SGA Cabinet Meeting Minutes  
October 30, 2008
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in CC 204

Members Present: Meg Schmitt, Laura Winkler, Megan Gallo, Aliza Leventhal, Alexis Warth, Elaine Harris, Julia Yang, Krystal Cummings, Keturah Edwards, Mercedes Davis, Marlowe Dieckmann, Sarah Kam, Rachel Licata, Samaiya Ewing

Member Absent: Sabine Jean, Dayo Harris

I. Call to Order & Attendance 7:04p.m.
II. Ombuds Materials – Adrianne Andrews
   a. Ombudsperson at the college has come in hopes of spreading the word about services this office offers
   b. A role that originated in the 1700s in Sweden
      i. The King needed a person/people to interact with the populus and to find out what problems or concerns his subjects had
         1. They would then share these concerns with the King
         2. People could voice their grievances in a way that was confidential and no one would be subject to any repercussions
   c. Modern Times:
      i. Active in approximately 300 colleges and universities across the country
      ii. Evolved in the 1960s because of the political climate of the time
   d. President Ruth Simmons instituted this office in 1998
      i. Adrianne Andrews is the first Ombudsperson to assume the position full-time (2001)
   e. Education:
      i. Undergraduate Major: Psychology
      ii. Graduate: Inner city dynamics
      iii. Doctorate: Anthropology
      iv. Has prepared her for her role as the Ombudsperson
   f. The cornerstone of the Office is confidentiality
      i. For the most part, off the record
         1. Except for anything that would be harmful to the individual, others or the college itself
      ii. Still make every effort to maintain confidentiality and anonymity
   g. She is certified in civility and dispute among/between people (students, faculty, staff, etc.)
      i. Works with roommate conflicts, house dialogues
      ii. Facilitates issues that might come up within a house
   h. Members of the community can consult the Ombuds Office regarding conflicts such as:
      i. Conflict resolution
      ii. Does not resolve sexual harassment absolutely, but can help to facilitate conversation
         1. If it is bona fide sexual harassment, it will be handled by the Office of Institutional Diversity
      iii. Shuttles diplomacy
         1. In situations where people cannot stand to be in the same room as one another
      iv. Reality checks and handling extreme emotion
         1. “Am I overreacting?”
         2. “Does she not like me?”
      v. Brainstorm how to resolve a conflict on your own
   vi. Peer mediation and negotiation training
      1. E.g. in houses, organizations
      2. Mediation: facilitated by a third party
      3. Negotiation: resolving conflict between people without the third party, how to speak to another person with whom you may not agree
         a. Teach how to engage and foster better communication
         b. Gives you tools as to how to interact in more positive and productive ways
   j. Neilson A19
   I. Have you been well utilized?
      i. Yes, but trying to advertise the services more
III. Minutes Pass 12-0-2
IV. Committee/House Liaison Updates
   a. President
      i. Excited because she is attending Albright’s Tea Costume Hallow Party and Park’s arts and crafts festival
      ii. Met with Spirit Mark Committee
         1. The mark will be officially revealed at Midnight Madness
         2. In the Planning phases, but there will be plenty of handouts with the spirit mark on all of them
iii. ACRA Meetings have been expanded from one hour to ninety minutes because of the current financial crisis
   1. Aside: they are intense
iv. Will be in a Hot Seat Panel tomorrow at 12:15 PM in CC103/104 about Election Fraud

b. House Presidents Association
   i. The HPA House Competition Committee is still meeting to talk about spring events
      1. Also talking about adding another event for the Fall because Float Night was not well publicized
   ii. Planning Extravaganza Committee
      1. A bonfire is not feasible
      2. Fireworks
         a. History: used to do them during Reunion, but no current students were here so they stopped; started to do them during Family Weekend
      3. Tentatively planning a Winter Ball in February in Davis Ballroom
      4. Kathy Zieja and Steve Lentner came to speak at HPA on 10/23
         a. Expounded on the expensive cost of food
            i. E.g. cereal is the most expensive item

c. Class of 2009
   i. Thinking about doing fireworks
   ii. Have put together the official care packages
   iii. Having problems with renting out space in the Alumnae House
      1. Tamra Bates is following up on it
      2. No student is allowed to rent out space there, apparently

iv. 2009 Apparel
   1. Class meeting on Monday at 12:10PM in the Carroll Room
   2. Distributing buttons at that time

v. Working on the 100 Day Party
vi. Working on a Rally Day Luncheon
   1. Wants to legitimize the day as an event for seniors

d. Class of 2012
   i. Filled their cabinet
   ii. Discovered care packages
   iii. Set a time for the First-Year cabinet meeting
   iv. Talked to all of the house representatives
      1. They want monthly newsletters

e. Class of 2011
   i. Cabinet decided that the first social event is not going to happen this semester
      1. Their event will be in the spring
   ii. Have the final design of the care package letter
      1. Will also sell class t-shirts with the care packages
      2. Will additionally sell them in the Campus Center

f. Class of 2010
   i. Care packages are coming along
   ii. Have talked about having a social event in December in order to say goodbye to students who are going abroad for the spring

g. Elections and Appointments
   i. No update

h. Organization Resources Committee
   i. Two initiatives:
      1. Transitioning recognized organizations to chartered organizations
      2. Encouraging appropriate spending
         a. Liaisons go to the Student Bank to look at their organizations’ spending habits

i. Senate
   i. Chartering continues
      1. Act Now charter passed
      2. Heard Period! Magazine, Groove a cappella and Noteables a capella
   ii. Public Safety “Look Both Ways” Initiative was tabled until Paul Ominsky comes to speak at the 11/4 meeting

   iii. Satellite Gym Discussion
      1. Consensus is that students would like to keep these gyms and do not think they need to be repaired
      2. They do not want a 24-hour space to replace the satellite gyms
      3. Too far to walk to Olin Fitness Center
      4. Only those who are passionate about keeping the gyms open spoke up; others are indifferent
5. Megan encouraged all Senators to visit at least one of the gyms in King or Albright before next meeting
   iv. Follow up with Chris Loring, Director of Libraries, contingent upon whether or not conditions in the libraries are improved
   v. Six Senators to help HPA with House Competition event on Otelia Cromwell Day
j. SGA Treasurer
   i. Changing the Funding Applications and is having trouble trying to phrase it in a way that clearly states that an individual post conference event in a public space that is advertised to the entire student body is essential
k. Diversity Committee
   i. Intergroup Dialogues Retreat failed miserably
   ii. Proposed to Dean Ohotnicky that there should be a Diversity Committee retreat
      1. Both the representatives and Dean Ohotnicky like the idea
   iii. Documentary of Smith College
      1. Persuaded the managing people to decrease price
l. Ada Class President
   i. Having a Tag Sale on Saturday
      1. If you would like to donate items, she can arrange to take your things
   ii. Is there a list of people to whom you email regarding care packages?
      1. Aliza says that Donna sends emails and mail out to the parents
      2. How do you do this?
         a. Email your class president with names of students’ relatives and she can add it to the mailing list
m. Honor Board
   i. Did not meet this week
   ii. No updates
n. Judicial Board
   i. No updates
   ii. Cases are still being processed
V. Campus Live – Ryan Durkin
   a. Megan Gallo met with Ryan Durkin, a recent alumnus from UMass and they discussed the logistics
   b. He and his team would customize the website according to what we would like to have it be
   c. Different from the Daily Jolt and others
VI. Sophian Biweekly Article?
   a. Motion to write a biweekly article in the Sophian: motion fails
   b. Cabinet Corner?
   c. Motion to write a biweekly article in the Sophian: motion passes 9-3-1
VII. Old Stuff
   a. Dining Tea and Dialogue/Housekeeping Dialogue debrief
      i. Aliza: attendants were asking what can be done beyond this session
         1. She suggests that Building Services’ employees put up table tents of photos with their job description
         2. Highlight the fact that Smith would not be as luxurious as it is if we did not have employees of Building Services
      ii. Marlowe: disrespect in houses, students are more disrespectful toward Dining Staff after dining was downsized
      iii. Respect goes both ways – some workers are hostile to students sometimes
   b. Narratives Across Class
      i. Powerful and a great event
VIII. SGA Visibility
   a. Clark and College Hall Open House (JJ, Laura and Sarah)
      i. November 11th from 2-4PM
   b. Fireside Chat “Women and Power”
      i. December 9th from 4:15-5:30PM in the Goldstein Lounge
      ii. President Christ, Dean Ohotnicky, Dean Mahoney and Dean Riddell
IX. Upcoming Events/Rumor Mill
   a. YouTube Video Production this weekend
      i. Talk to Aliza if you would like to be involved
   b. House Parties
      i. Jordan, Saturday 11/1
      ii. Talbot, Saturday 11/1
   c. Quad Halloween, Saturday 11/1, 1-3PM
i. Elementary school children, professors, are attending
   ii. Not just for Quad houses

X. Adjournment 8:48p.m.