Present:

Executive Board: J. Frankel (President), A. Cross (Vice President), R. Silberquit (Treasurer), S. McCabe (Secretary), N. Zeni (BAM)

Advisors: C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney


Guests: W. Diaz, K. Bedini

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

1. Acceptance of Last Weeks Minutes
   a. Motion #49 (S. Nolan, A. Bullard): Motion to accept the minutes from March 12, 2012. (23-0-3) Motion carries.

2. President Nunez
   a. President Nunez was at the SGA meeting. She thanked all the Senators for their hard work and dedication. She also answered any questions that Senators had.
   b. R. Silberquit asked about the University’s transition from the Board of Trustees to the Board of Regents. President Nunez spoke about how the transition has been uneven in many ways and not an easy transition. The main issues surround the time frame, transfer students, and remediation. The administration heading the transition did not give a time frame and it became an abrupt change in many ways. In concept removing remediation is a good thing but it is much more difficult to implement. The BOR is more well grounded now in terms of what they would like to see accomplished. For the system to become fully emplaced looking at a ten year time frame. Multiple positions were eliminated on CSU and Community College sides. They are currently working on restructuring the system and making it more streamlined. President Nunez assured SGA that the transition has not, to this point, adversely affected Eastern and there is a constant vigilance on maintaining the mission of SGA.
c. W. McLaughlin asked President Nunez about the current talks in the University Senate regarding the switch from a 3 credit to a 4 credit system. President Nunez stated that most private liberal arts colleges are currently using the 4 credit system and many public liberal arts colleges are currently pushing for a 4 credit system. The main issue is that teachers do not want to get rid of the content but they feel that depth is better than breadth. There are several hindrances including the teacher's union. If the workload changes at Eastern than it has an effect on the collective bargaining. The main issue is that some faculty do not want to teach four courses and would rather teach only three. On the other hand, some faculty do want to limit the choices of the students by removing classes. The science department in particular does not want to limit the breadth of classes.

d. N. Zeni asked about the transfer and articulation translating into the Eastern environment. President Nunez spoke about how Eastern has always been welcoming to transfer students and that is not the case in some other schools. The main issues with transfers currently at Eastern is that there is no proper transfer orientation and advisor system in place. There are currently being plans implemented to address these issues including an orientation. The Board of Regents is frustrated that the students have complained that the 4 CSUs have not been that welcoming to transfer students in terms of class/credit transferring.

e. N. Zeni asked about the status of the new Fine Arts Building. President Nunez talked about the original plans being $20 billion dollars over budget. Most of the fall semester was spent on redesigning the building while maintaining the teaching/learning spaces. The bid for the contractors will begin next year. Once the Fine Arts Building is completed Shafer hall will then become a dorm and all classes will be centralized on campus. After that the other construction plans include completely renovating Communications/Goddard and the Sports Center. A new dorm will be constructed close to the Fine Arts Building and an underground parking lot will be constructed under Shafer. The expected timeline for the Fine Arts Building is 2 years from start to finish. President Nunez also shared that Eastern is the only campus to have a building project start on time, end on time, and remain on budget.

f. S. Ramsay asked about student employment. President Nunez responded by stating that there are three different pay levels for students based on the responsibility of the position. There is a large number of jobs on campus and the budget for student employees has not been cut since President Nunez has been here. There is currently legislation in place to raise the minimum wage over the next two years and student pay will also be raised accordingly.

3. President’s Report:
   a. Compensation Draft
      i. The draft is currently being reviewed by Administration and an answer will be determined by the end of the week.
b. Voter Registration and Mobilization Conference  
   i. There will be a conference on March 30, 2012 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.  
      It is a free conference and SGA has reserved a van. If any senator  
      would like to attend they should email J. Frankel  
      (sgapres@my.easternct.edu). Senators will be back in time for the in-  
      house retreat.

c. One-on-Ones  
   i. J. Frankel will be finishing up her one-on-ones with senators. To set  
      up a one-on-one with J. Frankel please send her an email.

4. Vice President’s Report:  
   a. University Senate  
      i. At the last University Senate meeting, the issue of the credit system  
         came up. The faculty wanted to have a vote but A. Cross brought up  
         the point that the students would not be able to have a say in it if a  
         faculty vote was conducted and it would affect the students as well. It  
         was then determined that a committee would be established with an  
         equal number of faculty and students involved.

   b. Committees  
      i. BAM  
         1. FRPs were released on Monday, March 26. The last meeting  
            for new business will be on Thursday, March 29. After that the  
            committee will be focusing on next semesters allocations.

      ii. Internal  
         1. The next in-house retreat will be March 30, 2012 at 5:00 pm in the  
            SGA Suite.  
         2. The internal banquet is April 26 at 6:30 and the Club/Org  
            Banquet is May 4 at 5:00 pm.

      iii. Promotions  
         1. SGA Day is Wednesday, March 28. A sign up sheet was passed  
            around for senators to sign up.

      iv. Res Life  
         1. The committee has heard back from a few hall directors. The  
            dates for the Res Events will be:  
            a. 4/2 8pm Nutmeg Hall  
            b. 4/2 8pm Crandall Hall  
            c. 4/3 8pm Niejadlik Hall  
            d. 4/9 8pm Constitution Hall

      v. Involvement  
         1. The Weiner Wednesday surveys are currently being analyzed.  
            More information will be provided in the coming weeks. An  
            additional Weiner Wednesday is currently being planned.

      vi. Elections  
         1. Applications are currently online and they are due by April 6.
c. Senate Bill 40
   i. The student representatives from the Board of Regents came and talked to the Executive Board. At that time the Senate Bill 40 was talked about. Senate Bill 40, also known as the Right To Fail bill, looks at removing remedial classes. If any senator would like more information on this bill they should email A. Cross (sgavp@my.easternct.edu).

5. Treasurer's Report
   a. General Board: $9,829.41
   b. Executive Board: $5,715.75

6. Secretary's Report:
   a. Nothing to add at this time

7. Advisor's Report:
   a. M. Delaney emailed the senate concerning two conferences that senators should think about attending. Both conferences are free.
   b. The Club and Org leadership training will be Tuesday at 5:00 pm.
   c. Van requests are now able to be done online.
   d. The Club/Org blog is up and running. Clubs should submit stories and event recaps online.

8. Old Business:
   a. Nothing to add at this time.

9. New Business:
   a. Delegate Program
      i. N. Zeni presented a proposal for a delegate program. It is modeled after Southern’s. A delegate would be an individual interested in becoming a voting member (senator) who serves one office hour with a senator, serves on an SGA committee and attends the general board meetings. If a vacancy becomes available the senator would be nominated from the delegate pool.
      ii. M. Hicks like the idea but was worried that the SGA would not be able to recruit enough members.
      iii. W. McLaughlin shared this concern and worried about unopposed elections and if there was a real need for a delegate program.
      iv. N. Zeni talked about how the delegate program would be good to unveil at the club and activity fair where most recruits come from.

10. Open Floor:
    a. Nothing to add at this time.

Meeting was closed at 3:52 pm.