Finance Committee Minutes

Thursday, November 20th, 2014
6:30pm to 6:58pm

Present: Jenny Jiang (chair), Aisha Amin (minutes), Greta Stacy, Laura Lubben, Samantha Page, Vy Nguyen

Tardy:

Regrets:

I. Call to Order

6:28pm

II. Funding Requests

6:28pm

Conference Fund:

1. Student 1: Disease Conference in Nice, France in March
   a. Requesting $300
   b. Need to see a breakdown of what the $300 would go to exactly
   c. Greta moves to table student 1’s request, Laura seconds, motion passes 5,0,0.

2. Student 2: Math Conference
   a. Requesting $886
   b. Applied for outside funding, no response yet
   c. January 9-13th is the conference
   d. Greta moves to table until outside funding is sorted out, Laura seconds, motion passes 5,0,0.

 Sawyer Fund

1. Student 3, ASA Spring Symposium
   a. Not funded by ORC until January
   b. Greta moves to table Student 3’s request until ORC looks at it at a later time, Laura seconds, motion passes 5,0,0.
2. Student 4: Org 1 Conference
   a. Requesting money for Saturday night party
   b. Requesting money for art for activism event
   c. $500 from Fine Arts goes to arts and activism event
   d. Greta moves to fund Student 4 $4,950 for the event, Laura seconds, motion passes 5,0,0.

III. Adjournment 6:48pm

SGA Cabinet Minutes
Thursday, November 20th, 2014
7:00pm to 8:45pm

Present: Greta Stacy (chair), Aisha Amin (minutes), Vy Nguyen, Jenny Jiang, Marianna Januario, Laura Lubben, Samantha Page, Avery Lussier, Lindsay Roth, Julia Collins, Molly Grover, Yoo Eun Kim, Charlye Barfield, Nancy Chen, Andrea Lahlum

Tardy:

Regrets: Colgan Powell

I. Call to Order 7:00pm

II. Strengths Finder with Sara McGuire 7:01pm

III. Approve Minutes
Minutes of November 5th: Charlye moves to pass the minutes, Laura seconds, motion passes 13,0,3.
Minutes of November 13th: Lindsay moves to approve the minutes, Yoo Eun seconds, motion passes 9,0,5.

IV. SGA Flowchart 8:07pm
1. Sam and Julia have been working on the SGA flowchart, the idea was brought up in the beginning of the semester during restructure meetings
2. Julia and Sam met with a senator, began creating this chart, divided it into 5 sections of concerns, but ran into trouble with the process because they realized three people can't figure out all concerns on campus alone.
3. Want each of us to come up with a set of questions we can answer, students can come to your committee for a specific question that you can answer, and get back to Julia and Sam with this set of questions. They will then incorporate this into the flowchart.
4. Get these questions in by Sunday evening
5. Ask Senate committee chairs to also come up with questions they get a lot, especially about dining.

V. Seven Sisters Debrief and Idea Sharing 8:10pm

1. For Greta, the part of the conference that was the most helpful was talking to other presidents about problems on their campus and how they dealt with them: from getting people to participate to transgender policy, a lot of our problems are also happening on other campuses. Greta and Vy are still in contact with these other presidents - it’s nice to feel we aren’t alone. If you’re interested in having contacts with someone who has your position on a different campus, let Greta and Vy know.
2. Specific ideas Greta got from the Wellesley president: Idea fest. Used $2000, set up tables, each table had an issue like sustainability, then you would sit at a table and brainstorm ideas to fix the issues. Then, each table pitched the idea, ideas were funded until they ran out of the $2000. This would be an interesting event to do here on Smith’s campus. Perhaps a joint event with Senate and Cabinet. Or if ORC and Finance Committee wanted to collaborate to discuss funding. Greta would reach out to the Wellesley president for more information and details for how we could make it happen. Maybe this could be primarily a Senate event.
3. Bryn Mawr has a confrontation policy, any conflicts with anyone, the first thing you do is try and talk to them, then it goes to Res Life then reslife can suggest they go to a Deans Panel where they oversee bigger cases.
4. Would like to hear about the other college’s sexual assault policies.
5. Columbia serves as a resource for Barnard, Bryn Mawr’s relationship with haverford is strong, we should have a stronger relationship with MHC. There are big issues we can be tackling together with Mount Holyoke.
VI. Committee Updates

8:23pm

A. Greta Stacy

1. Mid-Semester assessment went well. We collected a lot of feedback and students were generally pleased we were doing so.
   a) Where do we go from here? What would we like to do with the feedback and how can we involve students in these actions as well as keep them informed of progress?

2. I meet with Provost Rowe and shared with her the three big takeaways from academic concerns students had.
   a) A wish for more faculty of color, especially in the sciences.
      (1) Provost Rowe has assured me that this is one of her greatest priorities, but something that will happen more slowly that Smith diversified students and staff because of the hiring process. At her suggestion I have been in touch with Saari Greylock of the Classroom Committee about when potential hires are coming to campus so that SGA can be part of getting students out to these presentations.
   b) Making resources more visible on campus and destigmatizing asking for help.
      (1) As part of the library renovations, Provost Rowe is hoping to centralize the centers that provide tutoring in the libraries.
      (2) She also suggested that SGA reach out to the centers about starting some grass-roots messaging. This would be for students (mostly upper class people) to share positive experiences they had going to the centers and asking for help. Would they be interested in doing teas with SAAs?
   c) Training for faculty around issues of mental health and dis/ability.
      (1) Provost Rowe has since scheduled in this discussion in two places. (1) at new faculty orientation and (2) and the chair and directors meeting in the spring. Laura Rauscher will come and present (potentially with the help of Senators) the major issues and concerns students have with dis/ability and faculty and discuss how faculty can work better with and for students without feeling they are not being fair to all students.

3. I am meeting with Dean Lisker on December 3rd and plan to share with her feedback about resources on campus and discuss an administrative partnership for the way SGA funds conferences.
   a) Major issues to discuss include: health services and counseling services as well as institutional support for diversity.
b) For funding: I will talk to her about how the SGA currently funds conferences and see if there is a way SGA could have money matched by administration and allocated by experts.

4. Applications for the Library Planning Committee and Admission Policy Working Group were reviewed and passed to administration for a recommendation or interview or not.
   a) There has been a lot of pushback from students around the Admission Policy Study Group. Many people were upset that the group solicited applications from people who had not made up their minds either way on the issue.

5. Events for next semester
   a) Day of Solidarity with 7 Sisters Schools
      (1) Presidents and VPs are talking about what this could look like.
   b) Spring Board of Trustees Meeting
      (1) I have talked with Mona to make sure we can get more students on the schedule for the spring meeting. The Board is planning to have tea in the houses, and I suggested some kind of event where trustees could meet with non-SGA students in small groups (like set up tables with 1-2 trustees at each in the Carroll Room and have students fill in).
   c) Funding Presentation and Tabling
      (1) Jenny and Laura are working on this
   d) Leadership Event
      (1) Farah Pandith would like to come back and speak to Smithies about leadership!
   e) 5 College SGA Executive Boards Tea at Amherst
      (1) More information from Amherst soon
   f) 5 College SGA event at Smith
      (1) March 6th dinner
      (2) Chance to eat dinner together and talk with people from other SGAs
      (3) Will see if Farah can we here for this as well or if it can coincide with her Leadership Event.
   g) Another Mid-Semester Assessment week?

6. How do we want to stay in contact as a group over the semester break?
   a) Email in committee updates every week?

B. Vy Nguyen
1. Senate passed both Music and Memory & Engineers Without Borders
2. Divest Smith came and talked to Senators about a proposed resolution that they would like senators to vote on.
3. However, I have something I want to ask Cabinet. Should I bring in the opposing viewpoint, such as an administrative member and ask why the administration has been so iffy about this? I think that would be fair, since at this moment senators are only voting while hearing one side of the story.

4. I would also like to ask cabinet, what do you think I can do to make senators want to come to Senate? I had difficulty reaching quorum on Tuesday and had to delay voting on charters because we were not at quorum. Greta sent me some great suggestions and I was wondering what you all think I should do, or do better.

5. Restructure proposals were voted on. However, only the bylaws were passed, since senators left before we could vote on the Constitution and we didn’t have quorum when we voted.

C. Jenny Jiang

D. Aisha Amin

1. Attended the Smith Q+A Open Mic event and heard lots of ideas about the transgender policy committee, mental health on campus and counselling services, and the way sexual assault is handled by the administration.

2. Signed SGA up to be part of the action group Smith Q+A is creating so we can be more involved, also strongly urge everyone to attend these q+a events more to hear important voices of smith students that may not be heard.

3. Remember the new committee update policy, next time you can add them directly on to the minutes that will be shared well before the cabinet meeting.

E. Molly Grover

We had a successful Ada Wine and Cheese with about 75 Adas and professors/staff members attending.

F. Milanes Morejon

Commencement:
The talk with Kathy went fine. She informed us that the commencement speaker has already been chosen. We expect some students to be rather upset with this and will be working with the secretary to write an article about the honorary degree selection process. We want to be as transparent as possible and this might be an effective way to do it (?). Kathy suggested having a Day Speaker. We are working on getting input from class representatives and other seniors so that I can present tentative list to Merrilyn Lewis. President K said we could take ownership of this and invite a speaker that we want but we would have to come up with a list. Sam Masinter from college relations is contacting firms to provide live translation services during commencement (yay!).
Tabling:
We tabled yesterday and sold some things. We collected themes for senior ball and ideas for class events (for senior week). We are planning to table again after Thanksgiving and in the beginning of next semester.

Senior Wine & Cheese this semester:
Cabinet wants to have a senior wine and cheese on December 4th from 7:30-9:30 in the Carroll Room. We are working on reducing the costs and deciding what the structure will be.

G. Yoo Eun Kim
1. The Class of 2016 Cabinet hosted a "Milk and Cookies" event on Wednesday (Nov. 19th) at Neilson Library Browsing Room from 8 - 9 PM. There was good attendance, and people not only enjoyed snacks, but also participated in a bingo game, in which class attires were presented as prizes. Cabinet plans to host another "courtesy night" in the last week of first semester classes. Next time, we will provide cider donuts and drinks.

H. Samantha Page
2. Following up with students who attended study abroad information session through survey
3. Will send out sign-up for care package distribution-- open to all sophomores, so you should volunteer for a 30 minute shift with friends! 12/10 10am to 5pm

I. Avery Lussier
4. We are tabling Dec. 3rd-5th in the CC from 12-1, and we will be making a banner and getting candy
5. We decided this evening (yes, very last minute!) to host an Instagram contest tomorrow in which members of the 2018 class can post pictures of their plates and tag #prettiestplate2018. The winner of the contest (to be determined by the 2018 cabinet) will receive a $5 campus cafe gift card. We advertised on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and are sending out a class email tomorrow and an email to the house reps. We also placed small (business card) flyers on tables in all the dining halls tonight.
6. I plan to advertise the care packages asap and encourage the 2018 class reps to fill in the remaining time slots to work at the table.

4. The treasurer cannot access the finance tab on the social network; I think this issue may be partly due to the fact that our social network page is not an org, it is run by the First-Year Deans and was used to inform students during orientation. I am not sure who I can contact so I can create a Class of 2018 org on the social network.

J. Marianna Januario
   a. If Senate passes the changes to the constitution the current timeline for the vote will that the senate will help get the word out about the vote for changing the constitution. Hopefully the elections will open that Tuesday night or maybe that Wednesday. That will give plenty of time for people to cast their votes. The elections will close on the last day of class before the cabinet meeting that night.

K. Laura Lubben
   1. The ORC finalized the funding policies that we are going to bring to senate for a vote before the end of the semester, hopefully the week after thanksgiving and then have senate vote on them the next week. Everyone is welcome to come to senate to hear about the funding policies and voice any concerns! If people want I can send out an advance copy to cabinet before we bring them to senate. Other than that the ORC is in good shape.

L. Colgan Powell
   1. The committee is hosting Heroes & Villains: Vintage Goods, which is a business that sells vintage clothing based out in Amherst, on Friday 11/21 from 9am-5pm. They advocate the wearing of vintage clothing as a sustainable way to decreased one’s environmental impact and an inexpensive method to be thrifty! Check them out! You may find holiday gifts or just expand your winter wardrobe.

   2. The committee is talking to the Center of for EcoTechnology about Massachusetts’ state-wide program that allows anyone who is paying a utility bill to choose 100% local and renewable energy as the source of their electricity. We hope to work together to spread the word about this program to faculty, staff, and off-campus students on campus.

M. Julia Collins
1. My committee has been working on a draft of a survey to send out about student use of technology in the classroom and we are starting to prepare for our upcoming meeting with CAP (Committee on Academic Priorities)

N. Nancy Chen
My committee updates are:
1. (last week, because I wasn't there), reviewed committee dynamics and allyship
2. and this week, did workshop planning regarding three different issues, and possible planning for Native American Heritage Month

O. Andrea Lahlum
7. None

P. Charlye Barfield

Q. Lindsay Roth
8. We had more discussions about some things HPA has been working on. Which includes setting up a subcommittee to help BSA find housing for people coming for the conference in February.
9. Additionally we are setting up a subcommittee that will continue talks on the VP position and how it can be better utilized: Should the position be standardized? Should they be trained and in what capacity? Hannah Durrant (our supervisor) is helping to set up this groups as well and facilitate them.

VII. Committee Questions

Milanes: The Commencement speaker has been chosen for this year. The speaker will be announced on Rally Day.
   a. Would a voting option for Commencement Speaker be a better option?
   b. What about including student input on the list of possibly speakers, that doesn't need to be publicized.

Vy:
   a. On Tuesday, Divest came to senate to propose their resolution, they want senate to pass it. Tamra mentioned that if they vote on it, they are only getting one side of the story which is Divest Smith's side. Perhaps they can bring in an administrator to discuss divestment to the senate.
   b. Also may be good to bring David (chief of finance) and Divest to senate at the same time.
Sam

a. Aisha and Sam went to Open Mic hosted by Q+A, broadly about access to Smith, Mental Health, Trans admission policy and the committee, many people felt as though it was a safe space, discussed a broad range of issues.
b. there was a lot of frustration and negative feelings to the administration

Greta

a. Where do we go from here: How do we involve students with the action we are taking, and how do we inform them with the progress that’s been happening?
b. Mid-Semester Feedback was brought to Provost Rowe, came up with three themes to tackle together
c. Ways to partner with the admin. to make their role better
d. How can we use the power we have to make changes
e. Greta is meeting with Pres. McCartney tomorrow to discuss the way the administration is perceived at Smith. How could admin work better with students and for students.
f. Ideas about how we can move forward, or specific things you want Greta to bring up, let her know.
g. Big concern: the committee was only soliciting students who had not yet made up their mind.
h. Looking for more institutional respect for student leaders on campus

VIII. Adjournment 9:10pm