Student Government Association
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2018

I. Call To Order
President Foust called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

II. Roll Call
Secretary/Treasurer Shivers conducted a roll call. The following members were present: Foust, McCalvin, Boswell, Shivers, Schuler, Avery, Ernst, Hoffman, Keener, Mcgarvey, Polly, Rezaee, and Youngblood.

III. Approval of Minutes from the last meeting
A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting by Senator Hoffman with a second offered by Senator Youngblood, motion passed.

IV. Treasurer’s Report
The Student Government Association has a total of $35,276.92.

V. Funding Request
   A) Homecoming Angie Summer came to request funding for the food served at the Homecoming tailgate. She presented an itemized budget showing the cost of food and the funding from other departments. The total cost of the event was estimated at approximately $6,500. It was discussed that in the past SGA has funded as much as $1,500 and she asked that SGA allocate however much they felt necessary.

   B) O-Team (SROW Conference) Josh Curtin presented on behalf of the O-Team to request the funding of $800 toward their Southern Regional Orientation Workshop Conference. This would allow approximately 15 students to attend the conference and bring back ideas to incorporate into Storm Day.

   C) CAB (APCA Conference) Josh Curtin came to request funding on behalf of CAB to send 4 CAB members to their annual conference. CAB requested $800 from SGA to allow their members to attend the conference to bring back ideas for new and improved programming.

   D) CAB (Build-A-Bear) Josh Curtin came to request $1,680 for their annual Build-A-Bear Program. They will be increasing the number of bears purchased this year to 180. Josh mentioned that without SGA’s help the Build-A-Bear program would not be in CAB’s budget this year.

VI. E-Sports
Josh Curtin: Last semester, our Peach Belt Division wanted to start E-Sports (online sporting events). It is considered an athletic event- but we only do PC based gaming (League of Legends). The game was chose by the division. We have a partnership with Riot Games and now all schools within the division have a team to play League of Legends. Each team can have 5 players and 1 substitute (6 on the roster)- but we can have as many people on the team as we want. Games are played on the weekends with our first game being this Friday against North Georgia. Games are weekly with a tournament at the end of our spring break at Georgia College, we will compete against other schools there. At the moment all of our players are using their own equipment in their personal rooms. As of right now there is no money allocated towards this sport for GSW. The Sou-Wester will be moving out of their office and into another office down the hall so that the team can have a large enough place to meet, practice, and have an internet connection (similar to a computer lab). We would show this during
tours as well. It will have an expensive startup, but we do need equipment that will last and will help them succeed when playing.

**Boswell:** When you said all institutions, do you mean in the PBC or in the state?

**Josh:** In the PBC—so within our own division. Who we play in basketball would be who we play in League of Legends.

**Foust:** How long has other teams been around?

**Josh:** It just started last semester. We have had four new institutions added recently.

**Hoffman:** How often does the team practice?

**Josh:** They practice at least twice a week, but it is harder to get them together at the same exact time right now.

**Boswell:** Do you think that when you move into the new location it will be easier to meet/practice?

**Josh:** Absolutely. Communication will increase as well as being able to strategize. So having them all in one spot will be a huge advantage for us.

**Foust:** With the funding that you have requested, will that only be towards supplies and equipment or will part of it go toward scholarships?

**Josh:** I was thinking big picture when I requested the funding, so I did include scholarships around $500 for each player—because it is an incentive to be a part of the team. With a scholarship it would come with the expectation of practicing more and other expectations.

**Foust:** Are the player's receiving any incentive/scholarship right now?

**Josh:** No, they are not receiving anything, they are just playing because they love the sport and want to represent GSW.

**Ernst:** During last semester's scrimmages, how did our team do?

**Josh:** Well, they never won. We played four games and lost them all, but we are learning as we go.

**Hoffman:** Since this is a sport/activity that falls under the PBC, how does that fall under Title IX?

**Josh:** There is a lot of misconception about where this sport falls under. When I consulted Coach Leader, he explained that this actually falls under the Division of Student Affairs, not athletics. It is called part of the Peach Belt, so there is question of it is a sport and we have not gotten a definite answer yet.

**Hoffman:** From the Peach Belt or GSW?

**Josh:** GSW. I am getting in contact with Ken Gurlinger, who is in charge of E-Sports, so that I can get the official statement of where this falls.

**Hoffman:** Correct me if I am wrong on my Title IX understanding but if this is a men's team, wouldn't there need to be a women's team as well?

**Josh:** We are not gender exclusive—any gender can be a member of this team. We just currently don't have any. I haven't spoken to other advisors to see if they have women on their teams or not.

**Polly:** Do the other schools have their own labs/facilities.

**Josh:** I know that Georgia College State university have their own facility to play in. I assume that other larger schools do but I am not certain about anyone else. I know Georgia Southern has one—it is a house, specifically for the players that include a house mom and a paid coach. It is a very competitive game.

**Foust:** Is there any prize [...] if you win the championship/tournament?

**Josh:** I think there is one (a prize) through Riot Games, but if we win the division, there is a large championship in California and more levels after that that we can excel to. I'm not sure if there will be a different game after this, but I assume that this [League of Legends] will be around for a while.

**Foust:** E-sports for us only includes League of Legends?

**Josh:** Correct.

**Youngblood:** How popular is this game/how far does the reach go?

**Josh:** This is the game that has the most players in the world, this game has millions of player in the world.

**Avery:** since we have two labs already on campus, could we not go ahead and use them?
Josh: I don’t know what that specific department would want to come in and take control of their labs, but there are also specific requirements that you need on a computer to play the game (lag, response time, graphics etc.) and I’m not sure if those computers are set up to meet the requirements needed by the gamers.

Oswell: Do you know how other schools classify it [as a sport or under DSA]?

Josh: I do not, but it is one that I would like answered because I know there will be pushback from students about it not being a sport technically.

Foust: How much funding did you request minus the scholarships?

Josh: Around $30,000. The computers alone ($6) would be about $15-20,000 and they would last about 5-6 years and meet all the needs of the players.

Keener: When this game isn’t as popular, would the same team play a different game?

Josh: Each game would need its own player. The chances that a League of Legends player would be playing World of Warcraft/PubG isn’t likely, mainly because of the amount of time invested in playing one game. Each on the players puts in about 20-30 hours a week playing this game.

Boswell: Would that mean we would need multiple teams?

Josh: Yes, one for each game, but they won’t be playing at the same time.

Foust: Going back to the funding, can GSW or any institution get a grant or sponsorship or donations to help fund the startup cost?

Josh: I don’t know if there is a grant out there right now- I’m sure there is- but as far as donations, we can accept them from the Foundation or Alumni. I didn’t want to come to Student Government to receive money because this is something the school wants and then it is something the University should sponsor. As far as Sponsorships from other companies/businesses we cannot have them. In their by-laws it specifically states that we cannot receive any.

Foust: How is the season broken up each year?

Josh: Each year is a single game. In the fall we had our pre-season, similar to scrimmages, and now we are starting to play against other schools to go against our record. I see this as at least a four or five year investment.

Foust: How much are you going to require them to practice together if they receive a scholarship?

Josh: Since that hasn’t happened yet, I honestly don’t know. It would mean figuring out how many hours they play/work being fair towards the amount given in a scholarship. Of course I want them to be successful, but it does need to be fair. So that will be discussed later when the scholarship is a legitimate thing.

Foust: Currently how much do you require/ask them to practice?

Josh: In a perfect world I would want them to practice at least 2 hours a day.

Polly: Since this started as a computer game, should we let it play out, for at least the beginning, with them playing with their own equipment, since they are currently doing that?

Josh: If we can get them to willingly bring in their own laptops or desktops then that would be great, but we can’t require them to bring it in and play with it. I want to do everything possible to appease the players, the University, and the President, because it something that he wants to see happen and flourish.

Avery: How are we going to advertise that we have a team/promote them on social media?

Josh: Well they will be at preview day and we will be getting the word out there. I have already talked to Admissions, and they are going to start marketing towards incoming freshman and in our own area.

Foust: I know that with other gaming tournaments there are viewing areas and people that come in to watch them, would we have something similar?

Josh: My idea would be to have it streamed live on twitch and/or they can come to the lab and cheer them on. It is a slow process, but we are thinking of those ideas.

Hoffman: I fall on both sides of the line, mainly because I don’t want the university to invest $30,000 in something that we are going to need a lot more invested in and on the other side, I hear the president wants to invest the money into this when there are other things that the money could be put towards the campus in other areas that would bring in more students as well. I feel like if was left up to the student body where they
money was invested [either this or campus] they would choose the campus. I just want to know that the President understands that.

**Josh:** I understand, but if you/the institution wants this and wants it to succeed, and they don’t put any resources towards it then you haven’t done what you say you have. We need to put some monetary resources towards this for it to have a chance. If the expectation is to always have the players use their own equipment, that’s fine, but it could be the reason that we get held back. I am wanting to do what is in the best interest of the students and the university.

**Rezaee:** the question that I have is, isn’t there a gaming store/area downtown that gamers go to already. Could we partner with them and use their space to play?

**Foust:** That would most likely fall under them sponsoring the team.

**Josh:** Yes, that’s borderline sponsorship if we are using their internet, equipment, area, etc. something to add is that if this is on campus then we are able to monitor them, and I can’t so that if they are at different location.

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**VII. Academic Affairs**

Student Conduct Board will be meeting this coming Monday at 4:30pm in the SGA conference rooms to vote on appeals.

**VIII. Student Affairs**

Vice-President Boswell stated that we got prices back for the polos. The total would be approximately $637.25, however it was agreed that members would pay $10 out of pocket for the shirts. Shivers made a motion to allocate $637.25 for the purchase of polos with a second from Senator Hoffman. A roll call vote was conducted the motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Advisors**

Officer Johnson stated that the live demo had been rescheduled to February 12 at 2pm and he asked that a couple SGA senators come give their input.

**X. New Business**

Homecoming Coronation has been canceled and everyone that applied as an organization representative was encouraged to apply for homecoming king, queen, Mr. GSW, or Miss GSW. President Foust also promoted Think Fast, an interactive game show taking place Monday of Homecoming week in the Fine Arts Building.

**XI. Reports from Committees**

- The Budget Committee will need to meet this week before Executive Board to review the Funding request.
- The Provost Committee has requested that SGA join them for lunch with candidates for the position of Vice-President of Academic Affairs.
- Faculty Affairs will be meeting tomorrow.
- The Momentum Year Task Force met and they are looking to make a few changes to help incoming freshmen.

**XII. Adjournment**

Senator Hoffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting followed by a second made by Senator Youngblood, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.