SGA Cabinet Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 19, 2013
Campus Center Room 204
7:00PM- 9:00PM


Tardy: None
Regrets: None

Call to order: 7:00 PM

I. Minutes
   A. Ellina Nektalova moves to approve the minutes, Nahee Kwak seconds the motion
   B. Motion passes 12-0-1

II. Cabinet contract

III. Cabinet updates
   A. Ellina Nektalova
      1. Has two candidates that are interested in running for her committee
   B. Leslie Hillsamer
      1. Limited number of students that have registered for elections
   C. Jennifer Pekol
      1. Had first cabinet meeting.
   D. Ellen Kim
      1. Had second cabinet meeting
      2. Came up with a plan for the year. Plan to have first event advertisement tomorrow: t-shirt design contest
   E. Nancy Chen
      1. Talked about goals
F. Shreeya Rajanarayanan
   1. Second cabinet meeting
   2. Went over funding requests, talked about getting shirts

G. Elizabeth Yun
   1. Finalized budgets for the year

H. Ceci Gonzalez
   1. Sent out an email to other HPA members to coordinate a first meeting time.

I. Dawn Ginnetti
   1. Judicial Board completed strength training
   2. Completed bonding event, up and ready to go!

J. Frances Black
   1. Met with committee for academic policy sub-committee to ask for student book
      and course material buying habits. Hope to table to gather more information

K. Prina Patel
   1. Second class cabinet meeting tomorrow, spoke to Patrick Connolly -jp

L. Catherine Aguilar
   1. Elected committee representatives in Senate
   2. Senate will be submitting t-shirt designs and voting will take place next week
      (9/24)
   3. Invited the Smith College President to come speak at Senate; awaiting response
   4. Will vote to pass the Seven Sister Student Coalition next week (9/24)

M. Nahee Kwak
   1. Met with Tamara, received a binder
   2. Catherine Aguilar and Nakee Kwak hope to design SGA Senior Stoles for
      graduation. Hope to come up with 10 different designs

IV. Board of trustees meeting discussion (topics for the meeting)
   A. Catherine Aguilar- Smith cultivates lots of leaders, but we need something on campus
      that would enforce us to develop stronger speaking skills. Students should be able to
overcome fear of public speaking. Hopefully want to incorporate a public speaking course

1. Frances Black- a course already exists, but resources are sparse.

B. Prina Patel- Thinking about Global Engagement Seminar and J-Term Trips; these are competitive programs, but funding doesn’t fully match needs. Applications for need-based funding don’t ask for income information, it is generally vague. There is very little funding from the I.E.Gs from students.

C. Frances Black- Regarding concentrations, few of the internships are actually funded. Not everyone uses their Praxis money, therefore this money could be theoretically used for a second internship. If we are offering this as a curricular option, it should be affordable to all students

D. Leslie Hillsamer-
   1. Library hours should be extended. We should look at library funding policies and see how that affects studying habits.
   2. Ellina Nektalova- During finals hours at least one library should be open 24 hours
      a) Should be directed to Senate-Gussie Gronquist

E. Jennifer Pekol
   1. Ada Housing has become a huge issue this year.
   2. Ada Bedford apartment buildings are being closed this summer

V. The Madeleine debt discussion

A. Shreeya Rajanarayanan- Three years ago, O.R.C. decided to not fund the Madeleine money to create the yearbook. The Madeleine already signed a contract, so they had to pay. However, they didn’t get funding for the yearbook and is thus in debt due to the ORC. The Madeleine used to give out yearbooks for free, but people didn’t collect them
   1. ORC thinking about using SGA funds to get Madeleine out of debt because half of the ORC discretionary fund rolls in the SGA fund.
   2. Debt is about $35-40,000
   3. ORC Committee has said that if this debt is going to be paid off, then they would like to meet with Madeleine for future funding purposes
B. Impact it would have on SGA budget
   1. Doesn’t touch any committee funding
   2. The SGA funds that it would be effecting would come from SGA discretionary funding.-Tamara Bates. This funding gave money to the Smith Social Network and the Center for Sexuality and Gender, and vans. There is money that goes into it every year from committees that didn’t use their funding. Half of this goes to ORC, the other half goes to SGA events.

C. Contract has already been signed, so ORC has already funded it for this year.

D. Ceci Gonzalez- perhaps establish a 3 year plan
   1. Fiscally revisit and table such a plan at the end of the school year. -Dawn Ginnetti

E. Yearbook Policy
   1. Seniors get a yearbook, and all other classes must pay for the yearbook
   2. Considering an online version - this is a huge purchase

VI. Sorority message incident discussion

VII. Funding policy review

A. Food reimbursement policy
   1. We should do a flat rate for the funding policy, then allow students to contest that. Otherwise, we should approve of the 5-10-15-Ellina Nektalova
   2. Dawn Ginnetti- However we will still be discussing food at every SGA meeting. Suggests $40 a day.
   3. Jennifer Pekol-Believes that we should take the average of the highest and lowest GSA rates for college meals.
   4. The student agrees to return the funds if they don’t use it anyway, and thereby establishing $40 a day for each student-Ellina Nektalova
   5. Ellina Nektalova moves to have the allocation for food on behalf of SGA for a flat rate of $40 a day with a stipulations that the student returns the money if the funds are not used. Dawn Ginnetti seconds the motion. 13-0-0 - en

B. Request limits per student
   1. Elizabeth Yun describes a problem that has already come up in the first few weeks of school. Students have already re applied multiple times, leaving students who
have not yet applied with less funds.

2. Nahee Kwak—Maybe students should be allowed to have a cap of the amount of conferences they attend per semester. Conferences are important to forward a student’s future. This is a huge opportunity to offer to students. Agrees with Frances, but maybe have students petition if they have already applied to more than 2 conferences.

3. Prina Patel—Conferences could maybe be attended one a year. People who now about it are using this conference fund resource, while many people do not even realize that SGA has a Conference Fund. Or even one a semester.

4. Ceci Gonzalez—Divide the total money we have for the funding so that we can spend an even amount for both semesters for each student. Most job search conferences are in the Spring.

5. Frances Black—Uncomfortable with the idea that there would be a cap. If a student only wants a certain amount of money, and they apply to the fund, then they are rejected from the opportunities of attending other conferences.

6. Dawn Ginnetti—SGA serves to apply to all students; we should try and be accepting to all students.

7. Elizabeth Yun—Two conferences a year, rather than a semester

8. Jennifer Pekol—Agrees with Frances Black. There is conference funding available to other parts of the school

9. Ellina Nektalova—Should add to the application how much money they have been funded and add how many times they have applied

10. Idea #1—Stipulate number of times you have applied and the dollar amount you have received, thereby having SGA look over the funding application: Straw poll 7

11. Idea #2—Two per year limit of conferences, while having the option to petition to the third: Straw Poll: 4

12. Gussie Gronquist—These cases should be discretionary. We must make decisions for a case-by-case basis. We will run into problems otherwise. We should create a precedence right now.
13. Tabling this conversation for the next meeting, after Dean Mahoney leaves

VIII. Funding requests
   A. Online vote will take place. Not enough people to make quorum.

IX. Adjournment
   A. Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM