Student Government Association  
General Board Meeting  
10/5/2015

Present:

**Executive Board:** J. Ahern (President), E. Drouin (Vice President), T. Mack (Treasurer), C. Gosselin (BAM), N. Vigorita (Secretary)

**Advisors:** M. Delaney, C. Ambrosio


**Guests:** M. Alexis, M. Congleton A. Dilon

Meeting called to order at 3:08 PM

1. **President’s Report**
   a. **Acceptance of Minutes from 9/28/2015**
      i. **Motion #24 (J. Mazyck, Ch. Welch)** Motion to accept the minutes from 9/28/2015 **(15-0-0). Motion Carries.**
   b. **BAM: Book Club**
      i. This club meets bimonthly on Tuesdays to discuss their current book; they will read a new book every month
      ii. Will buy copies of the book for those who don’t want to buy it themselves
      iii. E. Drouin questions how the club decides what book to read?
           1. Polled what genres were the favorite of the group at the beginning of the semester and picked the top 3 categories to read.
      iv. R. Eragene wonders when the first meeting is?
           1. There have already been a couple but the next meeting is Tuesday October 13 at 7 in STU 217
      v. What will the club do with the copies they bought after you read that book?
           1. The response is that they will buy them online or the copies will stay with book club; they may be donated.
      vi. J. Reid would like to know where the books will stay semester to semester?
           1. With the president or advisor
   vii. **Motion #25** Motion to approve Book Club as a student organization at Eastern. **(M. Ehrnfelt, J. Mazyck) (13-0-2)**

   c. For new groups on campus, they meet with BAM to read over what they will do as an organization, what money they may need, and just the general details. If it passes BAM, it gets brought to Gboard. Here, the senators have
the organization’s constitution for a week, discuss any questions that may arise, and then will be voted on by the senate.

i. Only sworn in senators may vote

d. Constitution Review

i. BAM felt the need to update the guidelines since the funding has gone down and requests have gone up

ii. M. McFall Gorman mentions that the monetary amount per student for a local conference will be $300/student, and national conference $800/student. What were they previously?
   1. There wasn’t a set number, the average was taken from what was requested and that is how the $300/$800 came to be.

iii. E. Drouin brings up that before, BAM was funding ‘x’ number of people the full price; is it still same amount of people or fewer?
   1. It is the same number of people, which is determined by Warriors with Initiatives.

iv. Ch. Welch wonders if students will have to fundraise more now?
   1. Yes! Conferences take a lot of our money and BAM thinks the solution to this is the organizations fundraising more on their own.

v. J. Reid questions since these changes are ‘guidelines’ and not in the constitution, can BAM fund more in special circumstances?
   1. Yes, these guidelines will be followed most of the time, but if some event or conference deserves a little more money, they may get it.

vi. M. Ehrnfelt brings up Article 2 stating the 4% rule and wonders how that number come about
   1. BAM looked at the average given to an organization and didn’t want one to take more than their fair share of the money.
   2. 4% is about $7,000
   3. This cap only affects a couple groups on campus.

vii. M. McFall Gorman feels like the money organizations receive is contingent upon what they do. Some need a lot of money while some need barely any. She thinks the cap is a bit excessive. The purpose of BAM is to go over what we have to give and what the students want.
   1. BAM is trying to instill that clubs need to fundraise and stretch the dollar. To think of cheaper ways to put on an event. Again it is a guideline, and BAM will use their discretion. They’re trying to give new organizations money.

viii. The reason this was done was to differentiate between how much each student is paying versus how much they are actually spending on conferences. BAM feels immoral spending $5,000 to send 4 people on a conference on 10 student’s Student Activity Fees. They don’t want to discourage students from going, but it costs a lot for only a few students. They’d rather on campus events influencing many students.

ix. E. Drouin is worried about making students pay to go on conferences and then having a lot of roll over into reserves.
   1. BAM doesn’t want students to pay for a conference, they want students to look for cheaper, equivalent conferences maybe a little closer
   2. They’re not cutting back on conferences that haven’t gone over the max limit in the past.
x. J. Ahern brings up that some clubs may have a problem with this since it won’t affect those going on conferences in the fall but it will for the spring.
   1. Those that requested for this semester will go on them, the question in Eboard was that the spring conferences will get a cap and be pissed.
      a. There is only one conference that went over this amount in the past.

xi. Guidelines get changed every semester
   1. We’re worried for all the new organizations requesting money with good intentions.

xii. Motion # 26 Motion to pass all of the BAM guidelines as they stand now (H. Brooks, G. Wrobel) (14-1-0) Motion Carries
   1. Discussion:
      a. N. Vigorita thinks the 4% cap and conference restrictions together are excessive since a single club may not spend over the 4% but their conference may go over the conference limit.
      b. K. Chrzanowska says that BAM is trying to cut down on those spending excess amounts on a conference and very little on on campus events for all the students.

   2. Amendment: Move to amend motion #26 to strike the 4% guideline. (M. McFall Gorman, N. Vigorita) (1-13-1) Amendment fails
      a. Discussion:
         i. Ch. Welch mentions that putting too many restrictions on may deter students from coming to get money, but agrees with K. Chrzanowska that only leaving a little money for on campus events is limiting.
         ii. These guidelines can also change after a semester if needed, and BAM always has the final say in club budgets.

e. Senate Affirmation
   i. Congratulations to all the new senators!
   ii. Motion #26 Motion to confirm our nominees be sworn in as senators of Eastern Connecticut State University (M. Ehrnfelt, H. Brooks)(14-0-0)

f. SGA Retreat
   i. J. Ahern highlighted the important items to bring and not to bring
   ii. Meet at 5pm in the President’s Dining Room Friday 10/9 (Hurley, dining room on left) for pizza
   iii. Will be back on campus at about 8pm Saturday
   iv. Full schedule will be handed out Friday at dinner.
   v. If you have any dietary restrictions, let J. Ahern know. Check your email!
   vi. If you haven’t told Eboard if you cannot attend, please do so asap. This event is mandatory
   vii. There may be a spot for a delegate or two. Will be discussed in Eboard Thursday 10/8
   viii. There will be a waiver to sign
2. **Vice President’s Report**
   a. Email E. Drouin with your preferred internal committee as well as class and work schedules.
   b. **BAM**
      i. Meets Thursday at 4, it allocates the money from the Student Activity Fee all students pay to the organizations on campus
   c. **Student Issues**
      i. Interacts directly with the students, collecting issues and fixing them as soon and efficiently as possible. Meeting time tbd
      ii. One thing that will be talked about is the Voice Box in the suite. Issues will collaborate with PR to get this looking spiffy. The committee will look at the issues and see which are feasible to fix.
   d. **Public Relations**
      i. Ensures that there is a strong relationship with the student body; advocates events on campus for the organizations and Eastern
      ii. Name the mascot competition is over! The top 5 names are being sent to the university for approval and then will be sent out to the students in a Select Survey by SGA to vote!
   e. Delegates can do anything a senator can do but vote. Yes you may be on committees!

3. **Treasurer’s Report:**
   a. **Accounts Update**
      i. General Board $4,000
      ii. Executive Board $6,637.69

2. **Secretary Report:**
   a. eLife is working!
      i. This process will be gone over at the retreat
   b. New senators: email N. Vigorita with 2 hours you are available to be in the suite for your office hours!

3. **Advisor Report:**

4. **Old Business**
   a. There will be a new bulletin board in the suite and a new one in Shakespeare 2nd level. Half will be SGA and half will be commuters. They will all be up soon!
   b. The new one in the suite will have paperwork how-tos

5. **New Business**
   a. J. Ahern and E. Drouin went to a conference at Central for all the CSU SGAs, it was nice to meet everyone and network. In 2 months that meeting will be held here.
   b. **Externals:**
      i. **University Senate: Bill to change the overload GPA from 3.5 to 3.0**
         1. J. Reid thinks 21 credits is too many for any student, the GPA and student will suffer no matter what it is
         2. H. Brooks doesn’t think it’ll be just seniors that are doing this, if someone has a double major, etc. they may as well. He thinks the 3.5 GPA is fine where it is.
3. J. Brucker thinks 3.5 is a good GPA to stick to; 3.0 is a little low, you need to prove you can succeed with 7 classes.
4. M. Ehrnfelt doesn’t think we are taking into consideration internships, you can take some for credit. She doesn’t think someone with a 3.0 should be ‘demoted’
5. G. Wrobel feels it should be brought down, if someone is taking that many credits it is probably to graduate on time, so by not being able to take more credits it may cost a lot more money.
6. M. McFall Gorman agrees yes to 3.0. She feels you don’t need best GPA in the world, you can still pass with 21 credits and move on with your life.
7. S. Davis questions how many people take this many credits?
   a. Not many
8. Informal vote: (16-1-0). N. Vigorita will vote in favor of the change at the next University Senate meeting.

c. **Master Plan Committee**
   i. On the way to finish the master plan! President Nunez will come give SGA a presentation on the 10 year plan in the next few weeks

d. **Ramp from first to second in Shakespeare garage is now staff & faculty, last year was students.**
   i. Lack of parking will be brought up in student issues once it gets started.

6. **Dates to Remember:**
   a. SGA Retreat - Mandatory: Friday, October 9th – Saturday, October 10th (Camp Jewell)
   b. Majors & Minors Fair – Shift Mandatory: Wednesday, October 21st, 2-4 PM (B.T.R)

**Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM**