Student Government Association
General Board Meeting
November 17th, 2014

Present:

Executive Board: M. Hicks (President), A. Bullard (Vice President), K. Chrzanowska (BAM), J. Ahern (Treasurer), E. Drouin (Secretary)

Advisors: C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney


Guests: C. Pellino, S. Hartnett

Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM

1. President's Report
   a. Acceptance of Minutes from 11/10/2014
      i. **Motion #52 (H. Brooks, G. Canzio)** Motion to accept the minutes from 11/10/14 (24-0-0). Motion Carries.
   b. Constitution Revisions
      i. R. Rivera brought up the current Constitution and potential revisions to the senate.
         a. R. Rivera discussed the requirements that senators need to be taking at least 9 credits, he thinks that this is a little low and would allow people who are paying less money to participate in the senate.
         b. E. Pelletier agreed with this idea. Since they are taking less credits, they are paying less money to the student activity fee, so they shouldn't have the same voice.
         c. E. Drouin disagreed with that sentiment. They are still students and those potential senators could be representing the students that are taking less credits.
         d. M. Hicks says to think of the student activity fee as a tax. Some people pay less taxes, some people pay more, but they still have the same voice in the country.
         e. C. Gosselin says the lower credit while retaining status as a full time student refers to freshmen who participate in STEP/CAP who need a transition period.
2. R. Rivera also added that we should be changing the title of the Student Advisory Board to the Student Advisory Council, to reflect the current name.
   a. The senate agreed with this potential change.

3. R. Rivera discussed adding the Mentor/Mentee Program to the constitution.
   a. This is a program that was piloted last year by M. Hicks. It has not been in SGA for a long time. He views it as a responsibility of the President to implement if they wish, not a constitutional revision.
   b. H. Brooks thinks it should develop for a few more years before adding it.
   c. E. Pelletier thinks that we should create some sort of document that outlines the program. She suggested putting it on the bylaws.
      i. M. Delaney explained the difference between the Constitution and the bylaws. The bylaws are more specific in regards to how the Constitution is implemented. You’re taking what’s in the framework and being more specific about it.
   d. Ch. Welch thinks that it should be continued, but it shouldn’t be in the constitution right now.
   e. M. Hicks and R. Rivera will meet in the spring to discuss the good parts and bad parts of the program

4. R. Rivera brought up the recurring concept of the Delegate Program
   a. The delegate program has been around a little bit longer. The idea was brought back a few years ago and it was brought back seriously last year. It was in discussion last year and it was decided to add it to the bylaws.
      i. H. Brooks asked how many delegates that are currently in the senate.
         1. M. Hicks answered one.
      ii. R. Rivera discussed making the regulations for delegates becoming senators. It is proposed that delegates will have to wait two weeks before they reach senatorial status. He’s proposing stricter regulations for the delegate program.
      iii. M. Hicks would like to see it in writing. It needs to be physically drafted out and put in the bylaws. He also suggested a cut-off date in the Spring so that senators aren’t joining for the last two months of the semester.
      iv. M. Ehrnfelt doesn’t understand the difference between the senator program and the delegate program.
      v. V. Cosma asked if a delegate can become a committee head
      vi. M. Hicks said yes, there’s nothing in the constitution that prohibits it at this time.
vii. J. Ahern asked if anyone can come to the committee meetings.
   1. M. Hicks answered that you do not have to hold your committee meeting as a public forum

viii. A. Bullard said the delegate program was meant to be something that was less commitment than a senator. Instituting all of the regulations on the delegates will kind of take away the point of the delegate program. This program is meant to accommodate people who want to be involved with time constraints.

ix. E. Benoit asked what is the difference between a delegate and a person who just attend the meeting
   1. M. Hicks answered that delegates frequently attend meetings and express their desire to be considered a delegate.
   2. J. Reid added that delegates can also go on trips.
      a. M. Hicks corrected that it’s to the president’s discretion. That's precedent, there’s nothing that says what the rule is on that.

x. C. Gosselin said that two weeks, three meetings and forcing delegates to go to committee meetings is too much. That’s a lot of commitment that is shown by a delegate, three consecutive meetings is plenty of time to show commitment.

xi. P. Hoeps thinks this would make it difficult for freshmen to become delegates.

xii. M. Hicks thinks that this should be taken back to committee to work out. So far this semester we’ve had two delegates. The process shows the commitment, and now they’re able to become contributing members in a meaningful way. He thinks the process now is fine.

5. R. Rivera’s final change is adding Dates to Remember as a required piece of the agenda.

6. M. Hicks asked the senate if anyone wanted to propose a constitution revision
   a. The senate had to proposals.

c. Transform CSU Update
   i. A 59.1 million deficit for the state has been projected. At the governor’s request, each agency has been asked to review their budget. This includes Transform. The BOR president sent out an email that said in order to discuss the plan in depth and review spending, they’re postponing the plan for two months. Nothing has
changed with it. There's a lot of controversy with its current form. The faculty here at Eastern have spoken out about not liking a form of the plan. A committee within the faculty AAUP (their union) was planning a vote of no confidence and the FAC said that they don't support it as well. They're receiving a lot of backlash in regards to the plan. A higher up in the BOR recently resigned from his position. A lot of students are confused and don't know what to make of it.

ii. H. Brooks said that he's been told that a committee of community colleges held a no confidence vote as well.

iii. J. Mazyck asked if we have much of a decision on whether or not it's implemented or if we are just trying to get it to be the best it can.

1. M. Hicks said the faculty believes their opinions haven't been taken into account by Dr. Grey. He does things to hear people's opinions but doesn't really take them into account as far as plan implementation goes.

2. J. Ahern says that they hear that people are unhappy.

3. M. Hicks said to answer the question technically no they don't have to listen to us. But if there's masses of no support throughout the BOR, then it will have an effect on Dr. Grey's credibility.

4. H. Brooks says that the survey that was recently sent out to the student body to 'collect opinion' was worded very carefully and misleading in a way to make it seem as though they have student support.

5. G. Wrobel was wondering if the community colleges and other colleges have communicated their displeasure as well

   a. J. Ahern said that from what he's heard they're all confused.

6. M. Hicks thinks that all students are confused due to a lack of information from Dr. Grey, which is intentional

7. E. Pelletier asked whose approval Dr. Grey needs.

   a. M. Hicks said he reports to the governor

8. Ch. Welch asked where they're going with this if it's on hold for two months.

   a. J. Ahern says this is the two months of them revising in accordance with the feedback they've received, hopefully.

9. H. Brook asked if we can pass a resolution to show that we do not support the plan.

   a. M. Hicks said this is where we sit going forward. We can vote confidence or no confidence and create a resolution. We can do anything that we feel necessary to voice our concerns. This is something that will also come up with University Senate, and we are voting members. We will be asked to vote and they will be discussing it tomorrow. We have one vote in the University Senate. We should probably have a discussion then on how we should vote if it comes up

   1. A. Bullard thinks we should stand by the faculty and be a united front. There was concern that the faculty voting no confidence would backfire. It would send a much clearer message. We should talk with the other SGAs
at the other CSUs and forming a combined front.
1. M. Hicks will reach out to the other presidents.
2. M. Hicks says that our vote means a lot within the senate. If the faculty votes no confidence and then the students vote in confidence, it's going to undermine the entire effort.

ii. J. Mazyck agrees that we should look unified with the other CSUs, it'd be better to put our support behind the faculty to make us look more unified as a whole.

iii. M. McFall Gorman says that the point of this fight is to emphasize that we are all different as CSUs.

iv. E. Pelletier says the plan is so vague that it's not possible to implement it. We need to garner student support and see how that is at the other CSUs.

v. M. Hicks said that you need a plan no matter what; the document that J. Ahern gave out is the faculty's alternatives to the plan. One thing that should be emphasized in the plan is "increased funding for distinct identities".

vi. H. Brooks said Transform will take away the individuality of the institutions. H. Brooks thinks we should form an ad hoc committee to review Transform specifically.
   1. M. Hicks says that this specifically falls under the Board of Regents representative.
   2. J. Ahern says that we can put this into the Student Issues committee and discuss it.
   3. M. Hicks doesn't want to commit to writing a resolution until we communicate with the other CSUs.
   4. C. Gosselin said that as an SGA, one of your responsibilities is to write down your opinion. We need to write out our opinion to distribute.
   5. M. Ehrnfelt thinks we should write something for the Campus Lantern
   6. J. Reid asked if seamless transfer is included in Transform.
      a. M. Hicks said yes, but that's already implemented at Eastern.
   7. A. Bullard thinks that before we do the resolution, we need to collect more student opinion.
8. J. Ahern says that the resolution would say that we can’t support the plan in its current form.

9. M. Hicks is establishing an ad hoc committee that has the sole responsibility of drafting a resolution, which shall involve J. Ahern, M. Hicks, E. Pelletier, a University Senate representative, and probably one other senator.

10. J. Ahern said that Dr. Lugo a member of the AAUP, is willing to meet with the SGA in regards to the plan.
    a. E. Benoit said that Dr. Kane would as well.

iv. Student Safety

1. After the safety concerns on campus, President Nunez hired more security on campus. They are just temporary, however she’s creating four jobs of part time security guards. They are a trained security force, lesser than a police officer. There’s been a recent situation in regards to safety in the Willimantic community. A student was mugged off campus and beaten up very badly. When he tried to call 911, they did not respond to him or he was dropped instead of being switched.
   a. J. Mazyck said that the Willimantic PD dispatch claimed that they never called.
   b. E. Pelletier said this is something worth mentioning at Town Gown
   c. E. Drouin said the problem is that there's been a distinct lack of response in regards to the Willimantic police force. We shouldn’t be focusing on the circumstances of the call; we should be focusing on the lack of support from the police.
   d. M. Hicks said we’ve cut down on partying and held up our ends of the bargain as far as student/town relations go. Our students can't go out in the community at night. The Willimantic Police aren't doing enough to keep the area that our students live in safe. The blame shouldn't be on us, it should be on the Willimantic police.
   e. M. McFall Gorman said the extension of the code of conduct off campus is the elephant in the room. The police are not happy to enforce the code of conduct, and it is taking police officers away from the real purpose
   f. M. Ehrnfelt says that the police can say that they don't like dealing with the policy, but there were two police men in their car that were verbally harassing them. They like harassing students.
   g. M. Hicks said Willimantic PD aren't acting appropriately. There’s been a lot of misconduct by the Willimantic PD.
   h. N. Vigorita asked why we didn’t get told about it.
i. M. Hicks said there've been multiple instances of things happening off campus that we haven't known about. Chief Garewski indicated that there's regulations about what they can tell students and when.

i. J. Mazyck said that apparently a student was jumped on campus and put into the hospital two weeks ago. The student was in the hospital for three nights.

j. M. Hicks said that Dr. Nunez indicated that there'd be an increase in on-campus security and safety.

k. H. Brooks said students should report it as it happens so students keep their guard up.

l. C. Gosselin said there are some things that they aren't reporting that students shouldn't know about. Students are scared to walk through campus at night.

m. J. Reid asked if there can be a forum where these things are reported that is maybe not on email.

i. Members of Student Issues are meeting with Chief Garewski next week.

ii. M. McFall Gorman asked if all police reports are open to the public. Incidents are usually reported. Is there a way to keep confidentiality?
   1. M. Hicks said the problem is that people aren't reporting them. They don't have trust in the police.

n. M. Hicks urged students to attend Town Gown.

i. V. Cosma asked when it is
   1. M. Hicks answered it was Thursday at 6pm in the Johnson Room

2. Vice President’s Report
3. Committee Updates

i. E-Board Update
   1. Committee proposals are due November 24th, 2014. This is an outline of tangible goals for next semester.
      a. A. Nadeau asked if committee members have to do individual proposals
         i. A. Bullard said no, it's just committee heads but members have input.
   2. The executive board will be meeting with members of the Yearbook. We shall be addressing financing and alternative options.
      a. M. Ehrnfelt asked why we are meeting with Yearbook about.
      b. A. Bullard said our constitution requires Yearbook and Drama Society to give us a detailed outline and they haven't. Yearbook receives $18,000 a year and we don't know what they're doing. They're considered a student organization, but they're not a club in good standing. They only sell about 50 yearbooks a year. There's a minimum order and it's 250.
c. M. Hicks said that we want them to be more accessible to students and be more financially efficient. We expect to cut off their funding.
d. A. Nadeau asked where the money is going.
   i. M. Hicks said it’s to fulfill their contract. Any profit they make, which they don’t, would go into their account.
e. C. Gosselin asked if they use $18,000 every semester.
   i. M. Hicks answered yes, and they get more from other departments on campus.
   ii. C. Gosselin said that over 20,000 to sell so few yearbooks is ridiculous.
f. N. Vigorita asked if they really have just one member
   i. M. Hicks said that as far as we know, yes, which means they’re not a club in good standing. It is up to BAM to put them on notice of that.
g. M. Ehrnfelt said the clubs support SGA on that decision because they’re not participating in yearbook.
h. C. Gosselin would like to see a breakdown of their finances.
   i. M. Hicks said we can request that.

ii. Issues
   1. Issues is working on using the information they received from financial aid to inform students about Transform 2020.
   2. The smoking policy is resolved to the best of Allison’s ability. We don’t know what Public Safety is going to do next semester in regards to either improving the policy at all or improving their enforcement of the policy. This may lead to a collaboration between student issues and the executive board.

iii. Public Relations
   1. PR is working on posting about the mascot redesign contest. They’re also advertising for other clubs. They’re also planning for spring elections.
   2. The poster printer is not broken any more.
      a. M. Hicks asked V. Cosma to email the clubs and let them know.

iv. Internal
   1. No one went to R. Rivera’s planned Movie Night.
      a. M. Hicks suggested that they plan it for a non-weekend night.
   2. Supplies are in the Student Activities Office, they haven’t been moved to the suite yet.
      a. M. Hicks asked if we have figured out a way to secure it.
         i. R. Rivera is working on figuring that out.
      b. A. Bullard asked R. Rivera if he had emailed out the clubs to let them know about the supplies.
         i. R. Rivera is waiting for internal email account to be set up.

v. Budget and Management
1. KC sends her regards she’s not feeling well, FPRs are more than halfway done

4. Treasurer's Report:
   a. J. Ahern gave out a spring budget projection along with an accounts update.
   b. J. Ahern discussed how general board has been going down so frequently and quickly. We have the option to get reimbursed for the gas that are used by the vans and clubs. We’d be charging the clubs instead of charging our operating accounts. Keep in mind that we’re trying to allocate from BAM right now, so we’ll need to figure out where the money is coming out of.
   c. The BAM accounts have gone up every semester and receive a large portion of money. To put it in perspective it’s 175,000 a semester and BAM usually rolls 40K over.
      i. J. Mazyck asked where the money for vans comes out of.
         1. The university services the vans on a rotation.
      ii. A. Nadeau thinks it should come out of BAM because they receive so much money in roll over. We already provide the students with the vans, clubs should think of that as an expense.
      iii. C. Gosselin thinks we cannot take all $9,000 out of BAM. We have several new large funding clubs that are requesting a lot of money: Asian Cultural Society, Gymnastics Club, Paintball Club, etc. A lot of clubs that were in limbo are starting to come together and request a lot of money. BAM is nitpicking everything in the FRPs because they’re worried that they’re going to run out of money.
      iv. A. Bullard said we’re already worried that we’re going to run out of money for clubs and wondered if we should raise the student activity fee.
         1. M. Hicks thinks that’s a bad standard.
      v. C. Gosselin said we should be taking part of the hit ourselves.
      vi. J. Ahern thinks we should set up a separate account for just gas; but all the percentages would have to change
         1. M. Delaney talk to Karyl in regards to creating a new account within BAM. We don’t need to change the constitution to do that.
   vii. Motion #53 (J. Reid, E. Pelletier) Motion to table discussion of the gas accounts until next meeting. (18-0-0). Motion Carries.

5. Secretary's Report:
   a. Filemaker is still not ready. E. Drouin will be working with C. Ambrosio to get it running.

6. Advisor's Report:
   a. Nothing to report.

7. Old Business:
   a. Mentor/Mentee Proposals are due November 24th.

8. Dates to Remember:
   a. Friday, December 5th; Cops Open Rec Night
   b. Thursday, November 20th, 6pm in the Johnson Room: Town Gown

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM