Tuesday October 7, 2008

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order: 7:03
II. Roll Call
   a. Missing: 11
   b. Quorum Met
III. Announcements
   a. Tim Visser, Teach for America
      i. Corp of recent college graduates that go into areas of need to teach in public
         schools, opportunity for seniors after graduation
      ii. 13 million kids grow up in poverty in America, 90% won’t go to college
      iii. Teach for America’s goal is to intervene early on in childhood education
      iv. Summer training programs for undergrads
   b. Social Identities and Self Discovery Retreat over Fall Break
   c. Linea: Women’s Vendor Code of Conduct Committee
      i. Helps enforce the college’s code of conduct
      ii. Make Smith College accountable for using apparel shops that are sweat-free and
          have a code of conduct that fits Smith’s vision
      iii. Looking for more members, contact adomieni@smith.edu
IV. Minutes
   a. September 30th, 2008 passed 40-14
V. Guest Speaker: Emily Nagoski, Director of Wellness Education
   a. Wellness Education Department formed in May 2008
   b. Focus is on alcohol safety
   c. Amnesty Policy
      i. You will not be subject to judicial board action if you help a friend who is
        suffering from alcohol poisoning, even if underage.
      ii. Must talk to Dr. Jaffe if first incident, must talk to Emily Nagoski on second
          incident
      iii. Previously practiced, but now is a written policy
      iv. Main goal is safety and security of students
      v. Drugs are a tough issue because they are never legal, air on the side of caution
        and call Public Safety
   d. Invite her to your house’s tea!
   e. Raising awareness of available resources on campus
   f. Wellness newsletter in houses
   g. Wellness maps to help Smithies destress
   h. 5 Year Plan for Smith College
      i. Cut rate of binge drinking in half
      ii. Change culture, want students to stop being paranoid about getting in trouble
      iii. Support healthy drinking
      iv. Get in contact with the hubs of social life (seniors, social chairs, etc), especially
          within house, and talk to them about healthy drinking so they will pass on the
          information to others
      v. Wants to change the norms from the inside out
         i. Questions: contact enagoski@smith.edu
VI. Charters
   a. Voting on V-Day and Shapely Notes
      i. V-Day
1. 25 for, 15 against, 16 abstentions
2. Did not pass
3. Suggestions
   a. Join up with existing org such as Feminist’s Unite or AWARE
   b. Need to address leadership’s control of too much power
   c. General Body meeting
   d. Organizing group for body as well as for the performance
   e. Look into funding they’ve been receiving
   f. Change impeachment process to include general body members

ii. Shapely Notes
1. 0 for, 41 against, 13 abstentions
2. Did not pass
3. Suggestions
   a. Hold an interest meeting and an email list
   b. Merge with another group on campus
   c. Revise charter
   d. Establish a leadership board
   e. Include in the charter for people who can’t pay dues
   f. One month/year trial period to gage interest
   g. Make charter more professional

b. New Charters:
   i. National Society for Black Engineers
      1. National Society founded in 1975 at Purdue University to increase retention rates for black engineering students
      2. Established at many other colleges throughout the United States and world
      3. Goal is develop programs for black and minority participation in engineering
      4. Strengthen relationship between industry and black engineering students
      5. Get contacts with people already in the engineering field
      6. Many benefits for members, including free __ training, community service, research and internship opportunities
      7. Provide counsel for members to keep spirits up
      8. Open to anyone, members have major in applied science, affiliate membership is open to all majors
      9. Have been running as an organization for a year
      10. Previously attended a conference
      11. Don’t have the resources to advertise heavily
      12. Have at least ten members (national requirement)
      13. Thought of working with Union of Underrepresented Students in the Sciences?
   ii. Students for Camp Heartland
      1. Camp based in Minnesota for kids with HIV/Aids, falls under One Heartland Organization
      2. Formally recognized organization, received funding
      3. Hopes to bring aspects of Camp Heartland to Smith College
      4. Invite campers to come and talk about their experience
      5. 87 on mailing list, around 30 come to the events
      6. Annual symposium in December
      7. Goals: community outreach, recruiting members, events, sponsor two campers
8. Events: ice cream social to raise awareness about HIV/Aids, lectures (speaker from Yale), attend conferences, hold teas in houses, tabling the campus center, trivia
9. Collaborate with Global Aids Campaign, but Camp Heartland has different focus: children and education
10. Questions? Email Hanna Meghi at Hmeghi@smith.edu or Stephanie Aldren at Saldren@smith.edu

iii. The Smiffenpoofs
   1. Originated in 1936, 72 years old
   2. Recognized a cappella group on campus
   3. 16 active members, 3 inactive
   4. Meet 7 hours a week for practice
   5. Has a solid leadership board
   6. Questions? Contact Sarah Kerr at Skerr@smith.edu

VII. Trustee Talk
a. Student Government Association Board will be meeting with the trustees
b. Issues being brought up include: 24 hour space, etc.

VIII. Goal List
a. Overarching Goals
   i. Smith Traditions
      1. All committees can contribute
      2. Unanimous vote in favor
   ii. Cultural & Minority Awareness
      1. Hot Topics, forums
      2. Work with diversity committee
   iii. Sustainability

IX. Adjournment 9:02

There will be no senate on October 14, but please discuss the charters with your houses. Please meet with your committees at this time.
We have two guest speakers on October 21st, L’Tanya Richmond, Director of Multicultural Affairs and Chris Loring, Director of Libraries.