SGA Cabinet Agenda  
Thursday, October 24, 2013  
Campus Center 204  
7:03pm-9:03pm

Present: Augusta Gronquist, Catherine Aguilar, Meghna Purkayastha, Elizabeth Yun, Frances Black, Ellina Nektalova, Shreeya Rajanarayanan, Jennifer Pekol, Ellen Kim, Ceci Gonzalez, Prina Patel, Diana Li, Najwa Alsheikh, Leslie Hillsamer

Tardy: Nancy Chen

Regrets: Dawn Ginnetti, Nahee Kwak

Call to order: 7:03PM

I. Call to order

II. Minutes
   A. Ellina Nektalova moves to pass the minutes, Ellen Kim seconds the motion, 12-1-0

III. Updates
   A. Leslie Hillsamer-ORC lost a member. Interviews will be held this Saturday, many responses have already started coming in.
   B. Ellina Nektalova-No updates
   C. Augusta Gronquist-Inauguration was a success! Excited for the new cabinet members. Next week we will be talking about cabinet goals and transparency. There is an event tomorrow at 4:30 pm, with President McCartney about divesting from fossil fuels.
   D. Catherine Aguilar-Officer Earl Brown came to Senate, elected senator for the Seven Sisters Conference. New community service requirement for senators.
   E. Shreeya Rajanarayanan-Finalized budget form so that organizations can view them easily. Talked about doing audits next semester. Planning to have a meet the committee event.
   F. Ceci Gonzales-Tyler House won Spirit Week, they win $200. HPA is doing trick or treating at different houses. There will be trick or treating at the president’s house
(first 1500 get chocolate bars).

G. Jennifer Pekol-Rolling projects: trying to revamp merchandise. Trying to start an online forum. A lot of progress has been made on the Student Demands.

H. Diana Li-Cabinet met for the first time, nothing happened.

I. Ellen Kim-For apparel, pre-ordering is on the way! Starting to plan for events!

J. Elizabeth Yun-Check your Social Network for budgeting! Its the big number that counts!

K. Frances Black- Discussed statistics about qualitative learning from Smith students.

L. Nancy Chen-Going to work on newsletter for the rest of the week.

M. Najwa Alsheikh- In the process of getting a committee together. Hopefully the Coal Divestment group has something to offer for the committee.

N. Prina Patel-First event is being planned: trick or treat, meet with your cabinet! Full cabinet met for the first time.

O. Meghna Purkayastha-Van situation for Seven Sisters Conference

IV. Divest Smith College visit

A. Ellen Monroe and Fiona are members of Divestment Smith College Organization

B. What are fossil fuels- non-renewable matter that are coal, oil, and natural gas that is harmful to the environment. The extraction process of these fossil fuels like deepwater drilling, fracking (pressurized digging) are harmful to the air and to surrounding communities. Pipelines continuously leak and people are concerned about the distribution of these fossil fuels. When fossil fuels are used, there is a greater effect on climate change that causes sea level to rise, and an increase in co2 gas. These effects cause agricultural problems like droughts and effect animal species and populations. We are consuming fossil fuels far faster than they are being renewed and are not sustainable process. SMith is involved in using fossil fuels, so the Divestment Organization is hoping to limit such use and deter the institutions support in using fossil fuels/investment holdings. Fossil fuels is an incredible violation of human rights because of the destruction of communities.

1. Divesting from fossil fuels will send a political message to Smith College.

   It is time that Smith divest from the
2. Asking Trustees to commit and divest any ownership or commingled funds that would include public equities or corporate bonds that are related to fossil fuels.

3. Last spring, a quarter of the student party has signed on with this petition. Although they have been receptive, this requires much thought.

4. The trustees want to hear the opinion of the Smith community.

5. CC Carol Room 4:30pm-explaining the process of divesting. The Divestment Organization is invited SGA Cabinet to the panel, regardless of your stand on divestment.

6. Other colleges have also been involved in divesting from fossil fuels. There are three hundred active campaigns across the countries, including all of the 5 Colleges. Hampshire has divested. Those colleges that have divested have now received more donations resulting from divesting than before.

7. Student involvement- Divestment is not officially associated with Green Team or CEEDS, but stemmed from students from the Green Team. Core membership is around 25 members.

8. The Board of Trustees have so far been polite, and Smith no longer has an investment representative.

9. Next steps- Divestment Org. is going to continue petitioning and continue a dialogue and eventually present with the Board of Trustees that can have some effect on those who manage the Smith endowment. Ceeds will hopefully be sponsoring more forums regarding Divestment to the community.

10. Some controversy arises because fossil fuel corporations will be hurt because some communities are hurt (those that rely on mineral water rights). Smaller number of jobs in the coal and gas industries. These jobs are disappearing anyways because the extraction method has been mechanized. Hopefully active divesting will hasten the process of a more sustainable fossil fuel extraction. The campaign is not trying to villainize those who are involved in the fossil fuel industry.

11. Smith has publicly stated that they are involved in the climate change, and this campaign would reinforce their ideas.
12. This is not just an environmental issue, it is a social justice issue

13. SGA involvement- Sustainability chair could collaborate with such a big campaign/petition. Hope to gain responses from the board and the opposition. If this is something that the student body is talking about, the cabinet should address or be knowledgeable about these issues.
   a) Cabinet should address the way in which the campaign is structured towards the institution
   b) Student body involvement should be analyzed-based on participation. Those who are for the campaign or against it
   c) This campaign creates an opposition group that is looked down upon because if there is an opposition, it can be viewed as not being in support of sustainable issues

V. Board of Trustees feedback
   A. Not enough time to discuss issues-it was rushed. Felt impersonal but forced, hoped to get to know Trustee members at an earlier time.
      1. Scheduling wise for the Board of the Trustees was hectic that weekend. So the entire board was not represented.
      2. Hopefully a tea will be held in the alumnae house
   B. More of a debate structure evolved, rather than a dialogue
   C. Overall morale- relaxed but a little frustrating
   D. Could have been more structured regarding each topics so that we know each issue is discussed equally
   E. A lot of time could have been cut down if introductions were shorter
   F. The environment was relaxed, which was nice
   G. Cabinet was viewed as the young ones, and each issue was not looked at seriously. There was always a counter argument, as if certain issues could be easily solved or do not exist on campus
   H. Difficult to maneuver the conversation
   I. Was also a good opportunity to mingle because of the separated seating between cabinet members and the board.
   J. They may have not been trying to discredit our issues, but some were definitely trying to take notes and absorb. The first natural response will be to defend their
ideas.

K. There was definite negative energy from both sides

L. For the future we should frame our presentation around the fact that “this is what we have that is good, and this is how it can be better.” Redirect their attention subtly.

M. Let's get to business a little quicker-talk about bigger issues because we do represent the student body and should uphold to a certain standard

N. Get equal feedback on each topic if we have more of a natural dialogue

O. We should consider that the board does not represent all of the alums

P. A lot of the trustees are not very aware of the structure of certain programs at Smith

1. Our role is to help them understand certain processes

VI. Cabinet contract-presented by Augusta Gronquist

A. A problem is created when people leave meetings, and it is distracting. Potty time is precious.

B. Everyone should be responsive with their feedback regarding issues like these

C. The bathroom “protocol” is something we should all be able to agree on

D. Speaks to a bigger issue of interpersonal relationships within cabinet

1. Evident in the email chain

2. Augusta Gronquist apologizes for any uncomfortable situation that may have been created regarding such issues

3. It would be advised to not wash dirty linen in public

VII. Confidentiality

A. Every issue should be considered important and open to all of cabinet

B. Laptop rights have been eliminated from the cabinet contract

C. Interpersonal cabinet relations should be dealt with the people that are associated with the issue

D. Is it better to go to certain figures on cabinet?

VIII. Any other amendments?

A. Laptops are being banned from cabinet meetings

IX. Break!

A. Yay

X. Inauguration feedback
A. Why were there low numbers for the actual Inauguration Installation?
   1. It was during midterms, a two day affair, and the installation was long
   2. The party
      a) It was too long
      b) Left it to the whole building, so it felt empty, and just came for the free food
      c) 20 raffle tickets were sold, and many people would have bought tickets if perhaps the OneCard was available
   3. More well attended than expected
   4. A lot of people did not want to attend the entire event
   5. ITT is a little far
   6. Online streaming was a good option
   7. If faculty was more excited about it, or encouraged students to go, the campus would have been more excited
   8. More food!
   9. The event didn’t relate to some students. It wasn’t about Smith in a general sense, more about the Harvard President
   10. Could be sold as something like Convocation
   11. There could be more hype about the actual event rather than just the party
   12. People were left with nothing to do. Have more activities
   13. Suggestion: Davis Ballroom, Presidents House?

XI. Curricular change (quantitative requirement)
   A. Moved to next week’s meeting

XII. Funding
   A. Ceci Gonzalez moves to fund Person A $393.68, Shreya Rajanarayanan seconds the motion 13-0-1
   B. Ellina Nektalova moves to table Org B for next week, Ellen Kim seconds the motion 13-0-1
   C. Frances Black moves to fund Org C $0, Ellina Nektalova seconds the motion 12-0-2

XIII. Monthly bonding activity
   A. Postponed for a later time

XIV. Adjournment
A. Frances Black moves to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm