SGA Senate Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2015
7:00-8:07PM

1. Call to Order 7:00PM
2. Roll Call 7:01PM

IMPORTANT: Tell your house to consider hosting for Open Campus or Discovery Weekend. Check the flyer that was passed out for dates. This is the link to sign-up: http://www.smith.edu/admission/forms/host/login.php

3. Smith Film Production Club Charter Presentation 7:07PM
   a. Would enable students to learn video and audio editing software, lighting and composition, and how to craft a story—hands-on film education
   b. Would give students the opportunity to express themselves in a visual way
   c. Membership extended to anyone who participates in the film in some significant way (writing or editing part of it)
   d. Would spend funds on materials (which the Center for Media Production might not have) or on traveling to festivals
   e. The Film Studies major doesn’t emphasize production, so this would provide a chance for students to learn production
   f. 12 people came to the interest meeting, eventually membership is estimated at around 20

4. SEC Charter Changes Presentation 7:15PM
   a. The charter hasn’t been updated since 2010 so it doesn’t currently reflect the SEC
   b. Changed subcommittees so they’re up to date, changed the duties of the subcommittees to reflect changes (like more social media, different funding)
   c. Changed “concerts” to “major events” to encompass more events
   d. Senator Stacey: What major events do you foresee?
      i. Concerts, speakers, things like the Starlight Ball—but that’s just for this year, so it leaves potential open for future leadership to hold different events

5. Chief Diversity Officer Dwight Hamilton 7:19PM
   a. Previously in the Division of Inclusion at Equity at Grand Valley State University in Michigan
   b. Compliance issues are an important part of his job—insuring that Smith is compliant with federal laws like Title IX, etc.
      i. However, he sees compliance as the very bare minimum
   c. Concerned with barriers that keep students from participating fully in the institution and opportunities
   d. Working to get an idea of Smith’s culture and how to help change best happen
   e. Senator Zoe B.: Have you identified anything or set any goals for yourself so far?
      i. A few things. The infrastructure deserves attention, particularly on Title IX issues. Smith can improve on how we communicate and the resources that are available for students—it’s difficult to find information right now. He’s working on a roadmap to help us consider best practices.
f. Senator Sarena: Do you believe that the issues at Smith are more racially/socially based or economically based?
   i. He’s sensed some big class issues here; he believes that this institution doesn’t always understand class issues and Smith should be more aware of that.

g. Senator Zoe B.: Do you think your changes will be more institutional or based on climate?
   i. He doesn’t think they’ve done a full survey on climate since 2006. He wants to do a comprehensive campus survey to get a better idea of the reality here.

h. Senator Marisol: What’s the process for people coming to talk to you about concerns?
   i. Right now, send him an email. He’ll be able to help you set up an appointment. He’ll also be doing open office hours.

i. Senator Katie W.: When do you think you’d start implementing your course of action?
   i. He’s already working on the Title IX roadmap and he’s already started working on some specific concerns. He also wants to make more hires. He doesn’t want to address problems as they come up; he wants to make strategic change and help prevent problems.

j. Senator Stacey: What do you consider the role of Senate and other organizations on campus?
   i. He sees it as being collaborative. He senses that this campus does not lack groups dedicated to diversity and inclusion, and he’s still trying to get a sense of that. He’s eager for suggestions and ideas. Students should be able to take the lead on some issues with administration support.

k. VP Katherine: Have any food safety concerns for celciacs come to your attention?
   i. Just recently—today, actually. He plans to follow up on that soon. Send him an email to address that.

l. Senator Marisol: Would love to see some administrator take charge and help change the climate at Smith; the pattern right now is that different opinions are silenced for fear of social repercussions. It would help if the administration could help with that.
   i. One thing he wants to do is foster an environment where students, faculty, and staff all feel more comfortable. We can’t allow retaliatory action. He needs open lines of communications to hear about these things.

m. Senator Dorie: Would love her house to hear more about this—would he be interested in coming to house teas?
   i. Absolutely. He has loads of free time right now and he’d be very happy to come to tea.

6. Judicial Board Information—Chair Andrea Lahlum 7:39PM
   a. Looking for lots of new members to serve on the board
   b. Judicial Board hears cases of student misconduct, not academic cases, which is an important distinction
   c. Looking to increase visibility on campus
   d. Hold hearings on Monday-Thursday at 4 pm and 6 pm, but the number varies
   e. It’s a board of 14-17 students, rising juniors and seniors only
f. Not a punitive board--really there to help support and educate people and reflect on how individual actions can affect the community

g. Senator Sarena: When are the days?
   i. Monday-Thursday, but you only have to be available for two timeslots.

h. Senator Leen: Are you still open for applications?
   i. Yes. Applications are due Friday, March 13th at 4.

7. Open Forum 7:45PM

   a. ENA Committee:
      i. Added the Hatch Act to their campaign guidelines which says that anyone running for a position cannot use the power of a current position to help their campaign (i.e. funds or resources)

   b. Disability Committee:
      i. VP Katherine: Update on the celiac situation. Yesterday they met with the dean of students and the Director of Dining Services, as well as some Chase-Duckett staff. Right now they're being offered the Dawes kitchen but it's not wheelchair-accessible, and there's no real long-term solution at all. They've created a Change.org petition to spread awareness. There are some people who have gotten too sick to leave their rooms. Email kjessimanketcham@smith.edu for more information. 
         www.change.org/p/smith-college-feed-the-celiacs
      ii. Senator Zoe B.: What specifically are you asking for from the administration?
           1. A clean, staffed, stocked kitchen. Dawes isn't staffed, which is difficult.
      iii. Senator Zoe B.: How many celiacs are there?
           1. There are 38 registered with Dining Services, but it's a lengthy process to even be registered. They estimate there are more than 38.
      iv. Senator Marisol: For the short term, are you being reimbursed for the food you're having to buy?
           1. They're being reimbursed for their meal plans, but that's not enough to compensate for the money they're forced to spend on food.
      v. Senator Catherine: What's the history before this year of celiac issues?
           1. There's a girl who left last week on medical leave, her second medical leave for celiac-related issues. Going back farther, they're been in touch with a junior who was very sick her first year.

   c. ITS Committee:
      i. Next year they're removing all the telephones from the rooms. 45% of students have unplugged phones, only 58 students have accessed their voicemail this year.
      ii. They'll accommodate anyone who does need a phone, but they need to know by Friday. Please check with your houses and email mifox@smith.edu.
      iii. eduroam update! People who have Macs have been having a big problem with it and they can't do anything about that. Email 4its@smith.edu and tell them where you had a failure and the time (and the device you're using) so they can add more points.
iv. Also, they're working on subsidized printing. No real updates yet but stay tuned or contact the ITS Committee.

11. Announcements 8:06PM
   a. Send out house emails and CC sgasenate@smith.edu
   b. Send me your committee updates by Monday night
   c. Tell your houses to vote in the special elections on the Smith Social Network
   d. Registration for SGA elections have been extended until this Friday. Tell your house and friends to register! The form is available on the Smith Social Network. Mandatory candidate meeting tomorrow at 6:30 in the CC.
   e. Submit engagement points to the Smith Social Network.

12. Adjournment 8:08PM