Tuesday March 3, 2009

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order: 7:03

II. Roll Call
   a. Missing/Tardy: 17
   b. Quorum Met
   c. Absent senators: Raquel Paulino, Alicen Roberts, Shishona Jones, Lauren Young, Jane Warren, Irene Hofstetter, Liz Mauro, Kate Alev, Sophie Glidden-Lyon, Rachel Prehodka, Meaghan Hall, Martha Geaneas, Sarah Musiker, Aparna Kamath, and Katherine Lybrand

III. Minutes
   a. February 10, 2009 Passed
      i. 35 For, 0 Against, 4 Abstentions
   b. February 24, 2009 Passed
      i. 29 For, 1 Against, 7 Abstentions

IV. Announcements
   a. SGA Elections coming up!
      i. Sign-ups start Friday at 8am
      ii. No campaigning until April 4th
   b. Smith Serenes is meeting Thursday at Bodman Lounge at 7:30pm
   c. Relay for Life is starting up!
   d. Recycle Mania- nationwide competition between colleges and universities
      i. Inter-house competition at Smith during March

V. Guest Speaker:
   a. President Christ: Smith and the Financial Crisis
      i. President Obama’s Stimulus Package
         1. Won’t help us much at all
         2. Will help with grants and research
      ii. Our revenue sources
         1. Comprehensive fee - what students pay
         2. Interest on the endowment
            a. 30% of budget comes from endowment
            b. Great stress on it from the economic crisis
            c. Endowment has fallen 26-30%
      iii. Budget is currently at $200 million
         1. $9.4 million dollar shortfall on budget for next year
         2. 60% devoted to salaries and benefits
      iv. Trustees coming to campus
         1. Proposing a salary freeze for all employees
         2. Recommending temporary increase in payout on endowment
      v. Budget challenges we are facing in 2011-2012 will be even more severe
         1. Projecting a budget shortfall of $30 million
         2. Planning ahead to avoid this, and implementing the steps as financial conditions require
      vi. Strategies
         1. Salary freeze
            a. Reducing or stopping salary increases
            b. No hiring freeze, will be hiring faculty as planned
         2. Slight increase in student-faculty ratio
a. As faculty members retire, they wouldn’t be replaced
b. Use Five-College collaboration more
3. Becoming more need-conscious when admitting students
   a. Trying to hold the financial aid budget and discount rate at the same level
   b. Not changing the financial aid packages for current students
4. Reduce the physical space
   a. Sell, rent or board-up properties and buildings not used
   b. Lyman Estate is an example
5. Study abroad program is getting revised
   a. $9 million budget
   b. Looking at different providers from Butler & Arcadia
   c. Instead use direct enrollment
   d. One semester options
6. Libraries and ITS
   a. Centralize help desks
7. Ways to generate money
   a. Fund raising campaign
vii. Going Co-ed
   1. Not an answer to our budget problems
   2. Not going to happen in at least the next few years
viii. Smith in five years
   1. Global education
      a. All students get a global perspective via study abroad, internships, or projects
   2. Center for Environment
      a. Develop programming in areas of environment sustainability
   3. Community-based learning
   4. Committing more resources to engage Smith’s connection to the community and leadership capacity
ix. Convocation
   1. Loves the boisterousness of it and high spirit
   2. Doesn’t like practices that make it a spectacle to the community
   3. Sans nudity or drunkenness
   4. Student planning committee
VI. Chartering
   a. New Charters:
      i. Photography Club (Snapshot)
         1. Purpose is to give students chance to learn about photography, and have their work be reviewed and displayed outside the classroom
         2. Goals include introducing a new artist every meeting, teach members about photography, create a website and fieldtrips to art galleries
         3. Long term goals include creating a zine, building a darkroom, create a photographer-for-hire program, and develop a rental program for equipment
         4. Held informal meetings with 15-25 people
         5. Hold bi-weekly meetings
         6. Money comes from ORC, as well as lab fees for darkroom use, and hire-out program
         7. Questions? Contact slawton@email.smith.edu
      ii. Technology & Education Connecting Cultures
1. Collaborate with college students in China to develop and implement social ventures focused on technology and education
2. Educating teachers in rural areas of China on how to use technology to make the best use of their resources
3. Courses are designed for specific needs
4. Cultural exchange and friends across the globe
5. Held interest meeting with 40 people, email list with 60 people
6. Questions? Contact xli@email.smith.edu

iii. Debate Society
1. One of the oldest societies at Smith, been here for more than 50 years
2. Compete within the American Parliamentary Debate Association
3. Host a fall tournament, and exhibition rounds
4. Want to start hosting workshops on public speaking and presentation
5. Active members are those that have attended 2/3 last meetings and have paid dues
6. Just made updates and revisions to charter
   a. Name changes from old fund allocating group to Organizational Resource Committee
   b. Added an advisor to act as a moderator and coach
   c. Formalized selection procedure for Andrew C. Slater Awards
   d. Mechanism for how committees are formed
7. Questions? Contact tkuratam@email.smith.edu

VII. Smith Day
   a. Coupons- spend $25 and get $5 off
   b. A cappella groups around town
   c. Refreshments in store
   d. Tentative plan is before Spring Weekend this semester

VIII. Adjournment 9:15