Tuesday March 8, 2010

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:02 pm

II. Roll Call
   A. Absent: Lousia Loring, Kimberly Fong, Yun Ni, Laura Shupeck, Laura Nixon, Elisabeth Wroth, Natalya Devaeva
   B. Quorum Met

III. Provost Schuster – Provost of the College and Dean of the Faculty
   A. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty is the chief academic advisor.
   B. She is the chair of the committee that makes recommendations for the faculty.
   C. Certain departments and facilities on campus, like the libraries, report to the Provost.
   D. Unlike the Dean of the College, her job deals less directly with students and more with overall education.
   E. Faculty Ranks include:
      a. Tenure track
         i. Assistant Professors are on the tenure track but not through the probation period
         ii. Associate Professors have tenure
         iii. Professors have had tenure for multiple years
      b. Non-tenure track (10% of faculty)
         i. Lecturers are temporary professors
         ii. Senior Lectures have been at Smith for 6 years or more
         iii. Visiting artists are hired through the endowment
   F. Tenure is a lifetime contract for a faculty member.
   G. In the summer of 2012, they hope to add a global engagement seminar for Greece.
   H. The advising process for first years is being changed to a liberal arts model instead of a pre-major model.
   I. Five professors received tenure this year.
   J. Each department is responsible for submitting faculty for tenure.

IV. Dining Committee
   A. Senate needs to help address the dishware loss on campus.
   B. In a previous year, the amount of dishware lost equaled the cost of a Honda Accord.
   C. During spring break, Dining Services will be doing a census of dishware and houses will be charged 5 dollars for each found item of dishware.
   D. Volunteers are needed to reach out to students for more input after spring break.

V. Senate By-law Changes Presentation
   A. One senator is now to be elected for commuter students.
   B. Sustainability Chair has been added to the cabinet.
   C. Minutes are no longer required to be posted in the Campus Center.
   D. After two unexcused absences and two excused absences per semester, a senator will be asked to step down.

VI. ORC Guidelines Presentations
   A. Budget due dates have been moved.
   B. Budget deliberations will be moved to the end of the semester.
C. There is a new process for reallocation of funds for organizations.
D. The audit process is more elaborate.

VII. Smith Quidditch Charter Passed
VIII. Honor Board By-law Changes Passed
IX. Student Theatre Charter Failed
X. Minutes Passed
XI. Announcements
   A. Senators, please try to attend campus events! It is part of your job as senators.
   B. Sign-ups for spring elections end on March 11, 2011 at 11pm!
   C. Come to the discussion panel on Disability Issues that will be moderated by Laura Rauscher on March 29th at 4:30 in Neilson Browsing Room.

XII. Adjournment 9:21pm