Tuesday November 30, 2010

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order 7:00 pm

II. Roll Call
   A. Absent: Brooke Gerstein-Salerno, Aubrey Tessier, Louisa Loring, Mackenzie Green, Laura Shupeck, Wendy Liu, Natalya Devaeva, Katy Swartz
   B. Quorum Met

III. Announcements
   A. Clean Water in Ghana Fundraiser – Arm Wrestling on Friday the 3rd, Bubble Tea on Saturday the 4th.
   B. Open Mic – Weaving Voices, Thursday the 2nd.
   C. Senators should have announcements boards and should attend teas.
   D. SEC is hosting Free Bowling on Thursday, at 9pm. Meet at JMG for transportation.
   E. Senior Class is hosting a Hot Chocolate Social tomorrow at 3pm.

IV. Speaker – Laura Rauscher – Director of Disability Services
   A. The Disability Office serves about 300 students, most of which are learning disabilities and chronic disabilities.
   B. There are students that have mobility or hearing impairments.
   C. A disability can be defined in many ways, including medical, and law.
   D. The Americans with Disabilities Act covers both people with disabilities and those that are perceived to have disabilities, or with disabilities by association.
   E. The Disabilities Office is here at Smith to ensure that students can succeed.
   F. It is not about the individual problem, but rather the characterizations that are associated with a disability.
      1. We must challenge language, environment, and myths.
      2. Do we address disabilities in our houses and classes?
   G. Disability Services has been refocusing on access issues on campus.
   H. Issues of accessibility are most commonly focused on housing.
   I. There is a new, fully accessible van for Disability Services this year.
   J. The van system is student run.
   K. New technologies are being discussed to combat problems getting to class in poor weather.
   L. Recreation and sport opportunities for people with disabilities exist limitedly on campus.
      1. UMass has applied for a grant for an Outdoor Club specifically designed for people with disabilities.
      2. There is a group on Facebook in support of this grant.
   M. Each committee should keep accessibility in mind.

V. Open Floor
   A. The Gate is the everyday news source for Smith and can be found on the homepage.
   B. Lamont is the dining hall designated for non-Smith students. Any five-college student can get dining hall passes for the year.
C. Do not hitch bicycles to trees.

VI. Smith Freethinkers Alliance Charter Not Passed

VII. Minutes Passed

VIII. Afternoon Tea Charter Presentation
   A. This group was formerly known as the ‘Tea Party’
   B. The group wants to provide a space for people with interest in home economics.
   C. They hope to conduct workshops and socials.
   D. They have 35 members on their email list.
   E. Annual dues would be used to buy food and drinks, while funding would support workshops and socials.

IX. Student Activities Fee Presentation
   A. Senate must vote to send the student activities fee to the student body.
   B. The student body must vote to approve the student activities fee for next year.
   C. The SFA includes, among others:
      1. Class dues
      2. Fine Arts assessment
      3. PVTA assessment
      4. SGA allocations to organizations
   D. The student activities fee for 2010-2011 was $258.

X. Adjournment 9:05pm