SGA Senate
March 11, 2014

I. Call to Order 7:00pm

II. Roll Call

III. Pass last meeting’s Minutes
   A. Pass: 43
   B. Fail: 2
   C. Abstain: 4

IV. Elect Senate ORC Representative - ORC Chair Shreeya Rajanarayanan ‘14 7:05pm
   A. Committee decides how much to funding allocate to each organization
   B. Budget hearings and deliberations coming up the week of April 14th-18th
   C. Elected Representative - Senator Julia Comeau ‘17 from Gillett

V. Smithies in Computer Science Charter - Julia Edwards ‘15 7:10pm
   A. Tech industry has a large gender gap, need for more women CS majors
   B. Purpose is to form a peer-and-peer network for students to communicate about the presence of computer science, both recreationally and professionally, on and off campus
   C. Hope to coordinate CS-related initiatives with one another - welcome anyone from the Five College community, including Smith alumnae and non-CS majors
      1. Currently have 60+ members
   D. Activity is mostly on facebook - hoping to break over a hundred members by the next year
   E. Hope to acquire other sources of funding from science and tech companies, main costs will be associated with transporting Smith students to related events
   F. Contact yooekim@smith.edu

VI. Vote on Smith College Running Club Charter 7:20pm
   A. Passed: 47 - 2
   B. Fail: 1
   C. Abstain: 1
   D. Contact yooekim@smith.edu for more information, will hold a general interest meeting
at Northrop House March 27 from 4:30pm-5:30pm, first run will be March 29

VII. Meet SGA Cabinet - Honor Board Chair Ellina Nektalova ‘14, Judicial Board Chair Dawn Ginetti ‘AC 7:25pm

A. Judicial Board: A fireside chat will be held tomorrow at 7 in the Red Room | Please apply for the Judicial Board next year! Notifications will be up on eDigest.
B. Honor Board: Look at cases that have to do with academic infractions, will solicit application based on class year, will also be posted on eDigest.

VIII. SGA Restructuring 7:30pm

A. Question and Answer
   1. Document that has flow charts and more visual information will be sent out tonight from
   2. Senator Carolyn: Senate’s membership is changed but its operation seems to be remaining the same.
      a) SGA Pres. Gussie: Instituting standing committees, and placing them in Senate to increase transparency so that everyone knows what is happening at each committee
      b) SGA Curriculum Committee Chair Frances: Dividing Smith students up may feel divisive initially but it provides a head for each committee that Senators would have access to
   3. Class of 2014 Pres. Nahee: Why weren’t Senators part of restructuring committee and why wasn’t restructuring happening since the beginning of the year as opposed to now?
      a) Frances: Were in conversation with Senators from cabinet committees
      b) Gussie: In presenting it to the Senate early would be a method of submitting feedback as not just representatives of houses but also as SGA members. Would have really liked to do it earlier in the year but the timeline was not valid, took some transitional time for select cabinet members to leap into the initiative
   4. Gussie: Vote on Restructure will happen tonight on Smith Social Network, wording of the ballot has been put together by the OSE (Ballet indicates neutral
language, standard for ballots), closes on Saturday

5. Gussie: Hoping to provide information to organizations if it were to go through, setting up a variety of options, and opening up office hours to get out awareness of the restructure.

B. Open Discussion (15 minutes max)

1. Senator Carolyn: Voting against it as it doesn’t address certain problems and frustrations that Senators have from the beginning.

2. Senator Diana: Seconded. Received feedback from house against the restructure, would like to provide a great rather than good restructure.

3. Senator Kokoro: How would the restructure be proposed if there isn’t cohesion within the SGA cabinet?

4. Senator Emily C.: Small changes can still be made in future years, a lot of work has been done in the restructure, would be better than inaction and refusing the proposal because it doesn’t seem perfect. Also is student body’s right to decide - by rejecting this proposal at Senate it would be undemocratic to not let the student body decide first.

5. Senator Emma: Voting for this as current situation in Senate is too inefficient at its present point to continue for next year. The way to go is not to sit and stare at the restructure, but more to

6. Senator: We have a responsibility to try something new and see if we can find a better solution; at the very least if it goes through, we can see what needs to be worked on so changes can be made from there. If no one is aware of the issues in student government again this year.

7. Senator Carolyn: There is no inherent change in power in Senate, only in membership - we are representing the people when we vote on this.

8. Najwa: Passionate about the opportunities of extracurricular activities, the loss of those roughly 30 positions will take away from students who would like to participate in these ECs.

9. Senator Gabby: While Cabinet is disconnected from Senate, and Senate is disconnected from the student body, we need to present this to the student
body but it has to be informed. Not enough outreach on this issue to make sure the student body is informed, not up to them to decide the fate of the SGA if it has no bearing on them at this point.

10. Marjorie: Supporting vote, from the position of HP, the Senator position will be relevant to their position on campus. It is now a position that encourages first years to be involved, and at present does not affect much of what the house community is doing. There may be a loss of positions, but it will make the positions that are left more effective and filled with those who are more passionate and willing to effect change.

11. Senator Sarena: Speaking on behalf of a senior in house stating that the Senate structure will significantly decrease the level of participation. Taking the houses out of the equation is a mistake because it differentiates Smith from all the other schools.

12. HP Valeria: No turnaround time for when the first presentation was released, everyone needs to be.

C. Initial Vote
   1. Pass: 28
   2. Fail: 17
   3. Abstain: 5

D. Motion to Revote | Pass by 31-19

E. Final Vote
   1. Pass: 26
   2. Fail: 16
   3. Abstain: 8
   4. Failing to obtain superior majority, the restructure will not be presented to the student body.

IX. Committee Updates
   A. Vegetarian Dining Hall in Quad Committee: No progress as of yet
      1. Elected Senator Andrea

   B. SGA Shuttle to AMTRAK station: Survey responses and have to organize through it
C. Adjusting Heat in Rooms Committee: Person they were in contact has left Smith, will approach desk after meeting.

D. Acapella Group Committee: Meeting with representative

E. Gym Hours Committee: Met with Smith gym representative, created a survey and is ready to be sent out.

F. Health Care and Services Committee: Organized compiled concerns for health services and counseling services, meeting with Dr. Jaffe tomorrow and Pamela McCarthy on 3/21.

X. Open forum/Announcements

A. Send out house emails - make sure to CC Sgsenate@smith.edu

   1. We have not received minutes from 3/04/14 from Comstock, Emerson, Lawrence, Morris, and Morrow House.

B. Senators are highly encouraged to meet after Senate with their committees

C. Any other community service ideas?

D. Please come to the Campus Center Carroll Room this Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 to eat pizza, and moreover hear what President McCartney thinks about the controversial book by Sheryl Sandberg, Lean In. Dean of the College Maureen Mahoney and Professor of Afro-American Studies Riche’ Barnes will also be part of the three-person, informal panel presentation, with lots of time for your own Q&A about work life!

XI. Have a great spring break!