Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

Student Government Association
General Board Meeting
March 4, 2013

Present:
Executive Board: S. McCabe (President), A. Bullard (Vice President), R. Silberquit (BAM), M. Hicks (Treasurer), W. McLaughlin (Secretary)

Advisors: C. Ambrosio, M. Delaney


Guests: J. Reid

Meeting called to order at 3:01 pm.

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes
   a. Motion #24 (B. Rice, K. Chrzanowska): Motion to accept the minutes from February 25, 2013. (12-0-1) Motion carries.

2. President’s Report:
   a. CCSU SGA – Joint Resolution
      i. Two representatives from Central Connecticut State University’s (CCSU) SGA spoke to the Senate about a resolution that they drafted and hope Eastern’s SGA will sign. The resolution expresses CCSU’s discontent with the amount of funding CSUs receive resulting in a raise in tuition for students.
      ii. The CCSU representatives would like to talk to Higher Education committees in the state capitol to ask for more state funding and see the resolution as a means of being able to talk with legislators. They also hope that the Board of Regents will go to legislators and fight for students and higher education funding.
      iii. Currently, Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) has agreed to the resolution and Southern Connecticut State University will be discussing it at their general board meeting today.
      iv. Questions
          1. W. Malcolm asked if they had contacted their local representatives. The two CCSU students said that they have and will be meeting with them soon.
2. B. Lisi asked where the money would come from in the state’s budget that they hope would be put to higher education and does not believe that taxes should be raised to accomplish more funding. The two CCSU students said they were unsure. It is not their job to evaluate the budget and determine what deserves funding and what does not. They just want to get enough legislatures on board to get the topic brought up for discussion and begin to look for possible options.

3. M. Hicks asked if the resolution is comparing ConSCU funding to the University of Connecticut’s (UConn) or if the resolution is asking for more funding. The CCSU representatives stated that it is not comparing anything to UConn, they just would like the state to fund higher education more evenly across the state.

4. A. Bullard asked if the resolution’s objective is to decrease tuition. The CCSU representatives said no, they are just asking the state to better fund higher education.

b. CT Citizen Action Group
   i. A lobbyist from the CT Citizen Action Group spoke to the Senate about lobbying the state legislature to achieve the goal of increasing state funding to the CSU system. He said, “$93 mil has been cut from CSUs” and that a “5.1% increase in tuition is unacceptable”.
   ii. The lobbyist will also be speaking to the Board of Regents.

c. Strategic Plan
   i. Last week, Dr. Salka came to the Senate and gave a presentation about the Strategic Plan.
   ii. S. McCabe asked the Senate if they would like Dr. Salka to return when the draft is submitted. The overall consensus of the Senate was “Yes”.

d. President’s Breakfast
   i. At the President’s Breakfast last Thursday, there was a full agenda and a large club member turn out.
   ii. E. Drouin asked if the Luminous Portal will be ready by registration time. S. McCabe said that it would most likely be not.
   iii. The registration time for students has been changed from midnight to 6 AM. The change was done in the hopes that if there is a problem with registration, then there will be the necessary people on campus to try and fix the problem throughout the day.
   iv. A thank you was sent to Nancy Tinker thanking her and facilities for their swift snow removal during the blizzard.

e. Board of Regents Meeting
   i. There will be a Board of Regents meeting this Friday at 2 PM. S. McCabe has reserved a car to drive to the meeting. Senators interested in attending should see him after the meeting if they are interested in attending.
3. Vice President’s Report:
   a. Inductions
      i. Adam Burns and Hanna Peterson were inducted into the Senate.
   b. Committees
      i. BAM
         1. Nathaniel Hale Club
            a. W. Malcolm spoke to the Senate on behalf of forming a Nathaniel Hale Club on campus.
            b. There are 10 students at Eastern who are in the Army’s UConn ROTC program.
            c. The club will help promote ROTC on campus and provide current members of ROTC with transportation to UConn where their training and events take place.
            d. E. Drouin asked if the club is restricted to only ROTC members. W. Malcolm said no, but only ROTC members can vote in the club.
            e. S. McCabe disagrees, and believes that in a club, all students should be provided the opportunity to become voting members. W. Malcolm responded that the goal of the club is to promote ROTC and help ROTC members and that students and/or former members of ROTC who are no longer members due to dishonorable discharge could steer the club in the wrong direction.
            f. W. McLaughlin said that he believes that Nathaniel Hale’s proposed Constitution is fine and that voting members only being in the ROTC program accurately reflects the club’s purpose. B. Lisi and A. Bullard agree.
            g. W. Malcolm reiterated that all students are able to join the club.
            h. J. Tolisano is the club’s advisor.
            i. **Motion #25 (E. Drouin, A. Bullard)** Motion to accept the Nathaniel Hale Club as an official club on Eastern’s campus (16-0-1) Motion carries.
   2. Bowling Club
      a. Representatives from the proposed Bowling Club spoke about the club.
      b. There has been one meeting so far with 10 members. They hope to attract 20-30 members.
      c. Meetings are on Mondays.
      d. The club is looking to get funding to pay for bowling fees and all skill levels are welcomed.
      e. E. Pelletier asked if the club will be competing. They answered that they will not be competing.
      f. **Motion #26 (A. Bullard, B. Rice)** Motion to accept the Bowling Club as an official club on Eastern’s campus (12-1-4) Motion carries.
3. **HPE/SLM Constitution**  
   a. The HPE/SLM Club’s Constitution has been reformatted and updated to look more professional. No changes have been made to the club’s constitution.  
   b. **Motion #27 (E. Pelletier, S. Potter)** Motion to accept the updated HPE/SLM Club’s Constitution (17-0-0) **Motion carries.**

4. BAM will be looking for more money from the general board account. BAM will be asking for approximately $15,000 but the formal proposal will come next week.

5. BAM Guidelines will be out on March 18th.

6. There will be a Club Council meeting on Tuesday, March 19th at 3:30 PM

ii. **Internal**  
   1. **Constitution Revisions**  
      a. Constitution Revisions will be voted on next week.
   2. **Internal Banquet**  
      a. The Internal Banquet has been changed to Thursday, April 25th from 5-7PM  
      b. Each Senator will be allowed to bring one guest. Senators will need to tell M. Hicks by next Monday’s meeting if they plan on bringing a guest or not.

iii. **Public Relations**  
   1. **SGA Trivia**  
      a. The trivia event held went well; a lot of students came to the event. P. Bjornstad thanked everyone who attended.
   2. **Elections**  
      a. The committee is beginning to focus on elections.

iv. **Student Issues**  
   1. **Macaroni Monday**  
      a. W. Malcolm spoke to the Senate on behalf of Z. Yeager.  
      b. W. Malcolm asked S. McCabe why a proposed Macaroni Monday event was cancelled. S. McCabe replied that he does not want to have food at every event SGA holds. He said that there must be one non-food based event before a Weiner Wednesday or Tender Tuesday will be approved.

4. **Treasurer’s Report**  
   a. **Spending**  
      i. The padfolios and polo shirts that were ordered cost $2150. Enough were ordered for more than the current Senate so there will be more for the future.
b. Committees  
i. This semester, committees will have their own budgets similar to the purchase order system.

5. Secretary’s Report:  
a. Office Hours  
i. Please give office hours at the end of the meeting.

6. Advisor’s Report:  
a. Nothing to add at this time

7. Old Business:  
a. Closed session  
i. Motion #28 (A. Bullard, E. Pelletier) Motion for a closed session  
(18-0-0) Motion carries

b. Tuition Increases – Resolution  
i. S. McCabe asked the Senate for their opinions on the joint resolution with CCSU  
ii. S. Ramsay believes that Eastern’s SGA is not usually involved in issues like this and does not think we should start now.  
iii. B. Lisi believes that the resolution is pointless because it is unlikely that legislators will actually reallocate money towards higher education given the current state of Connecticut’s budget.  
iv. E. Drouin is skeptical and hesitant because a lobbying group is getting involved.  
v. P. Bjornstad said that SGA’s job is to represent students. No one wants tuition increased and believes that SGA should reflect that.  
vi. M. Hicks agrees with P. Bjornstad in respect to representing students’ interests but does not believe CCSU is taking the appropriate steps by getting a lobbying group involved. M. Hicks does not want Eastern’s name attached to the resolution.  
vii. M. Delaney brought to question what would exactly happen if all four CSU SGAs signed the resolution.

8. New Business:  
a. Campus Lantern  
i. A cartoon was published in the Campus Lantern that has offended some students due to its possible homophobic undertones. S. McCabe and SGA will be speaking with the Lantern’s editors about the cartoon.

9. Open Floor:  
a. Victoria Soto Memorial  
i. There will be a memorial for Victoria Soto on March 9th at 2 PM in the Betty Tipton Room. S. McCabe would like all Senators to attend the memorial.
a. Dates To Remember
   i. March 8, 2013 – BOR SAC meeting, 2pm, Hartford
   ii. March 12, 2013 – Arts and Lecture: Bob Woodward
   iii. April 24, 2013 – President’s Breakfast
   iv. April 24, 2013 – Internal Banquet
   v. May 1, 2013 – Club and Org Banquet

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm