SGA Senate Minutes  
Tuesday, March 24, 2015  
7-8PM

1. Call to Order  
2. Roll Call  
3. Approve minutes from March 3rd  
a. 32-0-5 PASSED  
4. Approve minutes from March 10th  
a. 32-0-6 PASSED  
5. Vote on MENA Charter  
a. Senator Catherine: Is this club open to everyone?  
   i. Yes, anyone who’s interested.  
b. 36-1-2 PASSED  
6. Vote on Smith College Marine Sciences Charter  
7:09PM  
a. Senator Maya: Have you changed the part of your charter with dues yet?  
   i. Not yet, but they think they will end up changing it.  
b. Motion to remove the dues from their charter.  
   i. 31-3-3 PASSED  
c. Vote on amended charter: 38-2-0 PASSED  
7. Vote on SEC Charter Changes  
a. 32-0-3 PASSED  
7. Vote on Smith Film Production Club Charter  
a. 35-0-2 PASSED  
9. Vote on EnA Bylaw Changes  
a. 32-1-3 PASSED  
10. Curriculum Committee Bylaw Changes Presentation  

a. The previous bylaws were outdated, so they’ve been updated.  
b. The chair no longer has to be a senior, it’ll be open to all years.  
c. The chair shall now meet regularly with faculty and administration.  
d. If no chair is elected, an interim chair will be elected from within the committee’s membership.  
e. The vice chair will now attend administrative meetings with the chair and help advise the chair.  
f. Records will now be saved digitally by the secretary in order to preserve them for future years.  
g. Other membership numbers have changed, so more students will be appointed.  
h. They’ll now commit regular outreach efforts in order to get feedback from a broader part of the community, like tabling or surveys.  
i. The Committee may now appoint members as liaisons to different offices, like the Jacobson Center, Global Studies Center, etc.  
11. Student Life Committee Bylaw Presentation  
7:26PM
a. It will consist of the chair, elected in spring, who will meet regularly with administrators and sit on Senate. The vice chair shares these responsibilities but won’t sit on Senate.

b. Other members include the Chair of the Judicial Board, the Judicial Board Community Liaison, the chair of the HPA, 1-3 Residence Life staff members, up to 3 senators, 3-5 appointed students, and 1-3 appointed first-year students.

c. It will act as a student voice and consultant in the administrative decision making process, advocate for changes to the Code of Conduct, and keep the campus informed about issues related to college policy.

11. Open Forum

a. Curriculum Committee

i. They’re evaluating the writing-intensive requirement, and they’re looking for feedback. Should there be a WI requirement? Was it effective, too easy/too hard? How do you think it fit with your major?

ii. Senator Lila: Knows someone whose grad school professors said she wrote the best papers ever - writing-intensive classes really do benefit you.

iii. Senator Emily: Her Gov 100 WI class really helped her hone her writing and benefit her major, as did an English WI class. Students who have taken WI classes are better writers.

iv. Senator Maya: Thinks that WIs are an important requirement; writing helps people learn how to articulate their thoughts.

v. Senator Katie: A lot of students come here not knowing what they’ll major in, and taking an early WI class can be important with establishing fundamentals of writing before learning specialized writing.

vi. Senator Jenny: Felt like her FYS wasn’t very useful, but it depends on who’s teaching it. In terms of fitting with majors, having a broad variety of WIs available is useful.

vii. Senator Catherine: Felt that ENG 118 wasn’t helpful for her, since it wasn’t challenging, so there should be more challenging WI classes available.

viii. Senator Emma: Happy to see that there were more subjects offering WI classes this year. Also, there are some classes not counted as WI that should be.

ix. Senator Mika: Felt that a WI was extremely helpful after a gap year, since it helps immerse you in college writing, and it’s also helpful since everyone comes from a different level of writing and it sets people on the same page.

x. VP Katherine: They need to be more standardized, because the feedback in an English WI was so much more helpful than the History WI.

xi. Senator Zoe B.: It sounds like this includes both teaching-to-write classes and classes with just a lot of writing, so maybe there should be two separate designations for “how-to” classes and more challenging courses.

xii. Senator Catherine: In terms of standardizing WI classes, it’s hard because there’s not one right way to write a good paper. It’s too subjective.
iii. Senator Emily: The idea of professors having to give a certain amount of feedback is really important, even essential. This amount of feedback should be standardized.

xiv. VP Katherine: Feels like the class structure should be standardized (x amount of meetings with professor, etc.), not that the writing should be standardized.

b. Disability Committee
   i. Checking to see if we want to give the $90 for the hotel costs for the poetry event.
   ii. Senator Zoe moves to vote
      1. 34-2-0
   iii. Gluten-intolerant update: They met with the CFO and President McCartney, and they submitted a proposal at President McCartney’s request with a statement of what’s been going on and a short-term plan discussed with Dining Services (the Dawes kitchen - old, not wheelchair accessible, the college doesn’t want to update it). Right now, they’re looking for student volunteers who could deliver meals. With regards to long-term, they’ve formed a group that reports to Mike Howard, CFO, and they’re trying to find a solution by the May 15th union deadline. In the meantime, there’s a part-time chef preparing food for them. Tell your houses that anyone gluten-intolerant should email Kathy Zieja kzieja@smith.edu who will give them a key to get into Dawes.

c. Facilities Committee
   i. Met with facilities. They’re hoping to have someone come to Senate and talk about lighting. It’s a complicated situation that they need to explain. (They’re working on the Green Street lights that don’t work.)

12. Announcements 7:57PM
   a. Send out house emails and CC sgasenate@smith.edu
   b. Send me your committee updates by Monday night
   c. You are all invited to come to the 5 College SGA Dinner this Thursday, March 26th at 5 PM in Davis Ballroom. Dinner and drinks will be provided, and one engagement point will be given if you wear your fabulous Senate shirts! (If you do not have a shirt let Vy know - we are in the process of ordering more, but come to the dinner regardless!)
   d. Pick up a Junior Class milk and cookies flyer!
   e. Tell your houses that Juniors and Adas can nominate Seniors for the Juliet Evans Nelson Award - nominations are on the Smith social network and close April 1st.
   f. Enter engagement points on the SSN (upcoming engagement points opportunities: Elections Extravaganza-Monday March 30 at 7PM in the Carroll Room & the Student Leadership Awards-Tuesday April 14 at 7PM)

13. Adjournment 8:02PM