Tuesday April 1, 2008

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:00

II. Roll Call
Quorum Met

III. Minutes
a. 3/11 passed 39 people here; 5 abstentions
b. 3/25 passed 39 people here; 8 abstentions

IV. Announcements
a. Staff and faculty appreciation day forms due no later than Friday; Tues April 8th
b. Monday 4:15 Stoddard Public Safety forum (Carol Christ will be there!)
c. Committee appointments—interested? Email Mgallo@email.smith.edu
d. Presidential debate- Monday April 14th 7-9pm in Carroll Room; to be moderated by Dean Riddell.
e. Baldwin and Lamont “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” party Saturday night CC Carroll room with live ‘80s cover band.
f. Harmonies for Healing Hellen Hills 12:30pm Sunday
g. Graham hall Thursday 7pm Princess Zulu AIDS talk
h. Massachusetts Power Shift conference—Smith will provide transportation and housing; register at masspowershift.org
i. Wednesday MASSPIRG Water Watch 7pm film screening of documentary “Running Dry” Seelye 110

V. Becca Homa- Diversity Committee
a. Planning meeting on Thursday
b. Trying to tighten and focus their mission and establish what they will look like next year as a committee.
   1. Provide activities for houses for diversity chairs in houses to administer
   2. Cultural activities that are not individually run by the cultural orgs on campus already.
   3. Make sure each house has a diversity chair and that they are active—make it mandatory?
   4. Activity with the first years to help teach them about the different forms of diversity on campus.
   5. Make sure all members attend the meetings; possibility of having an appointed committee
   6. Something at beginning of year with orientation
   7. Push to have Bridge pre-orientation be closed
c. Established in 2002 as a result of the student grassroots org; they are supposed to keep the administration in check; up to each individual committee to organize as they like.
d. Email Rhoma@smith.edu with more suggestions, questions, and concerns.
VI. Jessica Bacal – Center for Work and Life
   a. Hope to make it easier for Smith students to be involved in leadership programs but also to have the time to reflect on these experiences—center opening in the fall.
   b. Develop better programming on leadership and wellness
   c. Brainstorming activity:
      1. Before Smith: Students conception that leadership is only gained by becoming the president of an org; before coming here people thought of life in the do what you love mindset
      2. During Smith: Less of the resume building need in leadership; exclusivity factor—if you are not 100% committed to org then you are not really a part of it at all; Wellness—need to be comfortable with yourself and know your limits; feeling of competitiveness in wellness (I got this little sleep and got this few hours of sleep…); too much work; a real job is very different than a work study job; scheduling can be difficult/time management; constant change in mindset; few number of people getting involved in leadership positions; leadership opportunities not very available in classes; many opportunities to learn about leadership (LEAP conferences); too much estrogen
      3. Transition out of Smith: Finding work; not having technical skills; amount of time devoted to work versus social life and athletics; salaries; equal pay; knowing what you are qualified for; perception of “successful” or “working” women; how society sees women based on the choices they make; no concerns about leadership—believe that they are competent leaders; finding apartments/livable roommate; finding activities and groups; healthcare one kicked off of parent’s plans; taxes; insurance
   d. Other brainstorming:
      1. How to deal with eating disorders
      2. Opportunities for first-years to get internships
      3. Work with women for financial independence to teach skills (taxes, investing, budgeting)
      4. How hard you are working should not be defined by physical or emotional consequence; need to acknowledge the internalization of stress
      5. Provide knowledge about successful smithies (not just the ones who are most well-known)
      6. Aid to help those who are coming from far away—transitioning.
      7. Information about different forms of sexuality
      8. Conversations about you to relate to family from a distance
      9. How to use technology (Groupwise) to make our lives easier—administrators use Groupwise for not only email but for scheduling
     10. Food problems—quality; set times

VII. Charter—Athletic Association
       Changes passed: 37 yes; 1 no; 1 abstention

VIII. Adjournment 9:00