Senate Minutes: October 2, 2012

A. 7.03pm Call to order
B. 7.04pm Roll Call
   1. Absent: Waka Kobayashi, Mary Clare Del Carpio, Lilith (Lily) Siegel, Aubrie Smith, Paula Roby
   2. Not returning: Mia Spiri
   3. Quorum: Met
C. 7.10pm Minutes passed: 43 - 0 - 6
D. Announcements:
   1. Engineering without Borders: an organization at UMass
      a. Hosting a 5k run October 13 to raise money for clean water
   2. Brochures passed out on behalf of Elizabeth Warren for the Senate Campaign
      a. Any questions ask Jesse Kline
   3. Curriculum Committee tabling in the CC Wednesday Oct 10-12 near cafe
      a. Want to find out school’s opinion on social justice:
         i. What does social justice mean to the students?
         ii. How would they like to see it incorporated in the curriculum?
   4. Elections and Appointments committee update:
      a. Thursday October 4 at 6.15pm in Seelye 101 mandatory candidates meeting
      b. October 10: budgets due
      c. October 11: campaigning starts
      d. October 15 - 19: voting starts at smith.edu/voting
      e. Sign ups for elections are now closed
   5. Smith Poetry Slam Org general meeting Wednesday October 3 in Gillett house from 7-8pm
E. 7.18pm Rae-Anne Butera speaks to Senate on “How Smith Works”
   1. Important for senators to understand the general way that the college works
      a. “Smith College has a lot of deans”
   2. The basic breakdown:
   3. The Board of Trustees
      a. Responsible for the longevity and running of the institution
      b. Overarching management system of the college
      c. For the complete list of the Board members, go to: http://www.smith.edu/trustees/
      d. Most of the Board members are alums - they are highly invested in the school
         i. SGA President position is a three-year commitment
            1. Serves as SGA president for the senior year
            2. Then serves the following two years on the Board of Trustees to directly represent the students
      e. Trustees meet four times per year on campus
         i. Meet with the SGA Cabinet
      f. Not concerned with the daily happenings at Smith College
         i. They are focused on the future
ii. Want to know: are we staying current and relevant in what we offer to students?

  g. There is a budget provided for the Board members to travel from all over the world to attend the four meetings

  h. The Board members are all volunteers, it is not a paid position

  i. Different level of influence at Smith College than the President

  j. Board is involved in Presidential Search currently

4. The President

  a. For more information, go to: http://www.smith.edu/president

  b. Reports to the Board of Trustees

     i. They hire her

     ii. She updates Board on the day-to-day basis of the college

  c. Carol Christ is the President of Smith College

  d. This is Carol Christ’s 11th year at Smith College

     i. She came to Smith from UC Berkeley

     ii. Always planned to stay for ten years and then return to California

     iii. She agreed to stay on an extra year to finish a capital campaign to raise funds to go towards things at Smith College

  e. The campaign goal is $450 million, for financial aids and other campus projects

  f. Searching for a new president:

     i. Access what college needs are at the time

     ii. Presidents can be nominated as a candidate

     iii. Smith is working with a search firm to seek candidates for the position

     iv. Plan is for the new president to be in place July 1, 2013

     v. List of new president qualifications not shared publicly

     vi. Search Committee took advice from students and faculty last Spring

  g. President is responsible for:

     i. Raising money for the college

     ii. Representing Smith to the people around the world

        1. She is not physically on campus as much as we students think - she travels often

     iii. Daily operations of Smith College

  h. Technically, the Board of Trustees could fire the President if he/she is not following through

  i. Carol Christ is a Board member on the Board of Trustees for Sarah Lawrence College

     i. This can give her an insightful perspective

  j. For a list of the Senior Administrators of the College: http://www.smith.edu/president/admin.php

     i. All of the Senior Administrators have office hours

5. The Provost / Dean of Faculty

  a. Provost Marilyn Schuster

  b. For more information, go to: http://www.smith.edu/deanoffaculty/

  c. Responsibilities:
i. Dealing with the academic aspects of Smith College
ii. Overseeing the curriculum of the college
iii. Ensuring that all departments are functioning well
d. At Smith, the faculty are in control of the curriculum
   i. Any changes to the courses, scheduling, etc. are voted on by the faculty
   ii. Provost Schuster is responsible for this process

6. The Dean of the College
   a. Maureen Mahoney
   b. Been at Smith for 17 years
   c. For more information, go to: http://www.smith.edu/doc/
   d. Responsible for anything that occurs at Smith outside of the classroom environment and student life including:
      i. Religious Life
      ii. Dean of Students
      iii. Student Affairs
      iv. Office of Student Engagement
      v. Health Services
      vi. Office of Multicultural Affairs
      vii. Residence Life
      viii. Registrar Office
      ix. Career Development Office
      x. Office of International Study
e. Students can always call Dean’s office to find out office hours or schedule an appointment

F. 7.55: Cabinet Updates
   1. Cabinet meets each week on Thursdays
   2. Senators to let Kenzie know if there is anything that Senate wants to be brought up in Cabinet
      a. She serves as our liaison to Cabinet
   3. The SGA website has a list of all of the cabinet members and their office hours: http://www.smith.edu/sga/meet.php
   4. This week, Cabinet discussed what will be discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting
      a. This year, Cabinet’s agenda for the Board meeting includes:
         i. Making sure every department has sufficient faculty and funding
         ii. Proposing a center for communications and public speaking, akin to the Jacobson Center
            1. Students would go there for training on public speaking and how to deliver presentations
            2. Aim to make public speaking a larger part of the Smith culture
         iii. Discussing social justice in the curriculum
            1. Give members an idea of how Smith wants social justice to be reflected in the curriculum

G.8.05: Parliamentary Procedure and Chartering
   1. Garbo is our Parliamentarian
2. Role is to count votes with the Senate Vice President Kenzie and ensures that Senate is following appropriate parliamentary procedure
3. We have to have a majority vote to pass the minutes (50% + 1)
4. Senate must meet quorum every week in order for motions to be passed
5. Senators never “motion” something, they “move” to do something
6. Charters
   a. A chartered organization can apply to ORC for funding
   b. Charters will first be sent to the Vice Chair of Charting
   c. Once she approves the charter, the organization sends the charter to the rules committee
   d. Once the rules committee approves of the charter, the organization can come to Senate to present
   e. Senators must make sure that Smith does not already have an organization very similar to the one asking to be chartered - we do not want to allocate our funds inefficiently
   f. This year, Senate must consider the budget and funding before chartering groups
      i. i.e. Ski team has four members but used 75% of ORC’s budget last year
   g. Senators bring the charter back to their house to receive feedback
   h. The following week, the organization will return to answer any final questions brought from the house, and then Senate will vote
   i. Discussions will take place among senators before any motion is made
   j. Organization is only chartered if Senate makes a motion and the majority votes in favor of the organization
      i. Last year, Senate denied the charter for only one organization, Autism Speaks U

H. Senate on the Web
1. SGA website: http://www.smith.edu/sga/
2. General questions for the SGA can be sent to: sga@smith.edu
3. SGA is in charge of van training and rentals, as well as Thanksgiving shuttles to the airport
4. Cabinet members can be found at: http://www.smith.edu/sga/meet.php
5. A complete list of Smith College committees are available at: http://www.smith.edu/sga/committees.php, including Senate (http://www.smith.edu/sga/committees_senate.php)
6. There is an archive of past Senate minutes dating back to 2005 (!)
7. Student Handbook is available on www.smith.edu/sga
   a. This outlines the bylaws of SGA, Senate etc
   b. Senators advised to become well-acquainted with the bylaws
8. SGA has a Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/smithsga?ref=ts&fref=ts; like it and spread the word to houses

I. Last Minute Announcements
1. Some students believe we should have a printing budget
   a. Cost would be tacked on to tuition
b. Could students have a printing limit, and beyond that, students are required to pay?
   i. This is something Senate can look into
   ii. We could add this into the Student Activities Fee
   iii. The $25 dining dollars given to students’ OneCard at the beginning of each year cannot be converted into general campus cash, as this is approved by Residence Life

2. Some students believe that house dues are unfair
   a. Students should not feel pressured to pay them
   b. Each house has its own constitution, with its own information about house dues regulations
      i. Senators are asked to see their house president regarding the constitution
      ii. Senate does not have the power to alter the constitutions of individual houses, as they are self-governed

3. The Lighting Walk is coming up after time change on November 4, 2012.
   a. Walk through section of campus and take note of how the campus is lit for protection
   b. Any concerns with the lighting will be brought up with Campus Police
   c. Senate Campus Police Committee to lead this walk

J. Meeting Adjourned 8.29pm