Tuesday September 21, 2010

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:00 pm

II. Roll Call
   A. Absent: Alex von Merling, Jill Zaglio, Christina Park, Ruth Eichenger, Wiame El Bouhali, Hannah Woodman
   B. Quorum met

III. Speaker - Danielle Brian
The most effective way to make change is to take charge and be responsible. When she was a Smith student, dropping a class resulted in a ‘W’ on a student’s transcript. Senate was the group that got the ball rolling on disbanding that policy. She was inspired by the Gavel Awards that are given to Smith students at Rally Day. She mentioned the three week College Hall Take Over (February 20th - March 6th 1986). She served as a liaison between the students and board members after she graduated. This resulted in the reversal of the Board’s decision on South African divestment. It was life changing to watch for her, because it started as anarchy and moved into a very organized grouping of passionate women. SGA prepared her well for her role in government and policy making. She led a discussion about last year’s decision to disband certain houses on campus and other Smith issues. Communication is key within Senate and within the Smith community. Her goal was to brainstorm ideas about what Senate can do this year and how this group can impact Smith society and society as a whole.

IV. Introductions

V. Senate Overview
   A. Senators bring issues and ideas from meetings to their houses and pass what they have learned on to fellow Senators and SGA, via Ali.
   B. Senate meetings include Charter review, special guest speakers, and general agenda setting and implementation.
   C. Senators make a difference because of their involvement in many levels of the community.
   D. Attendance policy is: three absences results in dismissal and each late arrival is considered half an absence.

VI. Rae-Anne Butera presentation How Does Smith Work?
   A. The Breakdown
      1. The Board of Trustees
         a. They vote on major decisions and set long term agenda and goals.
         b. The Board is comprised of many alumni.
         c. SGA Presidents serve a three year term, two of which are on the Board.
      2. The President and Senior Staff
         a. The President spends much time fundraising and traveling on behalf of the college.
         b. The President has open office hours and loves to see Smith students.
      3. The Provost and Dean of the Faculty
         a. The Provost is responsible for faculty and curricular issues.
      4. Dean of the College
a. The Dean of the College oversees services and support systems, like Career Development and Health and Counseling Services
B. Know your resources.
C. Sometimes more is accomplished by working within the system.
D. Take advantage of every opportunity that appeals to you.
E. When in doubt, go to the Class Dean’s Office for any academically related questions or Student Affairs for anything else.

VII. Committees
1. Rules - 2 senators
2. Archives - 5 senators
3. Publicity - 10 senators
4. Events - 10 senators
5. Difficult Topics on Campus - 4 senators
6. Elections and Appointments - 2 senators
7. Sustainability - 3 senators
8. Disabilities - 7 senators
9. Curriculum Committee - 2 senators
10. Dining Services Advisory Committee - 7 senators
11. Organizational Resource Committee - 2 senators
12. Community - 5 senators
13. Athletic Association - 2 senators

VIII. Announcements
1. Black Students Alliance meeting on Sunday the 26th at 2pm
2. Smith Student Event Committee General Interest Meeting in Seelye 306 at 6pm on Thursday the 23rd.
3. Nosotras General Interest Meeting Sunday the 26th at 4pm in Unity House
4. Smith Debate meets Monday at 4:30 in Seelye 110. No experience necessary.
5. Class of 2014 Officer election information will be coming soon via email.
6. First Year Grind distribution to first years, new Adas, transfers, and AMS students.