SGA Cabinet Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2012
Campus Center Room 204, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Present: MacKenzie Hamilton, Jeanju Choi, Eve Hunter, Catherine Leung, Cait Kirby, Bridget Rhinehart, Catherine Aguilar, Sheila Kim, Augusta Gronquist, Adriana Chalas, Julia Whiting, Pauline Musa, Raquel Paulino, Caitlin Jordan

Tardy: Elis Lee, Nahee Kwak

Regrets: Jessica Kaplan

Call to Order: 6:00 PM
  1. Carol Christ
     A. Board of Trustees Meeting
        i. $200 million campaign for financial aid
           a. International Students
              a. Only 10% acceptance rate for those who apply for aid
              b. How to best use financial aid?
        ii. Global Initiative
            a. Increase global experience at Smith
        iii. 4 new centers
            a. Global Studies Center
            b. CEEDS
            c. Center for Community Collaborations
            d. Center of Work and Life
        iv. Should Smith support an Asian Women’s Leadership University?
        v. Long term financial planning assumption
            a. Endowment earnings of 8.3% assumption being reconsidered
            b. Looking for long term policy in regards to comprehensive fee
               a. Should it be tied more closely to inflation?
        vi. Presidential search discussion
     B. Travel
        i. Will be going to Asia for a month this summer to increase Smith visibility
     C. Structure of the Board of Trustees
        i. Academic Affairs Committee
           a. Curriculum, academic planning, tenure
        ii. Campus Life Committee
           a. Admission
        iii. Institutional Advancement Committee
           a. Fundraising, visibility, publicity, alumnae relations
        iv. Finance Committee
        v. Auditing Committee
        vi. Executive Committee
a. Phone meeting monthly

vii. Plenary recessions
   a. Receives reports from all committees (?)

D. Asian Women’s Leadership University
   i. Located in Malaysia
   ii. Majority of faculty favored
   iii. Only considering partnership and planning of university
      a. Advisory partnership
   iv. Academic freedom, human rights

E. Study Abroad
   i. 75% of students go to English-speaking or European countries
   ii. Potential internship abroad program
      a. Some say it is even more valuable than study abroad

F. Student outcome
   i. Questions have arisen about accurate metrics by which to measure success
   ii. Results of what students do/go after Smith

G. Campus Life Committee
   i. Diversity
      a. Racial, economic, international students, disability

H. Financial aid
   i. International Students
      a. Students see dropping out as an option because they cannot afford tuition
      b. Admission process harder for international students requesting financial aid
      c. For most, it is set amount
      d. International students- 50% receive aid, 50% do not
   ii. Domestic students financial status change
      a. Domestic students- 60% receive aid, 40% do not
      b. Custodial vs non-custodial parents
         a. Do not make adjustments unless under extreme circumstances
   iii. Smith increase in tuition
      a. In the past, 5% increase in tuition annually
      b. Recent years have tried tuition increase has tried to stay in middle of peer institutions keeping increases lower and more closely tied to inflation
      c. Have dropped down to bottom third of peer institutions in regards to annual fee increase

I. IT Strategic Initiative
   i. New Chief Information Officer (CIO), David Gregory
      a. Making changes
         a. Google Mail
b. Business Intelligence
   ii. Will be implementing more new programs into the education system
      a. Business Intelligence
         a. Bring big data sets together to ask analytical questions about admissions, fundraising that enables us to make better decisions
      b. Push for video communication
         a. Communicate online between students and alumnæ
      c. Gift from a couple to create an online course for literacy
         a. Need to upgrade web capability
      d. Google Documents
         a. Sharing and storing documents
      e. Increase reliability, versatility and speed of technology system

J. Leadership at Smith
   i. Each center some way involved in creating some form of leadership education
   ii. Praxis
      a. Reflection of both before and after utilizing the funding
   iii. Meaning of leadership
      a. Team, mutual understanding
      b. Want each students to develop capacity for leadership

K. Increase in gender diversity
   i. Will continue to grow, so how will we support those students?

L. Relevancy of higher education
   i. Importance of technology

M. What is the best way to showing the Board of what Smith is like today?
II. Minutes  
   A. Sheila Kim moves to pass the minutes  
      i. Augusta Gronquist seconds the motion  
      ii. 13-0-3  
III. David DeSwert, Associate Vice President for Financial Planning  
   A. College’s Finances  
      i. $200 million to run Smith per year  
      ii. $25 million allocated to buildings  
      iii. $1.4 billion endowment  
         a. 9th largest in the country  
         b. Per student basis- 7th largest  
         c. Needs long term returns in order to sustain what we are taking out  
            of it to keep up with inflation  
      iv. 1000 staff and 300 faculty members  
      v. Buildings valued at about $900 million  
         a. Large investment  
         b. want to maintain the buildings to secure investment  
      vi. Operating budget  
         a. Never went into debt  
         b. From endowment  
         c. Annual giving (Smith Fund)  
      vii. Tuition does not cover the total cost of education  
         a. Covered by endowment  
      viii. Residential liberal arts colleges  
         a. The most expensive form of higher education  
      ix. Three largest revenue sources  
         a. Tuition, room and board  
         b. Endowment  
            a. ½ of revenue  
         c. Annual giving from Smith Fund  
            a. 11% of operating budget  
      x. Cost about $67,000 to educate a Smith student  
      xi. Financial aid student pay on average $22,000 a year  
      xii. Largest expense in order from largest percentage  
         a. Academic affairs  
         b. Facilities  
            a. Capital improvements  
            b. Management  
         c. Academic affairs and facilities- 60%  
         d. Study abroad  
            a. Currency exchange rates  
      xiii. Growth of spending  
         a. Operating budget
xiv. Renovation  
   a. Did not end up making cuts  
   b. Funding for projects is a project by project decision  

xv. Utilities grew at 7.7%  
   a. Argument for sustainability measures  

B. Trade-offs- How budget decisions are made  
   i. First go to senior administrators, then feed back to people who report to them  
      a. Same process for new ideas  
   ii. Strategic guide in resources allocating guide  
   iii. Two campus committees  
      a. Advisory Committee of Resources Allocation  
         a. Setting budget for following year  
      b. Committee on Mission and Priority  
         a. Year by year budget  
   iv. Board of Trustees  
      a. Interested on what is going on on campus, financial planning, operating budgets  
   v. Trade-offs impacted every aspect of the campus  

C. Goals and Priorities  
   i. Want sufficient flexibility in budget  
      a. Tied to fundraising  
      b. Maintain competitive compensation for faculty, staff, and professors  
      c. Enhancing education  

D. Significant challenges of going forward and its trade-offs  
   i. Economic sluggishness  
      a. Financial aid budget goes up  
      b. Endowment went down  
         a. Were going to cut $30 million but got better performance endowment and only cut $22 million  
   ii. Constantly looking for major indicators and how it may impact Smith’s ability to move forward
IV. Committee Updates

A. Eve Hunter
   i. Will be starting a column with Augusta Gronquist

B. MacKenzie Hamilton
   i. Working on Monday’s event
      a. Conversations Not Being Had At Smith: Sexuality and Gender
         a. Students and administration
   ii. Sophian article response from Diversity Committee
      a. Send responses to smithrant@smith.edu

C. Catherine Aguilar
   i. Class Cabinet purchased KrochetKids Hat
      a. Hope to get hats before Girl’s Night Out class activity
         a. Class cabinet’s going shopping
   ii. Sold merchandise

D. Julia Whiting
   i. Earth Week
   ii. Compost fairies will be in dining halls

E. Nahee Kwak
   i. Speed Friend ing was a success

F. Sheila Kim
   i. Class representative meeting Tuesday, February 28, 2012, during lunch
      a. Will be voting on new Cabinet
   ii. Herrell’s
      a. Have not heard back
   iii. Each Cabinet member contacting a grocery store for donations for care packages

G. Jessica Kaplan
   i. Will have an official vice chair next week

H. Pauline Musa
   i. Lack of campus cohesion on campus
   ii. Bedford Terrace Block Party- Saturday, April 21, 2012
      a. Games, face paint, food, tie-dye
   iii. Name Day
   iv. Quadigras this Saturday, February 25, 2012
   v. Jamboree was a huge success

I. Raquel Paulino
   i. Google Docs will be sent out to anyone with a budget

J. Catherine Leung
   i. Setting schedule for Elections Extravaganza and appointments
      a. Have a set plan for the next few weeks
      b. Make room reservations
      c. Will be at CC Room 103/104
      d. Ad campaign sign ups
a. Feature President Christ
b. Ryan Gosling meme

K. Bridget Rhinehart
   i. Elected vice president
   ii. Jacobson Center column on the Sophian
   iii. Meetings with Global Studies Center and Provost Schuster
      a. Petitions programs and what students were looking for
      b. Why students are not looking through what Smith already
         approves and offers

L. Elis Lee
   i. Office hours posters
   ii. SGA Feature posters

M. Cait Kirby
   i. Rally Day was successful
   ii. Have extra Rally Day stuff
      a. Need to figure out how to allocate those
   iii. Handed out 475 pendants out of the 500 ordered
   iv. Tabling merchandise
   v. Senior Ball Theme
      a. 20s era prohibition
   vi. Suggestions for Senior Week
   vii. Website
      a. Goal to get people to look at the website frequently
   viii. Tea or lunch with Barbara Brenner
      a. Film being presented tomorrow, February 24, 2012
   ix. Disability Awareness Week- March 5th-9th, 2012

N. Adriana Chalas
   i. Seven applications for Honor Board position

O. Augusta Gronquist
   i. Would like SGA members to speak to Senate about what we do on
      Cabinet
V. Board of Trustees Updates
   A. Gender
      i. Transcending Gender meeting
         a. Supporting RCSG
            a. Getting a full time faculty member
            b. Trans-women at Smith
      ii. Relevancy of higher education
         a. Smith as a women’s college
         b. Leadership curriculum
         c. Technology
   VI. SGA Awareness Week
      A. Starting Monday, February 27, 2012
         i. SGA in the Cafe-Monday and Tuesday, February 27-28, 2012
         ii. I’m a Senator Day- Wednesday, February 29, 2012
         iii. Tabling about information about SGA- Thursday, March 1, 2012
         iv. “I’m on the SGA” buttons
            a. Wear all of SGA Awareness Week
            b. Pick buttons up at the office
      v. Wear name tag all week
      vi. Table tents
         a. History of SGA
         b. What we do
      vii. Chalking
         a. Monday, February 27, 2012
   VII. Board of Trustees Tea
      A. Open tea for students to come and have tea with the Board of Trustees
      VIII. SGA Survey
         A. Senate is an open forum
         B. Have some kind of forum for the students during lunch time
   IX. Letter to the Editor in the Sophian
      A. Invited all cultural heritage organizations to the Diversity Committee meeting on Sunday at 2 PM in CC 103/104
      B. Students should not contact the alumna directly
      C. Write a letter to smithrant@smith.edu and they will be distributed to Smith alum groups
      D. There may be students who actually agree with the letter to the editor
   X. Announcements and Suggestions
      A. Polo Day- Thursday, March 1, 2012
      B. Farah Pandith Application
         i. March 27, 2012- 2:30-4:45 PM
      C. Ruth Constantine Endowment forum date
         i. March 26, April 2, or April 4, 2012 from 4:00-5:00 PM

Adjournment: 9:07 PM