Student Government Association Senate

Senate Minutes 12/8/16

7-9 PM CC Carroll Room

I. Attendance Taken – 7:13 pm

II. Minutes Approved from 12/1/16 (motion by Michaella Mentu – Sophomore Class President); 19-0-4 – 7:18 pm

III. LIGHTING WALK – 7:15

   A. Katie Chong (VP): Lighting was very dark walking home to Talbot House really late one night, and I thought it was someone following me, but it was a squirrel

   B. Lighting Walk will be Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 5pm-6pm. We are meeting at Clark Hall. Show up, Katie will possibly have hot chocolate.

IV. Voting on Scopes – 7:22 pm

   A. Camille Bacon (First Year Class President) makes a motion to approve, Zoe Brian, Elections and Appointments Committee Chair, seconds

   B. 22-0-0

   C. First chartered organization of SGA 2016-2017

V. Voting on Disco – 7:22 pm

   A. They have decided to be a recognized organization.

VI. Voting to move VPs back to Senate (Motion by Nicole – Transfer Senator) – 7:40 pm

   A. Discussion
a. Nicole Lawler – East Quad Transfer Senator: Are VPs aware and OK coming to each meeting and this new commitment?
   i. Katie (VP): Now they are.
   ii. Jess (Junior Class VP): None of the VPs knew of this commitment in the beginning of the year. It does not seem fair to ask for this commitment from VPs going into the new semester. In short, it’s a lot.

b. Camille Bacon (First Year Class President): If VPs come instead of Presidents, Presidents are more able to do programming. VPs can also be more active than before.

c. Michaella Mentu (Sophomore Class President): My VP has said she feels that her job description is bare, our class cabinets can benefit from giving VPs more duties. VPs should be more supportive.

d. Badriyyah Al Sabah (Senior Class President): This would create a more holistic approach to class cabinets. Going into the spring, as a senior, there is a lot to do. Connecting class cabinets begins with adding commitments to VPs.

e. Zoe Brian (Elections and Appointments Committee Chair): Presidents currently have 6-9pm schedule for SGA. This would be a good shift for Presidents and VPs.

f. Nicole Lawler (East Quad Transfer Senator): If Presidents are overworked, then that needs to be worked out between Presidents and VPs, not legislated by Senate. There should be a change in the future, but it should not happen now.

g. Katie Chong (SGA Vice President): The voting body, Senate, is coming through to help Presidents and their concerns.

h. Nybria Acklin (SJE Chair): In agreement, and believes being committed to a position means being flexible for the student body.

i. Rebecca Alger (VP of Finance): It was not in their job description, we are changing by-laws.

j. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): What if we asked whether Presidents and VPs to submit a survey on what they think?
k. Katie Chong (SGA Vice President): This legislative change is coming up from conversations that have been happening.

l. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Is it possible to have more of an open bylaws change instead of specifically saying VPs but also include other positions in class cabinets?

m. Badriyyah Al Sabah (Senior Class President): My secretary, treasurer, and historian are all busy. This will be an amazing opportunity to give VPs a stronger position.

n. Janis Luke (SGA President): The progress of class cabinets has been slowed. Just make decisions based on facts, not based on timing.

o. Jasmine Rhone (Ada Comstock Senator): What is the reason for class cabinet representatives? As an Ada Senator, I am represent them.

p. Tamra: It is impossible to stratify this by class and area. Class Presidents guarantee a class connection.

B. Voting – 7:38 pm
a. 19-4-1 PASS
b. Will be changed online through bylaws.
c. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Will the VPs have someone to back them up in case they cannot make the meetings?
d. Katie (VP): Yes.

VII. Wishes, Wants and Needs (about general SGA, how I’m running the meeting, how the topics we are addressing etc) – 7:42 pm
A. How’s life in SGA? Is the candy bad? Are you happy?
   a. Katie (VP): I used to have braces and my ortho would find caramel in my braces and he’d be like, “Katie F---ing Chong this is why people have their braces for 3 years.”
   b. Ideas: Senate Potluck, more visibility on campus, SGA sponsored talent show, Senate spa night, Facebook Live, Inclusive Smith conversations, Organization Fair
c. Katie (VP): If we can get 35/40 every week in the spring semester then we will have a Senate event.

d. Katie (VP): More tabling, banners, and easels in our future next semester. Outreach (Carrie Lee Lancaster, SGA Secretary) will head PR in the spring. We will revitalize ad-hoc committees in the spring as well.

VIII. Plan for Next Semester – 7:57 pm

A. New people to invite next semester?

B. Endowment, explanation of where our money is going

a. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Could we bring in what moves are being done with the endowment now? Divest stuff?

b. Katie (VP): Support orgs more on campus.

c. Janis (President): Cabinet’s plan: “We are Smith” campaign

i. Microaggressions - workshops, micro-affirmations

ii. Hair - women of color and women wearing hijabs, safety and hair

iii. Mental Health -

d. Katie (VP): Tamra sent an email to Katie about “Dear World” campaign Facebook page that says “If you had a story to share about something you love, what would it be?”

e. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): Isn’t this like Humans of Smith College?

f. Katie (VP): This will be more about SGA though. Let’s put this in the rear-view mirror. We are planning a large-scale open forum. “We are your SGA, please come to us and tell us what’s up.”

g. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): Can we follow up about why Kathy has not named Smith a Sanctuary Campus?

h. Katie (VP): Send out an invitation.

i. Amanda Saperstone (Transfer Senator): Can we have a library renovation expert come to talk to us?
j. Janis (President): Sanctuary topic, OUSR, Dean O -- this has a lot to do with federal funding and Pell Grants, this will affect Smithies if funding is cut. OUSR feels confident that the administration is doing what they can do far.

k. Katie Wing (Ada Comstock Co-President): Committee of HPA about the library renovation trying to get houses information about this. SGA could collaborate.

l. Katie Wing (VP): We are still getting newly elected women of color Senators to Smith.

m. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Laverne Cox is coming!!! Can we get a trans equality/trans rights event going?

n. Janis (President): Reintroduce pronouns on campus, open up that space. What does it mean. “We are Smith” can also incorporate this. This would be great for classrooms, too.

o. Katie (VP): Y’all are great, we are Smith, Cabinet and Senate working together is great.

p. Gigi Litovich (East Quad All Campus Senator): Can we invite Laverne to Senate?

q. Tamra: No, contract is already done.

IX. Committee Updates – 8:10 pm

A. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): The Committee on Academic Freedom and Inclusivity has had two Town Halls this semester, they have been working hard to process reflections from students and how to incorporate classrooms and faculty. Committee is working hard on drafting language and guidelines to reflect these concerns.

B. Janis (President): Five College SGA Mixer, Semi-formal night at the museum, Five College Coordinating Board is planning it, think about catering, timing
C. Zoe Brian (ENA Chair): ENA will be revamped in spring, change the way this campus sees elections. “Email me at zbrian@smith.edu if you want to get involved.”

X. Open Forum – 8:15 pm
   A. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Stress-Free Zones?
   B. Tamra: OSE does this. It will begin on December 15th. Massages, sip-n-paint, etc.
      It will hit email by tomorrow.

XI. Area Meetings (Committee Chairs meet with Katie first week we’re back--new chair of curriculum Marie Calhoun) – 8:30 pm

XII. Meeting Adjourned 8:30 pm (motion by Katie Chong, SGA Vice President, Class of 2017)
   A. Everyone, have a wonderful break, and be prepared to come back to Smith to freeze your ass off!