I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
   a. Absent: Qiong Wu, Josie Brown, Alice Ng, Jasmine Setoodehnia, Christa Chiao, Pragna Naddeo, Sachaly De Leon, Martina Powley, KeQin Li, Yiqian Wang, Donna Yu Dong, Katelynn Wertsch, Melody Setoodehnia, Helen Zhang, Hannah Giltner, Nooren Ahsan, Nicole Miles, Yuna Kim and Molly Longigan
   b. Quorum met
III. 'I'm a Senator Day' info
   a. Mohini passed around nametags to the senators for them to wear on ‘I’m a Senator Day’ this week. Senators will wear the nametags as a way of spreading awareness in regard to student leadership and student senate.
IV. Minutes passed 36-0-9
V. Speaker: Kathy Zieja, Director of Dining Services (kzieja@smith.edu)
   a. Overview of Dining
      i. Kathy manages several dining teams and 104 dining staff members. Just a few of the dining teams include summer program dining, the Campus Center Café and catering.
      ii. Smith Dining writes menus twice a year. In this process, Kathy and her staff look at data from the previous semester to create an effective menu plan for the next semester. Kathy would like to have student representatives participate in this process.
      iii. Smith Dining periodically collects information via student surveys. One was conducted last fall. Outside of surveys, students can make their comments, concerns, questions or compliments heard by contacting Kathy directly at kzieja@smith.edu, or by contacting Dining Services at dining@smith.edu. She also encourages students to speak with Dining staff on campus.
      iv. Smith Dining is an in house service. This is very unique.
      v. China Replacement
         1. Last year, $30,000 was spent on replacing lost or stolen china and flatware. The china and flatware used here at Smith is of high quality and is expensive. Dining would like to come up with an incentive to stop the habit of students leaving dining halls with these items
   b. Dining Committee
      i. Kathy attends a number of SGA cabinet meetings per year and meets with the Dining Committee on a monthly basis to foster a more direct connection between Smith Dining and the students it serves.
      ii. Items this committee is focusing on in cooperation with Smith Dining include:
      iii. Purchasing more local and sustainable foods for use in the dining halls. This effort is one that has also involved the Sustainability Committee.
   c. Question and Answer Session
      i. Q: What do the chalkings on campus mean when they say Smith Dining is going “locavore”? Is Smith Dining going vegetarian or eliminating chocolate from its menus?  
         1. A: Kathy says that Smith Dining is not heading in this direction.  ii.
      ii. Q: Athletes are experiencing difficulty in accessing food late at night, especially as a result of food running out. What can be done to change this? Is an evening grab and go option feasible?
1. A: Food running out is a result of unexpectedly high volumes of students coming to eat at dining halls which have prepared quantities of food according to the number of students who swiped in on a previous night with the same menu. Student habits are hard to measure and are unpredictable. Changing circumstances can push the number of students up or down depending on the day, resulting in these situations. An evening grab-and-go option has and is being explored. Kathy noted how important it is to swipe in at each dining location so that the dining staff can collect accurate data to better measure demand for each menu.

iii. Q: Do you have any suggestions for students having a difficult time accessing healthy food?

1. A: Suggestions include making a cold sandwich at one of the locations that provide a sandwich bar, making a salad or going to Gillette to access vegan food. Kathy also suggests that students can look at balancing their food intake over the course of the day.

iv. Senators inquired as to the status of composting

1. Kathy explained that composting is up and running at nearly 100% of dining locations on campus and is being delivered to a local farmer for use on his farm. Kathy noted that said farmer does not have the capacity to take the biodegradable forks knives and spoons used in most grab-and-go locations.

v. Q: Vegetarians on campus are finding that many options available to them are centered on a carbohydrate. Is there any way to change this? Additionally, is it true that more carbohydrates are served on Friday and Saturday nights because students are partying?

1. A: Although students did suggest this concept to Dining Services in years past, this is not a big part of how weekend menus are designed. Pastas are an expandable menu item, meaning that more can be quickly made in order to meet higher demands.

vi. Q: Traditionally, dining locations would put on special dinners with the help of students, creating a stronger connection between dining staff and students. Why has this been phased out?

1. A: In the past, more dining locations were open, but students had to eat in their house only. In the current system, this doesn’t happen, so Dining has tried to alter this tradition. Linens are used once a month at most dining locations and special dining menus have been implemented.

d. Election of Dining Committee

VI. Announcement: Neutral pronoun usage- Victoria Garbo

a. Victoria proposed the use of the gender-neutral pronoun ze in SGA documents as a way of recognizing the gender spectrum and making gender references in these documents less binary.

b. Senators discussed the pros and cons of this option and referred back to the precedent set by the SGA constitution as of 2003, which mandates that all official SGA documents must use “the student” in the place of a gendered pronoun when referring to the Smith student body as a whole.

c. A movement was passed by a consensus vote to recommit to using “the Student” in place of gender pronouns when referring to the Smith student body as a whole in official SGA documents, as outlined in the SGA constitution.

VII. Bi-weekly SGA Cabinet update - Mohini

a. There will be a SGA bulletin board set up in the lower level of the Campus Center during Spring 2012.
b. ADA trick-or-treating will be taking place soon.
c. Course Critique forms will be online soon. These are required and failure to complete these forms will result in student fines. They are very important so please don’t forget to fill them out.
d. Coca-Cola may be a vendor again on campus. At this time, several local companies run vending. If students have any concerns about this, they should contact their Senator or the College Committee on Community Policy directly, by e-mailing rant@smith.edu, or posting on the Smith College Tumblr.
e. The idea of banning smoking on campus as a result of health concerns, a lack of compliance with fire regulations regarding smoking and complaints of disrespectful conduct involving smoking. Students are welcome to contact the College Committee on Community Policy if they have input on this, or e-mail their concerns to rant@smith.edu or by posting on the Smith College Tumblr.
f. Submissions to the 5 College video contest are due in November.

VIII. Open Forum/Announcements

a. From 11-2, the Curriculum Committee is tabling in the Campus Center, so please bring your input to your cabinet member to make a change.
b. Campus Community Open Forums will be held in the pursuit of making Smith a more diverse and inclusive community. These forums will be held in Campus Center 103-104 on the following Wednesdays at noon: November 2, Dec 7, Feb 8, March 14, April 18. Lunch will be provided.
c. The American Advertising Foundation needs students to sit on a panel that will participate in a simulcast that will take place on Wednesday November 9. The goal of this simulcast is to bring greater awareness and diversity to marketing. If you would like to apply to be a panelist, contact bford@aaf.org for more information.
d. Mehndi Night will be held from 5:30 – 8:30pm on Friday in the Campus Center. There will be dancing, music and henna. Tickets are $5 presale and $7 at the door. Students can buy tickets in advance at the table set up in the Campus Center this week.
e. Asian Teahouse will be presented by the Korean American Students of Smith and the Asian Students Alliance of Smith in Sage Hall from 7-7:30 to 9pm on Saturday October 22. Tea will be served, there will be Korean fan dances and hip hop performances.
f. The Sustainability Committee is participating in a photo contest where submissions involve signs and slogans that ask “How do you know where your food comes from?”. The college with the most photos wins. Food Day is Monday, October 24. There will be a farmers market on Chapin Lawn and a presentation on Food Sustainability in the Neilson Browsing Room on Tuesday, October 25 at 4:30pm.
g. Otelia Cromwell Day will be November 10. Classes will be canceled in the afternoon and students are encouraged to attend workshops that strive to support equality for everybody. Topics include Medical Apartheid and other equality related topics.
h. Saturday at 10:30 Smith College Quidditch will be having a game. They are in need of snitches If you are interested, e-mail squidditch@gmail.com.
i. Smith Field Hockey will be holding a haircut fundraising event in the TV lounge of the Campus Center from 9am to 7pm Wednesday October 19. Haircuts are $10.
j. SIP coffee house is offering $1 off to all Smith students who present an ID.

IX. Adjournment