SGA CABINET MEETING

November 2, 2009 5:30 P.M.

Members Present: Jinny Choi, Rachel Massey Licata, Eliza Pope-Collins, Kai Devlin, Katie Clark, Angela Zhu, Eve Hunter, Julia Behrs, Sam Young, Hailey Bird, Catherine Leung, Sabine Jean, Maggie Chesnut

Members Late:

Members Absent: Elizabeth Tanner, Mary Kwan, Imani Palanque

I. Call to order: 5:33 P.M.
II. Guest Speaker: Neil Abraham, Executive Director of 5-Colleges
   a. Strategic planning
      i. Been a decade since the 5-Colleges have had a specific strategic plan
   b. Wants student input on:
      i. What is being done well?
      ii. What could be done better?
      iii. What is not being done at all?
      iv. What is being done that shouldn’t be?
   c. Met with department chairs from across the 5-Colleges and had a similar discussion
   d. Wants to make the consortium more supportive
   e. Transportation
      i. Difficult to get to the different schools
      ii. Hard to take classes at Smith and another class
      iii. Reimbursements for parking for personal vehicles?
         1. Perhaps creating a universal parking permit
      iv. Possible solutions:
         1. Staggering time blocks
         2. “Fewer stop/more direct routes”
            a. Used to have these but the cost was high and ridership low
            b. If routes are direct and student only you lose public funding
         3. Scheduling classes that have high exchange rates either early in the morning or late in the afternoon
         4. Try to make it easier for students to take multiple classes at another campus on the same day
      v. Suppose you didn’t have to travel?
         1. Split class time between classes
         2. Video-conferencing classes “blended course”
         3. Complaints: connections were faulty
         4. Wasted time with technology malfunctioning
a. Better for bigger lectures focusing on “content delivery”

b. Hard to replicate active learning environment: asking questions, smaller conversations, etc.

c. People also want to experience different classes not just listen to different lectures

5. Moving professors as opposed to moving students

vi. January Term

1. Move from some colleges to get rid of the January Term

2. UMass wants to start early and end early

   a. Makes it difficult for other colleges to keep their January-Term going

vii. Fix the basics

   1. Transportation

   2. Easy registration

   3. Nabraham@5Colleges.edu

III. Minutes: Passes 9-0-3

IV. Announcements

a. Idealism and Compromise

   i. 4:15 P.M., this Thursday, Campus Center

b. Bring walkarounds responses to next week’s meeting

c. Coming back from retreat at 10 P.M. on Saturday

d. E-Newsletter

   i. Not relevant or working

   ii. Better off with a blog?

   iii. We would need approval for the link to be on the Smith website

   iv. Adding an amendment to the SGA Constitution about upkeep

e. Gavel Awards

   i. Given out during Rally Day

   ii. Recipients are employees of the college

   iii. Publicize!

f. Teaching Awards

   i. Given out during Rally Day

   ii. Recipients are faculty members (one tenured, one non-tenured)

   iii. Publicize!

g. Letter about the Board of Trustees meeting

   i. Stuff letter in students mailboxes

VI. Adjournment: 7:05 P.M. 9-0-1