Student Government Association  
General Board Meeting  
November 24th, 2014

Present:  
Executive Board: M. Hicks (President), A. Bullard (Vice President), K. Chrzanowska (BAM), E. Drouin (Secretary)  
Advisors: C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney  
Guests: G. Berthiaume

Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM

1. President's Report  
   a. Acceptance of Minutes from 11/17/2014  
      i. Motion #54 (C. Gosselin, H. Brooks) Motion to accept the minutes from 11/17/14 (22-0-1). Motion Carries.  
   b. Constitution Revision  
      i. R. Rivera went over grammatical changes that must be made in the constitution. This includes:  
         1. Changing Student Advisory Board to Student Advisory Council to reflect the new name of the committee of the Board of Regents.  
         2. Changing Board of Trustees to Board of Regents, to reflect the new name of the council.  
         3. Correcting a misspelling of the word “constitution”  
         4. Correcting a misspelling of the word “association”  
         5. Correcting “moneys” to “funds”.  
      ii. R. Rivera is also implementing a change in adding the Dates to Remember section permanently to the agenda.  
      iii. R. Rivera is also considering adding a section that outlines when minutes of each committee meeting must be distributed.  
         1. A. Bullard thinks that we should also add the rule that committee minutes be sent out 48 hours beforehand  
            a. M. Hicks added that this would be something that would have to be approved.  
            b. Motion #55 (A. Bullard, P. Hoeps) Motion to approve the Constitution revision that committee meeting minutes must be distributed within 48 hours of the end of the meeting. (23-0-0). Motion Carries.  
      iv. R. Rivera also added a proposed document that outlined the delegate program in SGA.
1. M. Hicks wanted to clarify a point in the document that said that delegates could make a motion. After a quick reference from C. Ambrosio, it was found that this was not true and was removed from the proposed document.

2. A. Bullard wanted to add to the documents that delegates are encouraged to contribute discussion and topics to the discussion.
   a. M. Hicks thinks that is repetitive, as any student could do so, by our constitution.

3. M. Hicks pointed out that a lot of delegate duties are echoed by the concept of that being a senator. The duties of a delegate are the duties of the senator, there are just less repercussions for not completing these requirements.

4. R. Rivera brought up the proposed rule that in order to become a delegate, you must attend three meetings and then, in order to become a senator, you must attend three more meetings.
   a. G. Wrobel thinks that this is extra time added that is unnecessary
   b. E. Pelletier thinks that the wording should be adjusted to reflect three consecutive general board meetings in addition to three consecutive committee meetings.
   c. C. Gosselin thinks that the way it is now is fine. Students are automatically asked if they're interested in becoming a delegate or a senator, so it should be kept at three consecutive general board meetings.
      i. H. Brooks agreed.
   d. A. Bullard thinks the language should be changed to being an "active delegate". They've already done the requirements, it's just expressing interest and being active to run for a senator. A. Bullard thinks the three consecutive meeting rule undermines the elections process.
   e. R. Rivera thinks that the way the document is currently written will curtail people joining the senate too quickly and easily, undermining the elections process.
   f. E. Drouin thinks that if there's an open spot in the senate, we should be doing our best to fill it instead of making students jump through hoops.
   g. M. Patino thinks that the number should be adjusted and potentially lowered.
   h. J. Mazyck thinks that one committee meeting should be enough to become a senator. They've shown enough commitment.
   i. Motion #56 (R. Rivera, M. Patino) Motion to table the discussion on Constitutions Revisions until next week. (23-0-0). Motion Carries.

5. Computer Science and Programming Club
   i. A representative from the potential Computer Science and Programming Club came to speak to the senate. Students were bringing up the fact that there's a void in the clubs for a general
computer science club to meet the needs of the students. Current clubs are a little too specialized. Students will fine tune their skills, engage with speakers, among other things.

ii. E. Pelletier asked if they had a lot of students come to their interest meeting.
   1. G. Berthiaume said that they regularly had around 20 students, and that people kept coming back.

iii. H. Brooks about the part of their mission that detailed fine tuning their skills. Would this cost money? How would they go about doing this?
   1. G. Berthiaume answered that their adviser brings experience and could also introduce professionals in the field as well.

iv. J. Reid asked out of curiosity how many girls were currently in the club.

v. J. Mazyck asked how this club differed from AITP.
   1. G. Berthiaume answered that AITP focused more on BIS related things; whereas Computer Science and Programming Club will focus more on its namesake.

vi. A. Bullard asked how diverse the club was in the Mac vs PC debate.
   1. G. Berthiaume answered that the club composition was heavily PC, so there’s no conflict. The resources at this school are heavily PC related, but there won’t be a shut out of Mac users.

vii. N. Vigorita asked when meetings were held.
   1. G. Berthiaume answered Mondays at 3.

viii. E. Benoit asked about students who are interested in computer science and don’t know a lot about it.
   1. G. Berthiaume answered that the challenges they meet involve a lot of problem solving and programming. Students can learn via discussions.

ix. J. Mazyck wants to know if they want to work with AITP because they’re already well established
   1. G. Berthiaume answered that they’re already working with Game Design Club but they’re open to more partnerships.

d. UNICEF Club
   i. Motion #57 (J. Reid, M. Ehrnfelt) Motion to approve the UNICEF Club as an SGA recognized club (22-0-0). Motion Carries.

e. Eastern Finance Association
   i. Motion #58 (G. Canzio, A. Nadeau) Motion to approve the Eastern Finance Association as an SGA recognized club (22-0-0). Motion Carries.

f. Yearbook Update
   i. Last week the executive board and the Yearbook Club met to discuss sales of yearbook. The Executive Board thought the meeting was very eye-opening. We’ve underestimated sales a bit, but it’s still being considered to lower their funding. They have three members, which means they’re technically not a club in good standing. Combined with SGA’s contribution of $18,000 and the administration’s contribution of $6,000, it’s a lot of money.
   ii. M. Ehrnfelt asked if they provided a breakdown of what the money goes to.
1. K. Chrzanowska said that it just went to their contract to Josten’s.

iii. M. Wysopal asked if they can shop around for a cheaper contract
   1. K. Chrzanowska answered that they prefer Jostens, but they have to bid out every few years.

iv. M. Hicks said that the advisor was very reluctant to change anything formatting based, but she was very adamant about keeping it hardcover, color, and as a physical book form.

v. K. Chrzanowska said that one proposed solution is taking out underclassmen of the yearbook, to save money.

vi. H. Brooks said that we should hold Yearbook to the same standard that we hold other clubs. We should try to deter them away from keeping a hardcover book to cut costs.

vii. M. McFall Gorman thinks that archiving so many of them is a waste of resources.

viii. C. Gosselin thinks that despite the fact that there’s not much we can do, we should cut their funding because it’s too much money to give to one club that is not reaching as many students as other clubs. It’s not fair to other clubs.

ix. M. Wysopal wants to know if it’s possible for us to give them a certain amount of money based upon pre-orders.
   1. M. Hicks thinks that might be tough to do just because it’s based on a contract.
   2. K. Chrzanowska added that a large portion of their sales are based on graduate rehearsals. They try to do PR, but they have three people on staff.

x. M. Ehrnfelt asked what the average number of members of the graduating class was.
   1. M. Delaney answered around 1100.

xi. E. Benoit asked what the yearbook practicum was.
   1. K. Chrzanowska said that it’s a class that maxes out at 5 and they usually get 1-2 students. They’re not really a Yearbook member, because they’re just taking a course on yearbook.

xii. N. Vigorita asked if they could just print less yearbooks.
    1. M. Delaney said that they’re printing the minimum of 200 right now.

xiii. M. Patino agrees with H. Brooks. If they’re not making an effort to sell, then we shouldn’t be giving them money.

xiv. J. Reid thinks that if the students aren’t participating, then we’re not serving them. One person seems to be running the yearbook and they’re not the students.

xv. E. Pelletier likes the idea of a graduation fee that is proposed on the document from Yearbook.
    1. M. Hicks thinks that the graduation fee isn’t on the table. Students pay enough. The executive board thinks thought that this would be making students give up their money on something that they might not never spend it on. It’s been continually shot at the administration and hasn’t panned out.

xvi. M. Wysopal would like to suggest that if the clubs don’t meet the same standards as other clubs, then they shouldn’t get funding.

xvii. J. Mazyck asked if we can put Yearbook Club on probation.
1. M. Hicks answered that BAM cannot put a club on probation, but BAM has the ability to freeze accounts. It’s a very harsh move, but it’s under their discretion.

xviii. M. Ehrnfelt asked if there are any consequences for a club that doesn’t send in minutes.
   1. M. Hicks said that it means they’re not in good standing.

xix. K. Chrzanowska said that changes to the constitution regarding the funding won’t go into effect until Fall 2015 as they’re already locked into their contract for this year.

xx. M. Delaney said that they need 90 days to pull out of their contract. This will only affect their Fall FRP.

xxi. M. Hicks spoke for the executive board in saying that a yearbook is important to have on this campus. We want to work with them to figure out a way that they can function properly and efficiently.

xxii. C. Gosselin wanted to know if they gave a price quote in regards to changing to black and white and taking out underclassmen. This will help subsidize the cost.
   1. K. Chrzanowska will email them and asking for a price quote.

xxiii. A. Nadeau wants to know if we can propose possible changes that we think would help make it better. Is it up to them?
   1. M. Hicks thinks that it is within our rights to suggest what they should do with the money. We cannot tell them what to do.

xxiv. M. Patino wants to know if we can invite Yearbook to come speak to the general board.
   1. M. Hicks and K. Chrzanowska both agreed that we could do that.

xxv. The Executive Board will bring up a number for funding that makes sense; this will be brought back to the general board.

g. Themed Housing

i. The Executive Board met with LaMar Coleman in regards to Themed Housing. The total number of beds that themed housing takes up throughout campus is at about 7.5%. It’s about 204 people. There are 18 different themes. 9 of the 18 themes are in Nutmeg or Laurel. That’s 120 students in Nutmeg and Laurel. Mr. Coleman understands that it is undermining the priority point system. They’re currently revising the priority point system to make it as fair as possible. One thing they’re thinking about doing is averaging out the priority points amongst roommates.

ii. K. Chrzanowska added that they’re thinking about doing a blind pick of the themed housing. Students wouldn’t know what dorm their theme would be in until they’ve locked in. It wouldn’t allow students

iii. E. Drouin added that Housing has sort of divided the themes already into two categories: institutional and student-created. Institutional themes are ones that are deemed vital to the university, such as Community Engagement, Honors, Gender Inclusive, Transfer, etc. The Institutional Themes would likely be immune to the blind themed housing process, because they’d like to guarantee students’ participation in the theme.

iv. J. Reid likes the idea of averaging the priority points.

v. N. Vigorita asked if they would look at the priority points of everyone who applied to the theme, or just the average.
   1. K. Chrzanowska said that is up to the committee’s discretion.
2. M. Hicks added that if these changes were to be implemented, there would be student input. This would likely be RHA and UROC.

vi. C. Gosselin added that the themes that function well will probably be rewarded based upon performance. Some themes are doing well and held up to standards of that of an RA. Themes that don’t do well will probably be placed in a less nice dorm.

vii. M. Hicks added that LaMar Coleman and Housing will be reviewing each theme. Each theme has to be reviewed each year.

viii. J. Mazack wonders if we could ask that when themes apply they could detail what they accomplished as a theme, so that Housing could review it as they decide what theme goes where.

ix. M. Hicks added that Housing is reviewing the process and understand the student perspective.

h. Transform 2020

i. M. Hicks discussed how difficult it is to give an update on Transform. For instance, Dr. Grey sent out an update just this afternoon that outlined how the meeting between Dr. Grey and the CSUs. The update outlined a closer collaboration between faculty and Dr. Grey in regards to consideration of Transform.

ii. The administration and faculty are worried about Eastern doing anything first. For instance, they’re fearful that if we have a vote of no confidence and no one else backs us up, it will look bad.

iii. Students on the ad hoc committee for Transform 2020 discussed that they were not ready to vote no confidence. They’re actually interested in creating a resolution that details their feelings on the plan.

iv. H. Brooks spoke about his experience at University Senate last week. They did not hold a no confidence vote like we thought. We were misinformed.

v. E. Pelletier asked for a progress update in regards to contacting other SGAs.

1. M. Hicks reached out but has only heard back from Western. H. Pancak has connections at Central and will be reaching out. C. Ambrosio will be reaching out to Southern as well. M. Hicks thinks that any resolutions should be done as a group or with any other university. They’re not looking to get in contact with the community colleges

vi. C. Gosselin asked if we could collect some of the community colleges’ opinions. He has connections with an SGA President at MCC.

1. M. Hicks said sure, that we’d love to hear all opinions.

vii. Transform Updates will begin again in January and will be followed through.

i. Town and Gown Update

i. Town and Gown last week was good in some regards, bad in others. There were zero complaints from the community about the students. Very few residents showed up, meaning that they didn’t have problems.

ii. K. Chrzanowska made a complaint about the safety of students in Willimantic, and a deputy chuckled. Students present at Town Gown brought up a variety of points about discretions by the Willimantic Police Department towards students.
iii. Vice President Bedini is attempting to coordinate a meeting between SGA, the Police Chief, the Mayor of the Town, and himself.

iv. C. Gosselin added that Chief Garewski, Eastern Police Chief was frantically writing everything down, in stark contrast to Willimantic Police who were very disrespectful.

v. M. Ehrnfelt spoke with the Police Department representative that was there about her instance of harassment by the police officers. The representative blamed it on immaturity by the police department.

2. Vice President’s Report
   a. A. Bullard attended a conference over the weekend which had a list of initiatives that SGA’s could do. This shall be presented to the executive board and you may see some of these things in the senate next year.
   b. Committee Updates
      i. Issues
         1. M. Ehrnfelt and J. Mazyck gave an update from their meeting with Chief Garewski. They spoke a lot about the shuttle, such as making sure the shuttle stops at each stop. Additionally, they’re going to work on putting that the shuttles are out of service on the application. Chief Garewski also spoke about the regulation for parking appeals; students can’t get ticketed for more than one violation per eight hours. Also, money from tickets go to scholarships for students.
      ii. Public Relations
         1. PR is working on elections for the Spring. Typically voting is Sunday into Wednesday. The committee is working on potential events that would promote voting. They’re also looking for ways to promote who their candidates are, in addition to getting people to apply.
      iii. Internal
         1. The Internal Banquet’s plans are being hashed out. Dinner will be buffet style. Additionally, decorations in the suite from prior years are going to be reused this year.
      iv. Budget and Management
         1. BAM has almost finished FRPs with the exception of UNICEF.
   3. Treasurer’s Report:
      a. BAM is also setting up two separate indexes for gasoline and security. This way the money for these two things can be set aside.
   4. Secretary Report:
      a. Filemaker will be implemented next week
   5. Advisor Report:
      a. Nothing to report.
   6. Old Business:
      a. Mentor/Mentee Projects are due today. Some people still have to send in the projects. They should do so today. These will be implemented next semester.
   7. New Business:
      a. External Committee Updates
         i. M. Hicks attended the Budget Committee Meeting. In this meeting they were discussing how Eastern will be confronting the state deficit that is implemented by
the governor. In the past, the governor has cut 5% of the university’s budget, which is 2.5 million dollars. This year the governor cut 1.25%, which works out to 650,000 from the budget. He also cut the Board of Regents operating budget and Transform. UConn and UConn Medical Center were also cut a much higher amount. The governor didn’t touch any of the community colleges’ budgets. In order to recruit new students, the Admissions Department is raising the amount of merit aid that they award to first year students. M. Hicks went over the new financial aid regulations instituted by Admissions to try and get more students here. They're trying to work off a quasi-private school model, where more students means more financial aid money. The University is also creating 18 more tenure track positions, in addition to other positions that are necessary to be filled, such as facilities and maintenance.

ii. University Senate Update
   1. H. Brooks gave a University Senate update that discussed Dr. Nunez’s potential improvements to Transform’s plan. Additionally, on an Admissions standpoint, Eastern is now an SAT optional school, whereas 20 percent of students have not had to submit scores.
   2. E. Benoit spoke to Dr. Kane and they’re trying to put together two faculty resolutions for Tuesday.

iii. Student Support Services Committee
   1. S. Nelson has recommended that printing funds be raised for all students up to $20 per semester for all students. The Webb 410 Staff is told to never turn students away for lack of funds. They have to let students print for free. Not all students use their printing funds, so they roll over and cover other students’ funds.
      a. C. Gosselin thinks that the policy should be sent out to students. N. Vigorita shall ask S. Nelson to send the policy out to the students.

iv. University Assessment Committee
   1. M. McFall Gorman attended the University Assessment Committee, which makes sure that Eastern can keep their university status. The committee is giving an overview of potential problems that must be confronted to keep Eastern’s University status. They’re thinking about testing students on their Liberal Arts Core when they get to Eastern and when they leave.

b. President’s Breakfast
   i. This month’s President’s Breakfast is going to have a capped attendance, because last time we were at an over capacity.
   ii. M. Ehrnfelt asked if it was possible to just have a venue change instead.
      1. M. Delaney said that no, it’s the president’s event, so she gets to decide where it is.
   iii. J. Reid asked if we can expand the seating options into little round tables.
      1. M. Delaney answered no, that it is executive style as the President requested.

8. Dates to Remember:
   a. Tuesday, December 2nd, 7:00 a.m.; President’s Breakfast
   b. Friday, December 5th; Cops Open Rec Night

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM