Present:

**Executive Board:** J. Ahern (President), E. Drouin (Vice President), T. Mack (Treasurer and Interim BAM Chair), M. McFall Gorman (Secretary)

**Advisors:** M. Delaney, C. Ambrosio


**Guests:** L. Combs, K. Ledezma, C. Litke, G. Litke, N. Vigorita, I.S.E. Representative.

**Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM**

1. **President Report:**
   a. **Acceptance of Minutes from 2/22/2016**
      i. **Motion #66 (K. Lien, F. Ricigliano) Motion to approve the Minutes from General Board Meeting on 2/22/2016. (18 – 0 – 0) Motion Carries.**
   b. **I.S.E Event**
      i. A representative from the Institute for Sustainable Energy has visited SGA on behalf of G. Wrobel, who is hosting an event with the ISE, Business Department, and Economics Department. The event will consist of two parts. On March 30th a panel of sustainable business owners will present to demonstrate how sustainability is not something to be done on the side as a second thought, but rather that businesses can make it a priority. The second half of this conference allows students to submit proposals for theoretical businesses, from which the best proposals shall win incentive prizes. Anyone who enter this competition or attend the panel can learn the ethics as well as financial benefits of instituting sustainable energy plans.
      ii. On behalf of the ISE the representative is requesting a financial contribution from Student Government. A total of $300 is requested, to be divided amongst the top three winners as follows: 1st place $150, 2nd place $100, and 3rd place $50.
      iii. The ISE representative stressed that this presents for students a chance to learn and experience skills they can use in the workforce.
      iv. J. Ahern said that G. Wrobel had approached him earlier to see about getting students more involved with ISE and the department as a whole. J. Ahern was reluctant to give suggestions and had asked the ISE to think up an event, which they have now proposed to us.
      v. E. Drouin asked if they had reached out to other groups. The representative responded not yet, but they are in the process of doing so.
      vi. N. Vigorita asked if the prizes will be given in cash or as gift cards. The Representative said cash, but if there are rules they can instead provide gift cards for local businesses or from the actual businesses that participate in the panel.
      vii. J. Ahern asked if they were looking for any other way for SGA to get involved, and if there was anything else they would be asking us for. The Representative said that at the moment, nothing more is required of us.
viii. D. Sheridan asked if the $300 amount would come from the General or E-Board account. J. Ahern said it would be coming from General Board.

ix. N. Vigorita asked in regards to prizes if they would consider a small prize that was oriented towards sustainable energy – such as a solar powered radio etc. The representative took note of this idea.

x. J. Mazyck asked if SGA would be given credit or allowed to be shown as a sponsor, the Representative said of course.

xi. D. Sheridan asked why SGA was being asked to fund this event. J. Ahern said that any and all funding for clubs must go through the BAM committee – but as they are not a club, and an institutional department, they are requesting additional funding from SGA as we represent the students and this event is directed towards them.

xii. A. Dilone asked if student inventions will be protected, ignored, or if their product will be shared with the public and potentially shared with the media or news. The representative said yes, that there will be news coverage of the event, and that if a student project or presentation is exceptional it will be taken note of as the students work and respected as such.

xiii. Reminder: March 30th is the Panel, and the competition submissions will occur slightly after that.

xiv. J. Reid asked how much we have in General Board. T. Mack supplied the numbers: General Board is at $11,684.40 and E-Board is at $7,122.61.

xv. D. Sheridan asked what other costs we have coming up in General Board.

xvi. M. Patino asked, based on those future expenditures, how much money would be left in the account. J. Ahern said he couldn’t give an accurate number, but ensured all that there would be plenty money for a $300 donation to this event.

xvii. E. Drouin agreed that this event is similar to Cops Open Rec, and that it not only is for the students, but also helps out a department on campus that really has positive benefits for the community as well as university.

xviii. J. Ahern said there was a lot of brainstorming involved and that this is a great event they have come up with.

xix. B. Paiva asked if this is a closed competition, and based off of what the Representative said, J. Ahern clarified to say that it is open strictly to students, and that the rules for the competition would be available after the panel. B. Paiva also asked if there are prizes for participating, and not just first, second, third, etc.

xx. E. Drouin said that the prize money we are affording goes straight to the students that win. However, she also suspected that the event coordinators are probably giving food, or small items to all who participate.

xxi. K. Chrzanowska said that based off of similar events held by other departments, the method of prize payment could be an educational grant.

xxii. Motion #67 (H. Brooks, E. Drouin) Motion to spend no more than $300 for the ISE event on March 30th (19 – 0 – 0). Motion Carries.

c. Student Shuttle Service

i. J. Ahern explained the results from his meeting with Chief Garewski, the schedule he created for the potential Shuttle, and how the shuttle services must go out to a bid.

ii. J. Ahern explained that the Stop & Shop addition would only be feasible if it was added to the Storrs Center route as the distance to Stop & Shop would not fit well with the campus shuttle.

iii. The senate was shown the proposed drop off/pick up times and were asked for their responses.

iv. H. Brooks asked who this would have to be approved by, and J. Ahern said that the administration has the power of a final say and could strike down our proposed shuttle times. However, he will send it back to us and we would be able to hopefully find a compromise.

v. J. Ahern said it will drop people off on the Mansfield Town Hall area, so we are not dropping students off on the UCONN campus.
vi. E. Drouin said that we should press that we are placing the shuttle times when there are no classes, so the later hours are not due to a desire to inspire a night life, but rather because it would be the most available to students.

vii. J. Ahern said we also need to impress on the administration that the shuttle is meant to encourage students in staying on campus for the weekend, while giving the freedom to go about to other places in the day. He also reminded everyone that per shuttle contract, the drivers are supposed to ask for a student ID, and that they also have the right to remove students who are disorderly or potentially intoxicated.

viii. J. Mazyck asked if there could be a card reader in the shuttle instead.

ix. J. Ahern said that checking ID’s is a part of the contract, so there should be no need for a card reader, as a driver would be breaking the contract and could face problems.

x. M. Delaney also reminded everyone that this shuttle does not stay on campus, and any hardware we put in the shuttle (such as a card reader) would have to be removed daily, and could possibly cause additional problems.

xi. A. Dilone asked when we would know about the bid, and whether or not we need permission before going for it.

xii. J. Ahern asked M. Delaney, and she said that Vice President Bedini would need to first approve it, and from there a bid would be sent out.

xiii. Furthermore, J. Ahern said that there will now only be three shuttle stops for pickup on the SGA shuttle to Storrs Center (Noble, Laurel, and Sports Center). These pickup spots were chosen for their locations as closest to South Campus, middle campus, and North Campus.

xiv. E. Drouin asked why the shuttle is running on Friday/Saturday for only 6 hours, and why it can’t be later in the afternoon, so people can use it to go to dinner and what not. An unofficial Senate vote indicated that a vast majority of Senators would be in favor of the Shuttle running later.

xv. M. Wysopal asked if we could color code the shuttles.

xvi. J. Ahern agreed and suggested that we do so, but added that we should also remove our name from the shuttle service. His reasoning was that we are essentially unavailable on the weekends when most problems are reported, and that we have no real control over it, so if anyone calls the SGA suite or the Student Center Info Desk, they end up being sent to dispatch anyway.

xvii. J. Ahern said that as far as labelling goes, we need to work towards that because the shuttle stops look bad. Chief Garewski mentioned that there was an art initiative years ago to decorate them (hence the torn, warped images of a global map on some of the stops). J. Ahern said we should talk to the administration about getting new plastic posters that look like the Eastern shield logo. Also, we would want to get noticeable signs that indicate a ‘Student’ shuttle (as opposed to an SGA shuttle).

xviii. K. Constant said that we should still get the credit, and that we should keep our name on it. J. Ahern asked for an unofficial vote: a majority of the Senate agreed that we should take ‘SGA’ out of the immediate shuttle logo or name.

xix. M. Wysopal asked if our names weren’t already on the shuttles; J. Ahern clarified that the signs are not official, they are merely little, laminated papers.

xx. J. Ahern clarified that the East Brook Shuttle is the one that we do not want our name on. The Storrs Center one we will keep our name on because we will have to get in contact with the company. The “Student Shuttle” shall be an apt name that does not require SGA be mentioned.

xxi. N. Vigorita asked if flyers could be put in the shuttles to say who should be contacted in case of an emergency. J. Ahern said he did that last semester, as a good gesture, and suggests that the SI head maintains and updates them.

xxii. N. Vigorita asked a second question: When will this new shuttle proposal go into effect. J. Ahern clarified it will begin next year.

xxiii. B. Paiva asked how the shuttle designs worked. J. Ahern explained that the back wall of each shuttle stop has a small slot in between the clear plastic walls; in that space can be inserted thin plastic poster images. Hence the different designs on the backs of some of the posters.
She then asked if the info flyer (SI) could be included in that more permanent manner J. Ahern said they could discuss that with the administration.

xxiv. M. Wysopal said that a lot of our problems could be fixed with basic signage.

xxv. J. Ahern said that the real problems are students not using the shuttle for the money we are putting into, so signage will not solve it.

xxvi. M. Patino asked how we will be advertising this to the students. J. Ahern said it will be up to PR, and that we will definitely advertise strongly.

xxvii. Co. Welch suggested that we hold off on this subject until we wait for feedback from the administration. J. Ahern agreed.

xxviii. M. Delaney reminded everyone to keep in mind the money we will be spending, as we spend nearly $70,000 on these shuttles, and that it is draining the reserves.

xxix. J. Ahern said we will be looking at the specific riding statistics, and based on those we will possibly cut the shuttles being proposed, or another one in its stead. Also, depending on the bids we receive, if it turns out that if we are spending too much, we should be prepared to cut the program completely.

xxx. J. Ahern added that there are under 50 people riding the Saturday Buckland Hills mall shuttle, and that the East Brook shuttle is not being touched yet.

xxxi. M. Patino said that the Storrs shuttle could possibly charge students $1 to ride it.

xxxi. M. Delaney said you would have to pay somebody to collect the money, which would negate the cost.

xxxii. Guest L. Combs asked how often we publicized the shuttle in the Campus Lantern. The Senate answered that the shuttle is not advertised. L. Combs offered to include a news article or reminder about it in the Campus Lantern.

xxxiv. J. Brucker asked if we could separate the shuttle services of Wal-Mart and East Brook, and possibly get rid of one. J. Ahern reminded him how that shuttle is most used by students, and many students who do not have cars rely on it.

xxxv. J. Ahern reminded all that the primary focus is to address the Buckland Hills Mall Shuttle, as it is the least used and still costly. While it does cost far less than the Wal-Mart/Eastbrook shuttle, it is what we are tackling for the moment.

d. **Constitution Revisions**
   i. J. Ahern reviewed about half of the potential changes that could be made to the Constitution.
   ii. The vote on these changes will be proposed at the next meeting.

e. **Priority Points for Employment**
   i. J. Ahern reported that Housing was completely against it. They clarified that Priority Points are meant to compensate students for campus involvement, and when you have a job you are already being compensated financially. The Senate agreed with that logic.

f. **Housing Mascots**
   i. Housing said that they try to use Housing Mascots to improve pep and excitement for their Deans Cup events (whose name they changed to Warrior’s Cup for the same reason).
   ii. We would have to go to all of RHA meetings, as well as UROC, in order to get their individual student opinions, and to try and fight this. A majority of senators said we should pursue it to the end. M. McFall Gorman said to T. Mack “Apparentlly, it's 'Down with Housing Mascots'...”.
   iii. Housing wouldn’t take the effort on themselves of seeing the true popularity of heir mascots. However, the general consensus is that they will be hesitant to get rid of their mascots.
   iv. J. Dignoti said that since H. Brooks as Student Issues Head would be forced to take all this on himself, why don’t we instead ask the RHA presidents to get together, and figure out how popular the mascots are in their respective residence halls.
   v. A. Dilone suggested going to Hall Directors, but it was agreed that Hall Directors (as non-students) aren’t going to give us the point of view we are looking for.
   vi. J. Ahern continued, saying that he pointed out to Housing how they don’t put ‘Eastern’ on any apparel. Housing’s response was that they didn’t want to associate Eastern with the specific residence Halls, as *that* would be confusing. However, J. Ahern noted that this is essentially
the heart of the issue over Housing Mascots; that they detract from Eastern pride and the Eastern Warrior as a whole.

vii. E. Drouin suggests that each dorm get a color.

viii. **Notable Quote:** J. Brucker suggested “Orange Occum”

ix. D. Sheridan said that the residence halls should be a part of Eastern, as they are in actual life, so Housing’s 'animal' mascots should be gotten rid of. End of story.

g. **SGA Internal Retreat**
   i. Please mark your calendars for Saturday March 12th as the Inter Retreat date! The time is TBA, however the location has been decided as Niejadlik Commons. More information coming soon.

II. **Vice President Report:**
   a. **Internal Committees Update**
      i. **Student Issues:**
         1. Elevators: This has been a reoccurring issue, brought to us from multiple students. F. Ricigliano is taking this on, and will be contacting Public Safety and Facilities with the questions that were brought up in the Student Issues committee meeting.
            a. Questions include: Who are students supposed to call when an elevator is broken, but you are not inside of it? Why are the elevators breaking? What is the proper protocol for when you are in the elevator, and it's stuck with you in it?
            b. H. Brooks pressed that the real issue is that the elevators are breaking down in the first place.
            c. E. Drouin told F. Ricigliano that if they do not respond to his emails, he should head there directly in person.
            d. J. Brucker said that all elevators are supposed to get checked bi-yearly, but he noticed that Occum's elevators inspection cards expired about two months ago.
            e. F. Ricigliano asked if there was a checklist, or some simple sheet to explain what should be done in case of malfunctions. H. Brooks explained that is what he is doing.

      ii. **Public Relations:**
         1. Eastern Pride Day: While $500 is already being taken from E-Board, the Public Relations is asking for more, in the amount of $750, in order to provide t-Shirts for the event. J. Ahern clarified that we will be on the t-shirt as it is being made by PR and a member of CAB. We will both be represented on the apparel.
            a. **Motion #68:** (K. Chrzanowska, M. Wysopal) Motion to spend no more than $750 from General Board for the purpose of contributing to Eastern Pride Day. (16 – 1 – 0) Motion Carries.

   b. **External Committees Update**
i. Library Advisory Committee
   1. Opening Education Resources (OER): J. Reid explained that there are textbooks which the university owns, that professors can use for free, but that...possibility of making it possible to share more resources among the CSU’s

ii. First Year Committee
   1. The committee is behind, they haven’t hired peer mentors yet, and to add incentive they are thinking of making the Peer Mentor position like an internship, or potentially paid.

iii. Academic Advising Committee
   1. J. Dignoti said he is still getting emails from them even though he is no longer on that committee. E. Drouin is looking into the matter.

III. Treasurer Report:
   a. Accounts Update
      i. General Board: $11,684.40
      ii. E-Board: $7,122.61

IV. Secretary Report:
   a. Office Hours:
      i. C. Ambrosio has sent them to her, and she is keeping an eye on all of them.
   b. Letter Writing Campaign
      i. M. McFall Gorman reminded all Senators that she is organizing a system so that any interested persons can participate in writing a letter to either their personal representative or to a local congressman on behalf of higher education funding. M. McFall Gorman is trying to get into contact with multiple government officials and will also supply any relevant resources, facts, or information that the Senators might need in writing their letter.

V. Advisor Report:

VI. Old Business:
   a. SGA Logo
      i. The original logo is going to be used. Instead, J. Ahern said that the colors are going to be changed, so Public Relations can put this logo on their shirts but only have to worry about colors for now.

II. New Business:

III. Open Floor:
   a. Bowl-a-thon
      i. March 5th at 11am at WilliBowl -- $35 per person which will be paid for by SGA. It is a sponsorship, goes to the CCE, and it is good fun!
      ii. Interested people: R. Eragene and T. Mack (might possibly be able to attend).

IV. Dates to Remember:
   a. Tracks To Success #2 – Event Planning: Thursday, March 10th - 2:00 PM in STU 107
   b. SGA Internal Retreat – Saturday, March 12th – Time TBA – Niejadlik Hall Commons Area

Meeting Adjourned: 4:27pm