Student Government Association Minutes from September 5, 2012

August 10, 2012

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

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

Motion to approve minutes from August Retreat. (Baldassario, Hubbard)

Motion Passes Unanimously

Student Affairs Report

Dr. Tordenti welcomes back the Senate members and is looking forward to this upcoming year. She addresses the freshmen orientation, saying it was very successful and that is due to the orientation leaders as well as Vice President Braun; it was a good way to start the year. She reminds the senators to feel free to contact her at any time or President Bergenn with anything they need.

President’s Report

President Bergenn says he has gathered a lot of support for the USA Today newspaper program on campus. The program has already started with the student center, who is contributing $5,000. President Bergenn says he is looking for the SGA to contribute $5,000 while also working on getting a contract with IRC to also contribute $5,000.

President Bergenn reminds the Senate that he has appointed Celeste Roche as the community liaison. Her job will be to go around to local businesses and try to establish contracts with them to offer Blue Devil/ student deals. He will keep the Senate updated.

He reminds everyone that both he and Brittany have been working on the SGA website, so he is encouraging the senators to not only use the site but also direct students to the site. He wants the site to be the hub for all SGA information.
He reminds the senators to email either him or Brittany bio information for the site, as well as any suggestions they may have.

He thanks everyone for the support given to the freshmen in the first week and feels everyone did a good job in getting information out there.

President Bergenn reminds the senators that top priority for this year should be working on a smooth transition into next year since at least 17 senators will be graduating. He reminds them that it is important the people know the senate and election process and get involved.

A final reminder, the club fair is next week and there needs to be people there representing the SGA.

**Vice President’s Report**

Vice President Braun informs the senators that if anyone can’t make their committee time or would like to switch committees to speak with her.

She reminds committee chairs and co-chairs to give her their final meeting times and locations.

Vice President Braun also lets the Senate know she is looking for people who are interested in also being a part of the internal affairs committee.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Alaimo points out that they have less money in the reserve account, but it is still a healthy amount. He has handed out dates that clubs should keep in mind.

September 10 all the packets will go out. Contingency and co-sponsorships can be picked up at the SGA office. There will be two info sessions, one at night and one during the day to familiarize people with the process.

October 5, all the packets are due and allocations will be on the 8th.

There will be two dates for contingency and co-sponsorship funding while other requests will have rolling deadlines as long as the request is submitted on Friday for the Monday meetings.

The first meeting will be held next Monday at 4 p.m.

**Committee Reports**

Public Affairs:

Senator Baldassario says the committee hasn’t had a chance to meet yet because of Mondays being off. He reminds everyone that while there have been election packets made for freshmen,
there are other positions such as a commuter and resident senator and class president open. He hopes to have a more cohesive packet ready next week.

Pep rally is currently being planned and their first official meeting will be next Monday at 3 p.m. in the SGA office.

Academic Affairs

Senator Marcelli says the meetings will generally be held in the Camp room, but for the first couple of weeks they will be in the SGA office. He reminds the senators to let him or Senator Dattilo know if there is anything you want done from them.

Student Life

Senator Sonet says the location of their meetings will switch, but they will always be held after Senate meetings. He will send out emails. He reminds the senate to let him or Senator Kitchener know if they have anything they want them to know about or work on.

**Guest Speaker**

Ken DeStefanis from RECentral came to speak about the RECentral Healthy Lifestyle Challenge. The two goals of the challenge is for the campus to adopt a healthy lifestyle and for the campus to lose a combined 3,000 pounds, though it is not about weight loss.

The challenge starts on Monday and the first challenge will be to “get moving,” meaning walk, run or bike. Groups will be set up for the different interests so everyone gets involved at their own fitness level.

On Wednesdays RECentral will hold Workshop Wednesdays.

During the week the participants will be able to post to twitter or facebook for raffles. They are working on also getting t-shirts for the challenge with the slogan “A little change makes a big difference.”

He attended the Senate meeting to garner the support from the SGA.

Senator Berriault would like to know how the students find the new challenge each week.

Mr. DeStefanis says the information will be available through pipeline, their website, dorm RAs and RDs and posters. They will also have a tent in the student center circle for the first couple of weeks with RECentral employees.

Senator Baldassario would like to know where the Workshop Wednesdays will be held.

Mr. DeStefanis says they will held in different areas, but all the information will be on the website and posters.
Senator Towler asks how they will accommodate the evening students.

Mr. DeStefanis says they are hoping to have two workshops, 12 and 5 p.m.

Senator Towler would also inquire about the aqua fitness class.

Mr. Destefanis says their instructor from last year isn’t back this semester, but he’s hoping to have the class back next semester.

Senator Kitchener would like to know when the challenge starts.

Mr. DeStefanis says it starts Monday September 10.

Public Hearing

No speakers.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

New Business

No new business

Open Floor

Senator Sonet speaks about Competition for a Cause. It is a program started in Texas by two rivalry schools. The schools competed by collecting canned goods. They came together and bought a trophy and had a winner, but in the end the real winner was the food bank. Senator Sonet thinks it would be a good idea to do that with the clubs on campus which would be hosted by the Senate. Clubs would see who could collect the most canned goods and the collections could be brought to local food banks.

Motion to remove Senator Germaine from the retreat. (Truex, Towler)

For: Senator Truex points out that Senator Germaine was in Israel as part of the birth right program.

Vote: Y-26 N-1

Motion Passes

Motion to excuse Senator Kitchener from the September 12 Senate meeting. (Kitchener, Mills)

For: Senator Kitchener says she has a mandatory medical work training during the time of the senate meeting.
Senator Baldassario would like to know if Senators are removed from Senate before elections, what is the cutoff date for their position to be put on the ballot?

President Bergenn says the position can be put on as soon as it’s official, the position can also be advertised.

Mr. Hazan wants to know if removed senators can run again.

President Bergenn says there are no rules against it.

Senator Radden says there will be a five minute Public Affairs meeting after the Senate meeting.

Senator Mgushi asks if there are any updates on a freshmen welcome back party.

President Bergenn says that nothing is planned.

Senator Mgushi asks if they can assume it’s not happening.

President Bergenn says yes.

Senator Truex reminds the senators that club e-board officers will be coming to them and he asks them not to just sign off on the packets, but to also check over the paperwork.

He also asks to keep in mind that they have $48,000 in contingency for the year.

Senator Baldassario says if a club comes to you with a program that you think is a good idea steer them away from contingency and towards the SA/LD weekend program or co-sponsorship funding.

He also thinks the RECentral Lifestyle challenge is a good idea and he thinks they should show that SGA supports it.

Senator Hubbard reminds everyone the A Cappella welcome back concert is that night at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

Motion to adjourn (Baldassario, Hubbard)

Vote: Y-6 N-13

Motion Fails

Senator Towler would like to know if the orientation for freshmen can also include transfer students.
President Bergenn says he will look into it and report back.

Senator Towler says she feels it will be a helpful way to introduce transfers to CCSU.

President Bergenn says there is a freshmen orientation, transfer orientation and transfer Tuesdays, which isn’t quite like the freshmen orientation, but he will look into it.

Senator Narcisse says when she transferred there was a transfer social that lasted all week.

Senator Berriault would like the senators to let the student body know about the upcoming committee referendum.

President Bergenn shows the senate the CCSU SGA website. Election info is on pipeline and he can re-add the Committee Consolidation Plan to pipeline. The elections packet is also on the website and encourages everyone to get familiar with the site. Things like agendas, minutes and collegiatelink info is all on the site.

If there are any web suggestions email him or Brittany.

Senator Radden would like to know if info can be put up on the collegiatelink bulletin board 2-3 weeks beforehand.

President Bergenn says absolutely, any suggestions let him know.

Mr. Hazan lets the Senate know that the collegiatelink banner was changed on the site and if there are any suggestions to let SA/LD know.

Motion to adjourn (Truex, Sonet)

Passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by University Assistant Brittany Burke.