Student Government Association
General Board Meeting
February 11th, 2015

Present:

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

Advisors: C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney

Senators: E. Benoit, H. Brooks, C. Gosselin, P. Hoeps, T. Mack, J. Mazyck, M. Patino, E. Pelletier, N. Vigorita, Ch. Welch, Co. Welch, G. Wrobel

Guests: E. McDonald, A. Cross, Dr. Bergstrom-Lynch, Brittanymarie Barber

Meeting called to order at 3:03 PM

1. President’s Report
   a. Acceptance of Minutes from 1/12/2015
      i. Motion #67 (K. Chrzanowska, E. Pelletier) Motion to accept the minutes from 1/12/15 (16-0-0). Motion Carries.
   b. Mascot Updates
      i. M. Hicks presented the senate with the new mascot: a Spartan like warrior. Dr. Nunez indicated that she would like to have it at the graduation ceremony as it was a senior who designed it.
   c. Pep Rally Subcommittee
      i. M. Hicks is looking to form a committee that will examine whether or not us planning the pep rally is an efficient idea. The committee would meet with Athletics, Housing, and a few other parts of campus to see what they think is the best idea to form a pep rally.
   d. Mentor/Mentee Projects
      i. Although SGA has not been meeting very frequently this semester, M. Hicks would like the Mentor/Mentee projects to not be forgotten. Mentors and Mentees will provide updates at the next General Board meeting.

2. Vice President’s Report
   a. Committee Updates
      i. Public Relations
         1. E. Benoit presented potential Election items to the senate: these included t-shirts, water bottles, and cups.
         a. E. Pelletier is not in favor of shirts as all the SGA shirts are starting to look the same.
         b. K. Chrzanowska says that we just handed out shirts. She still uses a bottle she received freshman year so she thinks that would be a great idea.
         c. Co. Welch thinks this is a great idea as we could order more of them since they are cheaper.
d. G. Wrobel suggested a travel thermos as a lot of students use those  
i. E. Benoit will look into this.

2. V. Cosma is working on a brochure to be distributed at the ice cream social

3. M. Hicks added that the best way to promote elections was through getting people to run.

ii. Student Issues

1. E. Pelletier and her committee are examining alternatives to the shuttles such as bikes. They are also talking to the administration to see what policies in regards to secondhand smoking are actually implementable.
   a. M. Hicks added that the biggest issue is people standing outside of buildings and people have to walk through second hand smoke.
   b. C. Gosselin pointed out that there’s not much you can do about smoking issues – people walking and smoking is going to happen. It’s a university wide problem.
   c. E. McDonald pointed out that there would be great difficulty enforcing that policy. If the current policy isn’t enforced, it’s doubtful that this one would.

2. J. Mazyck found mold in his bread in Hurley; M. Patino is pursuing correspondence with Chartwells in regards to the issue.

iii. Internal

1. The Internal Committee has planned a retreat! The retreat was in response to those who said we didn’t have free time during the fall retreat. There will be structured team building activities and also free time. Senators should make themselves available from 11-6, but we should anticipate being there from 11-4. The retreat is Sunday, February 22nd at Nomad’s in South Windsor.

iv. BAM

1. There is little to no money left over from fall allocations.

3. Treasurer’s Report:
   a. J. Ahern presented the Spring 2015 Budget to the senate.
      i. The senate voted on the following budget divisions:
         1. BAM: $175,000
         2. General Board: $12,771
         3. Executive Board: $8,000

   b. Discussion
      i. M. Hicks added that BAM would be paying for the banquets so that the senate could have some spending money for elections.
      ii. E. Benoit asked if that money could be used for mentor/mentee projects.
         1. M. Hicks answered yes, they could, but they won’t be big hits on the budget.
      iii. M. Hicks added that senators should always email J. Ahern if they have questions about the budget; he can provide print outs for everything.

   iv. Motion #68 (H. Brooks, K. Chrzanowska) Motion to accept the Spring 2015 Budget as read (16-0-0). Motion Carries.
4. **Secretary Report:**
   a. Nothing to report.

5. **Advisor Report:**
   a. Nothing to report.

6. **Old Business**
   a. **Transform 2020**
      i. M. Hicks wanted to know if the subcommittee for Transform 2020 is still “worth it.”
      ii. J. Ahern responded that an ad/hoc committee will be at Eastern, Central, and Western. Southern is still working on creating one. But yes, the committee is worth it.
      iii. He further explains that each of the CSUs will create their own list of what they need and will create and release a resolution.
   b. **Town and Gown**
      i. M. Hicks attended the most recent Town and Gown and said that there was not one complaint from the town!

7. **New Business**
   a. **Constitution Revision**
      i. M. Hicks discussed the potentially implemented budget cuts to Yearbook. BAM is proposing that their budget is cut in half; understandably the Yearbook is upset. SGA believes that they’ll still be able to function. Additionally, they’re not a club in good standing, so BAM does not have to give them any money. The budget cut must be a constitution revision. It must be presented to the general board a week in advance, voted with 2/3 majority.
      ii. Next week we will be voting on a Constitution Revision to change the Yearbook funding from $18,000 per year ($9,000 per semester) to $9,000 per year ($4500 per semester).
   b. **Pride Center**
      i. Dr. Bergstrom Lynch and Alex Cross came to speak about the Pride Room and it’s hopeful transformation into the Pride Center. The Pride Room is Room 109 in the Student Center, it was originally a meeting room. It opened in 2010. It didn’t have a coordinator until this year. It is just now becoming a functional space like the Women’s Center and the Intercultural Center. SGA was very supportive of the Pride Room opening. At the Pride Room dedication, they were told that within 2-5 years the Pride Room would be transformed into the Pride Center. It’s been five years and they’re hoping to question the University on why that hasn’t happen. In order to mobilize the University, they are looking for student support.
      ii. **Discussion**
         1. J. Ahern asked what room they’d be looking to use.
            a. Dr. Bergstrom-Lynch responded that room 115 would be ideal as it is large and is in the Unity Wing. It would take a small amount of financial investment to repurpose it.
         2. M. Hicks asked what specifically they’d like from the senate.
            a. A. Cross responded that ideally, SGA would pass a resolution saying they support this initiative.
         3. J. Ahern asked M. Delaney if their room choice would create problems in the Student Center.
            a. M. Delaney answered that it would take away a large meeting room in the Student Center, however we’re not voting on that, we’re voting on supporting the concept of a Pride Center.
      iii. The Student Issues Committee is drafting a resolution of support to be voted on at the next General Board Meeting.
   c. **External Committee Updates**
      i. University Senate will have an update presented at the next general board meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 3:49 PM