Finance Committee Agenda

February 26th, 2015
6:00pm to 6:58pm

Present: Samantha Page, Jenny Jiang, Vy Nguyen, Greta Stacy

Tardy: Laura Lubben

Regrets: Aisha Amin

Call to Order 6:00pm

Reimbursement Process 6:06pm

- Sharon totals receipts and matches it with funding, does not go by budget
- Sometimes transportation costs change, could submit second request to adjust for price
- Should not fund items that don't fit under our policies (e.g. transportation at event)
- Don't get money upfront, paid after the fact -- issue with access to the events in the first place
  - Can't track taxable income on procurement card
  - Suspect that comptroller’s office won’t let students use card upfront
  - Label as scholarship, send to direct deposit, still have to return receipts -- can’t take money back
  - International students are taxed 14%
  - How do we help? Is this within our ability?
- Worries about how much we have spent thus far, only about $2000 left

Funding Requests 6:16pm

A. Student 1 requesting $895
   a. $200 for train, $900-1000 for train to Japan, $25/day, $500+/night for hotels, $40/day for meals (for 3 days)
   b. Can’t fund train or ground transportation
c. Not asking for money for plane ticket
d. Can fund hotel -- rural area (extraneous circumstances), adjusted to state
department guidelines ($161/day)
e. Greta moves to fund $603, Laura seconds, passes 4-0-1

B. Student 2 requesting $315
   a. $100 roundtrip, $120 hotel, $60 meals
   b. Greta moves to fund $315, Vy seconds, passes 4-0-1

C. Student 3 requesting $425
   a. $125 for registration, $300 seminar fee
   b. Should we create a policy to limit how many conferences students can get
   funding for per year?
   c. Put it up to student: could be funded, wouldn’t be funded again
   d. Greta moves to fund $0, Laura seconds, passes 4-0-0

D. Student 4 requesting $1194
   a. Up to $810 for plane, $129/night hotel, $40/day food (3 nights)
   b. Is she sharing a room with other people? We know other students are
   attending and sharing a room
   c. Cannot afford to fund full amount
   d. Can fund half of airfare/food
   e. $325 airfare, $150 for hotel, $60 for 3 days of food
   f. Laura moves to fund $535, Greta seconds, passes 4-0-1

E. Student 5 requesting $96
   a. Only asking $96 per student for two nights
   b. Greta moves, Vy seconds, passes 4-0-1

F. Student 6 requesting $196
   a. $100 bus, $96 per student for two nights
   b. Vy moves to table, Greta seconds, passes 4-0-1

G. Student 7 for $372
   a. $100 for travel, $192 for hotel,
   b. Greta moves to table, Vy seconds, passes 4-0-1

H. Student 8 for $96
   a. Greta moves, Vy seconds, passes 4-0-1

I. Student 9 requests $176 for Sawyer fund
   a. $50 for WOZQ, $126 for food
   b. Greta moves, Vy seconds, passes 4-0-1

J. Student 10 requests $2355
   a. Cut some publicity, food, decorations
   b. Funding decorations, tech, $70 food for tech, $30 for publicity
   c. Greta moves, Laura seconds, passes 3-0-2 $1741

Adjournment 7:01pm
SGA Cabinet Agenda

February 26th, 2015
7:00pm to 8:30pm

Present: Samantha Page, Greta Stacy, Vy Nguyen, Jenny Jiang, Laura Lubben, Yoo Eun Kim, Avery Lussier, Colgan Powell, Molly Grover, Nancy Chen, Milanes Morejon, Mariana Januario, Julia Collins

Tardy: Lindsay Roth

Regrets: Aisha Amin, Charlye Barfield, Andrea Lahlum

Call to Order 7:02pm

Approve Minutes 7:01pm

Vy moves to approve minutes from 2/12, Laura seconds, passes 8-0-4
Nancy moves to past last week’s minutes, Vy seconds, 8-0-4

Conversation with Dwight Hamilton 7:04pm

- Introductions
- Mr. Hamilton’s background
  - Grand Valley State University, MI
  - Division of Inclusion and Equity-- inclusive recruitment/retention for faculty/staff, Title IX Coordinator, trained faculty/staff on sexual assault awareness, created a committee for recommendations on trans-inclusivity and health care benefits
- What would we like our working relationship to be?
  - Excited to have someone fill the role, advocate for students’ needs on the president’s cabinet
- Laura: What law did you practice? Commercial and employment litigation
Hopes to have collaborative relationships with students, learning how change works at Smith

Yoo Eun: How do you make a decision that you know won’t make everyone happy?

Very deliberative decision-maker, gather info from many sources, through listening and counsel with others, need to be able to articulate reasoning

Julia: Conflicts between administrator/student desires

Framework of identifying barriers, ways to break them down, lens of inclusion applies to all decisions made on campus, seeing the empty chair— who is not represented in each meeting? Differs for each issue at hand, its his primary goal— it is often students

What issues are you looking at?

Looking closely at policies on sexual harassment/assault, changing definitions of consensual relationships, hoping to unify with one policy for all students/faculty/staff

Bullying being discussed, along with issues of expression on campus—upholding values of institution for free expression/free self, reconciling with hostile opinions

Admission policy weighed against evolving concepts of gender, has experience with this—dovetails with pressing issues

Milanes: Issue of institutional racism. We don’t know who to go to, where to go from the issue. How do we address this with administration?

University needs to better articulate available resources, office will take the lead on addressing concerns addressed by all

Presence should make sense for students, know who to go to, what the process looks like, stay informed throughout

Julia: How do you envision transparency?

Newsletters, town hall meetings. Trying to understand effective ways to communicate at Smith—make web page more user-friendly, how many clicks do I need before hearing about diversity and inclusion at Smith, Title IX needs to be front page—6 pages or so to get information

Nancy: How do you feel about the word diversity?

I prefer inclusion, diversity is a mere presence of difference without action, Inclusion is practices that makes difference meaningful—have to be involved, not enough. Diversity is not a substitute for qualification, can improve experience for all—need to be involved in the community, not enough just to be there. Race, gender, veteran status, familial obligations, religion, ability

Yoo Eun: What drew you to Smith?

Jokes. Tremendous national reputation, extraordinary students/leaders, impacting their lives to impact the world

Molly: What drew you to inclusion/diversity work?

Education is the best tool to prepare people--in every measure of quality of life, access means a lot to me, always worked on diversity issues--advocacy work for Grand Rapids chamber of commerce, why does a diverse educational environment benefit all students?, benefits of working in Grand Rapids, MI -- smaller firm, early practical experience
Distressed by questions of whether of a college education is worth it -- education brings choices, critical thinking skills -- ultimately happiness

Laura: How do you see yourself approaching the women’s college environment?

Learning curve, trying to do a lot of listening, has identified issues but waiting to learn more from other people, don’t have the answer yet, has a daughter -- seeing the world through her opportunities, wants to expand opportunities for her, adjusting to “college” (not university), philosophically in line, need to adjust practically

Greta: If people want to share information about Smith. Issue of expression/speech, used to coop conversations about race and gender -- disconnect between administration and student

Aware of some of the circumstances-- what’s filtered through national media, through the biased lens (laziness?)--have already written the story and just want the quote, I don’t do sound bites well
People think that +50% of victims falsify rape claims, only 2-9%, affects who comes forward with reports
Coming from public institution, not at private-- 1st amendment could be restricted by college, hopes that it won’t because expression is part of learning, don’t have a right not to be offended, would consider substance of communication,
Tool kits as activists are developing, first tool is a hammer-- does not always work, variety of ways to affect change, what are the tools?

Julia: Navigating between free speech and hate speech?

Legal standpoint-- hateful speech is not necessarily illegal
Protect dialogue and expression, rights to assert values, remedy for hateful speech is more speech/enlightenment/dialogue
NYC Panel-- there was an opportunity there, Kaminer was wrong in saying that no one got hurt -- could have opened the door for historical context, allyship, President took steps that seemed to hide it/justify--took student action to address the issues

Milanes: encourages reaching out to activist students, should be acknowledged for their work

DH: How do you suggest we deal with hateful expressions on campus?

Julia: Issue of saying as a community we don’t condone this, goes against our community values
DH: I agree, room for the college to articulate its values
Laura: we need an ally in the administration to say I hear you and that’s wrong, these are real problems

Greta: Administrators feel defensive, on the defense for a long time. Never take their foot out of their mouth, just want acceptance of responsibility/accountability/apology, issues of inclusion done by students for too long-- needs support of the administration, students used as commodities not resources
Laura: Students want the administration to be involved in a positive way, doesn’t happen very often/takes a lot of pushing
Greta: story of emails surrounding Ferguson
Julia: top-down or bottom-up administration? patronizing tones of administration to students sometimes
Milanes: Some students are tired, don't want to engage in conversation right now, figuring out how to build back trust
Yoo Eun: issue of diversity in counselors at health services
Laura: short window of time in which he will have energy to engage
DH: I need your help, what should I do?
  ○ Julia: Listen more than talk, speak with actions
  ○ Greta: Face time is essential and impactful, be open to all possible avenues of conversation
  ○ Laura: open mics allow for open conversation about issues
  ○ Nancy: don’t coop those conversations and experiences
  ○ Molly: reach out to activist leaders, have a regular presence in their lives. Difficulty in communicating differences of race/gender understandings to administration
DH: my office door is open but the other door is closed (!), plan on being visible
Get the Corq app! See everything going on on campus
Sexual assault policies
  ○ Need student involvement and community feedback on policies/change
  ○ DH: end result should reflect the community, federal “recommendation” on not having students on panels for sexual assaults - Is the hearing itself the right thing to do? Finding the right model for investigation/sanctioning

Committee Updates 8:23pm

Yoo Eun: Meeting with Kathy postponed, not yet rescheduled
  ○ BOT meeting refreshments provided
Invite Dwight Hamilton to as many things as possible!!
  ○ Reach out to different orgs on campus to connect them -- Laura will try to put them in touch
  ○ Make the effort to attend office hours -- say hello, say that the best parts of our meeting are when he was listening
  ○ Maybe we should bring DH back, continue working -- maybe involve him in cabinet transitions
  ○ Make students a critical resource for him
Interest in Food Recovery Network participation?

5 College SGA Dinner
  ● Pizza for dinner

CAP Policy Subcommittee
  ● Reaccreditation process
  ● 1 hour in class + 2 hours outside of class
  ● 16 credits = 48 hours of school work
Discrepancies of work for class time
Talk to faculty-- they know the work that goes into their classes
Student input: on average, how many hours did you spend outside of class on the work?

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:43pm
- No lunch meeting, reception-type meeting from 5-6
- They want to mingle, Greta wants to sit and talk -- tables with small groups of people, addressing set issues, not social hour
- Been talking since November about open time with students-- changed to SGA only
- Found out they scheduled the evening meeting instead of lunch
- “Policy” that BOT only meets with SGA students
- Clarify-- will meet with other students Thursday evening for dinner, don’t know how they were chosen
- Will come Thursday evening after our cabinet meeting -- open to all SGA

Adjournment 9:31pm

Committee Updates:

**Greta:**
-- Student Leadership Award nominations are open. The deadline is March 13th. Think about orgs you work with and programs you support that you want to nominate.

-- Laurie Fenlason has asked for ideas about ways to include students in the Strategic Planning process. How can we promote the call for proposals?

-- The Board of Trustees meeting with SGA Cabinet will take place on March 6th from 5-6pm in the Admissions Conference Room. We will not be having our noon meeting. The Board is planning to stop by our March 5th meeting as they usually do. I am looking to move that meeting to a bigger space and invite other members of the SGA at large.

-- The theater department faculty do not want to meet with students because they did this two years ago and say they are working to resolve their diversity problem internally. Students have not felt movement on this and do not feel their voices are being heard. I am looking to find a solution. Perhaps the faculty and students could meet to discuss progress and what the accomplishment of future goals would look like.

**Yoo Eun:**
Within the last week, the Class of 2016 Cabinet has been preparing for the Spoons (aka assassin) class-wide event. The Kick-off informational meeting will be located in the Neilson Browsing Room from 4:00 - 5:30 PM on Sunday, March 1st. All of the positions of Class of 2016 Cabinet has been filled.
Vy:
On Tuesday Senate passed the charters for both UPLIFT and F1GS. The bylaw change to the SJE committee was also passed. Smith B/E and Smith Pre-Law Society came in to present their charters and these charters will be voted on next week. The SGA Constitution and Bylaw changes were also passed and should be going into the elections. Danielle Maco came to look for volunteers for Collaborations, and I was impressed with the number of senators who wanted to help out. The Curriculum Committee also brought to the floor during open forum the issue of whether credit hours truly reflect the amount of work Smith students put into their work, and this issue seemed to be something a number of senators were passionate about. I am hoping senators will be able to continue this discussion in the future.

Milanes:
2015 Cabinet will host a Coffee House at Davis Ballroom 6:30-8:30pm. We will have donuts, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. We are hoping to have some seniors perform spoken word pieces, songs, etc. Feel free to stop by! students put into their work, and this issue seemed to be something a number of senators were passionate about. I am hoping senators will be able to continue this discussion in the future.

Julia:
Curriculum Committee did some planning for our April teaching arts luncheon about student use of technology in the classroom, developing scenarios for professors to role-play and discuss such as cases where a student has a non-documented learning difference that requires them to use a computer in class. We also have been discussing the definition of a credit hour, and how Smith assigns credit for courses.

Colgan Powell:
Sustainability Committee would appreciate if a menu could be set for the 5-College Dinner. The Committee will host a dinner for anybody who wants to chat and talk about activities happening this semester. I also want to ask if people would be willing to commit to three recoveries for the Food Recovery Network this semester? These recoveries could start in March and continue till the end of the semester. I want to encourage that members bring one friend with them to these recoveries. Anyway, we can discuss this at cabinet. link

Samantha:
Class of 2017 is planning a Talent Showcase for sophomores that will take place in late-March.

Jenny:
Had a meeting with Sharon, Tamra, Donna, and Susan Zachary on policies regarding the use of pre-cards for the conference fund and to discuss how to issue funds before the conference to students. Also discussed the fact that international students will be taxed 14% of conference fund. Drafted a conference funding guide and rediscussed funding guidelines.

Marianna:
ELECTION REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!! Registration is from yesterday until March 6. Please spread the word to all of your friends and encourage people to run. Honor Board Appointments also need to be taken care of soon.

Andrea:
Judicial Board will be posting applications for new members this Friday, February 27th, and the deadline will be Friday, March 13th. Interviews will be held after Spring Break. We will be advertising via Facebook, edigest, etc., but the most effective way of recruiting people is to spread the word. So, if you know anyone who would be interested in applying, let them know that the application will be available this Friday. We are also trying to create a new position on JB called the community liaison person, or something to that effect. We are trying to figure out what that position would look like, but we know that the job of this person would be to talk to people coming before the board to share the process with them and to answer any questions that they might have. Chair and Vice-Chair applications will open next week.

Lindsay:
HPA had Katie Konzen come in and talk more about the Senior Campaign through the Smith Fund and gave out flyers with when they will be tabling. Anna Morrill and Corrine Walther came to talk more about the ECO rep program that has been revamped (used to be Sustainability reps). HPs also talked about the Light It Up Blue Campaign and many residents are having issues supporting this campaign as it was started by Autism Speaks. HPA thinks it wouldn’t be a powerful movement if only some houses do it and others don’t. There are 4 HPs (Myself, Anna Sternberg, Marivel Medina and Jesse Kline) that are interested in coming up with an alternative to the Light It Up Blue Campaign and are currently reaching out to SJE to see if Nancy can get a few SJE reps to work with us, Mojdeh Mostafavi and the organization, Disabilities Alliance.

Laura:
We are rewriting the ORC/Finance Committee bylaws to hopefully be presented to Senate before spring break as well as the funding policies.

Molly:
Three members of the Ada Cabinet met last weekend with a non-traditional student from Amherst and three Frances Perkins scholars (our counterparts at MHC) to discuss the formation of a 5 College Non-Traditional Student alliance of some sort. It was a wonderful, energizing meeting and one rep from each school is going to talk with Kevin of the 5 College Consortium on Friday about steps for becoming official. The Ada Stakeholders also met last week and I forwarded an Ada’s idea of having a poster contest for a commemorative poster to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Ada Program. There was interest all around the table so Dean Ohotnicky will be asking for $1000 from Dean Lisker to contribute to this. Woohoo! We also formed a committee in Ada Cabinet to work on a proposal to submit to Pres. McCartney’s long term plan. We’re nearing the finish line on the proposal that I want to bring to SGA Cabinet for updates to the Hopkins Lounge. I’ll be hoping to present that to
you next week. And lastly we’re having an Ada Merchandise and Bake Sale tomorrow from 11:30-1:30 in the CC. Stop by for a treat!

Question: How is the role of Class VPs changing with the new Senate configuration? Are they still sitting in Senate?

Nancy Chen:

The Committee debriefed on house classism workshops, some of them went well and others lacked in attendance. We came up with potential topics for Conversations Not Being Had. We also discussed Light It Up Blue and will be collaborating with HPA in the upcoming month to plan for April. Also talked about potentially creating a campaign about Smithies then to now.