Tuesday April 8, 2008

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:00

II. Provost Bourque- Update on faculty meeting
   a. Faculty meets once a month—4:15-6 Last Wednesday of the month; begins with a report from the president on the outcomes of the board of trustees
   b. Every faculty member is reviewed every year
   c. President announces promotions—based on a series of recommendations after 6-8 years of re-appointment to work at Smith
   d. New courses approved
   e. New business: motion brought to faculty by task force working for president who proposed the question of SAT scores being made optional for Smith admission process. Overwhelming majority voted for making SAT scores optional—general dissatisfaction with the indications of the SAT. (College had decided 10 years ago to de-emphasize test scores).
   g. Advising task force—only 78% of students were pleased with pre-major advisors. (Much lower than the rate of satisfaction with major advisors). Vast majority of entering students are un-declared, so pre-major advising system is automatically going to be a bit more haphazard. Task force is posted on the Smith website.
   h. Issue of diversity in curriculum: Possible development of new course; pathways through the curriculum—there are many courses offered but they are not so readily identifiable.
   i. Mellon Foundation grant to faculty member will allow Smith to expand first year seminar program at Smith and work on Junior/senior seminars.

III. Roll Call
   Quorum not met

IV. Minutes—tabled

V. Announcements
   a. Election extravaganza Monday 7pm CC Carrol Room—get questions from your house to ask presidential candidates (take flyers for the event); any candidate (for any position) can get up and make a short spiel!
   b. Committee appointments this weekend.
   c. 2010 ice cream social tomorrow CC 103/104 4pm--class banner to be made
   d. Aids awareness dinner Friday 6pm Caroll Room—Susan Levin to speak
   e. Tomorrow Seelye 110 7:30 pm MASSPIRG Water Watch “Running Dry” film screening
   f. Pan Africa Week—this week! Great discussions going on all week. Multicultural dinner and Show (Sage) Saturday night
   g. Elections April 12-17 www.smith.edu/voting
   h. Lunch tomorrow Campus Climate open forum CC103/104 —disability access on campus
i. Last meeting 4/22; Senate elections next week (2 ORC chairs, secretary, and parliamentarian)

j. Junior class barbeque in front of boat house—open to everyone!

VI. Charters

a. Karate Club— learning to protect yourself in an environment that is safe; provides confidence to be strong; karate is a diverse culture—world wide style; to be taught by an instructor; lots of interest in campus; there is a group at UMass but it is hard to get to and fro; community builder; people who are already advanced can help teach new comers to the club; resources would go towards tournaments.

b. Dance Community—already a recognized org; mailing list of 200 people; 400-600 students who take classes each semester—but are not really connected with each other; allows advanced students can gain teaching skills which beginners can take more casual classes; social events; trips to shows; would help students voice opinions about dance program; 5 different classes held each week (some taught by MFA students); money would help bring in master teachers

c. Smith Spirit—already a recognized club by athletic association; active since this last fall; hope to further encourage smith students to attend sporting events; would like to get mats and a coach; already have a tumbling coach lines up for next year (would allow them to be able to perform stunts); would like to purchase uniforms in order to look more professional and be taken more seriously—by looking like a team they will attract more members; will start only at home games but hope to expand to away games; increase interaction within 5-colleges, students from all colleges allowed to join; encourages friendship; new club for gymnasts and dancers; allows women who have always been interested in Cheerleading to get involved for the first time; diverse group of women interested

VII. Chartering 102 presented by Channa and Chika (Vice chair of chartering)

a. Consider whether or not people will participate in or benefit from the org (what kind of campus wide activities they hope to plan); senator should not consider whether or not the org should get money because this is decided by the ORC.

b. Cabinet recently decided to get rid of category of “recognized” orgs. ALL orgs will be chartered beginning next year and fall under the SGA.

c. Don’t motion carelessly (Especially not to rush through discussions)!

VIII. Adjournment 9:00