for the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge.” (Mills, Baldassario)

For: Sen. Mills: It’s a way to get around the department concern and support a good cause.

Against: Sen. Towler:

3 Point of Orders for speaking on the original motion, not the amendment, all Well Taken.

Against: Sen. Towler: this is going around what they’re ultimately going to do and it’s not appropriate or professional.

For: Sen. Mills: It’s not sidestepping, this is supporting our donation.

Against: Sen. Dattilo: not specific of where the money would be coming from, may it should go through committee funding.

Point of Information: Sen. Mgushi: if it’s not going to RECentral then who is paying and who is getting the shirts.

President Bergenn: This makes it ambiguous, and open for interpretation.

Call to previous question. (Fernandez, Kitchener)

Vote: Y-16   N-5
Passes: Debate is ended.

Move to amend motion and strike out RECentral to read, “Motion to allocate $3,920 from SG9010 for 800 shirts for the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge.”

Vote: Y:15   N:1   A:6 (Towler, Radden, Dattilo, Mgushi, Sonet, Fellows)

Motion Passes.

Motion to allocate $3,920 from SG9010 for 800 shirts for the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge. (Original Motion)

For: Sen. Berriault: it’s not unheard of to bypass Finance Committee and it’s a good way to get involved and get students involved.

Against: Sen. Dattilo: should be out of a committee budget, our involvement is not contingent on getting shirts we can get anything like bikes or water bottles, but materialistic rewards make no sense.

For: Sen. Hubbard: Shirts are good incentive and a good promotion, bikes are more individualistic.

Against: Sen. Baldassario: I’m not comfortable with shirts as a reward, the reward is a healthy lifestyle. 800 is too many and 20-25 a week isn’t a reward, we can support in other ways. We can vary it up, not all shirts, shirts may not be worth the money. I support shirts just not fully.

Sen. Marcelli directs a question to Sen. Sonet: Does the $4.90 rate change based on the number of shirts?

Sen. Sonet: Yes, if we don’t get 800 the price goes to $5.35.

For: Sen. Berriault: shirts are not a reward they are good incentive as well as the most effective and cheapest way to help RECentral.

Against: Sen. Baldassario: Free advertising is great, but not for $4,000, that’s not free.

Point of Information: Sen. Towler: How much would headbands be?

Sen. Sonet doesn’t have a quote for headbands.

Sen. Dattilo: How many shirts are in the office?

President Bergenn: One box of XL shirts.

Move to refer motion to Finance Committee so they can make a recommendation at the Sept. 19 meeting. (Marcelli, Truex)
For: Sen. Marcelli: it’s best for finance committee to find the best solution.

Against: Sen. Rodriguez: the senate is making things harder than they need to. Pushing it to finance will just cause the senate to come back and debate next week and waste more time.

For: Sen. Manento: If finance can find the best way then I would take their recommendation into account.

Against: Sen. Kitchener: This was brought to Senate to expedite the process.

For: Sen. Truex: Should’ve gone to Finance in the first place. If finance can look at is and commit time to it and maybe speak to a RECentral representative then they can make a recommendation and their choice can always be overturned.

Against: Sen. Baldassario: We need to make a decision, we all know our opinions.

For: Sen. Towler: It should have gone to Finance first and this gives us time to think.

Against: Sen. Berriault: It will take too much time and defeat the purpose of the shirts.

Call to question. (Mills, Ott)

Vote: Y-22   N-0   A-2 (Radden, Truex)

Move to refer motion to Finance Committee so they can make a recommendation at the Sept. 19 meeting.

Vote: Y-5   N-16   A-0

Motion fails.

Call to question (Fernandez, Ott)

Vote: Y-18   N-2   A-2 (Baldassario, Truex)

Debate Ended.

Motion to allocate $3,920 from SG9010 for 800 shirts for the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge. (Original Motion)

Vote: Y-9 (Berriault, Hubbard, Kitchener, Mills, Narcisse, Ott, Radden, Rodriguez, Sonet, Zohlman) N-14 (Braun, Anderson, Baldassario, Choplick, Dattilo, Fernandez, Fung, Lopez, Menento, Marcelli, Pancak, Towler) A-1 (Truex)
Open Floor

Sen. Towler: The mentor/mentee is an excellent program and they’re looking for volunteers. If you want to help it’s done by the Transfer Tuesday office.

Sen. Rodriguez: What happened to voter registration?

Sen. Radden: Public Affairs is just waiting for everything to be approved. They’re hoping to have tables Oct. 1-4 from 11:30-4p. It coincides with SGA elections as well, so candidates running can come speak about why they want to win. State reps will also be there.

Sen. Mills: Reminder we gave SA/LD money for Blue Devil light up horns that are going to be given out on family day, so pump people up!

President Bergenn: Spending the money on them was an executive decision and because more departments were involved the price was lower.

Sen. Ott: We argue about ridiculous things, bring down the arguments and stop wasting time.

Motion to excuse Sen. Ott from the Aug. retreat. (Ott, Kitchener)

For: Sen. Ott: I work at Six Flags and got scheduled despite asking for it off, and I couldn’t get my shift covered.

Point of Information: Vice President Braun: Did Sen. Ott say something ahead of time?

President Bergenn: Yes.

Vote: Y-18 N-2 A-2 (Ott, Fernandez)

Motion Passes SG13-019

Sen. Radden: I’m doing the SA/LD Weekend Initiative this weekend for IRC and ResLife and it’s going to be a Humans versus Zombie nerf war/capture the flag game, so please spread the word.

Sen. Towler: Only students?

Sen. Radden: Yes, because it is ResLife, but it can be residents and commuters.

Sen. Sonet: I encourage everyone to take part in the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge and get people excited.

Sen. Fernandez: Are the workshops in Memorial open to all students?

Sen. Towler: Yes, but if you want to eat their regularly you have to pay.
Sen. Choplick: I invited Ken DeStefanis to present in my dorm, so maybe clubs and other dorms can do the same.

Motion to adjourn (Fernandez, Mills)

Meeting Adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by University Assistant Brittany Burke.