SGA Senate Meeting
13 March 2012
CC 103/104 7:00 – 9:00 PM

I. Call to order
II. Speaker: Carol Christ, President of Smith College
   a. Campus News
      i. Admission 5% more than last year-- 4339 applications-- 40% will be admitted
      ii. Campaign currently trying to raise 450 million dollars--partly for financial aid, environmental, and other initiatives
      iii. New Business Plan program next J-term
   b. Strategic Plan
      i. Wants to increase financial aid
         1. Only about 5% of families in the US can afford Smith without aid
      ii. Increase opportunities for independent research, improve advising system
      iii. Global Leadership, Environmental Studies, Community Collaboration
   c. Diversity
      i. The “Letter”
         1. “A very hateful and bigoted letter”
         2. President Christ loves Pearls and Cashmere blog/facebook group
         3. Proud of the Smith response
            a. Conversations SGA and other students have begun
         4. Letter writer recanted--said she is proud of Smith’s diversity
         5. 3 elements of diversity
            a. the demographics (% of ethnic groups represented/composition of college)
            b. In the curriculum
            c. “diversity encounters”--conversations about diversity in houses and with friends--capacity to have these difficult conversations
         6. Letter has brought us back to a never-ending conversation
   d. Government Structure of Campus
      i. Board of Trustees--35 people, mostly alums from 1953 onward
         1. Meets four times a year--three on campus and one in NYC
         2. 4 year terms (once readmit-able)
         3. Decide on salary increases, budget, tuition, etc.--long term financial health of college
         4. Reputational health of college--guardians of Smith’s excellence
         5. Last year engaged in “Futures Initiatives”--looking ahead at changes in education, technology, etc.
         6. Possibly ability to achieve a Masters from UMass or Smith in five years
         7. More Summer programs (mostly for high school students)
ii. Shared Governance with faculty
   1. President is not in control of everything
   2. Faculty are in control of requirements
   3. Mainly through committees
      a. Priorities
      b. Budget
      c. Tenure
      d. Academic priorities
   4. Faculty got rid of First-Scholars group, number of AP units toward graduation, change in Dean’s List

iii. SGA--students’ formal voice in college governance two new initiatives
    1. Women in Public Services-- partnership between US State Department and Smith/Seven Sisters--want to develop multiple institutes.
    2. This won’t be announced officially until later--We will be partners in developing for a new college in Malaysia (Asian Women’s Leadership University)

iv. Questions
   i. How long will it take for Masters programs to be approved?
      1. Some are already approved
      2. When you are a Senior at Smith you would start taking some courses at UMass and then take another year at UMass.
      3. Would pay Smith tuition for first four years and then UMass tuition for last year
      4. No comparable program for School of Social Work
         a. We don’t have an undergraduate social work degree
   ii. How did college government react to Smith’s drop in US Newsreport ranking?
      1. She thinks that they are a flawed idea-- create destructive competition-- misleading to prospective students
      2. Seem to change every year, but colleges take a long time to change
      3. They fool with the ranking criteria--metrics (admissions selectivity and wealth measures--endowment per student)
         a. increase ranking for classes of 19 or fewer--many college limit because of this--Smith does not
      4. No one would buy the magazine if the list did not change
      5. They also ask various college presidents to rank academics of colleges
   iii. To what extent is Smith need blind?
      1. Smith is not need blind, we are need conscious
         a. Very few college are need blind
      2. In last round of decisions, need is taken into consideration
      3. Smith wants to be able to provide adequate funding to admitted students
         a. Smith does not do “need gapping”--meets full need of admitted students
      4. 60% of Smith students receive financial aid (average $33,000)
   iv. What aspect of the college are you most proud of? What will you miss?
      1. She is moved all the time by the amazing things Smithies do--
III. Roll Call
   a. Absent: Elizabeth Naismith Picciani, Chelsea Bruks, Donna Yu Dong, Elizaveta Sukhinen, Kyra Smith, and Laura Chesney
   b. Quorum met
IV. Minutes pass 38-0-10
V. Vote on changes to Elections Rules and Guidelines
   a. Changes approved 43-0-6
VI. Presentation of Smith College Indoor Field Hockey Club Charter
   a. Would practice in the ITT
   b. Significant interest to play in indoor field hockey in winter (non-varsity level)
   c. Late November to early March
   d. Questions
      i. How many people are interested right now?
         1. A lot of people on varsity who do not play another sport
         2. People who played in High School, but cannot take on varsity commitment
         3. People who are cut from varsity
      ii. Would there be a class/open practice (like squash)?
         1. There would have to be a professor or teacher to run it
         2. Tennis is active during winter in ITT
         3. Club is designed for all levels
      iii. How would you prevent biased impeachment from executive board?
         1. E-board would be expanded if club grows
      iv. How soon would group begin?
         1. Interest meetings will begin this year (for all Five-College students)
      v. In off-season will there be meetings?
         1. Meetings to keep club going
         2. Fundraisers
         3. Captain/president practices
VII. Presentation of Smith Students for Justice in Palestine Charter Amendment
   a. Coming back from unsuccessful amendment
   b. Not approved because of unconstitutional amendment process
      i. Article seven changes
   c. Why is name being changed?
      i. Originally Students for Middle East Peace because club was afraid to declare a controversial specific stance
      ii. Have only dealt with Palestine
   d. Discussion
      i. Phrasing about Senate approval--Does it need to be more specific?--No
VIII. Announcements
   a. 'I'm a Senator Day' will be this Wednesday
      i. Can wear t-shirt instead of sign
   b. Computers
i. Doing homework or going on Facebook is not allowed during Senate
   ii. Disrespectful

c. T-Shirts
d. Nosotras--Pa'lante 2012--Campus Center Carroll Room 5:30-8pm-- March 30th
e. Rebecca Skloot, author of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks--March 28th in JMG(Carroll Room for overfill) at 7pm, doors at 6:30
f. 2015 Boston Day Trip April 7th
IX. Open Forum

i. Dining Committee
   ii. Kathy Zieja would like examples of decreasing food quality, there have been chef changes
   iii. On Sundays April 1st, 15th, 22nd, and 29th Chapin will be open for lunch 1:30-4:30
       1. At least a hundred people per day to make it permanent next year
       2. Won’t be open for dinner on those days
   iv. RC Cola will be gone by March break
   v. Next meeting will be following break
   vi. “Bring back silverware” posters will be put up around campus
   vii. Do not compost your forks--it pops local farmer’s tires
       1. Including compostable forks
   viii. Possibility of having Adas as door check-out people

b. E&A committee

   i. Register to run for positions by the end of the night--smith.edu/voting
   ii. You can go online and see who is running

c. Diversity Committee

   i. Next “Conversation Not Being Had at Smith”--Class-- 6:30 the Monday after break (March 26th)--Neilson Browsing room
   ii. This Thursday 7:00 Critical Media Series on The Help--film viewing and discussion

d. Curriculum Committee

   i. Revvup Committee will be up in a few weeks

e. Is there a clear reason that the SEC movie was cancelled?

   i. Event information was not specifically in application for funds
   ii. Information is confidential--exact details cannot be released
   iii. Responsible spending
   iv. Cause for concern raised by committee
   v. Limited funds
   vi. Why does it need to be confidential? Shouldn’t students know what’s going on?

f. Safety at Night--especially in Science Quad

   i. Issue with lights--observation deck needs a level of darkness
   ii. Campus Police is not sure what is needed--will be conducting a walk-through of campus
   iii. Maintenance has been requested to service motion lights in Science Quad
   iv. Okay to use Blue light for reporting suspicious activity or requesting a ride

  g. Pearls and Cashmere Intergenerational talk was moving, a success-- was put together by Caro Hua, Jennifer Guglielmo, and others

h. Where can speaker requests be submitted?--start with professor or apply to lecture fund as an organization

i. Barnard/Columbia controversy over President Obama as a speaker--our SGA wants to reach out to Barnard’s SGA--we need to support each other as women's
colleges
X. Adjournment 8:48