Minutes: September 18, 2012

A. 7.05: Call to Order
B. 7.09: Roll Call
   1. Absent: Elizabeth Walber, Mia Spiri, Margaret Harding, Sarah Greenberg, Sophie Bandurski
   2. Quorum Met
C. 7.13: Announcements
   1. Shama Rahman: marketing assistant at Smith Museum of Art to announce symposium at the end of September for anyone interested in art, collections, studio work
      a. From Friday to Sunday evening
      b. Free to attend - includes free lunch and catalogue
      c. Senators to place posters in houses
      d. Email: srahman@smith.edu with any questions
   2. Community Service Fair tomorrow in Carroll Room
   3. Judicial Board currently accepting applications online. For questions email: kmiao@smith.edu
D. 7.17: Introductions
   1. Mackenzi Green (SGA Vice President; mgreen@smith.edu)
   2. Emilie Schwarz (Senate Secretary eschwarz@smith.edu)
   3. Cabinet Members
      a. Name, major, house, year, fun facts
E 7.24: Elections and Appointments Committee Senator Role
   1. Introduced by Chair Greta Stacy (gstacy@smith.edu)
   2. Two senators needed immediately
   3. More positions to be elected next week
   4. Elections and Appointments Committee is starting Fall elections:
      a. Next week is registration
      b. Following week (Oct. 1) will be a mandatory candidate meeting
      c. Week after that (Oct. 7) will be campaigning week
   5. Seasonal committee - after Fall elections are over, the committee is dormant until Spring elections
   6. Do not meet outside of chalking or doing appointments
   7. EnA appoints people to every committee on campus - very important committee
   8. Gawith a senator who will be here next school year, because Chair and Vice Chair are both Senators still able to run, even if they are in temporary housing
   9. Before going abroad and they would like some continuity
   10. Need to have sat on the EnA committee for a year in order to be eligible for Chair
   11. The EnA Chair cannot run for another appointments position
   12. Roles: make sure candidates are adhering to rules of elections and campaigning, answer any questions about election rules, attend appointment rules and help make decisions
   13. 7.32: Senators nominated
   14. Elections held: senators give brief speech to the rest of Senate
15. 7.40: Elected Senators: Becky Worrell (Morris) and Yoo Eun Kim (Northrop)

F. 7.42: Overview of Senate and Parliamentary Procedure
   1. Book of Parliamentary Procedure passed out for overview:
      a. Page 5 - how members get their say
      b. Discussion of motions - making motions, seconding motions and voting on motions
      c. Abstaining from a vote: a senator abstains from a vote if they were not present at the previous meeting when the charter was discussed or minutes were taken
      d. In order for Senate to get ANYTHING done, two thirds of the Senate body must be present
   2. Purpose of Senate:
      a. To let everyone in and out of the house know what is going on on campus
      b. Senate is open to everyone interested to come visit and make announcements
      c. In charge of making sure that all organizations can function: charters must be approved and passed by Senate
   3. Overview of Chartering process given
      a. Charter will be presented to Senators
      b. Members of the organization will present their charter to Senate
      c. Senators free to ask any questions about attendance, membership, funding, etc.
      d. Senators take information regarding charter and organization back to their houses for that week
      e. Senators will then vote to pass the charter the following week
   4. Uphold bylaws and pass resolutions
      a. Every organization has its own set of bylaws
      b. These can be altered, but in order to make changes, senators must approve and pass changes
   5. Attendance
      a. Senate will uphold a strict two-absence policy: after two unexcused absences, the senator will be kicked out of Senate and the house will elect a new member
      b. Abundance of homework not considered an excuse
      c. If a senator is late, they will come to Emilie (secretary) at the end of Senate
      d. If a senator is going to be late, absent or needs to leave early, email Emilie prior to Senate meeting to make arrangements
   6. Senate Computer Policy discussed
      a. For the time being: one computer per house rule
   7. Notes
      a. Senators responsible for taking notes at every meeting, even though Senate has a secretary
   8. Minutes and Weekly Emails
      a. Emilie is currently taking the minutes as words are spoken
      b. These minutes will be sent out to every senator at the end of each meeting
      c. Senators are expected to send out a weekly email to their house to communicate the information from that week’s meeting
d. Do not send out unedited minutes - EVER.

e. Minutes from the previous week will be edited and approved of at the beginning of every meeting

f. Senators expected to have read over the minutes prior to coming to the weekly meeting

g. CC the weekly email to Emilie

h. Only send relevant and important information to your house - they do not need to know who was absent, for example

G. 8.01: Visit Associate Dean of Students and Director of First Year Experience Rae Ann Butera and SGA President Dahna Black

1. Introduction from Dahna

2. Introduction from Rae Anne, explanation of her role in Senate
   a. Rae Anne will attend weekly meetings
   b. Also sits in on Cabinet meetings

H. 8.03: Question and Answer Session

1. Minutes will be made into an editable google doc.

2. Not all senators got an invitation to the Senate google group
   a. Problem with Google Plus

3. Group will be used to send mass Senate messages

4. Suggestions, comments and concerns from senators or house members can always (and should always) be brought to Senate

5. Senators need to represent their entire house, and should never vote on a motion based only on their own opinion

6. Senate will not be able to fix every problem
   a. For example, we cannot ensure that an elevator in a building gets fixed

I. 8.08: Meeting Times

1. Generally in Campus Center room 103

2. Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm

3. **Remember, do not miss meetings**

J. 8.08: Committees

1. Every senator required to be on a committee, including:
   a. Curriculum Committee
   b. Diversity Committee
   c. Sustainability Committee
   d. Student Events Committee
   e. Disability Committee
   f. Organization Resources Committee
   g. Elections and Appointments Committee
   h. Judicial Board
   i. Class Presidents will be asked if they want senators to work with
   j. Senate also has its own committees as well:
   k. Campus Police
   l. Dining
m. Social Justice
n. Publicity Committee
o. Rules Committee
p. Athletic Committee
q. Archive Committee
   i. Contact Kenzie with any further ideas for more committees - if there is a need for another committee on campus, we want to know
   ii. These are only open for senators
   iii. Each Senate-based committee will elect a Chair

2. Senators can still pass on suggestions to a committee, even if they do not sit on it personally
3. Committee elections will take place next week
4. There is a committee already formed to help select Smith College’s next president

K. 8.16: Speakers
   1. Every week Senate tries to invite a speaker
   2. They speak for roughly twenty minutes, and senators report information back to their houses
   3. Too many people have negative misconceptions about Senate - they claim it is stuffy and boring
   4. Technically Senate meetings are open to any student who wishes to come
      a. These students are not eligible to vote on motions, but it does serve as an open forum
   5. The first Tuesday each month, Senate wants to encourage more of the student body to attend Senate
   6. Will invite big speakers
      a. Will move meeting to a larger hall if turn out is huge
   7. Speaker Suggestions from senators
      a. Smith Community Outreach Officer Earl Brown
      b. Hillary Clinton (unlikely, but Kenzie will do her best)
      c. We try to keep the speakers from within the campus
      d. Student Government Association Cabinet members from the other four colleges in the valley
      e. Exchange of ideas
      f. SGA President and 2013 President meet with the Five College Board
      g. SGA President and Secretary want to organize a conference for the Seven Sister Student Government Associations
      h. Doctors from Health Services
      i. Member from the Financial Aid office
      j. Discuss work study
      k. Career Development Office
      l. Department Heads
         i. Who are they?
         ii. What is happening in each department?
iii. Senators encouraged to go to presentation of majors
m. Provost Schuster
   i. Can discuss academics at Smith
n. Professor from the Government department
   i. To discuss theories of good governance
o. Local elected officials from the Northampton area
   i. Smith sits on two political organizations in Northampton
p. Smith Archives
   i. A look into our past SGA
q. Global Studies Center
   i. Discuss study abroad
r. A representative from each professional field
   i. To discuss roles of their jobs
   ii. Perhaps something to be initiated for outside of Senate
s. Smith Alums
  t. Emily Nagoski
     i. Wellness at Smith
u. Office of Student Engagement
   i. Org funding
v. Smith Democrats and Republicans

8. 8.27: Past Senate Speakers
   a. Representatives from CDO
   b. Emily Nagoski (Wellness Director)
   c. Pamela Nolen Young Diversity Director
   d. CCC and CSO
   e. Dean Walters (Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life)
   f. President Christ
   g. Health Services
   h. Women and Financial Independence
   i. Dean Mahoney
   j. Resource Center for Gender and Sexuality

L. 8.30: Goals for the Year

1. Senate needs to be realistic about what it can achieve
   a. There is a long process to getting anything done at Smith

2. Voter Registration Drive (Election year!)
   a. Partner with Smith Democrats
   b. Have forms to pass out to students
   c. Campus interns working for Elizabeth Warren campaign have a lot of resources to offer
   d. Senate cannot pass any resolutions to endorse any candidates in the current elections
   e. Motion made
f. Debate: some students do not vote because they feel as though they are too young to want to declare a position so soon

g. Some students feel pressured to explain why they do or do not want to vote; if motion is passed, we must ensure not to pressure or condemn students who do not want to register

h. Students do not always understand how absentee ballots work, or whether or not to register in their home state or Massachusetts

i. Some students cannot register to vote

j. International students

k. Senate can encourage these students to get politically involved in other ways, if they wish

l. Many students do not feel informed enough to vote

m. Senators could refer these students to the Smith Democrats or Republicans for further information

n. Turn this Drive into a larger initiative to make Smith College more politically active

o. Is this too large of a project for Senate?
p. Should this be left to the Smith Dems and Republicans?
q. Do this initiative through House Council?
r. Political education is not the responsibility of Senate - there are other groups of campus to provide these resources

s. Senate should remain neutral in all areas

t. Motion passes 47-0-2

i. A passed motion means that Senate would like to make this suggestion a possibility to be discussed in future meetings

3. Idea from Diversity Chair: Recommendation for Social Justice Requirement for Smith College graduation

a. Senate does not have the power to make academic requirements, but they can make resolutions to give recommendations

b. Details will be planned by the Curriculum and Diversity Committees and then presented to Senate

M. 8.46: Past Goals

1. “I'm a Senator Day”
   a. To increase visibility of Senate on campus

2. Senate Community Service initiative in the greater Northampton Area

N. 8.48: Message from Senator:

1. Senators are meant to be the greatest servants to the student body

2. “Sassy and Classy” could be Senate slogan

3. Wants people to work hard and do their jobs, because otherwise it will be an insult to those who also ran for the position and did not get it

4. Do not let your peers down!

O. 8.49: T-Shirts

1. In the past:
   a. Has SGA logo on it
b. “Rock the Body” slogan

2. Potential Ideas:
   a. “Sassy and Classy”
   b. “Smithies belong in the house, and in the Senate”

P. 8.50: Further Questions
1. Can we have food and drinks in Senate?
   a. Yes - but be conscious of other’s allergies
2. Can we get paid like real senators?
   a. No
3. Can we take bribes?
   a. No, we have an honor code!

Q. 8.54: Final Announcements
1. Laptops can only be used for note-taking
   a. If you are discovered to be doing other things on the computer, it will not be allowed back
2. Seniors should come to ice cream social
   a. Basement of the Campus Center
   b. Friday September 21, from 12 - 2pm
3. SGA Office located on the second floor of the campus center
4. All SGA members have office hours
5. RAD - A six-week Campus Police self-defense course
   a. Free to all Smith Students
   b. Starts Thursday, September 20, from 6 to 8pm
   c. Ainsworth Gym room 151
   d. If interested, email Officer Earl Brown
   e. Senator Tiffany Peterson is the RAD Liaison

R: Adjournment: 8.58