SGA Cabinet Minutes 10/22/15

Call to Order 7:00pm
Gillian Tardy
Ana Sofia Excused Absence
Maggie Excused Absence
Approved Minutes from 10/15

Committee Updates with Campus News 7:02pm
Idia: Organizing Seven Sisters Conference. Needs van registered people.
Deepal: Avocado Sale needs more fundraising. Will meet with Tamra tomorrow to set up elections for new cabinet members.
Bree: Senior wine and cheese this weekend. Planning Rally Day Soon
Silvana: Study Abroad Office will have study abroad info session series: budgeting, general info session, studying abroad as international/nontraditional student, planning sophomore class sponsored event: pumpkin carving and desserts called What’s Pumpkin. Waiting on Smith to get back to her.
Nabilah: Campus has been very well behaved. Is trying to start gathering statistics on Honor Board to try to improve system and prevent issues with Honor Board on campus
Gillian: Putting together spreadsheet of SGA budget, what was funded last year and other details. Trying to improve ORC, trying to shorten application, get feedback from students on improvement points. Met with board members from BSA and SACSA to talk about fundraising practices. Current balance update.
Leslie: E-board of SJE apologized for SACSA and would like to collaborate with Unity Council. Event today with Al-Iman. Houses are having cultural appropriation talks over the next two weeks and SJE is supporting that. Starting to reevaluate structure of the organization.
Dianne: No meeting this week for Ada Class but had a meet and greet with Ada adviser and Dean Bruzelius with question and answer session.
Sofia: Had meeting with curator of rare book room yesterday. Beth Martin Kelly and Nancy, Dwight Hamilton went. Meeting went well and other students came. Explained the process for getting more PoC authors, would like to team up with Sofia to create student advisory team. Will also collaborate with professors to complement class readings. Africana, Latin American, Back, Asian Studies would be a starting point. Committee might be a paid opportunity for students. Gabriel Garcia Marquez collection is no longer classified and Smith will look into bringing that here.
Rose: Senate applications are coming in and Senate will go through those applications next week. Dean Ohotnicky and Dean Lisker are going to be invited to Senate to talk about administration support. Rose will propose to Dean Ohotnicky that she meet with her every
week. Senate is looking for cabinet updates so Rose will take 5 minutes out of Senate meetings to update them on Cabinet decisions. 6 people elected for Seven Sisters Conference. Help get the word out for Senator applications. Class presidents will include it in their class emails.

Meghna: Campus events update. Will be sending out an excel sheet about mid-semester check-ins for cabinet. Please bring up changes for cabinet if they come up. We have promo items. Should we table? Distribute promo items at events? Catherine Row and Julia Collins are coming to next meeting. Nov 13th 3-4pm Mike Howard will be in CC Red Room to talk about how finances are allocated at Smith.

Letter to Orgs
Meghna wrote letter of support to orgs and would like support from Senate. The goal of this letter is to initiate a relationship between SGA and orgs on campus.

Rally Day Carnival Planning with Tamra
Meghna met with Tamra on Monday. On Rally Day Smith honors 4 alums who are doing good work in the world. SGA has to plan Rally Day Carnival. Can class presidents meet with Tamra to plan. They would plan food, activities, service plan, etc.

The Smith Social Network
-Is funded by the SGA and one-year contract is up.
-Before voting on this we will decide how it is being used and if it is effective.
-Creators will do presentation for us to teach us how to use it better.
-Meghna would like to have this conversation with Senators as well.
-What about an event where students who actually use it can come and talk to the creators.
-Ask orgs what they would use in the place of the Smith Social Network if they do feel as though it isn't useful.
-Also talk to offices and staff members who use it on campus. ORC would be interested in attending the presentation because they use it a lot.
-Taking it away entirely is not a possibility but we could look into other companies that do the same thing. It is good for data collection and consolidation of forms and information.
-Presenting it to orgs who use it more frequently may be more useful than having presentation for Senate.
-quickest and easiest way to get feedback about Smith Social Network is to send out a survey.
-Leah will help Meghna create survey

BOT Summary
-Went well, BoT reacted positively
-BoT is very friendly
-Talked a lot about housing, transfer support, health services, recap on last semester, finance stuff
-There needs to be accountability with administration. Just having a meeting is not enough. Senate can work with administration on how to improve
-Dianne would like to thank the rest of the Cabinet for reinforcing Ada voice. Dianne went to Kathy’s office hours and followed up on matters discussed in BoT meeting.
-Nabilah: As a cabinet we tend to have a negative attitude towards administration. We should be results focused and work with them to make improvements. There should be a shift in our discourse
-Kathy’s chart will help us understand administration and familiarize us with their duties
-In general we should be more positive about our relationship with
-Discussed reforming the Textbook Fund. SSAS administers this but BoT and SGA will work together to improve it: the application should be more qualitative so that people who really need the fund are getting it, but this does not mean just stating whether or not you are on financial aid or not.

-How do we grapple with the new restructure and the system of power?
-Senate will have this discussion and decide what they need from cabinet.

BOT Follow up 8:15pm
-Send follow-up emails to everyone who was at the meeting to follow through on the proposals made at the meeting.
- Textbook funds in Smith grant as “cost of living.”
-Finance team will research who exactly makes SSAS decisions
-Talked about policies around medical leave and BoT feedback was that other institutions have similar policies.
-Counseling services at Smith: we suggested that counseling service hours are open for longer hours during the day to avoid long wait periods
-Health and Mental Health Committee on Senate will follow up on this
-Can Health Services partner with a local van service or create fund for students to get taxis when they are referred to off-campus specialists
-Dean Ohotnicky and Dean Lisker are contacts for Health Services and Counseling Services suggestions
-Dianne talked about the issue of Ada Housing and Donna Lisker agreed to attend an Ada Cabinet meeting. She will also talk to Dean Ohotnicky.
-Will send out email to update student body on happenings at BoT meeting.
-Be future-oriented. Emphasize what moves we will take from here.
- Make sure SGA reaches out to student body instead of expecting Student Body to come to us. Going to dining halls, teas, etc.
- Maybe reaching out to the Sophian to get an extended audience: alums, faculty/staff, etc.

Adjournment 8:50pm