Tuesday February 15, 2010

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:00 pm

II. Roll Call
   A. Absent: Sophie Westacott, Selamawit Gebregziabher, Hattie Ryan, Hannah Erb, Yiwen Peng, Briana Murphy, Lousia Loring, Jahanara Saeed, Anna Jimenez, Katerina Popova, Julia Jones, Gelndean Hamilton, Rina Boswell, Natalya Devaeva, Beth Gillespie, Lynx Marks, Katy Swartz
   B. Quorum Met

III. Jennifer Walters – Dean of Religious Life
   A. In the first year class, there is an equal number of Agnostics and Protestants.
   B. They are trying to create a program of spirituality that is open to all.
   C. The religious identity is varied and constantly shifting.
   D. The Religious Life website lists many places in the Northampton area that cater to specific beliefs.
   E. Over time, services provided by the college became less and less well attended because of the changes in the community.
   F. However, there are about a dozen religious groups on campus that are run by students.
   G. Dean Walters will meet with students for any reason. Her office is always open to you.
   H. The Hot Seat is an event that asks professors and students ethical questions.
   I. Religious Life also offers wellness programs, including Pet A Pet Day.
   J. Students wishing to use candles for religious purposes should contact Dean Walters.
   K. The Office of Institutional Diversity is a place where students can take complaints about ethical dilemmas involving students or professors.
   L. The Diversity website offers many links to programs and people on campus that promote diversity.
   M. If you face discrimination, you should talk with someone employed by the college, like the Dean of Students, because it is the college’s duty to investigate these claims.
   N. Soup, Salad, and Soul is at noon on Fridays in the basement of Helen Hills Hills Chapel.

IV. L’Tanya Richmond – Director of Multicultural Affairs
   A. There are nine student organizations that L’Tanya oversees on campus.
   B. Last year alone, these organizations sponsored over 160 events on campus.
   C. These events are intended for all students to immerse themselves in various cultures.
   D. Smith has 32% students of color.
   E. She advises the Bridge Pre-Orientation Program, which is intended for first year students entering the college.
   F. She stresses that all students on campus should be able to participate in everything that Smith offers, including Study Abroad.
   G. Multicultural Affairs has emergency funding available for students of color.
   H. A large part of her job is working one on one with students, helping them succeed at Smith.
   I. This Thursday, Lillian Lambert will be lecturing at 4:30pm in the Neilson Browsing Room.
J. There are two cultural centers on campus for the Unity organizations.

V. Creative Writing Charter
   A. They plan to hold meetings every other Thursday for a substantial amount of time to write.
   B. They wish to bring in guest speakers and lecturers to hold workshops.
   C. There are about 10 members.
   D. They hope to inspire self-confidence in writers.
   E. They have endorsement from the Director of the Center for Work and Life.
   F. They would only ask for membership dues only if necessary.
   G. Unlike other groups on campus, they do not plan to publish members’ material.

VI. NOW Smith CAN Charter Passed

VII. Erg Club Charter Passed

VIII. Minutes Passed

IX. Announcements
   A. Senators, please try to attend campus events! It is part of your job as senators.
   B. Wednesday the 15th, the film Black Diamonds will be screened at 4:30 – 6:30.
   C. Drag Ball is this Friday.
   D. Thursday the 16th, the SEC is hosting a coffee house at 10pm in the TV Lounge with Jen Kwok.
   E. This Saturday, Nosotras is hosting a dance called Seduceme in the Carroll Room.
   F. Wednesday the 15th at noon, the Global Studies Center is hosting a talk about Egypt and US Foreign Policy.
   G. Rally Day – Wednesday, February 23 at 1pm in JMG
      a) All classes are canceled
      b) Smith medals are given out to alumnae who have distinguished themselves in their field
      c) Commencement speaker is announced by President Christ
      d) The Smith Traditions Tea is Tuesday, February 22\textsuperscript{nd} from 5 -6 pm in the CC 205.
         e) The Rally Day Carnival will follow Tea from 7 – 10:30 pm.

X. Adjournment 9:00pm