Tuesday November 16, 2010

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:00 pm

II. Roll Call
   A. Absent: Nadia Belkin, Elizabeth Tyra, Andrea Kang, Odette de Jesus Marti, Jasmine Setoodehina, Briana Murphy, Marichuy Gomez, Dahna Black, Angela Navarro Fusillo, Merric Kallfelz, Jo-Ellen El-Khoury, Anna Jimenez, Rina Boswell, Ruth Eichinger
   B. Quorum Met

III. Announcements
   A. Senators should go to tea and talk with housemates.
   B. Make a ‘Senate Wall’ to increase presence in the house.
   C. The Organization list online is accurate, including emails.
   D. ‘This Magazine’ is a new Smith publication.
   E. The Fireside Chat is December 6th, at 7pm.
   F. Leading Ladies is performing Urinetown on the 19th and 20th in Davis at 8pm.
   G. This Thursday is Julia Child Day.
   H. The Senior Class is hosting the Pub Crawl this Friday at 8pm.
   I. The Senior Class is having a Hot Chocolate Social.
   J. BSA will have Thanksgiving dinner this Saturday at 6pm.
   K. This Friday SASA is having a Soul Jam at 7 pm.
   L. Profess is on Tuesdays from 4 to 6.

IV. Speaker – Emily Nagoski, Wellness Education Director
   A. Four Loko, and similar drinks, are being banned in Massachusetts.
      1. Smoking on Campus
         a) Between 5 and 7 percent of Smith students smoke a cigarette a day.
         b) Around 20 percent of Smith students have smoked in the last 30 days.
         c) Colleges across the United States have gone smoke-free with varied results.
         d) The CCCP is looking for smokers to talk about what the campus would be like if this policy was instated.
         e) You would be unable to smoke on any Smith property, which does not include certain city owned sidewalks.
         f) They could instate kiosks where smoking would be permitted.
         g) The best policy is one of visible enforcement at all times.
         h) The policy should only be instated if there are management tools for smoking cessation.
         i) The smokers’ meeting is on Friday, December 3rd at noon.
      2. Sexual Assault on Campus
         a) The ultimate goal is to have assaults reported so that students can pursue medical treatment and legal action if they so choose.
         b) Most sexual assault on campus is perpetrated by acquaintances of the survivor.
c) The online student handbook has steps to follow if you or a friend is sexually assaulted.

V. Minutes Passed

VI. Open Floor

A. Some students are concerned about dining hours in the morning, stating that they open too late for students going to 8:00 AM classes.
   1. The Dining Services survey will be distributed soon.
B. Students cannot see the trainer unless they are on a sports team.
C. Should the hours of breaker lighting be changed in houses?
D. Is it possible for students to use communal fridges?
E. When will the walkway behind Wright Hall be re-opened?
   1. Wright Hall will be re-opening in January.

VII. Smith Freethinkers’ Alliance

A. Students question if attending 5 meetings to qualify someone as an active member is a good policy.
   1. This policy is to prevent members from joining at the end of the semester and running for positions of power.
B. There are about 10 active members.
C. Dean Walters gives her support to the club.
D. There are no other clubs that fill this niche on campus.
E. They believe that consensus is a better policy for smaller group.
F. Their title is more about what the group is doing, rather than the beliefs held by the members.

VIII. Presentation by Theo Retos, Judicial Board Chair and Kat Paik, Honor Board Chair

A. Judicial Board
   1. It is unlike any other board at Smith because it is completely student run.
   2. The Judicial Board is educational, not punitive.
   3. Sanctions are given to reinforce what a student has learned.
   4. Applicants answer two essay questions and then are interviewed.
   5. Judicial Board is a values oriented board. It is supposed to be consistent.
   6. Creating consistency is easier when they pick their own members.
   7. Students may appeal, yet it is rarely done.
B. Honor Board
   1. The purpose of the Honor Board is to uphold the academic honor code.
   2. Honor Board has a low retention rate because the members are not calibrated to fit the board.
   3. E and A cannot ask if applicants have gone before Judicial Board, and this can hinder the process to choose members.
   4. Appeals must have new evidence.
   5. Unlike Judicial Board, Honor Board has the power to expel students.
   6. Three faculty members and the Dean of the College sit on the Honor Board.

IV. Adjournment  9:07pm