SGA Senate Meeting  
28 February 2012  
CC 103/104 7:00 – 9:00 PM

I. Call to order 7:00

II. Roll call
   a. Absent: Katherine Barbor, Emilie Schwarz, Joanna Bagienska, Madeline Britvec, Lindsay Roth, Kathryn Malone, DongHwa Seo, Mackenzie Blondin, Sachaly De Leon, Maria Orlic, Aubrey Smith, Megan Carter, and Chelsea Bruks
   b. Quorum met

III. Minutes pass 35-0-6

IV. SGA Cabinet Update
   a. Board of Trustees presentation
      i. This Friday, SGA Cabinet will present to the Board of Trustees
         1. Topics: gender, relevancy of higher education (movement not to attend Liberal Arts colleges), search for next President
   b. SGA Awareness Week
      i. Wednesday, February 29, 2012 is “I’m a Senator Day!”
         1. Wear your signs and buttons

V. Smaller group discussion: Question of the week--Technology at Smith
   a. Laundry program
   b. Higher bandwidth
   c. Sustainable heating/cooling
   d. Math/Science technology updates
   e. Quick scan card/proximity swipes for houses
   f. Email notifications for mail room packages
   g. Printing Dollars--like Dining Dollars
   h. iTunes U for Smith classes
      i. Attendance?
      ii. Publicity for Smith
   i. More e-books/kindle textbooks
      i. Professors aware of online resources
      ii. Assistive tech-- text-to-speech and font size change
   j. Elevators in houses
   k. Widespread Wi-fi-- able to be used in all houses and rooms
   l. Water saving shower heads
   m. Electrical outlets in dining halls
   n. Update classroom technology
   o. Wi-fi in Hillyer basement
   p. Reduce printing costs/ free printing
   q. Reduce laundry costs
r. Elevator inspection-- possibly hazardous
s. One-cards connected to emergency systems
t. Software availability/access in different locations
   i. Licensing issues?
u. Chalkboards
   i. Noise/scratches
   ii. Chalk dust
   iii. Smart-board
      1. Hard to show detail
      2. Frequent freezes
   iv. Projectors with tablets
Anne Spurzem letter discussion (with Mac Hamilton, Diversity Chair)
a. Senator reactions to letter
   i. She’s allowed to have an opinion, but the letter was filled with
      blatant inaccuracies
   ii. What was her purpose?
   iii. Disagree with her speaking out negatively about her alma mater
   iv. A part of the letter was possibly left out--according to Greenwich
      Times-- was supposed to be a personal letter
      1. Letters to the Editor are traditionally printed
v. Hurtful because of general negative vibe--one of our own is against
us
vi. A similar issue happened after WWII when Smith began accepting
more Jewish women
vii. Mac-- we need to be careful about saying who is and who is not a
Smithie
viii. She is the President of her county’s alumnae organization and is
also classist and racist-- poor representation of Smith
   1. Might have stepped down
   2. How are Presidents chosen?
   3. Petition to force her to step down?
ix. We need to keep this in perspective. Many alums think like this
woman
   1. This is not the first time an alum has written a letter like this
x. Proves how structured discrimination can be
xi. Whatever happens going forward, this should not all result in
personal attacks on this woman
   1. There are larger implications of these opinions
xii. We need to look at our identity as a school
   1. Are we a safety school?
   2. Carol Christ’s letter
   3. Relevance of higher education
4. Why diversity is important

xiii. People do not want to be told by the Sophian or other groups how to react
   1. This letter does not give students the right to harm this woman emotionally or physically.

xiv. SATs are not a true measure of how well a student will do in college

xv. Ivy Leagues were once only for men, that is why Smith was founded

xvi. These statements are said in houses everyday

xvii. It is much more difficult to get into Smith than it was during her time (1980s)

xviii. Hubbard has a diversity board with a bunch of different types of diversity students should take a look at while grabbing breakfast

xix. Smith is not a non-racist/sexist/internationalist/gendered bubble

xx. Assumption that a lot people feel the same way when in reality there is a wide variety of opinions

xxi. This would be a great topic for “Discussions Not Being Had at Smith”

xxii. We must be proactive about “isms”

xxiii. People should not attack individuals on campus if they fit certain stereotypes

xxiv. Some students think others are reacting to the wrong aspects of the letter
   1. What is the “real” issue? Everyone has a right to an opinion

b. Where do we want this to go? Where can we take this?
   i. Annual Pearls and Cashmere publication
      1. Insert to yearbook or separate publication of interviews with alums
      2. Blog: pealsandcashmere.tumblr.com
   ii. Senate Letter in association with Unity organizations
   iii. Get administration involved
   iv. How do we reach the people we are not yet reaching?
   v. Defining racism and other “isms” more concretely
      1. Phobia posters earlier in the year can be continues
   vi. Having discussions when students return to Smith about diversity
      1. “What students didn’t learn in high school civics”
   vii. Orientation programs
      1. Speakers
      2. Getting students together for inter-group dialogues during the semester
         a. Students don’t show up because they are busy
      3. Unity org panels
   viii. Send your thoughts to Smith rant!
VII. Open forum
   a. Dining Committee PSA
      i. Tumblr memos-- Bring back the china!

VIII. Announcements
   a. I’m a Senator Day this Wednesday
   b. March 8th-CC 204-Campus Police-SGA Meet and Greet! 5:30-6:35
   c. BSA History Bowl Finals-tomorrow- 7pm Mwangi (Emerson v. Comstock)
   d. Facilities--Gym Swipe will not be changing for security reasons
      i. Hours will be talked about at next facilities budget meeting
   e. Quidditch team is still looking for players email squidditch@gmail.com
      i. This Sat at 1pm Smith v. UMass at UMass
   f. The Last One Standing Party--SASCA- Food, Music, Mocktails

IX. Adjournment 8:50