Tuesday February 10, 2009

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order: 7:03
II. Roll Call
   a. Missing/Tardy: 11
   b. Quorum Met
III. Minutes
   a. February 3, 2009 passed
   b. 32 For, 0 Against, 12 Abstentions
IV. Guest Speaker:
   a. Audrey Smith, Dean of Enrollment
      i. Oversees the recruitment and selection of students
      ii. Record number of applications for class of 2013
         1. Crossed the 4,000 applications mark
         2. Up 6% overall, up 10% in the application of people of color, and 7% in international applications
            a. 950 international applicants
         3. Number of Ada Comstock scholar applicants has declined
         4. Acceptance rate hovers around 50%
      iii. Financial Aid in light of the financial crisis
         1. Has not been decided for the class of 2013
         2. Committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of admitted students
         3. Will continue to meet the need of current students
         4. If you didn’t apply for financial aid at time of application, you must have 64 credits in order to appeal and reapply for financial aid if your financial situation has changed
      iv. Next year:
         1. Responsible for predicting the financial aid need
         2. Looking at income levels and recent past to look at the trends
         3. Making an assessment of what is happening to current students
         4. They will find the money to help students return
         5. Will be more need conscious when selecting applicants
            a. Admit fewer scholarship students
            b. Admit more students who do not need financial aid
         6. Tuition may increase, possibly at a rate increase greater than inflation
      v. Admission
         1. SAT optional may be the cause of the increase of applications
         2. Will only report on official submissions of SATs
         3. Try not to look differently at applicants who submit scores officially versus write in but readers often do
         4. Every application is read by two people
         5. Right for Smith to make the SAT optional
            a. SAT scores went down, but class rank and diversity went up
            b. Very thoughtful process
         6. Read every essay, and every supplemental materials in the file
         7. Transcript is the most important part of application, followed by letters of recommendation, and then the essay
      vi. Rankings
         1. Our ranking may change based on selectivity
2. We are ahead of the curve, trend of de-emphasis of SAT scores in college admissions

vii. Recruiting
   1. Recruiting has not changed based on the new financial situation
   2. Summer visitors were down, but they picked up in the fall
   3. Geographical recruitment is spread over most states, usually on a three year cycle
   4. Admissions officers are assigned different territories and are responsible for recruitment and events there
   5. Legacies
      a. Legacies, staff & faculty dependants, VIPs (neighbor of a trustee, children of celebrities), and ranked athletes are looked at differently
      b. Given a slight bump if they're on the cusp of admission
   6. Transfer students
      a. Less weight on secondary school, more weight on college experience
      b. Weight placed on previous applications

V. Chartering
   a. Smith Serenes Relaxation Group:
      i. First started 3 years ago as an unofficial organization
      ii. Meet in the Bodman Lounge and Sessions House
      iii. Main goal is to have an equal environment where everyone can feel safe and release tension and negative energy via different methods, such as energy healings
         1. Aromatherapy workshops, and back massages
         2. Share ways to relax and feel secure in an open-minded setting
      iv. Everyone brings something to the group, no one leader
      v. Open to entire campus
         1. Very popular, well attended meetings
         2. Between 5-20 people show up for each meeting
      vi. Attendees sign a contract of confidentiality for each session
      vii. Reasons for being chartered
         1. Would like a budget and funding
         2. Host events, such as aromatherapy workshops or speakers
         3. Travel to conferences and take classes
      viii. Questions? Contact Angelraven at atevan@email.smith.edu

VI. Adjournment 8:22