

Minutes – October 13, 2002

## I. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM EST

Officer Attendance –

Jeff Perlman (President), Brian Keane (Vice President), Gary Bartlett (Treasurer)

Robert Hamilton IV (Secretary)

Member Attendance-

30 Members present.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of minutes from September 22, 2002 - approved

B. Approval of agenda for October 13, 2002- approved

## III. REPORTS

A. Executive – (Jeff P)

1. Norman Samuels, former provost of Newark, was named acting president of the university. Allegedly, Richard McCormick, president of the University of Washington, was the front-runner of four finalists submitted to the Board of Governors (BOG). The BOG claims that the search was suspended due to impending merger talks.

Q: (Susan Z – SCILS Rep) – Most people are opposing the merger so maybe that has something to do with the search being suspended.

2. Merger – A report is coming out tomorrow about the merger. The Bergen Record reports that the commission wants a system similar to the University of California system. There will be three universities – University of New Jersey North, Central, and South from combinations of existing universities. Each university will have a chancellor that reports to a board of regents and a president. University of California system has 1 student representative out of 28 regents. This would shift power to the state and they would decide such issues as academics, salaries, and student fees.

Q: (Susan Z) – There is a potential advantage of this system. President Lawrence has a vision that many didn't agree with. The state has access to more money and would insure that instructors follow state labor laws, which would benefit faculty.

(Jeff P) – That is true, but from a student government point of view, decisions will be made at the state level. What will happen to the individuality of the various New Brunswick campuses?

3. University Master Plan – There will be open forums on Livingston and College Avenue Campuses. Please come and voice your concerns.

## B. Committees

1. Social/Cultural – (Chair Empty; Mike C) – GSA Film Series - The GSA film series continues on Monday nights at 7:40 PM at Zafra's. Zafra's is located at 46 Paterson St, in downtown New Brunswick. Tomorrow's theme is "Horses and Asses"
2. Publications/Newsletters – (Anand C) – No Report
3. TA/GA Steering Committee – (Gary B) – This committee is the link between AAUP and TAs/GAs. We had a meeting a couple of weeks ago and are going to have one on October 29. It is important for all TAs and Gas to become full members since it is a contract year. Becoming a full member costs just \$10 more than you already pay.

Q: (Susan Z): How long will the upcoming contract last?

A: (Gary B): It's undecided, but 1 to 3 years.

(Jeff P): Negotiations will start in January. We need students to sit on the negotiations board. Fellows can sign up, but can't be members until they teach again. We would like to visit your organization. We have already visited Oceanography, English, Philosophy, and Psychology. Invite us; we'll bring pizza and soda too.

4. International Student Affairs- (Ray H) – No report.
5. Student Affairs Committee – (Avi F) – No Report; (Jeff P) – New Brunswick Seminary and Rutgers are trying to get some graduate housing on Seminary Place.

Q: (Susan Z): Is there an international student database?

A: (Gary B): There is a list with most of their names on it.

Q: What about Corwin and Old Gibbons? Housing fees went up, but there are no repairs.

A: (Jeff P, Brian K): A lot of people are unhappy, but it's going to take a concerted effort. It will take petitions and a united effort. We can help.

## C. Treasurer/EAC – (Gary B) – {See handout} The latest allocations are underlined and italicized.

1. The cancellation of a new GSA photocopier increased the amount of money that we could allocate tonight. As is, 12% was cut to all organizations funded tonight due to lack of funds.
2. We have only \$1100 in reserve. This is reserved for new orientation requests.
3. The 2 Taiwanese GSAs are not sufficiently different to be funded separately.
4. Clarification about our current lack of funds – it is not related to the state budget deficit or university budget. It is because of record high funding requests without a subsequent increase in funds.

5. See handout about funding problems and suggested solutions. There are three suggested solutions:
  - a. Decrease maximum funding limit (currently \$4000)
  - b. Raise student fees. (currently \$10.25/semester) They haven't changed in 7 years. We would raise them by a dollar or two.
  - c. Toughen our funding policy. Better fiscal justification would be required.

Q: Why don't we scale funding by number of students in the organization?

A: (Gary B) That's an idea. Generally smaller organizations get less money. However there are no rules covering that.

Q: (Markus H): We should be more strict about membership overlap.

A: (Gary B): Yes, that needs to be resolved.

Q: (Susan Z): Our department has about 306 members, but only 18 are active.

A: (Brian K): Size would apply only to operations and orientation, not lectures and productions. (Mike C): Size shouldn't matter, small things can still be important. It's sad that after today, there is no more money for groups. This will especially hurt international students.

Q: (Gary B): Should we abandon first come-first serve policies and hold back some funds?

GSA moved and passed a resolution extending this discussion by 10 minutes.

Q: (Susan Z): What about matching funds?

A: (Jason R): Perhaps departments or other funding agencies can provide funds.

Q: (Jeff P): Keep in mind that the cost of running this office, paying the staff, and buying supplies, such as paper increase from year to year, but our budget has not.

6. Treasurer's report was approved.

#### D. University Representatives

1. RSCGB – (Jeff P.) – Met last Monday. Red Lion Café closed and they're looking for replacements. They are also looking for a new vendor at the Busch Campus Center. KFC and Taco Bell are being considered.

Q: What about a vegetarian place, salad bar, juice place, or something healthy?

2. DSCGB – (Robert IV) – The first meeting is tomorrow.

3. Representative to the BOT – (Jason R) – This report was combined with others for the sake of brevity. Come to the open forum on Wednesday. The Enrollment Committee will be meeting. Buildings and Grounds Committee has no definitive plan on graduate housing. Jason and others are working on a way that grad students will not have to wait until the end of September to get their stipend checks.
4. University Senate – (David S) – President Lawrence talked a good talk during the state of the university address, but faltered during questions. He said no to money for healthcare for university fellows.

Q: (Brian K): Maybe we could push in the University Senate for just prescription coverage. In addition we should check into why the university uses the insurance carrier that they do and what's the real cost of the insurance.

5. Executive Council of the Graduate School – (Carrie P)- No report.
6. ACIC – (Charvi P) - No meeting until October 23.
7. PATSAC – (Jeff P) –
  - a. Rt 18 Construction – Is the largest and most important project in the state. It should be completed by October 2004.
  - b. Grease Trucks – The university wants to remove them from their current location. What do you think? A hand vote was taken and the majority wanted the grease trucks to stay.
  - c. New Brunswick Shuttle – aka 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Shuttle. They are thinking of adding another bus.

Q: (Mike C): What about a shuttle to Highland Park, which has over 5000 students there?

8. Bike Task Force Committee – (Jeff P) – No report.
9. Health Services Student Advisory Council – (Kurt S) – No report.
10. Joint Advisory Board – (Jeff P) – Safety is a prime concern, especially along Commercial Ave and the Sears parking lot. Police patrols have been increased. In addition, if any student ever feels uncomfortable walking in an are, he or she can call for an escort.

E. Administrative Assistant Report – (Mike C, Emily R) – No report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VI. QUESTION TIME

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM EST.