SGA Senate Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2015
7:00-8:00 PM

1. Call to Order 7:00PM

2. Roll Call 7:02PM

3. Approve last week’s minutes 7:05PM
   1. 40-0-4

4. Vote on Smith College Pre-Law Society Charter Changes 7:06PM
   1. 41-0-2

5. Vote on Smith B/E Charter 7:08PM
   1. 40-0-2

6. MENA Charter Presentation 7:09PM
   1. Middle East and North Africa Association, a support network for MENA students among the Five Colleges
   2. Want to create awareness and understanding of the MENA region through social programs and help foster community
   3. Planned and organized a vigil for the students from North Carolina, performed a dance at Rhythm Nations, worked with ResLife, established communication with the Mount Holyoke Arab Student Alliance, invited by Columbia University to a conference
   4. For the first two years of their organization, they plan to work with the Arabic department to host Arabic Night, invite speakers, connect with Mount Holyoke and other Arab student organizations, host an open mic event, offer lessons in forms of Middle Eastern dance
   5. By their third year, they plan to have a conference for students from different campuses
   6. Senator Theo: Have you had general interest meetings yet?
      1. They currently have 15 people regularly attending, and their next step will be to increase membership
   7. Senator Sarena: Is it to unite people around the language or the region?
      1. The region mostly includes Arabic-speaking countries, so really it’s both.
   8. Senator Catherine: When and where do you guys meet?
1. 4-5 on Saturdays, probably at Unity House.

9. Senator Jessica: It says both alliance and association, which one is right?
   1. We prefer association rather than alliance, it was a mistake.

10. Senator Emily: Who should we tell our houses to contact if they’re interested?
    1. ralmutai@smith.edu

11. Senator Jennie: Will your group have any political ties or actions?
    1. Definitely, but we'll primarily focus on culture.

7. Smith College Marine Sciences Charter Presentation 7:17PM
   1. Three long term goals: First, they want to focus on disseminating information about opportunities to members of the organization. Second, participation in Smith activities like the org fair or Earth Week. Lastly, community involvement like service projects.
   2. Already a fully functional org with a general attendance of about 10 members and an elected cabinet. Also, there's been interest in the social media aspect, so that will be expanding. They're also collaborating with the Biology department.
   3. Semester goals: First, a beach cleanup and aquarium trip. Also, they want to help arrange speakers to come. Lastly, they want to have a symposium for students to speak about their own research and work.
   4. Senator Ellen: Can you explain the logic behind your due system?
      1. Dues are going to be based on what you can contribute. Org activities that can’t be covered by dues will be split between students.
   5. Senator Theo: Would org status change your stance on dues?
      1. We would still ask students to pay dues, but we would reserve those dues for fun trips instead of bigger projects.
   6. Senator Sarena: Can't you just apply for discretionary funding instead of dues?
      1. Dues are optional, but we're asking for this semester in case funding isn't adequate.
   7. Laura, ORC: Having dues for non-supply based organizations is questionable, since everyone is paying a student activities fee already. The ORC already funds trips and speakers, so dues might be unnecessary.

8. Open Forum 7:25PM
   1. Disability Committee – 10 minutes
1. Senator Emily: Please email your houses and see if they're interested in having Laura Rauscher from ODS come to speak at tea. If they are, please email ODS or ehagstrom@smith.edu.

2. Also, ODS is trying to put on an event with the Poetry Center and the Disability Alliance, which would bring a spoken word poet (Erin Schick) to have a poetry reading, an activism workshop, and a writing workshop. They're asking for Senate to help co-sponsor the event. They need $437.87 more to fund the event, especially $90 more to host the poet.

3. Senator Zoe: I support this because we have $2000 in our budget and we’re nearing the end of the year.

4. Senator Katie: I support the hotel and lunch, but $125 per workshop seems a bit high.

5. Greta: I would table this until they hear back from the Sawyer Fund, because it seems like they would fund that in full.


8. Email your houses and tell them about the open mic (April 13th, no set time yet). They can send poetry submissions to Laura Rauscher (lrausche@smith.edu) or Cate Kirby (ckirby@smith.edu).

2. Dining Committee – 12 minutes

1. Senator Rose: Dining Services wants to start a new sustainability program in the dining halls next year. It's a vending machine that gives you containers to put your food in. Everyone will get a coin that you can trade to get a reusable container, and then you replace the dirty one to get your coin back. It'll hopefully increase sustainability and cut down on stolen plates.

2. Senator Jessica: The money they spend replacing plates is enough to fund an entire student's tuition.

3. Senator Dorie: What exactly is this program? Is there a time-limit?
1. You just return it when you want a clean one. If you use your coin, you have to pay to get another one. You start by paying for a container and then you trade it for a coin when it's dirty, and then you trade it back for a new container.

4. Senator Zoe: This would be great for grab and go, since it generates so much waste.

5. Senator Rose: This system is used at a lot of schools. It works well and it's widely used on these campuses.

6. Senator Emma: How clean would they really be getting?
   1. Same process as cleaning the plates. They're dishwasher-safe.

7. Senator Jennie: Will there be a dispenser in every dining hall?
   1. No. Probably one in every area of campus.

8. Senator Jessica: Is there silverware included?
   1. They're thinking about that, but they're probably going to just test out the containers.

9. Senator Sarena: Can you only have it out for a set amount of time?
   1. No, you can bring it back whenever you want.

9. Announcements 7:55PM
   1. Send out house emails and CC sgasenate@smith.edu
   2. Send me your committee updates by Monday night
   3. Tell your houses to register for elections! Get things in by this Friday. Contact mjanuario@smith.edu with questions.
   4. Enter engagement points on the social network
   5. Running Club kick-off meeting posters!
   6. Board of Trustees meeting posters (tell your house to show up – Thursday, March 5th, 8:30PM, Neilson Browsing Room)!

10. Adjournment 8:01PM