Tuesday March 30, 2010

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:01 pm

II. Roll Call
   a. Missing/Tardy: 14
   b. Absent Senators: Yasmine Evans, Julia Whall, Zanetta King, Tejal Mankad, Andrea Kang, Augusta Rodgers, Eunice Zhao, Caroline Kracunas, Sarah Kim, Linda Loi, Rajiha Mehdi, Rebecca Pringle, Susana Rodriguez, Megan Januszewski
   c. Quorum met

III. Chartering
   a. Smith College Psychology Club
      i. Motion to pass charter
      ii. Motion failed
      iii. Recommendation by Senate to revise their charter and present again

IV. Guest Speaker: MassPIRG organizer
   a. Addressing student loan debt
   b. MassPIRG has been working since the mid ‘90s to reform the student loan programs on a federal level
   c. The Student Aid and Financial Responsibility Act was just passed (it was part of the health reform package which was passed)
      i. It freed up 60 billion dollars for financial aid programs
      ii. 36 billion of that money is going to the Pell Grant program

V. Announcements: Events
   a. Loren Cameron will be presenting his work on transsexual portraits on March 31st in the Campus Center Carroll Room from 5-7 pm, followed by a concert by the Good Asian Drivers at 8 pm in Weinstein Auditorium.
   b. “Be the Next Woman in Congress!” A student-led information session to occur on April 2nd in CC 103/104. Free brownies.
   c. Refugees from Cambodia and Burma will be presenting their stories on Thursday April 8th at 4:30 pm in Neilson Browsing Room. Co-hosted by SmithSTAND and the South Asian Alliance.
   e. Smith college elections are happening next week; voting will occur from Monday April 5th to Friday April 9th. Go to smith.edu/voting to cast your vote.
   f. Elections Extravaganza will occur on Monday April 5th from 7 pm to 9 pm in the Campus Center Carroll Room.

VI. Prospective Charter
   a. The Tea Party
      i. Purpose: to bring together people who share an interest in baking, sewing, tea parties, period films, and group outing to cafes. The organization seeks to fill the home economics void on campus.
VII. Bylaw Revisions
   a. Many minor grammatical changes which do not change meaning
   b. Correcting typos
   c. Rewording sections regarding meeting times which are far too specific for the purpose of the document
   d. Revisions of duties of Diversity Committee to reflect actions and protocol which are most effective in achieving the goals of the committee

VIII. MassPIRG Ballot Question
   a. MassPIRG works to address hunger and the homeless, the rising cost of tuition, and health care reform
   b. Motion to submit MassPIRG ballot question to general student body so they can vote on whether to keep MassPIRG activity fee on student bill
   c. Motion passed

IX. Progress on Senate Goals
   a. Bringing back Smith traditions: traditions senators learned about from their trip to the Archives
      i. “The Freshman Grind” a pamphlet circulated by the seniors for the first years regarding “proper” behavior at Smith and in life in general
   b. Three major traditions to publicize (by majority vote)
      i. May Day
      ii. Dressing up the statue of the woman in the fountain in the Science Quad
      iii. “The Freshman Grind”

X. Adjournment 8:50 pm