Tuesday January 27, 2009

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order: 7:02
II. Roll Call
   a. Missing/Tardy: 17
      i. Alice Kaufman, Katie Gerber, Meredith West, Nisha Joshi, Kate Alev, Kimberly Crawley, Kieran Johal, Jenna Christie, Rachel Prehodka, Hayley Raetz, Mia Weiss, Morgan Otto Berglund, Valerie Lawrenson, & Donie Hatcher
   b. Quorum Met
III. Minutes
   a. 34 For, 0 Against, 4 Abstentions
   b. December 11, 2008 passed
IV. Chartering
   a. Smith College Unitarian Universalists
V. Review of Senate Rules & Expectations
   a. Rules:
      i. No side conversations
      ii. Attendance Policy
         1. Three absences total
         2. After third absence you must resign
         3. Need to let us know ahead of time if you are going to be late or leave early
         4. Three tardies/leaving early equals an absence
         5. If you are going to be consistently late due to sports or other conflicts, let us know by next week (February 3, 2009)
   b. Respect each other
   c. Expectations:
      i. Come to all meetings
      ii. If you can’t come, you need to send a replacement (but you will still get an absence)
      iii. Keep this an inviting and safe space for discussion and questions
      iv. Communicate with your house, and always CC the Senate Board on your house updates
      v. Actively involve yourself with your committee
      vi. Always inform us how we can improve your senate experience
VI. Guest List Suggestions
   a. Audrey Smith
      i. Housing crisis stemming from too many first years admitted
      ii. Will the financial crisis affect how many people are admitted
      iii. Why they chose to make the SAT optional, and the ramifications
      iv. Our U.S. Rankings
      v. Readmission to Smith after leaves
   b. Incoming provost and Provost Bourque (current)
   c. Board of Trustees
   d. Carrie Brown – Alumnae Association
   e. Professor Scordilis – Ford Hall
   f. President Christ – financial crisis
   g. Professor from Economics to break down the financial crisis
   h. Liz Hait – Housing
i. Nanci Young  
j. Study Abroad Office  
k. Puppet show by an alumna  
l. Kathy Zieja – Head of Dining  
m. Leslie Jaffe – Health Services

VII. Senate Evaluations
   a. Try to voice your opinion- but don’t overwhelm the discussion  
b. Seating arrangement – stick to the semi-circle  
c. Time spent on minutes – we have to go over them as per the constitution  
d. Charters- we will give out one per house (every other person)  
e. Repeated questions- stop side conversations so we don’t have to repeat questions or information, especially when we have guest speakers  
f. Not meeting quorum- people will be held accountable for their actions, by putting members not present at the top of the minutes  
g. Too much time on organizations – chartering will slow down now that it is spring semester, and the transfer is almost complete  
h. Stop nitpicking certain issues and wasting time- we will keep better track of the time spent on issues  
i. Cut down on paper waste- we are trying to reduce how much paper we use  
j. Committee trouble- now have the option to switch committees  
k. Conflict with athletics- let us know if you’re going to be consistently late  
l. Holding people responsible for coming – contact the House Presidents when a senator doesn’t show for the second time  
m. More committee time- we’re working on it  
n. Getting to know each other better- open for suggestions on bonding activities

VIII. Committee Evaluations
IX. Committee Time
X. Adjournment 8:40