Student Government Association Senate

11/17/2015

7-9 pm Campus Center Carroll Room

Agenda:

Attendance - 7:00 pm

Approval of the Minutes from November 10, 2015 – 7:03 pm

Approved.

Conversation with the Deans – 7:05 pm

Dean Lisker and Dean Ohotnicky explain what they do:

- Dean Ohotnicky is not the person ISSO and multicultural affairs report to anymore. They report to Dean Szymkowicz and L'tanya Richmond respectively

Book Funding:

- Susan Zachary is the person to go to for funding

- Dean Walters is in the process of simplifying information online about where students can find funding on campus

- Magazine fund started as library fund and now has shifted to supporting magazines for houses. Could this fund be redirected towards book funding?

- Endowed funds are extremely specific, some funds require the school going to court to redirect funds towards other causes.
Financial aid is looking at increasing the book budget per student

Are their electronic versions of these magazines that we could purchase and make available to the whole institution?

Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct:

Fall 2014 Pepper Hamilton Law firm to review and advise on sexual conduct policy

Dwight Hamilton and Sarah Harebo are in charge of implementing this policy

First change: policy for faculty staff and students

Second change: faculty and Provost approved policy of consensual relationships. This means that consensual relationships between faculty and students and staff and students are explicitly prohibited in all cases.

Hearings are brought forth to the title 9 office and an external investigator is hired. After the investigation they submit a finding

Hearing boards come in when a finding in the investigation is appealed

Hearing boards are also the final sanctioning body

Policy is the same but procedure to enforce policy change depending on actors in incident

How is harassment handled on Smith Confessional, an anonymous online platform? Smith has no jurisdiction over Smith confessional. It is handled by non-affiliates of the institution.

We can all report comments on Smith Confessional by clicking the ‘report’ option.

Adas and Dining:

⅓ of Adas live on campus

54 adas are on the meal plan

Dining services has given each Ada 10 meals for the semester

Can we set our Adas up to be successful in the first months and last months that they arrive in Northampton?

Counseling Services:
-Counseling center is understaffed, when new counseling center opened they saw a spike in visitors

-To respond to this the college made one position part-time that was previously full-time and added hours in the spring and opened a search for a second psychiatrist, which was filled over the summer of 2015

-emergencies now have full coverage and staff is available for more time

-Smith specifically seeks forums that are dedicated to diversity when posting jobs but professionals of color are not always interested in coming to Smith

-Smith is seeking counselors who can work with trans students and students of diverse backgrounds

-If you call the center and say that the situation is emergent, your case will be prioritized. Counselors and psychiatrists are both available for emergencies

-Looking into having a separate process for people with standing prescriptions so that they do not all have to go through the psychiatrist every time

-As Smith summer programs grow Smith is looking into increasing counseling services for students during breaks

-When Smithies are advised to seek outside help, will these outside providers accept Smith insurance?

-There is no maximum number of visits one student can have to counseling services but

International Crises:

-What is the process for responding to international crises

-There were 30 Smith people on the ground in Paris, so the college felt that they needed to send an all-campus email for that reason

-The point of the Paris email was to let everyone know that Smithies were okay

-Under what circumstance does the college make a decision to send an email about tragedies around the world? Administrators are working on this issue, the president will be discussing this policy at her meeting on Monday.

-Administrators count on students to let them know if there are members of the Smith community present when these events happen
Medical Leave:

- 1 process, two ways to enter it: a student can ask for medical leave or they can be recommended for it by a professor or administrator

- If you take the next semester off, you are required to be away for the next full semester so that you can have as much time as you need to recover before returning to Smith. However you may petition to come back and will be permitted if your case is strong

- In some cases, students are asked to take credits at a nearby school during the summer term or next available term so that they can stay on track academically.

Dean Ohotnicky’s email: johotnicky@smith.edu

Voting on Committee Chairs – 8:10 pm

Health Services Committee - Emma

Financial Aid: Sarena Shaffner

Navigation: Emily Coffman

Passed 18 Y, 3 Abstained, 0 No

Voting on Smith Social Network – 8:15 pm

- It is very important for several areas on campus and used by many people, including administrators, students, and prospective students, etc.

- Very important and will need to be replaced with something regardless

Voting on Rally Day Committee – 8:25 pm

Open Forum – 8:30 pm

Creating a better way for facilities to enter students’ rooms when work orders are requested

- Facilities would like to write a letter and have HPA and Senate sign this letter

- Senator Elections: Should all senators now be elected in the fall?

- How can we include new senators and let them know what is going on?
- There should be more of an effort to facilitate the transition
- We are going to have bonding
- Statement in support of student activism in solidarity with Mizzou students

Area Meetings – 8:45 pm
Voting on Chartering Bylaws – 8:05 pm

8:21 PM