Student Government Association
General Board Meeting
March 9th, 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, V. Cosma, M. Ehrnfelt, S. Froehlich, C. Gosselin, P. Hoeps, T. Mack, J. Mazyck, E. McDonald, M. McFall-Gorman, M. Patino, E. Pelletier, J. Reid, R. Rivera, N. Vigorita, Ch. Welch, Co. Welch, G. Wrobel, M. Wysopal

Guests: Dan Solomon, Ashley Thibodeau, Danielle VanEtten, Michael LaRusso, Dezi Stimson, Matt Boughton, Steph Daniels

Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM

1. President’s Report
   a. Acceptance of Minutes from 3/2/2015
      i. Motion #79 (N. Vigorita, J. Reid) Motion to accept the minutes from 3/2/15 (23-0-1). Motion Carries.
   b. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
      i. Discussion
         1. J. Reid inquired about the screening process, which might exclude certain groups of people. She asked if you are gay and married, can you have sex with your partner?
            a. It would not be recognized as an institution of marriage by Intervarsity
         2. E. McDonald asked if the organization receives any money from the National Chapter or would it all be student activity funds
            a. They do have access to some other funds. They’re not super worried about the money, they just want to be on the website
         3. Mae Ehrnfelt asked if members of the Intervarsity Staff is considered a full E-Board members.
            a. Not really, they just want to have a voice
            b. M. Ehrnfelt asked if they would have voting rights
               i. Probably in the case of a tie breaker.
         4. A. Bullard asked what kinds of money they’re going to be requesting.
            a. They’re looking for the fundraising money that is available. They would want to fundraise to support other organizations as well. They might fundraise for trips or for other organizations as well.
5. H. Brooks inquired if they were flexible about the manner in which leadership is elected.
   a. They are not willing to change that and it seems as though it will bring something valuable to the campus.
   b. BSU and 180 Christian Fellowship structure leadership with a screening process as well.

ii. M. Ehrnfelt asked about how they conducted the removal of leadership
   1. The removal of leadership involves discussion with current leadership team

iii. T. Mack asked about the difference between their club and 180 Christian Fellowship.
   1. They will have more access to bible studies

iv. A. Bullard asked if they would be willing to change their constitution later on?
   1. That is not likely.

v. E. Drouin asked for a clear definition of a “spiritual threat”. Does that mean dissenting opinions would not be welcomed?
   1. A spiritual threat is not a dissenting opinion. They welcome disagreements.

vi. J. Reid asked what their goals on campus are.
   1. They want to form a family on campus and invoke a response in regards to studying the Bible and be agents of Jesus’ love on campus.
   2. The club is also a way to make friends and be social

vii. S. Froehlich said that an active member is two months; what is the process behind that being such a long time?
   1. This is the constitution from Intervarsity's international website
   2. S. Froehlich asked if they’ve considered shortening the time frame.
   a. They would have to talk to a higher up at Intervarsity.

viii. C. Gosselin said that his biggest concern is that over time, without an Intervarsity Staff member it won’t survive
   1. The staff member is their mechanism for training

ix. S. Daniels asked if there is an outline of what people can and cannot do.
   1. There's an outline of Bible passages in their constitution.
   2. S. Daniels asked if there is an e-board member who is gay, is that not allowed.
   a. In Biblical teachings, it does outline that sex is not allowed outside of member. They hold to that Biblical teaching. If someone with same sex attraction wanted to commit to celibacy, they could run for e-board. Everyone has to commit to celibacy.

c. Radical Student Association
i. P. Hoeps came to speak about the Radical Student Association. There was no space for politically radical students. They thought it would be nice to have a club setting for radical political beliefs.
   1. M. Wysopal asked what it means to be politically radical
   a. Extremely far left and far right
2. E. Drouin asked what was lacking from the other political clubs.
   a. P. Hoebs said that they weren't asking the kinds of questions they wanted to ask
   b. K. Chrzanowska said it's the same as though there was need for the College Democrats when there was the Conservative/Libertarian Club

3. A. Bullard asked how are they going to accommodate a hostile environment
   a. It’s a discussion based club, hopefully it won't get too inflammatory
   b. M. Hicks suggested they replicate what the Conservative/Libertarian Club did and have a clause that allows for the removal of someone from a meeting.

4. H. Brooks thinks we have an Americanized view, this will add a more international perspective.

5. N. Vigorita asked about the club turn out
   a. The club has been meeting on Friday evenings which has affected turn out, but they have about 9 consistent members.

6. M. Hicks asked if they had a full E-Board
   a. Yes, with 5 consistent members

7. E. Pelletier asked what kinds of funding they’re looking for.
   a. Food to get people to come to the club. They might have other events and discussions.

8. E. Drouin asked if they will consider partnering with other political clubs
   a. Yes, they will.

9. K. Chrzanowska added that they will add removal from meeting clause for the approval of their constitution.

d. Motion #80 (H. Brooks, M. Ehrnfelt) Motion to move to closed session (24-0-0). Motion Carries.

e. Discussion
   i. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
      1. M. Hicks said to keep in mind that the students’ interest is not your interest.
      2. K. Chrzanowska added that we ask a lot of questions that we don't ask every single club.
      3. H. Brooks completely recognizes their right to gather, but he is not comfortable asking them to be a club. He's also concerned that the staff member was asking most of the questions, but she’s not always going to be there.
      4. C. Gosselin added not to use the word “we” when discussing the word “we” as your opinion is not everyone’s opinion. As far as Intervarsity Christian Organization, he's is very wishy-washy, but a lot of students made very good points. He thinks that the argument that 180 Christian Fellowship was not a good one as the two constitutions are not comparable. He was wondering about what other clubs are doing in regards to a screening process.
5. C. Ambrosio thinks that the extreme side of a screening process is the Nathan Hale Club, which requires you be in the ROTC Program at UConn.
   a. K. Chrzanowska added that SHRM also has an application process
6. G. Wrobel thinks that looking at other clubs isn’t the way we should pass or not pass this club. Things change and people who were here might not have passed those clubs.
7. E. Pelletier thinks that GPA requirements are a concrete way to look at them but Bible verses are up to interpretation, and the specific Bible verses seem kind of broad.
8. M. Ehrnfelt looked at the larger Intervarsity organization, which affiliates with publishing companies that promote anti-gay propaganda. She thinks we should look at what they associate with.
   a. R. Rivera thinks that goes to their beliefs.
9. E. McDonald thinks the problem is using student activity fee money to a club that may discriminate against students.
10. J. Reid thinks we should consider the fact that the California State University system chose not to pass them as a club. J. Reid does not think we should support them as a club.
11. E. Benoit thinks we are being very negative. All they wanted was their name on the website. They are not trying to discriminate.
12. Ch. Welch has the concern that they’re more of an organization as opposed to a club. It’s harder for them to change their constitution would be straying away from the national chapter. We have to accept it or not.
13. R. Rivera doesn’t think they’re trying to discriminate. We’re not an entity to say that they can’t target certain people.
14. N. Vigorita thinks that Danielle’s presence is functioning to help set up the club.
15. M. Ehrnfelt said that NOW is affiliated with a larger organization, and they changed their constitution. It’s odd that they’re not willing to change their constitution to acclimate Eastern’s campus.
16. J. Ahern: thinks we’re worried about someone being discriminated against down the road; maybe there should be a clause that adds that if someone feels as though they’re being discriminated against.
   a. M. Hicks pointed out that they’re already protected by the anti-discrimination clause.

ii. **Motion #81 (N. Vigorita, R. Rivera)** Motion to approve Intervarsity Christian Fellowship as an SGA recognized club **(15-8-0)**. **Motion Carries.**

f. **Elections Committee Update**
   i. Matt, Ashley, Emily, Nicole, Victoria, Christina, and Erin are all serving on the elections committee.
   ii. They are going to do their best in recruiting and therefore promotion.

2. **Vice President’s Report**
   a. **Committee Updates**
      i. **Public Relations**
1. **Warrior Wednesday Update**
   a. Keep an eye out for an email about fliers from V. Cosma about Warrior Wednesday.
   b. Everyone from PR is responsible for bringing a flier about Warrior Wednesday to their meeting.

ii. **Internal**
   1. The banquet will have actual entrees.
   2. Committee members are working on the BAM banquet.
   3. Currently the Internal Banquet is on the 23rd of April. If it’s the 23rd, elections will run that week.

iii. **Student Issues**
   1. E. Pelletier is working on the issue of handicapped buttons not working outside of buildings. She spoke with her hall director about the issue. Her hall director is going to talk to card services about the issue
      a. J. Ahern thinks that would be a nice capital expenditure, depending upon how much it is.
   2. The committee is also working on snow removal.

3. **Treasurer’s Report:**
   a. **Accounts Update**
      i. General Board is currently at $7,302.79 and E-Board is currently at $2645.15.

4. **Secretary Report**
   a. **Bowl-a-Thon Update**
      i. E. Drouin update the senators on how the Bowl-a-Thon went. She had the highest score out of everyone.

5. **Advisor Report:**
   a. C. Ambrosio commends us for our thought process for Intervarsity. The process by which we can to that decision is why we all came to student government.

6. **Old Business**
   a. Nothing to report.

7. **New Business**
   a. **External Committee Updates**
      i. **University Senate Update**
         1. President Nunez says to look out for an 8% tuition hike
         2. Even with that increase, we’ll still be at a 4 million dollar deficit
         3. H. Brooks said she would pick from multiple departments for employment cuts.
            a. President Nunez said she would cut a lot of things before she cuts student workers
         4. N. Vigorita asked if redoing the quad was a necessary thing if we’re going through a budget crisis
            a. The money was already laid out and committed. Specific projects are laid out in advance.
         5. C. Gosselin added that individual departments are already cutting back. Student worker hours have already began to be cut.
         6. A. Bullard thinks we should invite Jim Howarth to come in to discuss the budget.
         7. C. Ambrosio said we’ve been there before. There was a bubble in higher education and universities have spent a lot of money attract more students, but there are less students entering college.

ii. **Organization Committee**
1. The Student Academic Advising Committee is looking for a student representative. Email MorganKr@easternct.edu with interest.

8. Open Floor
   a. A. Bullard congratulated M. Hicks for getting into his top choice graduate school.
   b. E Drouin invited the senate to participate in her focus group on Thursday night at 8PM in the Student Center.
   c. E Drouin alerted the senate to an issue she was investigating regarding changes in financial aid policy and the ability for students to still register. The limit used to be that you could owe under $1,000 and still register, now that has been lowered to $100.
      i. J. Mazyck discussed how they're very strict and sometimes they deny people with pending financial aid.
      ii. R. Rivera said that he's tried to contact them but there's not a lot of feedback.
   d. E. McDonald invited senators to participate in her research on relationships tomorrow at 5:30 in Goddard 100.
   e. Email Taylor Herold if you’re interested in participating in concert security.
   f. The Etiquette Dinner is Wednesday March 11th at 5:00PM

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM