Finance Committee Agenda

Thursday, December 4th, 2014
6:30pm to 6:58pm

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

Tardy:

Regrets: Aisha Amin

Call to Order 6:30pm

Funding Requests 6:31pm

Conference Funding
1. Student 1: Conference in Nice, France in March
2. $300 towards hotel and food, provided clarification on funding request from last week
3. Greta moves to approve request, Laura seconds, passes 4-0-0

1. Student 2: Mathematics conference in January
2. Requesting $886 for transportation, hotel, food, registration fee
3. Cover registration, food, transportation to/from airport
4. Leaves hotel/flight to math department and dean’s fund
5. Funds $276.00, Laura moves, Greta seconds, passes 4-0-0

1. Student 3: PLEN Conference, January 13
2. Requesting $945 for hotel, transportation, food, fee
3. Greta moves to fund full amount, Laura seconds, passes 4-0-0

Adjournment 6:58pm
Call to Order 7:02pm

Approve Minutes 7:01pm
Minutes of November 20: Charlye moves, Lindsay seconds, passes 12-0-1

Committee Discussions 7:03pm
1. Colgan asks about sophomores signing up for care package distribution, Sam would like sophomore cabinet help. Thank you!
2. Greta
   a. Are committee updates working in this new format? Yes
      i. How do we make it most effective? Already good: send in before, read ahead of time, ask questions/make comments
      ii. Do people feel like they are losing an opportunity to speak in the meeting? Doesn’t seem like it
      iii. Molly - concern that she won’t remember all her questions; Greta- let’s leave some time in the meeting to review committee individually
   b. Meeting with Katherine Rowe
      i. Concern about lack of diversity in theater department
      ii. Yoo Eun - who casts productions? It varies for each show, it really depends
      iii. Look into funding to buy rights to more diverse plays, suggest interaction across disciplines at Smith
      iv. Laura - why was Pres. McCartney surprised that the SGA was doing this “kind of work”, e.g. soliciting feedback from the student body--just had not interacted with SGA in this way before/not anticipating this conversation-- had not been very involved with SGA during 1st year
c. Ideas for the Spring Board of Trustees Meeting
   i. Made clear that there is time for BOT to meet with other students
   ii. Lunch with SGA cabinet + Teas and event in Carroll Room more open to student body
       1. Focus the tables on certain topics, invite relevant student groups
       2. Needs to be well-advertised so students can take advantage of an important opportunity
       3. Suggest having students RSVP
       4. Maybe the Carroll Room is too big? Will see how many trustees are interested before choosing a space, need the right ratio of trustees to students
       5. Table before meeting -- what do you want them to know about? Do well in advance so there’s time for follow up conversations

d. Class cabinets can hold events during reading period, with Tamra’s approval

e. Tamra will put together guidebook for senators, input from Cabinet welcome?
f. Colgan - how soon will constitution changes be updated on the website? Senate Secretary should be in touch with Tamra

g. Budget checks

Student Activities Fee
7:24 pm
1. Was supposed to go on special ballot, needs to be approved by senate first
2. Don’t plan on increasing the fee
3. Marianna will hold another election so the board can ratify at January meeting, because it will affect life on campus next semester

Next Semester Goals and Plans
7:37 pm
1. Milanes - thinking about Class Day speaker, open to the entire community
   a. Met with Laurie, communications advisor in the executive office, won’t pay speaker/give honorary degree, only will cover transportation/lodging
   b. Reach out to Smith alums in the neighborhood
   c. Hard to get someone great without paying
   d. Use the Sawyer Fund?
   e. Invite member of the senior class?
   f. Maybe they will match an SGA amount?
2. Greta’s goals and dreams
   a. 7 Sisters Event
      i. Dean Lisker offered money for this type of collaborative event
      ii. Not operating in a vacuum, working together
   b. 5 College event
      i. December 13th shuttle to NYC? Working with Dean Lisker, requires special permission for anything during reading period
      ii. Possible Pioneer Valley event on 12/13 - 5 College Coordinating Board can rent PVTAs for transportation between colleges
   c. Collaborative event with SGA committees and concerned students of color/other orgs interested in having important dialogues
i. We can give $d.

Working to engage students on follow-through on the work we’ve been doing this semester
i. Cabinet meals at the same place/same time? Might not get as much attention
ii. House teas-- get in for the Spring semester
iii. Let students know that we’ve been accomplishing things, ask for input
iv. Table/place flyers in key places
v. Sustainable advertising-- changing profile images on FB to flyers
vi. Make flyers of accomplishments and contact information to show students what you’ve done - 2-3 highlights, show work that committee has been doing/might interest people, spark outreach from students-- Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook, Instagram?

e. Keeping in touch over J-Term
i. Email committee updates each week
ii. Schedule of events, what steps groups are waiting for to proceed

Adjournment 8:20pm

Committee Updates:

**Greta Stacy**

**I met with Donna Lisker on Wednesday:**
-- We discussed have the CDO oversee the conference fund. Dean Lisker supports the idea and she said she would talk with Stacie Hagenbaugh about this.
-- I also shared with her some of the feedback collected during our mid-semester assessment. Many of the items under her purview she is already aware of (like increased funding to varsity athletics and health services), but she felt it was valuable to see the feedback and it was valuable for me to hear that these issues are being worked on.
-- I mentioned to her that we have been thinking about doing some kind of event in the spring with the other 7 Sister schools. She had just gotten back from an administrative 7 Sisters Conference herself and said the schools are very interested in doing more together and to let her and President McCartney know if we wanted money for some kind of event.

**I met with President McCartney the Friday before break:**
-- I shared with her the feedback from the mid-semester assessment that dealt with The Administration in general, as well as the main theme of mental health on campus.
-- The conversation overall went well. She was surprised that the SGA was doing this kind of work, but she seemed receptive to the comments that students had made.
-- We talked about increasing transparency between the administration and the student body and how the SGA can be a better bridge. She had no suggestions, but did take my suggestion that top level administrators do a better job of communicating what they are working on and what progress is being made on initiatives with students.

**I have been communicating with Mona about the spring BOT meeting:**

-- Trustees would still like to have lunch with Cabinet, but they will also be asking to do teas in houses the days they are here.

-- I also suggested that trustees set aside a few hours to meet with students who are not in SGA Cabinet. The format I suggested was to set up tables (perhaps in the Carroll Room) with one or two trustees at each and invite students in general or other student leaders to come and sit down with trustees. Depending on interest perhaps we could try some type of rotation. We can keep thinking about how we want to do this, I just wanted to jump on this early to make sure that there would be room in the Board's schedule. We are definitely on the schedule, we just have to decide what we want the event to look like.

**I am meeting with Katherine Rowe next week:**

-- I'm planning to talk to her about the theater department. Milanes and I have both heard from students recently about discriminatory practices in casting especially, but in other academic areas of the department as well.

**Smith is hosting 5 College SGA event in the spring:**

-- The event will be a chance for members of the 5 SGAs to convene and casually discuss issues on campus and in other SGAs.

-- We are looking at hosting the event on March 6th over dinner with a reception to follow.

**Amherst is hosting a 5 College SGA E-Board tea in the spring:**

-- Stay tuned for more details on this. It will be in early February.

**Check-ins:**

-- If you have not meet with me yet, please sign-up for a time to do so. You must meet with me before the end of next week.

-- Would there be a better way for me to collect feedback?

**Vy Nguyen**

1. Senate passed the Constitutional changes proposed by the Restructure Committee on electing area senators.
2. One senator was voted into the EnA Committee.
3. The majority of the Senate meeting was given to discussing divesting from fossil fuels. The Divest student group returned, and David DeSwert as well as Ruth Constantine from the College also came to give their side of the story. Senate will vote on the Divest student group's proposed resolution next week.
Molly Grover

1. Ada Cabinet sponsored a dinner for January grads at Mulino's on Wednesday 12/3.
2. Robin Fenwick, an Ada, is organizing a Christmas Shopping Bazaar at the Campus Center on Dec. 10 from 12-6. She is donating all money raised via table fee or raffle to the Ada Comstock Scholarship fund. If anyone knows of vendors who would be interested in selling stuff, please write to rfenwick@smith.edu.
3. We brainstormed some events for next semester including a tea or mixer with Ada Alum in the area, a sledding trip to the MacLeish Center, and a fancier dance/ball event for Illumination Night in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Ada Program.
4. Ada Monologues will take place April 17 and 18th.

Yoo Eun Kim

1. The Class of 2016 Cabinet is planning a Junior Class Cider and Donut study break event. The event will be held in Neilson Browsing Room from 8 to 10 PM at December 9th (Tuesday). The event will provide not only snacks and candy, but also information about commencement speakers and SGA spring elections.
2. The Class of 2016 is encouraging House Class Reps to participate in the Care Packaging Distribution.

Laura Lubben

1. Everything is good on ORC.
2. Funding policies being brought to Senate next semester
3. ORC is having a committee dinner next week for our last meeting.

Samantha Page

1. The Class of 2017 Cabinet met with Lisa Johnson to plan for next semester's Open House. The event will be Thursday, January 29th from 12-1 PM in the Global Studies Center. Dean Johnson will be answering questions about study abroad and the 2017 Cabinet will be there to talk with sophomores about their wishes/wants/needs for the semester. We also invited class Dean McFadden, and have not heard back yet.
2. The Class of 2017 Cabinet is preparing for care package distribution next Wednesday, December 10 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Any sophomore is allowed to volunteer for a 30-minute shift. **I encourage sophomores on cabinet to volunteer, if they can!** Here is the link to sign-up: [https://docs.google.com/a/smith.edu/spreadsheets/d/1HJfbysVGAjKqGqLWV9EvaVaxVZNG6flahH7kcq8EOOA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/a/smith.edu/spreadsheets/d/1HJfbysVGAjKqGqLWV9EvaVaxVZNG6flahH7kcq8EOOA/edit?usp=sharing)
3. We will also be tabling on Monday and Thursday next week to sell our water bottles. Stop by to say hi!

Avery Lussier

Have a few questions from fellow students that I am personally unable to answer:
1. A student was curious about how housing will change as each class increases.
2. A student's parents do not want to purchase a care package but they want to donate to the class of 2018 fund...is this possible?
3. Is our cabinet allowed to get involved with prospie events next semester? Who could we contact to work with?
4. Can the cabinet hold study break events during the reading period (next semester)?

Lindsay Roth

1. HPA did a reflection about the past semester and how we can bring the energy back next semester. We came up with some cool ideas like having an HP day with a meet and greet and hot chocolate or throwing a party in the campus center carroll room. Just ideas for now obviously.

2. Also we talked about the silverware/dishes problem in the dining halls and how we can help dining services so they don't have to spend $30,000 each year replacing the lost/stolen dishes/silverware. Maybe there is a way to work with the Sustainability Committee or have the Dining Committee on Senate take over this?

Marianna Januario

1. New member on EnA
2. The election for the changes for the Constitution go live on Thursday, December 4 at 12pm and close on Thursday, December 11th at 5pm.

Julia Collins

1. This week Curriculum Committee had our semesterly meeting with CAP where we updated them on the progress we've been making and had some extended discussions with them about the social justice designation, textbooks, and student use of technology in the classroom

Colgan Powell

1. The committee hosted Heroes & Villains: Vintage Goods, which is a business that sells vintage clothing based out in Amherst, on Friday 11/21 from 9am-5pm. Both the
committee and the business thought the day was successful and a worthwhile venture. The committee was able to make some money for the budget.

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 have decided to send emails to key persons in charge of faculty and staff on campus. There is also a plan to host a series of short lunch talks where faculty and staff can learn more about the program and how they would make the transition.

3. The committee may be working with the Committee on Sustainability about how to involve more student input. We will be having our last meeting this Sunday to discuss goals and projections for next semester.

Aisha Amin

1. Rally Day Update: Avery, Sam, and I are meeting with Tamra to discuss Rally Day Carnival budget, logistics, attractions and will keep cabinet updated.

2. Looking to recruit senators after we have a better idea of what we are going to do - after the meeting with Tamra. Will keep the VP updated about this.