SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order: 7:03
II. Roll Call
   a. Missing/Tardy: 21
   b. Quorum Met
III. Minutes
   a. November 11, 2008 passed
IV. Announcements
   a. ResLife is recruiting! Applications are due in Clark Hall on February 9, 4pm
      i. www.smith.edu/sao/residencelife/studentstaff.php
   b. SACSA Glamour Gala to Benefit Senegal on Saturday, November 22 in Davis Ballroom
   c. Bone Marrow Drive Friday, November 21, 11 am to 3 pm CC102
   d. Julia Child Day on Thursday, November 20, 4:15 pm in the CC
   e. “When She Graduates A He” November 19, 4-5 pm CCPub
V. Guest Speaker: Dean Ohotnicky
   a. Who is the Dean of Students? The voice of the students when dealing with the Board of Trustees
   b. She tells the heads of the college what the students want and need
   c. Financial Situation of the College
      i. Hosting an open forum after break to talk about Smith’s financial situation
      ii. Endowment around $1 Billion
         1. Endowment: Savings account that is kept in investments (stock market, bonds, etc)
         2. Board of Trustees has a financial committee that watches our money and invests safely
      iii. Operating budget is $200 million
      iv. 30% of operating budget comes from endowment
      v. Bulk of operating budget is financial aid
      vi. Remaining committed to supporting and meeting students financial needs
      vii. Currently figuring out what the college can cut back on, ways to bring costs down, how to maximize services, etc.
      viii. Want to maintain size of the college, they count on students being there
      ix. What are comparable schools doing?
         1. Many have dipped into their endowment, and now with the economic downturn their pool of money has shrunk significantly
   d. House Renovations
      i. The economy might negatively affect how many places can be renovated
      ii. Summer 2009:
         iii. No full renovation planned for the next five years,
         iv. Minor work only (carpets, paint, roofing, etc)
   e. You can instant message the Dean! DeanOhotnicky on AIM
   f. Office hours: Friday 3- 4:30 pm
   g. Questions? Contact Dean Ohotnicky at johotnic@smith.edu
VI. Charters:
   a. Five-College Christian Science Organization
      i. Meeting informally over the past several years
      ii. Formerly recognized org at Smith
      iii. Promote Spiritual perspective to life and issues on campus
iv. Have 11 current members across the 5 Colleges
v. Not seeking a lot of funding
vi. Want to be recognized in order to reserve space
vii. Open to anyone with an open mind
viii. Plan to be chartered at all of the Five Colleges
ix. Questions? Contact rgordon@smith.edu

b. Transcending Gender
i. New Trans org on campus
ii. Active in educating the community on transgender issues
iii. Go to, and help organize many events around the Five College
iv. Bimonthly discussions for the campus
v. 15-20 members
vi. Questions? Contact transcendinggender@gmail.com

c. MassPIRG
i. Student funded, student directed group on campus
ii. Chapters across the state at different colleges
iii. Longstanding recognized org on campus
iv. Different campaigns on campus that they focus on
v. Currently are focused on Campus Climate Challenge, Hunger and Homelessness, Water Watch
vi. Don’t receive any money from ORC, or MassPIRG
vii. The money goes to hiring professional lobbyists and researchers
viii. Questions? Contact Mia Mitchel at amitchel@smith.edu

VII. Attendance Policy
a. Next semester you have 3 flat absences
b. Religious Holidays don’t count towards absences

VIII. Senate T-Shirt
a. Narrowed slogans
b. Tabled until next meeting

IX. Public Safety Talk
a. Hold a forum to discuss arming Public Safety in the Spring

X. Adjournment 8:45