Student Government Association  
General Board Meeting  
September 22nd, 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

Senators: E. Benoit, G. Canzio, V. Cosma, M. Ehrnfelt, S. Froehlich, C. Gosselin, Ryan Perry, E. Pelletier, J. Reid, R. Rivera, M. Styrczula, G. Wrobel


Meeting called to order at 3:07 PM

1. President's Report
   a. Acceptance of Minutes from 9/15/14
      i. Motion #23 (M. Ehrnfelt, J. Reid) Motion to accept the minutes from 9/15/14 (14-0-0). Motion Carries.
   b. Encore
      i. The group previously known as Fallin’ Flat is not only changing their name to Encore but also changing their structure. They were previously under Music Society’s umbrella along with the other acapella groups and though it got them on their feet, they are now trying to form their own organization. Music Society’s mission is more towards music majors, while theirs is more towards acapella and solely music
      ii. K. Chrzanowska said that BAM usually gives them funding through Music Society, and if they’re approved, they’ll simply have money moved from Music Society to their own account.
      iii. M. Hicks tabled the discussion on approval until next week after general board has reviewed the Constitution. We’ll vote on it at next week’s meeting.
   c. Warrior Rally After Event
      i. M. Hicks urged the senate that since we motioned for $2,000 for CAB at last week’s meeting, we should be a large presence as far as staffing the event goes. SGA shifts are from 8:30-10:30 and 10:30-12. SGA is only responsible for being there until 12. M. Hicks collected a list of volunteers.
   d. Retreat
      i. M. Hicks passed around an information sheet for the senators to fill out along with an order sheet for Subway and a liability waiver. Only current senators were asked to fill them out.
ii. For the newly elected senators, a meeting will be held on Thursday at 3PM in the SGA Suite. M. Hicks will provide an introduction, go through the papers current senators filled out, and give them final retreat information. New senators will be asked to help out with Warrior Rally set up if they have time.

iii. M. Hicks distributed a list of what to bring and what not to bring. The list includes:
   1. Comfortable clothes, warm clothes for night time, clothing to coordinate with the polo, potential clothing for beach, bedding, toiletries, padfolio, and a positive attitude!
   2. M. Hicks also stressed that students must not break code of conduct as well.
   3. E-Board is going shopping for snacks this week for the retreat. A. Bullard asked that anyone with suggestions get in contact with E-Board.

iv. M. Hicks will send out a retreat agenda on Friday

v. M. Ehrnfelt asked what time we will be waking up on Saturday
   1. M. Hicks answered 8AM

vi. M. Hicks told senators to meet the suite at 3:30 PM on Friday.

vii. Senators should have already told M. Hicks if you couldn’t go. There are very few things that will be an adequate excuse for absence.

e. Off Campus Incidents
   i. Open Forum Report
      1. Last week there was a forum for the new implementation of the Code of Conduct off campus. It is now a policy that if a student is arrested through the Willimantic Police Department, there will also be consequences on Eastern’s campus. Students have expressed frustration of this policy, as they view it as being tried twice for the same crime.
      2. About 100 students showed up, most lived off campus. A lot of administrators were there. More than two dozen students have been arrested for having parties both on the large and small scale. Students were frustrated that they weren’t able to change the policies via this forum. Conversation turned to the focus on off campus partying when there were other safety concerns in the neighborhood. Students are concerned for their safety.
         a. One student suggested a safe rides program, however logistically, liability reasons make that difficult to coordinate.
         b. One student suggested to bring back SGA’s RU1 Neighbor campaign that ended 3 years ago.
            i. The campaign focused on teaching the student body on how to be responsible and respectful neighbors to the people of Willimantic.
         c. R. Rivera said that the impression at the forum was that the administration wasn’t taking student suggestions seriously. They were not looking into solutions of the students’ problems expressed.
         d. J. Ahern says that SGA is in a tough spot; we have to look at what the students really want. Half the students want to party and they’re breaking the law.
Other students have a really good point about where the police’s focus should be and if there is weight to the concept of double jeopardy. J. Ahern thinks we should wait on the issue to fizzle out within a few weeks.

e. J. Reid inquired if Willimantic homeowners were in attendance of the meeting.
   i. M. Hicks answered that there were no homeowners at the meeting, there were just Eastern students. Homeowners’ perspective is mainly expressed at Town Gown.

f. Student homeowners are concerned because they might not necessarily doing something illegal, but they may still be held accountable.

g. E-Board talked about this at their meeting, they feel as though we have a lot on our plate right now. They’d prefer to focus on the Warrior Rally and Retreat and table this until within the next few weeks. M. Hicks urges the senate to think about any potential safety solutions to bring to the senate within a week or two.
   i. M. Patino’s hometown implemented safe rides and the community was a lot happier, so she supports that endeavor.
      1. M. Hicks agrees and it’s something to be worth looking into, but there are a lot of liability issues
      2. A. Nadeau says that may not be the best idea, because it gives students the impression that it’s okay to drink underage.

2. Vice President’s Report
   a. E-Board Update
      i. Warrior Rally
         1. The Warrior Rally is this Thursday, September 25th at 7pm. A. Bullard is emailing out a sign-up sheet to help work the event. A. Bullard urges all new potential senators that even if they don’t get elected, they will still be able to help out with the Warrior Rally and receive their t-shirts.
         a. E. Pelletier inquired as to how much the Warrior Rally cost collectively
            i. A. Bullard responded that it cost no more than $5,000. Due to a consolidation with a DJ that also helped with lighting and decorations, we were able to cut down on the costs a lot as opposed to last year which was more expensive.

   ii. Wi-Fi
      1. Steve Nelson, the Chief Information Officer, sent out an email to the students outlining an issue with the wireless provider, Cisco. They turned off all the wireless routers in order to rectify the problem, however, since yesterday, students have been getting wireless in most of the residence halls. Students
have also not been forced to sign-in to their wireless with the new system. A. Bullard is going to contact Steve Nelson to make sure the wireless is going to be consistent. She is also going to be addressing the issue that Ethernet ports underneath the wireless routers are not currently working.

a. C. Gosselin said that it is an easy process to turn on other Ethernet ports in common areas.

iii. Majors/Minors Fair

1. The Majors/Minors Fair is Wednesday October 15th from 1-4 PM in the Betty Tipton Room. This is a mandatory event for senators.
2. This year the CICD and Advising will be in charge of the event so there's a lot less pressure on SGA as far as planning goes. This is a great process for exploratory students to help figure out where they're going in their time at Eastern. After the retreat and Warrior Rally, this is our main event and a lot of promotion is necessary.
3. M. Ehrnfelt asked what senators will be doing at the event
   a. M. Hicks answered that senators will be helping sign students in so they have an attendance record. Senators will also be in side rooms with other departments as well as in the BTR, or attempting to attract students from the Student Center.
   b. J. Ahern says it's a great opportunity to give SGA a face.

iv. Elections

1. A. Bullard talked about elections which are this week. Students have already provided comments that SGA is not promoting the actual elections. V. Cosma has divided up quarter sheets and fliers to distribute to the residence halls. A. Bullard read a sheet with assignments to the residence halls and academic buildings.
   a. M. Hicks stressed that you can't use this as an opportunity to promote yourself.
   b. M. Hicks also added that you must actually hand these things out if you are taking them.

b. Committee Updates

i. Issues

1. E. Pelletier informed everyone that the voter registration booth is tomorrow from 8AM – 5PM in Webb Hall.
2. Right now Student Issues is working on information collection as far as financial aid goes. There's a discrepancy between the funding of upperclassmen and underclassmen. Underclassmen are getting more financial aid, however, once they've been here long enough to not transfer, their financial aid decreases. The committee is working on ways to get financial aid information to students. A. Bullard urges senators to think about potential ways to distribute the information.
3. S. Froehlich proposed that there be an FYI presentation on financial aid literacy distributed to peer mentors.

ii. Public Relations
1. PR is holding an SGA Voting Table this Wednesday, September 24th from 4-7 in the Students Center at the vendor tables.
   a. They will have laptops for people to vote in their elections.
   b. J. Ahern stressed that with the exception of this week, SGA is a lot more low key with commitments

iii. Internal
   1. Nothing to report.

iv. Budget and Management
   1. No BAM meeting this Thursday

3. Treasurer's Report:
   a. Accounts Update
      i. General Board is currently at $4,451, but J. Ahern just submitted two vouchers (one for Dan'sss Awards for plaques in the suite and the other for magnets on the shuttle. So really the amount is $4,150
      1. J. Reid asked if that already included the $2,000 from the money allocated to the CAB After Party Event from last week and it does.

4. Secretary’s Report:
   a. Office Hours
      i. E. Drouin thanked everyone for doing their office hours this week. This is the last week with the written sign it, but she asks that everyone writes legibly

5. Advisor’s Report:
   a. M. Delaney shared that so far only around 150 people have voted in elections and this is a very poor turnout.
   b. Email reminders will go out later today to those who have not voted.

6. Old Business:

7. New Business:

8. Open Floor:
   a. N. Vigorita shared that her roommate had to park at the Ball Field, however, the shuttle did not come to pick her up. The shuttle driver said that if the ball field lights are off the driver doesn’t have to drive there. Student issues is going to email Chief Garewski to try and fix the issue.

9. Dates to Remember:
   a. Tuesday, September 23rd, Voter Registration Drive
   b. Wednesday, September 24th, SGA Voting Table
   c. Thursday, September 25th, 7:00 p.m. Warrior Rally
   d. Friday, September 26th-Saturday, September 27th: Retreat
   e. Wednesday, October 15th: 1:00-4:00 BTR: Majors and Minors Fair

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM