Tuesday November 14th, 2006

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:05

II. Roll Call

III. Announcements

IV. Pass Minutes – next time we meet

V. Rochelle & Marlow explain clubs and chartering process 7:10
   a. Every org. on campus has a charter and gets funding from ORC, which gets funding from Student Activities Fee. In order for an org to get money, Senate must approve it, we vote to see if they are eligible. Question to consider: Does an org exist like this and how will it make the campus better? Go back to your house and discuss then next meeting voting takes place to charter an org or not.

VI. Club presentations 7:16
      1. Club for people interested in anthropology through different media and bring anthropologists to campus to present their work. There was a club like this in previous years. (why did it stop being chartered? Student interest?)
         a. Anthropology club open to everyone, smith students, faculty, five colleges
         b. Relationship with the department?
            i. Just a student organization, willing to collaborate, but want to be separate, independent entity
            ii. Chair of department is the faculty advisor of the club.
         c. How often are the meetings? Weekly
         d. How many active members? 9
         e. Campus visibility and contributions? Consider other smith disciplines and how as anthropologists education and awareness can be brought to those fields?
         f. Collaboration efforts with other five colleges? Contact other anthropology departments
         g. How will the club be different than the department? Opportunity for those interested to keep up with anthropology discussion/fields; for students not a grade.
   b. Engineering World Health 7:33 – 7:38
      1. Focus on promoting awareness on health care in developing countries. Don’t have to be an engineer to join. Want to foster a community link between engineering, science, and all other departments on smith.
      2. Good turn out at general body meetings 15 – 20
      3. Full Board of 9 positions
4. What separates this from other engineering orgs?
   a. SWE – about women joining world of engineering; only open to engineers; SAE – focus on automotive
   b. this club is more community service oriented
5. What goals to accomplish this year?
   a. Manual drive – repair medical technology and send it where it’s needed
   c. International Students Organization 7:28 – 7:33
      1. Charter was updated.
         a. Abolished restricted membership to be more inclusive.
         b. Abolished membership dues
         c. Publicity Chair duties updated.
      2. Why not have members pay dues?
         a. Didn’t want to financially restrict those who want to join or participate in an event. If receiving ORC budgeting that already includes Student activity fees.
     3. Can Join by emailing at ISO@email.smith.edu
     4. Voting to accept the new charter. Already a sanctioned charter.
   d. Will vote on next meeting. Talk about these clubs on House Council meetings.
     Neilson Browsing reserved for November 28th for Paul Omnisky on Campus Safety at 7:00 pm.
     1. Do we want to start a safety campaign?
     2. For student awareness of cross-walk safety across Route 9.
     3. Possibly see if we can get lights like those on Route 9 at Amherst so that we can have better car-person visibility
        a. Over past 6 years? 3 students hit, 1 killed
        b. Light by Art Museum very slow so that people Jay-walk, anything we can do?

VII. Committee time 7: 50 – 8:02

VIII. Presentation by Naomi Miller – Director of Institutional Diversity 8:02 – 8:33

   a. How to move forward with common grounds of strategic planning? The president asked people to assess the climate on campus diversity. Two common ground committees: Alumnae 1982 – 2004, and Student/Faculty
      1. On quotes from interviews and themes discovered on website of Office of Institutional Diversity
   b. Findings:
      1. No consistent definition of diversity on campus.
      2. Recognizing that all of the community not on equal positions.
      3. All proposals to change campus climate given are listed on website.
   c. One Proposal – Difficult Dialogues Initiative with civil discourse for all students
      1. Different ways to do student outreach on: social justice, for transfers, new students
      2. Continuing Dialogues “Getting real about Race”, Class, Privilege
3. Create Idea of a curriculum requirement for a Civic Engagement and Leadership in a Diverse World Focus course
   a. So everyone takes a class that encompasses some influence on engaging with diversity in different campus departments.
      i. When would these courses take into effect?
      ii. Do any already exist?
      iii. Can students recommend courses that pertain to this?
      iv. How are different departments encouraged to incorporate this into their curriculum?
      v. A lot of opposition to requirement of this course by Senators.

4. Student Scholars Initiative – Student Scholars Community; allow everyone’s access to research. Saw that some departments have better opportunity for student research. This is something like stride, but allow for it to start once students are on campus, competitive, stipend, students pair up with faculty.
   d. Want student feedback on proposals.
         a. Possibly print out and distribute on senate boards for house opinions?
            i. Vision, Principles, and Goals of Common Ground Report
      2. More Student lunch discussions/lectures/information panels.
      3. Look at First Year Diversity Orientation under Difficult Decision on Common Ground Initiative Proposals. Wants individual feedback by email or open hours Mondays 2 – 3 pm.

IX. Adjournment 8:30

Reminders for next week:
NO SENATE next week as everyone will be leaving for thanksgiving
Absence policy is serious-we have votes coming up in future, so keep up the good attendance!
Talk to housemates and GO TO HOUSE COUNCIL!
Eat lots of delicious turkey…or tofurkey