General Board Agenda  
Student Center – Room 107  
3:00 PM January 25th, 2016

Present:

Executive Board: J. Ahern (President), E. Drouin (Vice President), T. Mack (Treasurer), C. Gosselin (BAM), M. McFall Gorman (Secretary).

Advisors: M. Delaney


Guests: A. Bard, A. Murphy, K. O'Rourke, K. Cutting, G. Litke, C. Litke, R. Blango, J. Johnson, and V. Cosma.

Call to Order: 3:04pm

I. President Report:
   a. Acceptance of Minutes from 11/30/2015
      i. Motion #53 (H. Brooks, Ch. Welch) Motion to accept the minutes from the 11/30/2015 General Board meeting. (19– 0 - 0) Motion carries.
   b. Senator of the Semester
      i. Congratulations to H. Brooks for being awarded Senator of the Semester in recognition of his hard work both in and without SGA!
   c. Spring Activities Fair Review / Open Seats
      i. J. Ahern posited that the Stu Cruise worked out nicely with the passports because it encouraged students to come directly to SGA and see where we work and what we do.
      ii. J. Ahern reminded the Senate that there are four available seats in the Senate. J. Ahern elaborated upon the duties of a senator as well as how, to become a Senator, a student must attend three consecutive meetings as well as notify the E-Board of their intent to become a Senator.
      iii. J. Ahern also stated that to be a Senator in the fall semester a student must run in the elections held at the end of the spring semester. Elections are then held in the beginning of the fall semester so that freshmen have the opportunity to join (as well as people who did not gain a position in the spring election). In the spring there are about 14 seats.
      iv. Co. Welch asked if more people could run in the spring elections, or if it would be possible to change the number of available seats.
      v. M. Delaney stated there might be a constitutional issue in changing the number of available seats.
vi. E. Drouin elaborated that while the spring elections are more competitive, the fall offers a second chance for those who did not win a seat in the spring, so changing the number of available seats would only exclude the freshman who do not have the opportunity to run for both elections.

vii. J. Ahern states that E-Board will review the constitution and see if there are any changes that could potentially be made. If so, then the issue will be brought back to General Board where a consensus may be reached as to pursue it or not.

II. Vice President Report:
   a. Induction
      i. (New) Student Government Senator Ailyn Dilone was sworn in! Welcome!
   b. Internal Committee Assignments
      i. Senators worked through their schedules with the availabilities of the Committee Heads in order to decide upon the respective committee meeting times.
      ii. J. Dignoti asked if Senators had to return to their previous committees, and J. Ahern stated that Senators are not obligated to return to their prior committee.
      iii. After initial groupings, it was noted that E-Board may need to shuffle people around, as Student Issues has far more Senators than the Public Relations Committee.
      iv. It was decided that Public Relations will be meeting at 5pm on Tuesday.
      v. It was decided that Student Issues will be meeting at 5pm on Mondays.
   c. Internal Committees Update
      i. Student Issues: Student Surveys
         1. H. Brooks is compiling a list of questions for a survey to be sent out to students. Update forthcoming.
         2. The survey questions are an attempt to get ahead on some topics which are consistently brought up as student issues such as the shuttle.
         3. J. Ahern stated that the NYTimes Informational Table will be an opportunity to team up: students can sign up for NYTimes subscription as well as take the time to fill out the SGA Survey in regards to potential issues that could be addressed over the course of the semester.
         4. The questions to be ultimately placed on the survey will be finalized by E-Board on Wednesday February 3rd, as the dates for the NYTimes tables are:
            a. Thursday Feb. 4th and Thursday March 31st both from 9-4pm.
      5. E-Board discussed Southern Connecticut State University’s alcohol policy and asked the Senate if they would be interested in looking into it.
         a. J. Ahern attempted to explain the alcohol policy that Southern has implemented: essentially you can sign in alcohol depending on your (legal) age, dormitory, and the amount of alcohol being brought into the room.
         b. L. Navarro as an RA believed that the program wouldn’t work
         c. J. Ahern stressed that we are not immediately moving towards establishing this policy, we are merely raising the questions to see if students would want us to advocate for such a policy.
      6. E-Board mentioned the potential repurposing of the Eastbrook Mall Shuttle.
         a. Based on cost, usage, and troubles with the app, it is possible that the money used for the shuttle could be put towards a different shuttle that would take students to the Mansfield/Storrs shopping centers on the weekends during daytime hours.
         b. It was suggested by E-Board that the Eastbrook Mall Shuttle only be used on large shopping weekends such as those before the Holiday break.
   ii. Public Relations: Warrior Wednesday
1. Co. and Ch. Welch stated that they have decided to continue Warrior Wednesday from last semester as they were big successes.
2. The last Warrior Wednesday styled event was the Create Your Own Care Package event, which overall seemed to have gone very well.
3. Co. and Ch. Welch said they were brainstorming upon ideas started in last semesters Public Relations meetings:
   a. In February SGA might have a Welcome Back event
   b. PR will work on hosting an event similar to the ‘Fall for Eastern’ event done two years ago, but have it changed to tie into Valentines’ Day to make it more of a “Why Did You Fall in Love with Eastern”.
   c. The “Why Did You Fall in Love with Eastern” event might be held on either February 10th or 17th (favored), but will be ultimately determined when the committee begins their regular meetings.
   d. J. Ahern reminded the Senate that at the end of March everyone’s minds and efforts will be turned towards elections, so all other events should be planned and executed before that.

iii. Budget and Management:
   1. New Student Organizations
      a. There are five new constitutions to be reviewed as well as several constitutional changes to the Black Student Union’s constitution which C. Gosselin said were clearly marked as well as fairly simple.
      b. The new clubs starting on campus include: My Big Fat Greek Club, Tennis Club, Women’s Rugby, and the Love Your Melon club.
   2. C. Gosselin requested that everyone read the new constitutions as well as review the proposed constitutional changes of BSU so that they are prepared to vote on them at next Monday’s General Board meeting.

d. External Committee Assignments
   i. There are vacant committees.
      1. Academic Affairs needs a new senator, it is a very important committee that institutes real change that affects students.
         a. Persons interested in the committee: Ch. Welch.
         b. E. Drouin took note of Ch. Welch’s interest and will send them further information in regards to the committee.
      2. First Year Program Committee needs a new senator to help design first year programs.
         a. Persons interested in the committee: L. Navarro
         b. E. Drouin took note of L. Navarro’s interest and will send them further information in regards to the committee.
      3. University Senate needs another Senator.
         a. J. Mazyck will take the open seat and F. Ricigliano will retain his seat, M. Patino will also retain her seat.
         b. J. Ahern will send J. Mazyck all relevant information regarding meeting times and documents.

III. Treasurer Report:
   a. Accounts Update:
      i. Fall 2015 allocations can be reviewed.
         1. J. Ahern had senators take notice of the organizations that are automatically funded; all budgets that are currently being voted on during the meeting are E-Board, General Board, and Budget and Management.
**b. Spring 2016 Budget**

i. For the Spring 2016 Budgets of E-Board, General Board, and BAM T. Mack proposed the following prices, which are the same as they were last semester:
   1. E-Board: $7,365
   2. General Board: $13,000
   3. BAM: $175,000

ii. J. Ahern noted that we never had a deficit this semester, we broke even at zero meaning that Student Government should have no problem in choosing to follow through with the same amounts.

iii. Student Guest A. Murphy asked if guests are able to vote on the budget, and J. Ahern clarified that while guests (non-Senators) cannot vote, they are welcome to be involved in discussions about the budget.

iv. **Motion #54.** (R. Eragnie, K. Chrzanowska) Motion to approve the Spring 2016 Budget for General Board ($13,000), Elected Board ($7,365), and Budget and Management ($175,000) as they stand respectively. **(21 – 0 – 0) Motion carries.**

**IV. Secretary Report:**

a. **Absence Policy**

i. Due to the inconsistency of attendance as well as office hours from the fall semester, the E-Board has decided to be stricter with the policies.

b. **Office Hours**

i. M. McFall Gorman reminded all Senators that it is a part of their duties to attend their office hours and be available to students as a resource.

ii. M. McFall Gorman requested that all Senators use the eLife system that had been implemented for clocking their hours. C. Gosselin made it known that for Resident Assistants (such as himself, T. Mack, and L. Navarro) there is no SGA option, and that they will have to manually clock their hours.

iii. M. McFall Gorman handed out a sheet with all Senators names with the direction that they put down their Internal Committee assignment as well as their office hours.

iv. M. McFall Gorman will prepare this information in a document and disperse to Committee Heads, J. Ahern, and E. Drouin

v. J. Ahern added that students who are Delegates are not held to those same attendance and office hour requirements. A handout with the attendance policies regarding was available to all people at the General Board meeting.

vi. J. Ahern reminded all that accumulating three unexcused absences or more will result in a meeting with the E-Board. Furthermore, these absences will be confirmed by email, so all Senators are reminded to please check your email regularly as it is vitally important.

**V. Advisor Report:**

**VI. Old Business:**

a. **NYTimes Subscription**

i. J. Ahern updated the Senate that on the 15th of January the subscription went live and was tested by Eastern's IT Department. No statistics from this have been released yet, however faculty seem to love it and are eager to use it. Students are using it already too, but there are still many that have not signed up so we should utilize the promotional items we have.

ii. J. Ahern says we should take the email the NYTimes offices drafted for us and actually send it out to the students from SGA. Another possible method of distribution is to print the
email/announcement and hang them up in all the dorms. E-Board will decide this at their next meeting.

iii. M. Wysopal was concerned about the amount of paper that would take.

iv. J. Ahern says that since we’ve already spent so much money on the subscription we really need to inform and make aware all the students possible so as to make the expenditure worthwhile.

v. K. Chrzanowska states it’s great for academia as classes require sources, current events, articles, and so forth. NYTimes makes it easy and wonderful.

vi. E. Drouin said that her teacher changed their entire syllabus to ensure students use the subscriptions. M. McFall Gorman said she is welcome for the added homework.

vii. J. Ahern states that 60 days before it runs out, the future E-Board MUST cancel the NYTimes subscription (if they so desire to) otherwise it will renew. Next years’ E-Board will make the decision to keep the NYTimes subscription or not based on use.

viii. K. Constant says there is another resource that students pay for already on campus.

ix. M. McFall Gorman clarified that the other resource K. Constant mentioned is the program called JStor which is a collection of academic journals and research articles paid for by the University as a part of the Library’s budget.

x. E. Drouin further clarified that while JStor is peer-reviewed, academic journals, the NYTimes subscription gives students access to current news resources which is entirely different.

xi. A. Dilone asked how the NYTimes subscriptions have been advertised to students, and how they will be further advertised this semester.

xii. J. Ahern says the subscriptions have been advertised through email, flyers, S.O.A.R programs, and our social media sites. However SGA should look to how we can advertise more as this is a great program, easy to use, and beneficial to students.

b. Texts Exchange

i. Texts Exchange is a website (easternct.text.com) where students can search for a book and find the cheapest available price. This aspect of the website does not include the actual purchasing of the text book, it acts as more of a directory. The second platform functions similar to the ECSU Buy & Sell Facebook group, where students can buy books ONLY from fellow students as it requires an ECSU email to make a profile.

ii. The question was raised if SGA should look to promote awareness about this program now, or wait until classes end when students are either trading in their books, selling them, etc.

iii. F. Ricigliano said that he used it and thought it’s useful NOW: so SGA should try to advertise now.

iv. H. Brooks said that we wouldn’t be able to get across to many students right now because a majority of students have already bought books.

v. J. Reid said there are still late book buyers.

vi. J. Ahern asked for an informal consensus:

   1. Put information regarding the Texts Exchange on boards/social media?

      a. 12 Senators said yes while 4 Senators said to wait, so E-Board will discuss the options and then send instructions to the Public Relations committee.

   c. SGA Conference

      i. IT had been decided previously that we would not attend the Florida conference (or anything national) because we are going to follow BAM guidelines (limiting the funds available) and wanted all members to attend (therefore must be local).

      ii. J. Ahern said that there was one option in NYC, where even if we attended for only a day the cost would still be quite high. Plus the conferences held in the past by this group were not ranked very well.
E-Board asked the Senate to research conferences on their own, so that if anybody in the senate knows of an affordable beneficial, local conference they are to send it to the E-Board

A. Dilonone asked what kind of traits the E-Board looked at when looking for conferences. J. Ahern said the focus was initially on SGA-oriented conferences, but those were too narrow and instead the E-Board moved on to leadership conferences.

M. Delaney said that Central Connecticut University is having a conference to replace one they used to go to (COSGA which was expensive – in Texas – but every year it got less relevant).

The E-Board explained that “ConnCOSGA” doesn’t look very ‘fun’ and it might not be a good fit, but if people are interested they can ask us for more info.

M. Wysopal asked why we don’t assist them, make a committee, go to Central and try to help them improve the conference. J. Ahern said that Central only requested each attendee make a presentation, and refused any actual help with the conference.

E. Drouin said that the consensus seems to be: Southern and Western are not interested either, so there is a lack of motivation overall, and the CCSU Conference may fail because the other schools are not going to be involved. Also, E. Drouin reminded the Senate that conferences didn’t work in the past because they did not fit with our situations – the CCSU’s are all very different, so that would be an obstacle.

F. Ricigliano says the conference won’t be beneficial unless everyone is equally invested.

J. Ahern says that conferences need strong motivational speakers to inspire attendance – so if it is an in-house conference chances are you won’t have the necessary attendance.

R. Eragene asked how much money it would cost to go to Florida. J. Ahern said that while we don’t have to follow BAM guidelines, we chose to last semester, and since we are also unable to fundraise the funds would not be enough to bring all senators.

C. Gosselin said that following the BAM guidelines makes for a good standard to follow, because not doing so would be ill received by student organizations that had to pinch pennies for their own conferences.

K. Chrzanowska noted that Senators could compensate the price, potentially a cost of $200 dollars per Senator.

C. Gosselin said that the cost would be over $3,000 per student. While this does not factor in late registration, any attempts at bargaining, the price is still clearly very high. Furthermore, airline prices are very expensive.

A. Dilonone asked what the cost difference would be if we evened the playing field by allowing SGA to fundraise.

J. Ahern reminded Senators that we are not a regular student organization, which is why we don’t get allocated a budget by BAM, we are an oversight organization similar to CAB (which gets paid), and even though we don’t get paid, overall we are different.

M. Delaney clarified that it was $439 for registration in Florida, at $179 a night, and that plane costs were still considerable. It’s a great experience but not doable for the entire senate.

J. Ahern says the future E-Board can discuss this over the summer as well for next year.

J. Ahern says that if there are a majority of Senators that still want to pursue a conference for the entire Senate they must research it on their own and bring their findings to General Board next week.

VII. New Business:

a. Student Activity Fee

i. J. Ahern stated that the fee is paid by all full time and part time student; SGA decides how that money is allocated, including CAB, Senior Class, General Board, BAM, and all clubs under BAM. $95 per semester is the current fee, but E-Board has reached the consensus that it should be $100 per semester ($200 per year).
M. Delaney stated that the part time student activity fee is $5 dollars.

C. Gosselin gave relevant information to the Fee increase and also explained why more funds are needed:
1. SGA voted not to raise last year as they saw it as a burden on students as well as premature. There was a need for more funds already at this point.
2. There is lower student enrollment meaning less money coming into the Student Activities accounts. All groups felt this including the larger ones such as CAB which gets a percentage of the total budget.
3. While SGA saved money by cutting the Yearbook budget in half, there was not a big change in fund availability as a result.
4. BAM’s budget was kept at $175,000 even though they have an increase in not only activities but in the number of large clubs which will need lots of money (such as Womens’ Rugby and other Club Sports).

C. Gosselin stated that the increased need for funding, coupled with less students, means that we must either fund all clubs less or raise the student activities fee.
1. The BAM guidelines passed last semester which limited the total amount of money a club could be allocated (no more than 4% of the total BAM budget) and the amount allocated for a conference, were made as an effort to reduce total club expenditures.

J. Ahern added that club sports are expensive, and even more so when they get competitive/good! Meaning there needs to be funds available for when club sports go to championships/competitions that are additional costs.

J. Ahern related to the Senate the Student Activities Fees of other Connecticut State Universities: Central is $140 per year, Southern is $140 per year, and Western is at $149 per year.

E. Drouin noted that all the universities have a higher population than we do minus Western.

H. Brooks asked how much revenue will be added with the $5 student fee increase.
1. K. Chrzanowska said there are 4,235 students, multiplied by 5 dollars = $42,450 per year.
2. C. Gosselin stated that this increase in revenue will protect the budget from future issues; while this semester was unusual in that less money was requested by clubs than in years past, any increase in funding will be of help.
3. K. Chrzanowska said requests went down a lot because BAM was out of money early on, so now this added money will help all student organizations get at least a modicum of funding.

Motion #55. (J. Dignoti, Ch. Welch) Motion to raise the student activity fee to $100 per semester. (17 -1 – 2). Motion carries.

Open Floor:
a. The Engagement of Karolina Chrzanowska to Benjamin Nichols:
   i. CONGRATULATIONS KC!!

b. Student Workers receiving Priority Points
   i. V. Cosma asked SGA to look into giving Priority Points (Housing) to Student Workers. V. Cosma also said that athletes get priority points, so why shouldn’t student workers?
   ii. K. Chrzanowska said that if this were to be pursued, it should not just be for students that work on campus, but also for students that work off campus (and are therefore usually unavailable for other priority point events).
   iii. A. Dilone asked how can off campus jobs be monitored?
   iv. J. Ahern said it would be up to housing to do so.
v. V. Cosma asked the Senate if they would still approve the system if housing agreed to give priority points ONLY on campus students. Consensus is that these questions cannot be answered until the issue is pursued with Housing.

vi. C. Gosselin believes that L. Coleman will probably say no to off campus jobs, because the Priority Point system is only meant for on-campus, Eastern-related things. Off campus jobs will likely be denied since priority points are all about encouraging involvement ON campus. J. Ahern says we should still pursue it, if the Senate so desires, and possibly make a resolution even if we are denied.

vii. J. Reid said that SGA should still attempt to get off campus jobs included.

viii. J. Brucker reminded the Senate that there are only certain people that can get on campus jobs, so it may be restrictive.

ix. A. Dilone mentioned how the Violations policy is a scale of 25 points, with 25 points being given for no violations and 0 for too many, so possibly Student Workers can also be given priority points on a scale.

x. E-Board will talk and plan a meeting with Housing to pursue it.

xi. J. Ahern took an informal vote:
   1. 17 Senators believed it could be pursued, while 2 Senators were opposed. The issue will be brought up at a later time.

c. **Residential Housing Mascots**
   i. J. Ahern asked for an informal consensus:
      1. Do Senators like that resident halls have mascots?
         a. Vast majority say **no**.
      2. Should SGA pursue getting rid of Residence Hall Mascots?
         a. Majority say it **should be pursued**.
   ii. C. Gosselin stated that Housing likes the names, but it is something that has only happened recently NOT as a result of the Warrior Cup (even though it kind of helps inspire camaraderie with the competitions).
   iii. F. Ricigliano wanted to promote a Spirit Section for sporting events, however he noted that having a bunch of different mascots takes away from the true Eastern mascot, the Warrior. It causes confusion.

d. **Quote of the Day**
   i. K. Chrzanowska: **"I'm a Warrior and that's all I want to be."**

e. **AAUP Resolution**
   i. E. Drouin is checking in on the progress of the contract negotiations, so depending on the changes we will update the Senate and discuss a potential decision to make a resolution or not.

IX. **Dates to Remember:**
   a. President’s Breakfast #2: **Wednesday, February 3rd 7:00 AM in the President’s Dining Room**
   b. Town Gown #3: **Thursday, February 4th 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM in the Johnson Room (LIB 204)**
   c. Tracks To Success #1 - Collaborate to Create: Thursday, February 18th 2:00 PM in STU 107

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:25pm