Student Government Association
General Board Meeting
September 8th, 2014

Present:

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

Advisors: C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney

Senators: E. Benoît, G. Canzio, V. Cosma, M. Ehrnfelt, S. Froehlich, C. Gosselin, M. McFall-Gorman, R. Perry, E. Pelletier, J. Reid, R. Rivera, M. Styrczula, G. Wrobel

Guests: S. Hartnett, R. Labrie, M. Jones, T. Mack, N. Vigorita, Co. Welch, Ch. Welch, M. Wysopal,

Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM

1. President’s Report
   a. Welcome Back
      i. President M. Hicks welcomed the senate back for the new academic year. He also urged current guests who were not senate members to apply by the deadline for a position on the senate. He also gave commendations to the executive board who has been working together since the summer. He also thanked executive board members and current senators who represented SGA throughout SOAR and the Warrior Welcome
   b. Retreat
      i. M. Hicks filled the senators in on our Fall External Retreat. This year’s retreat will be at Camp CONNRI in Ashford, CT. He explained the function of the retreat as an opportunity for the senate to introduce themselves and socially bond. It is also an introduction to the way SGA works and our plans for the year.
         1. There is even a surprise activity that the executive board doesn’t know about.
      ii. This year’s retreat shall depart on Friday, September 26th. The estimated time of departure is 4PM, however, we will have a final time at the next meeting.
      iii. We will be returning Saturday, September 27th in time for everyone to attend the Fall Concert or work security at the Fall Concert, like it is common for senators to do.
      iv. Senators have received email notice about the retreat and should have the dates marked off. They must talk to M. Hicks if they can’t go as soon as possible.
      v. Next week senators will be provided with a list of what to bring.
   c. Elections
i. M. Hicks commended all senators who have participated in the election process. We currently have a lot of applications for the senate but are always looking for more. We will be recruiting at the Club Fair later today.

1. When we’re recruiting, it’s not only for freshmen; it’s okay to recruit upperclassmen and transfer students. M. Hicks recommends using alternative ways to try and recruit student leaders besides the Club Fair. Pitch SGA to your friends! Applications are open until Sunday.

ii. E. Pelletier asked when ballots are open

1. M. Hicks explained the election process. Applications opened during freshman move in and are cut off at midnight on Sunday, September 14th, which is the night before next week’s meeting. At that meeting, everyone will be nominated for elections. Campaigning begins September 16th. Students can vote September 22nd – 24th. There are currently 11 open positions within the senate. Anyone who isn’t elected a senator can stay on as a delegate, which is a very similar role.

2. E. Pelletier inquired about the rules for campaigning.

a. M. Hicks responded that rules shall be sent out to everyone after nominations when campaigning begins.

d. Major’s/Minors Fair

1. The Majors/Minors Fair will take place on October 15th, 2014 in the Betty Tipton Room from 1-4PM.

ii. PJ from the Center for Internships and Career Development along with Chris from the Advising Center offered to spearhead the event that SGA was in charge of last year. Both departments are present on the day with side rooms. The rest of the event is going to take place in the Betty Tipton Room, which will hold representatives from every academic department for transfers, exploratory students, or anyone exploring their options. The Registrar is supposed to be present as well. Advising is going to be present to sign off on major declarations. The purpose of this effort is attempting to improve the four year graduation rate and help undeclared students. SGA is responsible for only staffing and promotion.

1. Senators are expected to staff the event as it is mandatory

a. J. Reid asked how many mandatory events you can miss without penalty

i. M. Hicks used this question to explain absences. All absences must be emailed to the secretary beforehand in order to be excused. Excused absence is half an absence. You are allowed 3 total absences. Don’t worry if you miss one mandatory event, but if you miss them consistently, then there might need to be a discussion about your commitment to SGA and potential impeachment.

e. External Committees

i. Motion # 13 (J. Reid, G. Wrobel) Motion to approve John Maura as an external appointment onto the University Senate Committee of Judicial Review (16-0-0) Motion Carries.
1. M. Hicks gave a quick overview on how motions function. Senators can either vote for, against, or abstain from voting, which is reserved for a conflict of interest.

2. Vice President’s Report:
   a. Overview of Committees
      i. A. Bullard briefly explained how committees work and how she oversees the committees. She explained that new senators will be placed on one of our internal committees. Details shall be hashed out once students get elected.
   
   b. Warrior Rally Update
      i. The Warrior Rally is on September 25th, 2014. A. Bullard and K. Chrzanowska have been planning it over the course of the summer.
      
      ii. Students might notice that it is not called the Pep Rally. M. Hicks explained that we’re trying to move away from a purely athletic focus and invoke campus wide spirit.
      
      iii. We have the gym starting at 3PM on the day of the Warrior Rally. A. Bullard is going to have a sign-up sheet at next week’s meeting for staffing the rally and set up. Attendance is mandatory and all senators are expected to be there at least by 7PM.
         1. M. Hicks acknowledge that alongside the retreat and elections, this is a very heavy SGA week. He advised the senators not to get worried about all the mandatory events.
   
   c. Polo’s
      i. M. Hicks and A. Bullard introduced prototypes of the new SGA polo’s that we will be ordering.
         1. These polo’s are made of a dri-fit material as opposed to the stiff old polo’s.
         2. There will be no SGA logo on the new polo’s because we’re potentially looking at a new logo.
         3. Polo’s will be worn at all mandatory SGA-staffed events
   
   d. Committees
      i. Student Issues: E. Pelletier explained what the committee does. Student issues tries to solve student’s problems dealing with school policies. They are currently tackling a voter registration booth for National Voter Registration Day September 23rd, 2014 7:30 AM – 5PM.
         1. This will be another mandatory SGA event.
      
      ii. Public Relations: V. Cosma explained what the PR committee does. They are currently working on fliers and posters for the Warrior Rally and Elections.
      
      iii. Internal: R. Rivera explained what this committee does and initiated an ice breaker to help the senate get to know each other better.
      
      iv. BAM: K. Chrzanowska explains BAM. BAM gets a portion of the Student Activity Fee and allocates it to clubs. A large portion of money has been allocated, so there’s a small percentage of money left to be allocated
         1. BAM has a new meeting room: Room 115 of the Student Center. BAM meetings will continue to take place on Thursdays at 3:30 PM.

3. Treasurer’s Report:
   a. Shuttle
Buckland Hills Shuttle ran for the first time on Saturday

1. J. Ahern introduced the new shuttle flier that will be distributed to students. They have already been put in the Shuttle Stops

2. M. Hicks explains that the shuttle services are funded by SGA through the money we get from BAM rollover. Here M. Hicks explained the concept of rollover into the SGA reserves. The shuttle is considered a capital good and the money for it comes out of our capital reserves.
   a. For reference, the amount of money in the reserves at the end of last year was around $350,000.

3. **Motion # 14 (R. Rivera, G. Canzio)** Motion to spend $48,943 to pay for the SGA Shuttle Service for the 2014-2015 Academic school year. *(17-0-0) Motion Carries.*

b. **SAC – Student Advisory Committee**

i. J. Ahern, also the Board of Regents Representative for SGA explained the Student Advisory Committee. It is a student-run committee with one representative from each school within the CONNSCU system. J. Ahern encourages senators to apply for the BOR Alternate position. Email him with any questions. They meet one Friday a month from 8-2. Transportation is usually provided.

ii. J. Ahern introduced the “Transform CT 2020 Plan” for higher education to the senate. It is a multi-year plan to unite all the schools together into one system. J. Ahern is going to email a PowerPoint outlining the plan to the senate. Senators represent the students on campus and should be interested since this is going to directly affect their constituents. At the end of the PowerPoint, senators are asked to answer two questions about our concerns so that J. Ahern can bring them to light at the first meeting for the plan
   1. The first meeting in regards to the “Transform CT” plan is on Thursday, September 11th at 3PM in the Student Center Theatre. Dr. Grey, the President of the Board of Regents along with another regent will be there with administrators and faculty. SGA has been invited to attend and ask questions during the 45 minute question and answer session.

iii. M. Hicks explained the BOR Alternate position: it is meant to act as an alternate to J. Ahern in case of a prior commitment. It’s also good to have more representation for Eastern. An alternate was elected in the Spring election, however that person has since resigned from the senate.
   1. M. Hicks stressed that you don’t have to be in SGA to do it.

c. **Security for Party-Like Events Held in the BTR.**

i. M. Hicks explains that SGA funds half the security for up to six party-like events that are held in the BTR throughout the semester.

1. **Motion # 15 (C. Gosselin, R. Perry)** Motion to spend no more than $3,000 from Joy Ru Security for security in the BTR for club party events. *(17-0-0) Motion Carries.*

4. **Secretary’s Report:**

   a. E. Drouin passed around a sign-up sheet for office hours within the suite. She discussed the importance of a suite presence and professionalism at all times.
b. Office Hours this year will also be counted using FileMaker. This practice will be instituted starting next week.

5. Advisor’s Report:

6. Old Business:

7. New Business:
   a. Textbook Reimbursement
      i. M. Hicks explained that one SGA practice is to reimburse each Senator of the Semester for their textbooks for the next semester as a sort of reward. Last semester’s Senator of the Semester was E. Drouin.

      1. Motion # 16 (J. Reid, M. Ehrnfelt) Motion not to exceed up to $200 for E. Drouin’s Fall 2014 textbooks. (14-0-3) Motion Carries.

8. Open Floor:

9. Dates to Remember:
   a. Sunday, September 14th, 11:59 pm.: Election Applications close
   b. Thursday, September 25th, 7:00 pm.: Warrior Rally
   c. Friday, September 26th- Saturday, September 27th: Retreat

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.