SGA Senate Meeting  
6 December 2011  
CC 103/104 7:00 – 9:00 PM

I. Call to Order 7:00

II. Roll Call
   a. Absent: Sunwoo Lee, Catherine Aguilar, Joanna Bagienska, Alanna Sparagna, Emilie Schwarz, Barbara Dakota, Hannah Giltner, Kyra Smith, Yiqian Wang, Martina Powley, Sachaly De Leon, Pragna Nadioo, Mackenzie Blondin, Christa Chiao, Maggie Schneider,
   b. Quorum met

III. Minutes approved 36-0-6

IV. Judicial Board Presentation of Bylaw Changes- Jessica Kaplin-jkaplin@smith.edu
   a. Proposed change: incorporation of voluntary administrative settlement to drop infraction for first time violators, who have met with their area coordinator and accept responsibility
      i. Would only be applicable for minor violations
   b. Questions
      i. If there is a second policy violation in which a student has spoken to their Area Coordinator can this still apply to them?
         1. No, the Area Coordinator will recommend the student to Judicial Board.
      ii. What is a minor violation?
         1. No official definition. ‘Minor’ would be a first time offense that would not have possibility of resulting in expulsion.
      iii. Will this change what goes on your record?
         1. The policy violation will still be on record for 7 years
      iv. What power does the Area Coordinator have in this situation?
         1. Area Coordinator gets all papers related to the violation
         2. May or may not suggest Judicial Board hearing
      v. Academic violations are not heard by Judicial Board
      vi. Will sanctions be changing?
         1. Smith Judicial Board does not have set sanctions for certain offenses
         2. Violations taken on a case by case basis.
            a. Area Coordinator would also issue a sanction based on the individual situation.

V. Pamela Nolan Young, Director for Institutional Diversity and Equity
   (http://www.smith.edu/diversity/index.php)
      a. Began working at Smith this past April
      b. Was a 12 college exchange student here from Dartmouth
      c. Started law practice in Northampton 25 years ago
      d. Advises administration about diversity within hiring
      e. Serves as Title VII coordinator
      f. Also serves as Title IX coordinator
g. Works with multi cultural affairs, diversity training for Residence Life, chair of Otelia Cromwell committee, coordinator for Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

h. President’s diversity council added four additional students to increase student voice

i. Questions

   i. Why does the emergency fund for students of color link on the Smith Office of Multicultural Affairs website not work?
      1. She will check on it, but those funds are not through her office.

   ii. What is the status of retention for students of color?
       1. Dean Mahoney says that the retention rate is better than other similar institutions.

   iii. What is your relationship with the Student Diversity Committee and Diversity Chairs?
        1. No direct connection because that is under Residence Life, but she is trying to create opportunities to meet with both groups.

   iv. What is Title IX?
       1. Title IX says that any learning environment must be free from sexual harassment and hostility. All faculty and staff have taken a recent online session on the topic.
       2. 1 in 3 female college students will be a victim of a sexual assault in their life. College aged women are statistically most vulnerable. Smith is concerned with informing students about this issue

   v. What is going on with Trans* students asked not to host?
      1. She was not here when it originally happened, but has attended 2 meetings with Dean Mahoney and students about this issue.
      2. Issue raises a lot of questions about risk and other institutions’ policies
      3. It is an ongoing discussion and meetings are scheduled for spring.
      4. Trans* people are a protected class in Massachusetts.

   vi. What is the current state of application for Trans* students?
       1. Everyone has to apply as female, but can transition upon arrival. Based on legal gender.

   vii. Why does counseling services not have services specifically for students of color or staff of color?
        1. She hasn’t heard this before, but suggests telling Counseling Services about this issue

   viii. Her office is located in College Hall 103 across from Disability Services

   ix. When will students go through Title IX training?
       1. Hopeful that it will be this spring when students register for classes. It will be about 45 minutes long.

   x. What is Smith’s policy on admission of students of color?
      1. No college can legally have race quotas. Admission looks at multiple aspects when admitting students, but it cannot be base admission based on protected group status.
2. Smith does have an affirmative action plan for hiring, which is required by law.
   a. Smith is not meeting requirement in junior faculty, dining staff, and professional staff (program coordinators, etc.) Based on self identification.
   b. Smith has joined Higher Education Recruitment Consortium and Commonwealth Compact (http://www.umb.edu/commonwealth_compact/)

xii. Does the office handle learning disabilities?
   1. Initially go to Disability Services and her office handles any problems
   2. Disability Services has an administrative assistant for this year, but 3 new positions are proposed for next year. A person in assistive tech, administrative assistant, and another person with similar responsibilities to Director of Disability Services

xii. Does your office have an intern or work study position?
   1. No. The office is small and is looking into adding another staff position, which would lead to a student intern. Confidential info precludes hiring of students.

VI. Presentation of Smith Scientific Charter
   a. Charter will be sent to senators this week
   b. Presenters want to create a bi-annual campus science journal including different research positions in the multiple science departments, current events, student and professor research, and articles.
   c. December and March are set as preliminary publication months
   d. Editor for each academic department, collaboration with professors
   e. Need funding for printing costs
   f. 15 or 20 students are interested based on word of mouth alone
   g. Would include all Sciences
   h. Presenters are not aware of 5 college journals in this area

VII. Election for Bookstore Advisory Committee (1 Senator)
   a. Noreen Ahsan

VIII. Election for Rally Day Committee (3-5 Senators)
   a. Jesse Kline, Madeline Britvec, Werhawet Gebremeskel, Chloe Vaughn, and Elizabeth Naismith Picciani

IX. Election for Campus Police Committee (3 students)
   a. Tiffany Peterson, Alejandra Doucette, Alexa DeJesus, and Lindsay Roth

X. Election for SGA VP Spring 2012
   a. Augusta Gronquist

XI. Open Forum/ Announcement
   a. DiversiTea tomorrow 8pm CC 103/104 (What isn’t being talked about a Smith?)
   b. Students are frustrated with course critique system
      i. Timing- during finals
      ii. Amount of time involved
      iii. Counterpoint- gives student more input. Critiques are now seen by departments and administration
iv. This issue will be discussed next week

c. Dining Committee announcements
   i. This January- taste testing for new roast of coffee, possibly a new smoothie machine, and pizza tasting for crust
   ii. Pepsi will likely be in all dining halls next semester
d. Act Now talent showcase this Friday in Carroll Room 7pm-9pm
e. Naughty or Nice- BSA party in Carroll room 10pm-2am
f. Talbot House Immorality this Saturday- 10pm-1am- costumes encouraged
g. BSA Kwanza Celebration Mwgani 7pm December 8th
h. Student Activity Fee and Diversity Committee Chair voting starts tomorrow
i. Airport Shuttle tickets go on sale tomorrow in SGA office beginning at 9am
j. Please come to Senate next week! There will be tea and coffee!

XII. Adjournment 8:54