Student Government Association
General Board Meeting
October 13\textsuperscript{th}, 2014

Present:

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

\textbf{Advisors:} C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney


\textbf{Guests:} N. Panettiere, A. Baldour, G. Burrus, B. Paquin, J. Henton, M. Wysopal, S. Hartnett

Meeting called to order at 3:00PM

1. President’s Report
   a. Acceptance of Minutes from 10/6/2014
      i. \textbf{Motion #34(M. McFall Gorman, E. Pelletier)} Motion to accept the minutes from 10/6/14 (22-0-0). \textbf{Motion Carries.}
   b. Public Relations Student Society America
      i. Constitution Revisions
         1. PRSSA has submitted constitution revisions to the senate. They are instituting changes of the names of their executive board to be more specific to their needs.
            a. E. Pelletier asked if the changes in names would mean that the executive board members are working more closely with the president.
               i. N. Panettiere answered that they are looking to unify their e-board. A lot of position descriptions were outdated and they were looking to restructure it.
            b. M. Wysopal asked if the changing of their executive board would align closely with their national chapter.
               i. N. Panettiere answered that it would.
            c. A. Bullard sought clarification on the names of two positions. Two positions sound closely related by title and she’s worried that someone will get those mixed up.
               i. N. Panettiere clarified the differences between those two positions.
   2. K. Chrzanowska will send the revised constitution to the senate and it will be voted on next week.
   c. Mascot Re-Design
i. M. Hicks discussed our part in the beginning stage of the Mascot Re-Design process. SGA has been chosen to act as a focus group in regards to the mascot re-design process. Notes will be taken back to M. Hicks’ committee and reviewed.

ii. Questions

1. Do you feel pride in Eastern’s mascot?
   a. J. Mazyck said no, he does not really feel pride because our current mascot is a shield with letterings on it and goofy looking eyes.
   b. J. Reid said the little swords bouncing on its head don’t give warrior presence.
   c. M. Wysopal thinks the actions of the mascot when she interacts with it were less than she would expect of a mascot. She doesn’t know if it’s the costume or the person in the costume, but other mascots were different during prior interactions.
   d. A. Bullard said no, she doesn’t take pride in it. She thinks it silly to have a face on the shield. Other schools don’t think highly of our athletics department. UConn just had a major re-design making the Husky fiercer. A. Bullard thinks it would be best to follow suit.
   e. G. Wrobel doesn’t think it’s very intimidating. If it was more intimidating and more personable, the person wearing costume would be more spirited.
   f. In an informal vote, 27 people feel that they do not have pride in our current mascot.

2. What would you like the mascot to be?
   a. J. Reid would like a warrior squirrel.
   b. Co. Welch thinks that it should be something fiercer and something more powerful as opposed to a dancing shield. Maybe a warrior itself.
   c. C. Gosselin asked if they were interested in going against a human warrior because it was offensive.
      i. M. Hicks said that it would be a large challenge to create a uniform that fits an individual that isn’t racist, sexist, or overall offensive.
         1. With that, C. Gosselin thinks that the shield should just be more intimidating. He wants other schools to want our mascot.
   d. M. McFall Gorman thinks that a knight would be a decent selection, as it would still have a shield.
   e. M. Zagrodnik thinks it should be something more along the lines of a Spartan. He doesn’t think it would be offensive. It would personify a warrior more than a shield.
   f. M. Wysopal doesn’t think they should have an animated face on the mascot. They should maybe have one or two mascots almost in a cosplay uniform to portray the character of our warrior. They could walk around campus and be a presence.
   g. C. Gosselin thinks that we should be gender inclusive and have a male or female warrior.
   h. H. Brooks thinks that it should be a Spartan costume that is not gender specific.
   i. Co. Welch agrees with non-gender specific mascots.
   j. J. Mazyck disagrees, he thinks that it’s easy to tell if there’s a male/female costume. He thinks we should be inclusive and have a costume for a male and a costume for a female.
3. Would you like to see the shield logo for athletics (that is not changing) be incorporated into the mascot? The mascot could very much resemble the shield (like we have now) or be something more abstract, the Green Monster with the Red Sox?
   a. H. Brooks answered in regards to the Red Sox comparison. It has to do with history with the Red Sox, so in going along with our history we should include the shield logo.
   b. R. Rivera thinks that a shield implies that it's used to taking a beating. It shouldn't be the main aspect of the mascot.
   c. N. Vigorita thinks we should go back to Eastern's roots and find a Green-Monster equivalent.
   d. Ch. Welch thinks that we should tie the shield in somewhere as it's already on all of the apparel and the athletic things. She thinks it should be connected but keep them separate entities.
   e. M. Zagrodnik says that if we were to go the route of an actual warrior, he thinks it should be easy to incorporate the shield into that costume.
   f. N. Vigorita said it could wear a shield t-shirt that says Eastern
   g. E. Pelletier suggests an Eastern shield t-shirt on a frog as the mascot.
      i. M. Hicks said that his committee is trying to create a different identity than from Willimantic, so the frog is not a likely option.

4. Do you want to get rid of the shield entirely?
   a. A. Bullard feels that the shield should be incorporated since we are the warriors. We can hold it up for pride, but as for the mascot just have it incorporated in a different way.
   b. McFall Gorman said that it makes no sense to get rid of it considering the school is keeping it on a lot of things. She wants to keep the correlation between mascot and school.
   c. G. Wrobel thinks we should keep the shield incorporated with the mascot and thinks it's a compromise between those who like the mascot and those who don't.
   d. J. Mazyck thinks that we should keep the shield. However, he doesn't like the idea of the t-shirt on a character. He doesn't think it would look good.
   e. H. Brooks thinks we should keep the shield incorporated, but it shouldn't be an actual shield. He's smiling and it's unintimidating.

5. Would you enter in a contest to help Eastern design a new mascot by submitting a draft? M. Hick stressed that the design is a rough idea and then the rough idea is sent out to a company that designs the mascot. Mascots are designed based off concepts. Do you think students in general would be interested?
   a. H. Brooks thinks absolutely students would be interested and thinks it's important to incorporate student ideas.
   b. Jacob says some of the most artsy people are some of the most involved and it's important to reach out to them.
   c. M. McFall Gorman says students will design an option if we advertise it correctly.
   d. M. Wysopal thinks it should be a contest format. Students could win a prize. It would stimulate more effort.

   d. One on One's
      i. M. Hicks is doing One on One's next week; senators must submit their availability before they leave. He will try to accommodate everyone's schedules.
e. External Committee Updates
   i. M. Hicks updated us on his external committee. He serves on the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee. Last week they discussed enrollment rates. We are down about 100 or so students which has resounding effects on campus. For us as an SGA, it's a big deal because we collect student activity money. The state only gives .30 cents to every dollar spent on campus. We will receive less money from the state if we have less enrollment. Vice President of Finance, Jim Howarth, has presented a breakeven budget in order to accommodate the lesser enrollment. Retirement for faculty has changed, and instead of hiring new administrators when someone resigns, administrators take on their work instead of hiring a new person. He will come in when the budget is finalized to discuss it with us.
   ii. M. Hick stressed that every time your external committee meets, you must update the senate on their meeting
   iii. H. Brooks gave the University Senate update. They spent their meeting looking at the ways curricula are created. They don't require the approval of the University Senate anymore. He says it's a very minimal change that is being instituted.
      1. H. Brooks added that it means you don't always need to go through university senate to get things done, as it's difficult because they always meet every two weeks.
      2. The University Senate is also working on getting reps for CSU 2020 projects.
      3. H. Brooks discussed the Connecticut DREAM Act, which gave undocumented students more opportunity to get funding for higher education. University Senate was asked to vote if they agreed with provisions in the DREAM Act. They voted that yes, they did.
         a. J. Ahern said that they're starting to discuss it on the Student Advisory Council and everyone there voted for it, except for Western Connecticut State University. He is choosing to abstain from it because he feels conflicted in regards to how the university feels. He needs a lot of opinions. He's going to send the senate a document to get their opinions.
            i. J. Reid asked for a clarification on to who this document helps.
               1. J. Ahern answered that it would be helping undocumented students who need financial aid
               2. K. Chrzanowska said that if you were brought to the US before the age of 16 and you get into the university, you are not eligible for financial aid even though you were brought to this country against your will. This act will help undocumented students receive this aid.
               3. M. Hicks explained the two sides of the issue: shouldn't they be receiving aid because they did not come here of their free will? Or should they not be receiving aid because they are not citizens?
               4. J. Ahern said this is tough because are not a politically affiliated organization. He wants to provide senators with both sides of it.
               5. H. Brooks is personally against it but he feels as though the students he's representing would be for it.
               6. M. Hicks reminded the senators that they are voting for 175 students at this university and they should keep that in mind when they are voting.

f. External Committee Assignments
i. A. Bullard received word from Dr. Kane, the head of the University Senate. Committee chairs decided that they only want one student rep on each committee.

1. A. Bullard said that the second students who signed up for these external committees will act as alternates.

2. E. Drouin inquired as to why they want only one student representative. She feels as though more students would be a positive influence on the committee.
   a. A. Bullard said that the students only have one vote on the committee. If one of them has a conflicting view, you can't have a split vote by the students. There needs to be a way to be able to vote. It would create too much conflict.
   b. M. Hicks also thinks it’s a result of scheduling issues.
   c. J. Reid asked if the alternates are allowed to come to the meeting and not have a vote.
      i. A. Bullard answered no, they're not.
      ii. M. Hicks added that it's the responsibility of the representative to inform the alternate that they need to go to the meeting.

ii. A. Bullard went through the open committees and who are alternates. Senators should come speak to her after the meeting in regards to them.

1. J. Ahern asked why the parking appeals committee does not have a student representative
   a. A. Bullard said that they didn’t request one
   b. M. Hicks thinks we should reach out to see if they want one. Parking is a big issue on campus right now and the students need to have a voice.

g. President’s Breakfast

1. M. Hicks thanked all senators for going and asked the senate for reflection
   1. H. Brooks thought it was great that the President gave an update on construction.
   2. N. Vigorita thought it was very nice for President Nunez to make time for the students. She thought it was good for students to get first hand info. It was nice to see active club members on the campus.

h. Conference Report

1. M. Hicks asked for a report from the senators who spend the weekend prior to the meeting at the National Leadership Conference on Student Government.
   1. E. Drouin reported back that she got a lot out of the conference. It wasn’t the best fit for our SGA, it was more geared towards a lot of developing SGAs that weren’t nearly as large scale as ours. She said that the most important thing that they got out of it was coming together after the sessions to talk about how the things they learned could be applied to their SGA.
   2. K. Chrzanowska agreed and said that it wasn’t the best fit. Everyone had some things to talk about after their sessions. They’ve come up with some collaborative ideas. She added that some sessions helped her personally in regards to leadership. The senators who went on the conference made the best out of what they were given.
   3. McFall Gorman reiterated that it wasn’t the best fit for us. There were some sessions that were very helpful on personal levels and SGA as a whole. Everyone who went tried to go to different sessions so they got a broader view. The senators would discuss them all together afterwards. They got to combine their experiences which they shall implement into a project.
   4. C. Gosselin said it was a very well done conference but not really for us. The senators took out what they could and built on it by themselves. The most
beneficial time was everyone taking time and talking for an hour about future plans. They’re all on the same page with what direction their project is going in.

5. C. Ambrosio added that every year he comes back and looks at our SGA and reflects. We get lost in what our goals for this year are, but we really should take step back and look at what we’re doing. When speaking with other advisers, they had a conversation about the hunt for knowledge before you talk about an issue. This year’s SGA is asking good questions. He added that external committees are perhaps more important than what’s going on in general board. That’s your say in what’s going on on campus. Anything students don’t have input on is a problem. Keep it up this year.

ii. M. Hicks thinks it’s important for us to remember how this conference fits us for next year’s e-board to think about. This is the first time in a few years we’ve done this conference. We should maybe try out another one next year. One thing that’s coming out of this conference is creating a project out of this conference to implement something to help the campus.

iii. Questions

1. E. Pelletier asked the senators who went what project they are you going to implement.
   a. E. Drouin answered that they don’t know yet. They’re going to meet soon to discuss things.

2. R. Rivera said that since what they got most out of it was them talking, couldn’t they have done that here without going to the conference.
   a. K. Chrzanowska answered absolutely not. They learned a lot of things that were eye opening. One of the most important things was quality over quantity.
      i. She added that it put into perspective the amount of money that we have in comparison to other schools who are doing a great job with much less funding.

3. G. Wrobel asked what the senators meant when they said that they learned that they should do less programming.

4. K. Chrzanowska answered that we should be doing less programming because that’s CAB’s job. We should do more things for the students, such as student administrative tasks.

iv. H. Brooks asked if they have considered growing a closer relationship to CAB.
   a. E. Drouin says that’s the opposite of what they learned at the conference.
   b. C. Gosselin elaborated that one of things they learned was that we should be more a policy group. We shouldn’t even be doing pep rally anymore. Our job isn’t to put on events, our job is to say this is an issue we need to address and figure out how to address it.
   c. M. Hicks added that if we’re delegating and coordinating with CAB, it might create a better relationship.
   d. J. Mazyck said if we do give the pep rally away, we need to make sure students know what we do. That’s one of the only things that people know that we do.
      i. M. Hicks said that’s a discussion we can have down the road for next year.

i. Opening in the Senate
   i. We unfortunately now have two openings in the senate. If you know people interested in either of those two positions, let M. Hicks know. If there is no contest in the internal election, the person just needs to be inducted into the senate after three consecutive meetings.
ii. Because of a resignation from the summer, we have an opening as the Board of Regents alternate. We need to appoint someone to that position. If you're interested, please contact J. Ahern.

2. Vice President’s Report
   a. E-Board Update
      i. Wi-Fi/IT
         1. Steve Nelson came to speak to the executive board two weeks ago about Wi-Fi. He discussed the wireless issues from the beginning of the year. They're also going to be implementing something called ISE, which will only require you to authenticate yourself onto the wireless once per year per device. Students have to authenticate themselves due to law. It's surviving the test environment right now.
         2. H. Brooks asked how IT is going to monitor illegal activity without the authentication
            a. A. Bullard answered that the IP Address was already in the system, so they'll know who is on the network at all times.
   b. Committee Updates
      i. Issues
         1. E. Pelletier apologized for late minutes from last week and gave her update.
            a. All committee members have contacted people in charge of their respective issues.
         2. E. Pelletier asked senators for ideas to stray away from events in order to provide information on the financial aid education discrepancy.
            a. A. Bullard added that Issues should collaborate with PR.
            b. M. Hicks told E. Pelletier that she should investigate how financial aid gets distributed. It seems they're fronting it to underclassmen, and pulling it away from upperclassmen after it's too late for them to transfer. She should meet with the director of financial aid.
      ii. Public Relations
         1. E. Benoit gave the PR report. There's quarter sheets and fliers in the SGA Suite. They've been assigned to certain halls.
         2. H. Brooks wanted to emphasize that when you're assigned to something, you are required to do that within a reasonable amount of time.
         3. N. Vigorita says there's one quarter sheet for every single door in all the buildings
         4. M. Hicks said we've been taking a lot of advertising initiatives and this is the last big event of the semester.
         5. PR is also working on getting their social networking up. G. Canzio is working on a 'like' page as opposed to an actual page. Follow the Instagram and Twitter. “Like” and retweet things that they post.
      iii. Internal
         1. R. Rivera discussed how they're going to be instituting a lot of Constitution revisions. They're currently going to be going over the first seven pages and completely reformatting it.
2. R. Rivera is taking an inventory of what is in the suite. If you see there is something we should have and don’t; send him an email at riverare@my.easternct.edu

iv. Budget and Management
1. Nothing to report

3. Treasurer’s Report:
   a. Accounts Update
      i. J. Ahern gave an accounts update. The Executive Board is at $2816.18. General Board is $1451.38.
      ii. He reminded the senate that enrollment is down and that means the student activity fee money is lower.
      iii. Next semester is going to be a lot better; we don’t have a lot of things to pay for.
      iv. Keep in mind that we will maybe have to give money to Cops Open Rec in December. We gave $7,000 last year so it will probably have to be around that amount.
   b. BOR-SAC Update
      i. J. Ahern went to a meeting on Friday; they just abolished subcommittees within SAC, so more will be getting done.
      ii. He advocated for all senators talk to him about being the alternate for SAC.
      iii. He will be sending out an email tonight about DREAM along with info about the student activity fee.

4. Secretary’s Report:

5. Advisor’s Report:
   a. Nothing to report.

6. Old Business
   a. Majors/Minors Fair
      i. M. Hicks passed around a sign-up sheet for the Majors/Minors Fair. Each senator is asked to do an hour
      ii. E-Board is meeting at that time; so they will need to cut their meeting.
      iii. E. Benoit asked if each department was going to be represented at it
         1. M. Hicks said that every almost department head has answered. Only two have said they’re not going
         2. E. Benoit thinks people will get upset if not all departments are there.
         3. J. Mazyck asked if M. Hicks can send an Excel sheet with each departments representation.
            a. M. Hicks will send it out.
         4. M. Hicks thinks if a department doesn’t come it will reflect poorly on their department
         5. C. Ambrosio told the senate prove the departments that don’t bother to go wrong. Get a lot of students there and get a good showing.
         6. M. Ehrnfelt asked if there is a goal for how many people we want to attend.
            a. No
         7. H. Brooks asked if we can email blast the student body
            a. M. Hicks said that undeclared and exploratory students have all received an email about
               i. N. Vigorita said transfers got the email too.
7. Open Floor
   a. Knitting Club
      i. B. Paquin, a representative from Knitting Club came to speak to the senate in regards to their status as a new club. They have a formal meeting in the beginning and knit afterwards. It's not necessarily for new knitters to learn different techniques. They also want to knit things for charity.
         1. J. Mazyck asked if new knitters are welcome or will they be discouraged.
            a. B. Paquin answered that half the people who show up to meetings are new knitters, so they are equally represented.
         2. E. Pelletier asked how much money they think they'll be asking for and if they're going to be buying supplies.
            a. B. Paquin answered that maybe $300-$350 tops just for supplies for newer knitters who might not want to commit to buying their own stuff or for charity projects.
      3. A. Bullard asked if they have any crocheters.
         a. B. Paquin answered that most of them knit and crochet, so there's a pretty good mix.
      4. J. Mazyck asked how many people are a part of the group.
         a. B. Paquin answered that they have ten members, six of them are regulars. They're waiting to become an official club before they do PR about it.
         b. J. Mazyck if they think they'll be able to expand with student body interest.
            i. B. Paquin answered that it will have a chance to expand.
   ii. General Board shall discuss and vote next week.
   b. Film Club
      i. J. Henton, a representative from the new Film Club came to speak to the senate as well. The purpose of the club is to make movies and show indie films throughout the semester. They get equipment via the Communications department. They already have 6 or 7 regulars, 10 members. It's for people who are interested in writing, directing, acting in films. They want to expand film to more people.
      ii. E. Pelletier asked what they would be asking money for.
          1. J. Henton answered that it would just be supplies on campus, Money would be just for events.
      iii. E. Pelletier asked how they would get rights to indie films.
          1. J. Henton answered that indie films don't have the same rights.
      iv. J. Reid asked what an indie film is.
          1. J. Henton answered that they are independently made films, and that it is easy to get rights for those as they are small time.
      v. General Board shall discuss and vote next week.

8. Dates to Remember:
   a. Majors/Minors Fair: Wednesday, October 15th: 1:00-4:00pm BTR

Meeting adjourned at 4:26PM