Tuesday March 10, 2009

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order: 7:03

II. Roll Call
   a. Missing/Tardy: 19
   b. Quorum Met

III. Minutes
   a. March 3, 2009 Passed
   b. 27 For, 0 Against, 10 Abstentions

IV. Announcements
   a. SGA Elections coming up!
      i. Sign ups go on until March 22nd, 2009
   b. Soccer team is hosting a dodgeball tournament on April 18th
      i. There is an entrance fee
      ii. Form teams within your house!
   c. Spring lighting walk
      i. Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 pm

V. Guest Speaker:
   a. Leslie Hill, Associate Dean of International Study
      i. 150 different programs for students to go on
         1. Have own JYA programs in Europe
         2. Deeply involved in programs in Mexico, Spain, and India
      ii. Smith Faculty are very involved in study abroad programs
         1. Give very good advice on where to go
      iii. Study Abroad is about studying, but they want to know why you pick that place
         1. Want students to pick places that will enrich their lives
         2. Want you to pick a place that will fulfill your objectives
      iv. Students from all departments are able to go abroad
   v. Every place is different
      1. Students in some countries only study one subject, so you will need to
         have background
      2. Other countries give you more options for studying
   vi. Portable financial aid sets us apart
      1. Allows students to go abroad
   vii. She wants every student to be a global citizen
   viii. Summer options
      1. Credit will not transfer unless you petition the class dean
      2. Financial aid will not transfer, only for your 8 semesters at Smith
      3. There is an International Experience Grant for projects that are compelling
      4. Freeman Grant for students studying in Asia during the summer
   ix. J-Term options
      1. There are planned trips, including one to Kyoto and another to the Bahamas
      2. You can plan your own trip and apply for money
   x. Students pay for airfare, but there are stipends for students on high financial need
   xi. Most people who apply for study abroad get accepted
   xii. Pretty flexible about how you plan out your study abroad
1. Can wrap your experience around a summer → one semester junior year and another senior year

xiii. Can combine other programs such as the Picker Program in Washington with study abroad

b. Elizabeth Hait, Housing Coordinator
   i. Updates:
      1. Get house, lottery, room draw number Wednesday, March 11, 2009
      2. Schedule for the room draw
      3. Will get information about being a proxy later on
   ii. Temporary housing is expected for next year
      1. May convert some singles into doubles
   iii. Really big class coming in, fewer people going abroad
   iv. House quotas
      1. Meant to give an even number of each class year in each house
      2. Must give an estimate of each class year to ITS
   v. Coming back from JYA
      1. Upon returning from a semester abroad, she tries to allow students back into their house, but can only do it if there is an empty room
      2. Seniors coming back from a full year abroad, with proxies, will get back into their house
   vi. Lottery numbers are randomly picked for each student
   vii. Room draw night
      1. First night rising seniors (Tuesday)
      2. Second night is for rising juniors (Wednesday)
      3. Third night is for rising sophomores (Thursday)
   viii. Mixing grades
      1. Will place different class years in the same room, when they need to be placed
      2. People looking to switch rooms or houses can look at potential roommate questionnaires in the housing office

VI. Chartering
   a. Photography Club (Snapshot) Passed
      i. 24 For, 0 Against, 13 Abstentions
   b. Technology & Education Connecting Cultures Fails
      i. 0 For, 11 Abstentions, 27 Against
   c. Debate Society Passed
      i. 27 For, 0 Against, 9 Abstentions

VII. Committee Updates
   a. Community Outreach is still collecting soda tabs
   b. Archives picked out photos for Archives Day

VIII. Adjournment 8:57