Student Government Association Senate

3/8/16

7-9 pm Campus Center Carroll Room

Agenda:

Attendance - 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes from 3/1/16– 7:05 pm

Board of Trustees Recap – 7:10 pm

Undocumented Student Table

- Talked with Audrey Smith about solutions to the scarcity of funding for undocumented students.

- Trustee committed to getting in touch with the Smith Fund to create a separate pool of money for undocumented students so that they are not competing for international student funds.

Accessibility Table
● Some houses’ foundations cannot support elevators, Dwight Hamilton’s office will undertake an accessibility audit to see what buildings can be fixed to be accessible

● The group talked about the accessibility van, and making sure that students who need it always have a van available

● Special funding for student with disabilities within the Smith fund

● Group might pioneer a committee to look into all these matters

Athletics table

● Talked about how to improve Get Fit Smith and add more equipment so that students can participate and expand the amount of spaces so that they are accessible to more students

● Grad students will not be allowed to work as trainers any more. Athletics department would like to hire more professional trainers so that more students can use their services.

● Get Fit Smith Classes might have a ‘priority sign-up sheet’ so that students can get spots in these classes first. First, they would like to do a data check to see who is participating in these classes. Apparently this data has already been collected by the ORC

Elections and Appointments Conversation – 7:30 pm

● Electing Senators by area excludes motivated students whose area may already be covered.

● EnA proposes to have some elections in the Fall and others in the Spring to emphasize mentorship on Senate and give more students the opportunity to run.

● Elections will still have class year, transfer, and Ada requirements but there will also be several open spots for any student
• Ada Class will continue to hold internal elections and then let Senate know who their representatives are

Laura Lubben is stepping down as EnA Chair. We will need to elect another Chair.

Restructure Committee Conversation – 8:00 pm

• Should we have a restructure committee? Yes.
  ○ Ana Sofia Moreno Mesa, Julia Collins, Anna Caliandro, Katie Chong will be on it.

Fair Labor Practices Conversation – 8:10 pm

• The letter still needs to be edited and then the week after Spring Break we can vote on the letter.
• There is also the option of asking the administration to put a working group together for this issue, similarly to what they did for Divest.

Smith Social Network Lesson – 8:25 pm

• We are collecting feedback from about Senate Areas on the Smith Social Network
• To Access, go to socialnetwork.smith.edu and find the Senate group. Under Manage Forms, click on publish and you can share the link.

Committee Updates & Open Forum– 8:30 pm
Rules Committee:

- Emailed all orgs about anti-discrimination and anti-hazing policy. If they do not act they will be disqualified for 2016-17.

SJE Committee:

- Had a restructure and are in the process of having it voted on.
- Org liaison has been added to the board and will reach out to all orgs that do social justice work/affinity type groups.
- Decided to be more of an educational group rather than a group that organizes actions.

Outreach Committee:

- Would like to have more members
- Will be meeting with ITS after Spring Break, talk to her if you have suggestions.

ORC:

- Working on making fundraising easier and more accessible for students
- Conference fund is depleted
- Orgs will now be able to manage their own funds rather than having decisions go through ORC

HPA Chair:

- Would like senators to talk to House Presidents about the importance of the social network senate survey.
● There has been an issue with people letting non-invited guests into the houses. Hannah Durrant will make an official sign to help students who may feel uncomfortable telling a stranger that they cannot come in.

● HPA will send a formal email about non-residents occupying space in other people’s houses.

Student Life Committee:

● Working on improving counseling services and orientation programs

Curriculum Committee:

● Currently reviewing the course evaluation system and its goals

● Discussing the possibility of making responses public in some capacity

● Will be discussing class participation with students and faculty

EnA

● Will be tabling in CC from Mon-Fri from 12-1pm. Senators should come so that students can learn about their positions.

SGA President

● Meghna proposed OSC-SGA video to promote the SGA. If you would like to participate, talk to her.

● Cabinet is working with President McCartney to promote a pajama party on the last day of classes. There will be a mashed potato bar and s’mores.

● Everyone should fill out the Dining Survey.
Open Forum:

- We should encourage people to swipe their Onecards when they go to dining halls so that Dining Services can accurately collect information.
- Let’s move to a model of resolutions in Senate and encourage Senators to write them.
- Can we have a general conversation about how to bring issues forth at Senate?
- Smith charges students who want to stay on campus for break, Sarena will bring this up with administrators after Spring Break
  - There are funds for these students but they are not heavily publicized.

Area Meetings – 8:45 pm