SGA Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2011
5:30PM – 6:00PM; Conference Room, 6th floor of Lions Building

I. Meeting called to order by Ryan Vega

II. Executive Board Reports
   a. Ryan Vega – President
      i. New officers have been elected for most of the SGA positions. We are currently holding a runoff for the Student Health VP position.
         1. There has been an increasing number of candidates running for SGA positions in the last couple of years. This is very good news, and shows that students are interested in getting involved and paying more attention to the decisions and those making the decisions on campus.
         2. The turn-out for voting has been phenomenal, with well over 50% of students submitting votes.
      ii. Some of the goals for SGA in the last couple of years include defining SGA positions/agendas, increasing accountability of organizations, and maintaining a cohesive student body that functions under the authority of Student Affairs & the management of SGA.
         1. The SLE committee was streamlined last year, and now functions under the wing of SGA, as opposed to being an independent organization with no accountability. The VP of Community Affairs serves as a co-chair of the committee along with the class secretaries, ensuring that meetings are held, proposals are considered, and students are getting what the elective was designed to achieve.
         2. The SGA Technology Chair runs the Technology Committee. This ensures that an actual student is involved in the dialogue with administration to purchase technology that benefits the student body’s needs.
      iii. More recently, many issues concerning the functioning/creation/lack of oversight and structure of interest groups on campus have been raised. This is a complicated issue that the executive members of SGA, collectively, feel may be becoming a problem, and need to be addressed as soon as possible. As it currently stands, the SGA constitution is outdated, and poorly addresses the problems encountered throughout the year. We will be releasing a new draft of the SGA constitution to address these issues. This new constitution will be voted on at the next meeting.
         [Those in attendance were encouraged to share thoughts /suggestions/concerns pertaining to these issues & they are outlined below.]
         a. The pool of interest groups is starting to become diluted in the recent year, with the sharp increase in new interest groups and organizations being created. This blurs the line between existing organizations and roles throughout the campus. There is, also, no clear process or criteria for creating a new student organization.
i. We need to define what an interest group is, so that students aren’t just creating new groups for resume-building purposes or duplicating the same groups.

b. The same small amount of students are signing in and serving as representatives for multiple groups during meetings. This becomes an issue when voting on official issues, as one person should not be able to cast votes for different groups. This affects the diversity of opinion and general representation, and fosters a monopoly for those individual students.

c. There is currently no defined structure for how an interest group/student organization is expected to run. There are no expectations for an interest group to remain in good financial, ethical, or social standing. This is a problem because student interest groups, as well as Student Affairs, are liable to be audited by the Vice Chancellor’s office and the government. Creating clear expectations and ground rules for oversight/management will minimize the chances of any legal or financial repercussions that may result from reckless functioning of organizations.

i. Complaints have been filed with SGA about some interest groups charging dues, but only having one or two meetings per year.

ii. Some interest groups have been on the brink of bankruptcy, with no documentation of their expenses or income, and no proof that funds are being allocated appropriately.

iii. Make sure officers fulfill responsibilities that ensure that the organization is maintained or keep longevity throughout the years

iv. Many interest groups have been inconsistent or nonexistent in their presence at meetings. Some are inactive on campus, hold no meetings, answer to no entity, and are, generally, questionable in terms of existence. As the SGA constitution now stands, there is no process for dissolving an interest group or evaluating its validity.

b. Danny Eads – Executive VP

i. Some executive members have met recently to draft a new addition (about 2 new pages) to the SGA constitution, outlining a proposed structure/management of student organizations. The additions clearly and explicitly spell out the requirements of the Vice Chancellor’s office, the Office of Student Affairs, and SGA. These proposed additions will be included in the official draft of the SGA constitution that will be emailed to the student body for perusal. A vote will take place at the next SGA meeting to approve or deny the changes. The section outlining student organizations will discuss the following points in more detail:

1. Definition of “student organization”
   a. Interest groups, national organizations with local chapters, LSU-medicine community service organizations, groups charged by the Dean’s office
   b. Unique contribution that does not overlap with an existing organization

2. Steps for the formation of an “interim student organization”
   a. Application submitted to Vice Chancellor’s office & Student Affairs, submit written bylaws/constitution, documentation of 15 students willing to join/pay dues, list of potential officers, letter/email from faculty willing to serve as advisor, detailed budget for academic year
b. Once the application has been received and approved for submission by both the SGA exec and Student Affairs as an “interim student organization,” an announcement of intention needs to be made at 2 consecutive student body meetings. Questions and concerns of the student body need to be addressed publicly. At the 2nd meeting, a 2/3 vote of the organizations eligible to vote will officially approve the group as an “interim student organization.”

3. Steps/requirements for the formation/maintenance of a permanent student organization
   a. After one semester as an “interim student organization,” the organization must provide the SGA exec with proof/documentation that the organization has fulfilled all the requirements of a student organization and can function independently, but under the jurisdiction of the SGA bylaws. A 2/3 vote of eligible voters will approve the organization as a permanent student organization. The organization will then be subject to the same requirements/oversight of an official student organization.

   b. Requirements of all student organizations include conducting at least 2 meetings/functions per semester, attendance or paid dues of at least 15 students, attendance of a representative of at least 75% of SGA meetings, document an annual budget with expenses and credits, conduct annual elections and providing SGA with the information.

   c. It will be up to the SGA exec to review these documents at the end of each semester, and ensure that all organizations are functioning as required.

4. Probation/Dissolution of a student organization
   a. Any organization that fails to meet the requirements set forth will be placed on probation by a 2/3 vote.

   b. The organization then has 1 semester to 1 year to resolve the problems and prove that it can function as detailed above.

   c. After 1 year, a 2/3 vote can dissolve the organization.

c. Christian Hernandez – Community VP
   i. Tiger Run was a huge success this year with 100 more people competing compared to last year.

   ii. SLE committee will be having its first meeting of the semester next week. The delay has been secondary to scheduling conflicts of committee members. Proposals will be discussed and voted on.

   d. Matt Giglia– Social VP
      i. Unable to attend meeting. Report given by Ryan Vega.

      ii. The SGA Happy Hour at Jackson Brewery Bar was a successful event. The venue was well received by those in attendance.

   e. Warren “Jay” Huber– Student Health VP
      i. Thank you for all those interested in running for the Student Health VP position

   f. Jason Gray – Treasurer
      i. Unable to attend meeting.

      ii. No new announcements.

   g. Kevin Gipson – Technology Chair
      i. Apologies to those who have been trying to print things in the SAR. The cartridge situation is being handled.

   h. Sophia Mai – Secretary

   i. Tim Torres – Intramurals Chair
i. The soccer tournament had a great turn-out. It was an indoor tournament dominated by the L2 class.

ii. Softball concludes on Sunday, May 1, 2011.

iii. The volleyball tournament, Servin for Smiles, was a successful event, raising a lot of money for Special Olympics. Over 350 people were in attendance.

j. Jimmy White – L4 President
   i. L4s are in Special Topics, which is a 2-week series of lectures pertinent to intern year.
   ii. The Dean’s reception is May 16. Pre-commencement & Commencement is May 18 & 19.

k. Kyle McMullen – L3 President
   i. No new announcements

l. Renford Cindass – L2 President
   i. No new announcements

m. Daniel Logsdon – L1 President
   i. Cadaver Ball was held at the Ritz last weekend. It went well.
   ii. Battle of the Bands was held last week with a great turn-out. The event was organized by Adam Fonseca & Ruston Sanchez. Almost $3300 was raised. We hope to turn the fundraiser into an annual event.

III. Office of Student Affairs – Dr. Delcarpio

IV. General Student Announcements/Concerns

a. Adam Fonseca – We would like to express our intention/pitch the creation of a new student interest group – Student Interest Group for Music and Art (SIGMA). We would like to do volunteer work with the New Orleans Musicians Clinic, have lunch meetings with physicians who can discuss their extracurricular involvement in the arts, continue the successful event “Battle of the Bands,” which was held last week and raised thousands for charity, annually. To date, we have begun the necessary paperwork, identified students that are willing to join, and found an advisor for the proposed interest group.

In Attendance:
SGA President – Ryan Vega
Executive VP – Danny Eads
Community VP – Christian Hernandez
Social VP –
Student Health VP – Jay Huber
Technology Chair – Kevin Gipson
Treasurer –
Secretary – Sophia Mai
Intramural Chair – Tim Torres
L4 Class President – Jimmy White
L3 Class President – Kyle McMullen
L2 Class President – Renford Cindass
L1 Class President – Danny Logsdon
AAMC – Cory Roberts
Aesculapian Society – Clark Alsfield
AMA –
AMSA – Jenna Jordan
AIG – Joshua Oliver
AOA – Elliot Hardy
APAMSA – Jenny Zhang
CMDA –
CORE – Neema Patel
CSA – Clark Alsfield
DIG – Corey Rougelot
Edgar Hull – Patricia Gendusa
Ear, Nose, Throat – Clark Alsfield
EMIG – Corey Bilbo
FMIG – Zach Pray
GMIG –
HOIG – Clark Alsfield
Homeless Clinic – Laura Shoemaker
IMIG –
MPIG –
OIG – Sara Reggie
OSIG – Corey Rougelot
PARSIG –
PIG – Neema Patel
Proteges/Mentor Program – Elliot Hardy
PSIG –
RIG – Luke Machen
Rural Medicine – Zach Pray
SIG – Chris Bankhead
SIGNNS – Preston Eiswirth
SIHO – Sara Reggie
SMILE – Melanie McIntosh
SNMA – Joshua Oliver
WIM – Maegen Vincent

Joseph Delcarpio
Will Varnado
Annette Zacharia
Blake Raggio
Adam Fonseca
Stephen Hernandez
Cory Roberts
Chris Small
Joyce Muruthi
Lauren Hayes