SGA Senate Agenda  
March 4, 2014

I. Call to order 7:00pm

II. Roll Call

III. Pass last meeting’s minutes
   A. Pass: 40
   B. Fail: 0
   C. Abstain: 12

IV. Wellness Office Leadership Program - Emily Nagowski 7:05pm
   A. Important relationship between leadership and personal wellness
   B. Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction meetings to soothe stress
      1. Orientation on Thursday, March 6 at CC 205
      2. March 25th, five Wednesdays in a row, will meet to learn the skill of mindfulness and self regulation of internal state
   C. Will also be offered in the fall!

V. Smith College Running Club Charter “SmiRC” - Yoo Eun Kim 7:15pm
   A. Aim to provide time to encourage running for leisure and exercise
   B. 3 to 4 non-mandatory weekly running practices to adapt running as a lifestyle
      1. Currently set at Wednesday mornings, Thursday afternoons, Saturday early afternoons, and Sunday but subject to change as necessary
   C. Will attend events such as the UMass Autism Run - integrating with other Five College students!

VI. Smith Fund - Katie Averill & Anne Hunter & Beth Raffeld 7:25pm
   A. Beth Raffeld - VP of Philanthropy
      1. Talk with alumnae groups, trustees, and President McCartney
      2. Sophia Smith gave us the college campus, but Smith now receives funds to operate its budget from three sources: Tuition, endowment, gifts
      3. Various stories of alumnae who have contributed back to their school for being part of a larger Smith community
         a) Provides to other students, improves college rankings, and strengthens
B. Anne Hunter ‘14 - Smith Fund Intern

1. Importance of giving back to Smith: A great deal of funds go toward financial aid, 60% of Smith students are receiving financial aid at an average of ~$30,000.

2. Two main challenges:
   a) President Kathy has challenged Senior Class donation participation at 50%, will provide $2014 as a commemorative reward
   b) House By House competition: House with the highest percent of participation wins a special prize at Ivy Day and house glory.

(1) Please note this challenge to your house members!

VII. Meet SGA Cabinet - Sustainability Chair Najwa Alsheikh AC ‘15 and Senior Class President Nahee Kwak ‘14 7:38pm

A. Discussing SGA restructure plan, which is necessary for Senate needs the support of the student body with more time - potentially for next semester

B. If Senate is having a restructure of power, Senate should be the ones involved

VIII. SGA Restructuring Feedback from Senate

A. Having a shortened powerpoint to more approachably show student body

B. Though it may be a rushed restructure, Senate at present seems to be less conducive to productivity and communication

C. Hubbard:

   1. Areas with much less competition will not have the most motivated candidates and we may end up with the same problem

D. Albright: Concerns about the changing of the VP’s role, and possible loss of house community as students take advice from individuals of the house as there may be division by class, there tends to be more by house

   1. Senate would still be a functional body that would address concerns of students
   2. Senate visibility tends to be really low, possibly occurring from the fact that elections are in-house | With campus elections, there is greater visibility as well as a concentrated level of motivated Senators
E. Albright: Are the most motivated Senators doing it for their own resume purposes as opposed to genuine motivation?

F. King: Self-selecting, people who are more comfortable with a position that is not as campus wide
   1. Is it for comfort or to be a functional body? Ideally we would like both and to include those who are most passionate

G. Note: When we put this to a vote, it is not for passing the restructure itself, it’s to put it on a campus wide vote
   1. Campus may not be as aware in their vote, may by default pass but not by efficiency

H. Senate restructure may not be a bad thing but presentation appeared to be more a top-down approach of what is going to occur
   1. If this restructure were to happen, if it is not to occur now it is not guaranteed it would carry over to next fall

I. Question of whether visibility would more perfectly restructure SGA if we had more time
   1. We need to step up on above and beyond our roles - need to collect feedback in a more active stance

J. Washburn: Nobody in the houses would actually read the emails and on House Council, were not aware what the restructure was. Washburn also said that a Senate Committee should be put in place and that a mandatory meeting explaining and discussing the restructuring so all the student body could understand.

K. Northrop: Student body isn’t always aware of what’s happening in the SGA, getting them involved isn’t addressing the disconnect in general right now

L. Tyler: Restructuring doesn’t seem to make sense to that many members as their association with the SGA restructure is that it will still exist | Suggestion for the cabinet to carry over members involved in this restructuring for next year

M. Cushing: Request to make a ten slide powerpoint on improving accessibility for general student body

N. Capen: Request regarding lack of clarity in restructuring. House council was discussing
what they would be opposed about but they were not sure if they were entirely informed | Would be a lot clearer to point out fundamental differences, possibly side-by-side

O. Bylaw restructure should not be a project that began three weeks ago

P. Albright: Election will be taking place on the Smith Social network and will take a simple majority
   1. Participation is always a valid concern: elections are going to be run in this matter, being addressed through the Social Network committee, but the Social Network issues are not only pertinent to this restructuring but is another issue

Q. Those uninvolved are going to continue to be uninvolved, so if the time is going to be lengthened something needs to become more visible

R. If there isn’t cohesiveness in the SGA cabinet, then its presentation to the student body may not be efficient
   1. Trying to make something perfect before it is actually implemented may make it impossible

S. Having a member in one’s house as a Senator as opposed to one who is elected by the whole campus can make a more reserved student body feel more inclined to talk to the Senator

T. Park: High proportion of first-year members in Senate, pushing this off another year will bring a new group of first-years with less context on why the restructure should work

U. Northrop: If we don’t feel comfortable with it, why doesn’t Senate vote it against student vote?

V. Create a Senate committee to address this conflict as a whole?
   1. This needs to be voted by Senate and campus on a timeline

W. Whether we can enforce a responsibility for next year’s candidates to be more active on restructuring next year?
   1. Still cannot

X. Ziskind: Upon the restructuring you can’t just send an email, you need to campaign, having events and tabling for events which cannot occur in three weeks

Y. Morris: If people are having concerns with Senate restructure, maybe address them
1. There is a lot of interconnection between the Cabinet and Senate, which is what the restructure is aiming for to unite the two groups

Z. Comstock: Decision should come from within the Senate, as current structure is top-down

1. A lot of the issues in how this restructure is formed and presented is from the way this SGA restructure is right now

AA. King: Suggestion to take a step back and look over the arguments with the pros and cons of current restructuring as it is possible to continue the same discussion

BB. Tyler: Though body of Senate will become smaller, want to know exact number:

1. 33 members in Senate

CC. Chairwoman Aguilar: We want to solve issues on campus, but with the current structure we have right now it may not be at the best potential to reach the respective departments | current restructure could become more powerful

IX. Senate Open Forum Feedback 8:43pm

A. There are imperfections and opinions still, putting it in all campus vote does not guarantee it will be enforced, though are issues of participation at present

B. Wilson: We may know issues about Senate by itself, but not necessarily in conjunction with the SGA | would like to vote no on it initially and to make a restructure from within to increase informed notion

1. Fixing the cabinet from within will not necessarily restructure the relationship between the two groups

C. Response to Gillett: Senate and Cabinet are intertwined, essentially all or nothing situation

D. Part of the reason why this entire conversation has been circular and convoluted because it’s a mix of the timeline and the structure itself as well as its relation to the student body, but would like to make a point of having a sub-Senate Committee - the Committees don’t really do a lot

E. Question is as to whether or not we want to institute this for next semester as opposed to later than that - would like to note the risks of having it next semester or not
F. There are standing committees that still exist, how would it be to create a possible standing committee

G. Scales: We were supposed to see the final form of the restructure, would like a finalized idea of everything.

X. SGA Restructuring information from SGA President Gussie Gronquist ‘14 8:56pm
   A. Trying to bring information into the Senate room to facilitate communication
   B. SGA has had a culture in which cabinet has needed to approve things before Senate can push through with it
      1. Not a very efficient system, many were not pleased that it is not a partnered system
   C. In terms of feedback, this has been an unprecedented action by Smith - cabinet technically has the right to impose whatever change in bylaws they see fit
      1. Trying to merge the two spaces to make it even more powerful
   D. Want a similar system of providing funding for Senate in its more concentrated nature, and have Senators who are empowered
   E. Have written bylaws on the details of number of Senators, etc.
   F. None of the restructuring ideas are meant to be backhanded or behind-the-scenes
   G. Again, Senate members are not voting next week on whether this will be passed, but just as to whether it will be passed.
   H. Should actively encourage change to give it a trial period so it can at least be enacted first
   I. Cabinet is very very diverse | it is not to say that all people are going to be in one area, Senate may be broadened in representation by the student body as a whole
   J. Providing Adas a set number of Senate positions is a method of channeling leadership in what is not entirely represented in other student government roles

XI. Open Forum/Announcements
   A. Send out house emails - make sure to cc sgasenate@smith.edu!
      1. Houses that have either not sent minutes or have not CCed Senate for February 25
         a) Gardiner, Hubbard, Morrow, Morris, Park, Parsons, Tyler
B. Senators are highly encouraged to meet after Senate with their committees
C. Wear your Senate shirt on Tuesday!