Student Government Association
General Board Meeting
December 8th, 2014

Present:

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

Advisors: C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney


Guests: L. Polansky

Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM

1. President’s Report
a. Lauren Polansky
   i. Lauren Polansky, an Environmental Earth Science major came to the senate to speak about a new initiative where Hurley is going trayless. Removing the trays from Hurley Hall will make us a greener campus, as it will reduce food waste and utilize less water for washing. A lot of other schools are implementing this initiative, including schools within Connecticut. This could also potentially level out meal plan costs in future years, as it will save money. Lauren has already spoke with the Director of Chartwells in addition to President Nunez. They’re going to do a trial run during Earth week next semester. Trays would be completely removed over the summer. Chartwells is already ready to participate in the campaign, and components of Hurley are ready to accommodate trayless dining.
   ii. Discussion
      1. M. Patino asked if alternative reasons for students having a lot of food waste were considered.
         a. L. Polansky said that students typically eat with their eyes.
         b. M. Patino added that it should be considered that sometimes students get food and then end up throwing it away because they don’t like it, so she’s gotten into the habit of taking multiple plates of various food items.
      2. G. Wrobel asked what would be done with the leftover trays.
         a. L. Polansky said that they would keep a small amount for students who might have a disability. They would
be donated to a company that would be able to use them for alternative means.

3. A. Bullard wondered why they weren’t being taken out next semester.
   a. L. Polansky said that they wouldn’t want to shock students and give them a fair say in this initiative.

4. E. Benoit asked what would happen if students didn’t like the idea.
   a. L. Polansky said that it will probably still be implemented.
   b. M. Hicks added that there’s a point on the proposal that collects student feedback.

5. C. Gosselin suggested that they stress that meal plan costs might go down, as that would get everyone’s attention.

6. P. Hoeps added that athletes typically eat insane amounts of food, so that the trays might be useful. It’s about being practical.
   a. L. Polansky acknowledged that it takes getting used to.

7. H. Brooks asked what SGA has to do with the initiative.
   a. M. Hicks said that SGA is the student opinion, so we can provide feedback and add resources to the plan.

8. E. Benoit expressed concern about student backlash. Students will be mad about this. Have you considered a smaller tray that would take less money to wash.

9. G. Wrobel thinks that any backlash would be short-lived; it would just take getting used to.

10. M. Patino inquired how they were intending to educate students.
    a. L. Polansky is going to personally work on educating students about the issue and the initiative.

11. A. Nadeau suggested that they put signs outside of Hurley to introduce students to this idea.

12. C. Gosselin said that since the large majority of people that use Hurley are freshmen, so the backlash will be small and short-lived.

13. M. Ehrnfelt asked when Earth Week was.
    a. L. Polansky said it is usually in April.

14. A. Nadeau said that it is easier to carry keys and phone with a tray.

15. E. Benoit said that during the clean tray campaign a lot of students were upset when they didn’t have the tray options.

16. M. Ehrnfelt thinks that we should survey the incoming freshmen.

17. M. McFall Gorman supports the plan to at least see if it works.

18. C. Gosselin said that saving money off of the trays could be put into the food to increase quality.
    a. M. Hicks said that anywhere where we can save money is necessary.

19. J. Ahern thinks that the trial run should be where the focus is in seeing where the student body is. He thinks we should throw our support in after gauging student reaction.
20. Ch. Welch thinks that the trial run should be extended beyond a week.

21. **Motion #61 (M. Hicks, H. Brooks)** Motion to support L. Polansky's initiative in accordance with the timeline that is on the document distributed to the senate (23-0-1). **Motion Carries.**

b. End of the Semester Review
   i. M. Hicks thanked the senate for a wonderful semester and commended everyone’s efforts. He’s proud of what everyone has done.

c. Senator of the Month
   i. H. Brooks was named the Senator of the Month for November.

d. Senator of the Semester
   i. V. Cosma was named the Senator of the Semester for the Fall 2014 Semester.

e. Acceptance of Minutes from 12/1/2014
   i. **Motion #62 (J. Reid, P. Hoeps)** Motion to accept the minutes from 12/1/14 (24-0-1). **Motion Carries.**

f. Student Activity Fee
   i. All of the money that SGA gets to spend is from the Student Activity Fee. It is currently set at $95 a semester. It was last raised two years ago. If it was raised $5 a semester, it would bring in about $40,000 a semester.
      ii. Discussion
          1. E. Pelletier feels as though we have no need; clubs are comfortable.
          2. J. Reid asked when it had to be implemented.
             a. M. Hicks said that in order to get it implemented for next year, we’d have to decide today.
          3. C. Gosselin doesn’t think it is necessary, but it something to consider within the next few years.
          4. E. Benoit thinks that $100 would be too high for the students.
          5. M. Wysopal thinks that it should be dependent upon future enrollment numbers.
          6. R. Rivera agrees with M. Wysopal, he thinks it should be dependent upon projected enrollment.
          7. M. McFall Gorman added that less students enrolled, there’s less students participating in these events.
          8. No one wanted to put forth a motion to raise the activity fee.

g. Constitution Revisions
   i. R. Rivera reviewed the proposed Delegate Program Document.
      1. N. Vigorita proposed a grammatical change.
         a. R. Rivera made this change.
   ii. M. McFall Gorman asked for R. Rivera to make the wording of the requirements for the
   iii. M. Wysopal says that the purpose of becoming a delegate is SGA without the time commitments. This document as a reflection of the delegate program defeats the purpose.
   iv. A. Bullard thinks that the three meetings should be general board; the committee meeting should be extra.
   v. E. Drouin is confused as to why the delegate program is being treated as something that is meant to make it more difficult for people to join SGA. We’ve spoke about student participation all year
and we should be welcoming people into the senate instead of making it harder for them to have access. The program should detail what the delegate can do within the organization.

1. S. Froehlich said that outlining what the delegates do as details for being what a senator is was stricken in a prior meeting.

vi. M. Hicks said that the delegate program is meant for someone to foster themselves.

vii. A. Bullard said that people are forgetting there's still an internal election, so if someone isn't a "proper delegate", then we can still not vote them in. This is for someone to be a part of the senate without the time commitments. We're trying to not be too exclusive.

viii. E. Benoit thinks that students who want to be in it will do it anyway, so then we don't need an entire program.

ix. J. Ahern said that this program is confusing, and we don't need this program at all. If we want to call people who didn't get elected and still express interest, then we should call them delegates. We shouldn't have an entire program surrounding it. This isn't the right way to go.

x. P. Hopes said that it would have been much harder to become a part of the senate if he had to attend three meetings to just be a delegate. He thinks that there should be one meeting. He was unsure as a delegate whether or not he could participate during a meeting.

xi. M. Wysopal doesn't feel as though she was a delegate. Her becoming a senator from being a delegate was simply a timing thing.

xii. E. Benoit thinks that someone who lose the election should automatically becoming a delegate if they declare interest.

xiii. C. Gosselin thinks it's important to put the delegate program into the constitution, just by saying that they have the duties of a senator and saying what they cannot do.

xiv. The consensus was reached that the delegate program should reflect what the current system is, with an outline of their role within the organization. The delegate is someone who is trying to prepare themselves for eligibility within the senate. M. Hicks doesn't think that we should get rid of the delegate program, just clarify what it is.

1. P. Hopes added that delegate experience will aid a student in getting elected later on.

xv. E. Benoit thinks that delegates should be a more positive experience.

xvi. M. McFall Gorman says that delegates should be added to the minutes email; delegates will have access to the minutes from prior meetings.

2. Vice President’s Report
   a. A. Bullard wanted to thank M. Hicks for a great semester.
   b. Committee Updates
      i. Committee heads have been given feedback for all of their proposals.
      ii. Issues
         1. Nothing to report.
      iii. Public Relations
         1. PR will be meeting Tuesdays at 5:30 next semester.
         2. The committee will be looking at promotion products for next semester.
         3. They're also finalizing details for Warrior Wednesday
   iv. Internal
1. Nothing to report.

v. Budget and Management
   1. Nothing to report.

3. Treasurer’s Report:
   a. General Board is currently at $-1301.33. Executive Board is currently at $-4420.58

4. Secretary Report:
   a. E. Drouin addressed potential problems with FileMaker, which shall be reviewed upon the start of the new semester.

5. Advisor Report:
   a. Nothing to report.

6. Old Business
   a. Mentor/Mentee Projects
      i. Mentor/Mentee Projects will be given back at the end of the meeting.
   b. Transform Update
      i. Dr. Kane established a committee at Eastern to see how the plan specifically affects Eastern.
      ii. The committee has drafted the resolution and shall be reviewed during finals.
      iii. Southern and Western Presidents have expressed interest in regards to the Transform Resolution. The Central President has not gotten back to us.
   c. Student Support Committee
      i. S. Nelson has increased the printing funds from $15 to $20.
   d. University Senate
      i. The senate voted on the Academic Imperative Plan, which asked that the Transform Plan focus more on academics.
   e. Organization Committee
      i. The Writing Board Committee wanted to change its language and it shall be voted upon the University Senate.

7. New Business:
   a. A. Nadeau brought up an issue having to do with GradesFirst: All faculty members can look at a lot of personal information on GradesFirst, and can see the information of any student. Students were asked to fill out a very honest survey and all faculty could see those answers instead of just being faculty advisers. A. Nadeau thinks there should be a limit on what all faculty members can see.
      i. E. Pelletier said she’s working on it and it might all be a matter of programming.
      ii. A. Nadeau said if they can’t fix the program, students should be more aware.

8. Dates to Remember:
   a. Monday, January 12th, 2015 3:00PM, First SGA General Board Meeting of the Spring Semester.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM