SGA Cabinet Agenda
Thursday, February 20, 2014
Room 204
7:00pm-8:35pm

Present: Augusta Gronquist, Ellen Kim, Leslie Hillsamer, Najwa Alsheikh, Meghna Purkayastha, Diana Li, Tamra Bates, Nahee Kwak, Frances Black, Idia Irele, Elizabeth Yun, Prina Patel, Ellina Nektalova

Tardy: Corynn Stoltenberg

Regrets: Dawn Ginnetti, Catherine Aguilar, Shreeya Rajanarayana,

I. Call to order
   A. Augusta Gronquist calls the meeting to order at 7:03PM

II. Minutes
   A. motions pass as they are

III. Committee updates
   A. Ellen Kim- talking to the Alumni House to organize a class event.
   B. Leslie Hillsamer- working on elections and approving elections committees
   C. Najwa Alsheikh- touched based with on the Divestment committee and officially declared to support the Divestment Movement
   D. Nahee Kwak- Pub crawl this Friday
   E. Elizabeth Yun- Two meetings ago was the first funding meeting committee
   F. Idia Irele- About to have the first makeup training
   G. Meghna Purkayastha- update on the Sophian interview
   H. Diana Li- class apparel, spa night with the junior class, have a five college mixer with the first year class, but not its JUST AMHERST
   I. Prina Patel- Spa night with the first year class
J. Frances Black- Faculty teaching awards were a success
K. Augusta Gronquist- Thanks Diana Li and Prina Patel for the awesome Rally Day. She will be presenting the new structure for SGA that has been organized by Frances Black and Leslie Hillsamer and Prina Patel.
L. Catherine Aguilar-Senators helped with Rally Day Jamboree; Senate meet and greet was successful; Emily Nagowski will come to Senate next week to talk about the Wellness Leadership Program

IV. Parsons update
A. Frances: presentation of findings:
   1. Digged on the Smith website that on its Space Reduction plan, students have the right to stay in their houses upon graduation. Says explicitly on the Smith website
   2. The website also discovered that the Ada Program Plan, 57% of Adas live off campus. We think that Smith wants to reduce the ada class.

B. Discussion
   1. Najwa Alsheik describes that 90% of Adas have financial aid
   2. 4 years to sublet an apartment

V. Work study and SGA
A. Nahee: presentation of topic and initial research
   1. Make the SGA a part of work study if you are on financial aid. SGA takes up a lot of time in the student schedule. Nahee proposes that they do want to be a part of SGA but it is very time consuming.
   2. Hopes to make SGA less classist. If the cabinet positions become a full work study job, it can give opportunities to those to run for a position who might have been working instead.

B. Discussion
   1. What positions would be eligible for the work study position?
   2. Wonders if the committee cabinet would also get paid? Makes for an uncomfortable situation if just the committee chair pays.
      a) Perhaps the chair should and do more work. They signed up for the job.
   3. Are there other schools that have a comparable structure?
a) University of Miami, Ohio

4. Is this a good idea?
   a) There may be pushed back by the administration or other students on committees

5. What if the students were not on work study?
   a) Financial aid budget in general would be increased
   b) Huge setback for these students because they are doing the same amount of work as the person that is on work study

6. Some people could be here for the money
   a) Either way the participants put in effort, the money would just represent some kind of incentive to do a good job. Its not comparable to a work job downtown.

7. Augusta Gronquist states that research needs to be done before moving forward to look at logistics
   a) There needs to be research to see if the work study office can even pass this idea
   b) Must be mentioned on a ballot so that it can be approved by the whole campus
   c) Prina Patel and Frances Black expresses an interest in being a part of the committee

VI. Break

VII. SGA Restructure Presentation by the Committee on Prezi. Link provided below.
    http://prezi.com/sukll4ahexrn/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy
    A. Presents the current SGA structure
    B. Whats wrong with it?
       1. Too much of a top/down structure
       2. Too many people that are sitting on the cabinet
       3. Senate doesn’t need to be as powerful as it is. Mostly first years on the committee. Publicity is really difficult. Difficult in collaborating.
    C. New positions are explained
    D. Could there be assigned class positions for the 20 senators
    E. The standing committees of senate, those are not connected to the house
anymore
F. Now how would this change the work study position
G. Senate doesn't connect with the house because house council doesn't connect to the rest of the house
H. What is the point of the VP of Governance?
   1. Everyone should be understanding of their own bylaws
I. What is the point of the standing committee’s funding committee. This would separate the VP of finance and this committee.
J. We are adding liaisons that aren't having first hand experience
K. Augusta Gronquist suggests that cabinet look at the presentation and type up a list of questions and comments for cabinet next week.

VIII. Board of Trustees topics
   A. Topic ideas?
      1. Type up a list of issues
         a) Commencement speaker. How is it chosen?
         b) Praxis conversation
            (1) Dean Mahoney has already put aside a small fund
         c) Housing situation
            (1) Adas
         d) CDO problems/Lazarus center
   B. Timeline of planning

IX. Judicial Board Fireside Chat
   A. Dawn Ginnetti: information
   B. Dawn Ginnetti was unable to come to the meeting

X. Adjournment