



Student Government Association Senate

Senate Agenda 2/16/17

7-9 PM Seelye 101

Agenda:

- I. Attendance – 7:03 pm
  
- II. Approval of Minutes – 7:07 pm 28-0-1
  
- III. Mike Howard (Endowment and Divest) Presentation – 7:10 pm
  - A. Responsible for managing finances of the college; central business functions of Smith
  - B. Facilities, building the new library, Campus Police, and Dining
  - C. Divestment
    1. Study group on climate change - final report will be given to President McCartney in March
  - D. Basics on Endowments and Investments**

1. Endowments: gifts that people give that are invested; the college only spends a small amount of endowments because most come with donor restrictions; Smith's endowment is among the largest for liberal arts colleges

E. What does our endowment do?

1. It funds a large portion of our annual operating budget.
2. Chaired professorships are funded by the endowment.

F. The college takes out about 5% of the endowment per year as

G. The endowment grows through gifts and investments.

H. How endowments are invested

I. Divestment and Impact Investing

1. Divestment: "disinvestment" or withdrawal from a particular investment; people usually hear about divestments regarding social issues
2. Smith has divested before: South Africa (1986), tobacco (1997), and Sudan (2006)
3. Fossil fuel investment
  - a) Removal of investments from companies involved in extracting fossil fuels in an attempt to reduce fossil fuels
  - b) Approaches to fossil fuels: Coal Only, Direct (Stanford has divested here with an endowment of \$22.2B); Fossil Fuels, Direct (UMass just did this with a \$0.7B endowment); Full (Syracuse with a

\$1.2B endowment); None (Harvard - \$36.4B and MIT - \$12.4B)

4. Why is divestment difficult for institutions to do?
  - a) Other colleges own shares in the same funds that Smith is investing in--pooled funds make it difficult to fully divest from fossil fuels
    - (1) Just get rid of the funds--this would get rid of half of Smith's funds.
5. What is impact investing?
  - a) Investing in companies, organizations and funds with the intention to make social and environmental change and a financial return
    - (1) In 2016, Smith increased its impact investing commitment to \$9.5 million
    - (2) Investure - Sustainability Series in 2014 created to support impact investing for Smith, Dickinson, and Middlebury
  - b) Smith's current exposure to fossil fuels in its endowment: 6.8% fossil fuel exposure

#### J. Questions

1. Zoe Brian (Elections and Appointments Committee '17):  
You mentioned the point of the endowment is to keep Smith in perpetuity . . . what do you say to the fossil fuel industry which is going to end at some point?

- a) Mike - Asked the Presidential Colloquium Speaker Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs, “If these companies are ruining the planet, how can they be good investments?”
  - b) At Smith, we are not investing in coal because it should not be a good investment and it’s a bad business model. For the past 10 years, they have generated good returns so people still invest in them.
2. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): Divestment from fossil fuels - Once the market realizes fossil fuels are bad for the environment when will they divest and invest in other sources of energy?
- a) These companies are not one-dimensional. Many of these companies are the top researchers for renewable energy.

K. Email Mike if you have any questions.

L. Also Eleanor from Divest Smith says to invite Divest to house teas and email [divestsmithcollege@gmail.com](mailto:divestsmithcollege@gmail.com) with any questions.

M. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): ACIR is figuring out what divestment means for us . . . does it mean coal, bad actors, etc. What is frustrating is that we are talking about it now when it should have been done last year.

## II. Student Petition (Raven) – 8:07 pm

1. Rough Draft Proposal
2. “After the death of two students last year, I felt hurt that Smith did not have a posthumous degree.”
3. Questions
  - a. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): Would this apply to a student who fell ill or went on medical leave?
  - b. Raven: No, illness and medical leave wouldn't apply.
  - c. Is there a reason that we don't have one?
  - d. Administration usually says that the college honors students who have completed their time at Smith.
4. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): What would you like from Senate?
  - a. Raven: Just support for signing off on this.
5. Tamra: Did any of the schools pay attention to the amount of credits awarded?
  - a. Raven: Yes.
6. Katie (SGA VP): For this to go through, it has to be sponsored by a group. If we were to support this, we would be giving a vote of confidence. We don't have the power to pass this, but if Senators will get the word out about Senate's position on this then further steps will be taken.
7. Zoe (Elections and Appointments Chair '17): Would you also like comments on the draft?
  - a. Yes, that would help.

8. Does it specify where the degree request will come from?
  - a. UMass receives requests from the departments in which the students were a part of.
9. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Would the posthumous degrees be forwarded to a student's family and will there be invitations to graduation?
  - a. Yes.
10. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): Allowing people to walk and have the symbols of graduation really help families of those lost.

### III. Quinta Voting – 8:15 pm

Dorie: This organization should be chartered because it would be advantageous to Quinta because they will be able to operate separate from ISO.

Motion by Nicole Lawler (East Quad Transfer Senator) second by Miranda Coleman (Upper Elm Campus Senator) – Passes 29-0-0

### IV. Hawaii Club Charter Presentation – 8:25 pm

Next week

### V. Demystifying Adas Campaign – 8:35 pm

- February
- Demystifying because it has been a mystery

- Bring awareness about Adas
- Adas support traditional students more than traditional students support Adas
- Only two traditional students came to the #AdaLove panel lunch yesterday
- Questions from Adas - Senators can email responses to Katie
- Questions are:
  - What impressions do you have about Adas and the Ada program?
  - Is there anything you would like to say to Adas?

Katie (SGA VP): Side note: We are in CC next week with Samantha Earp.

#### VI. Questions for Samantha Earp (Student Tech. Use) – 8:45 pm

1. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Why does the wifi suck sometimes/all the time?
2. Nybria Acklin (Social Justice and Equity Committee Chair): Why aren't more technology courses offered at Smith like digital media literacy?
3. Nybria Acklin (Social Justice and Equity Committee Chair): Why do we have so few printers?
4. Jiaxuan Tong (Green Street FS Senator): Paper always runs out in the printers.

5. Nicole Lawler (East Quad Transfer Senator): Why can't we have printers in CC?
  - a. Tamra: Because the OSE does not have enough staff to refill paper all day.
6. Katie Chong (SGA VP): I have duck feet, do you know what that means? It means that when I walk I kick up dirt and water and then have stains on my pants.
7. Nybria Acklin (Social Justice and Equity Committee Chair): What about having laptops for a full semester?
  - a. Zoe: The current pilot program gives Smith students laptops for the semester who are in Computer Science.
8. Annika Jensen (East Quad FS Senator): What about professors forcing students to print every reading out?
  - a. Katie Chong (SGA VP): That can be directed toward sustainability and accessibility committees.
9. Zoe Brian (ENA Chair '17): Can we give professors technology training?
10. Jiaxuan Tong (Green Street FS Senator): Can we rent tablets as well?
  - a. Katie Chong (SGA VP): We can ask about a tablet pilot program.
11. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): We shouldn't have to pay \$100 to impress a professor each semester just by printing out articles.

12. Katie Chong (SGA VP): I'm trying to stop cursing because I'm going home for spring break, and I am not allowed to say "idiot" in my house.

VII. Committee Updates/Open Forum – 8:50

- Outreach, tabling at CC - tomorrow and next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
- BOT is coming March 3 and want to know what Smith feels like post-election?

Discussion:

Janis Luke (SGA President): A few people requested speakers like Elizabeth Warren, safe spaces for Muslim students and students of color--also, Cami and I are doing "Love Notes to Your Friends of Color"

Janis Luke (SGA President): We should decide today which Senators will be at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 3.

Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Will senators need to be available March 3 and March 2?

-Just March 3.

Zoe Brian (ENA Chair '17): Will Senators who go to BOT have to table?

Katie (SGA VP): Yes for at least one day.

Volunteer Senators:

Emma Stewart (Parliamentarian), Cassie Follman (West Quad FS Senator), Savannah Berryman-Moore (East Quad FS Senator), and Annika Jensen (West Quad FS Senator) -- Vivian Hulsey (Sophomore Class VP), Nicole Lawler (East Quad Transfer Senator), and Zoe Brian (ENA Chair) as potential alternates

Annika Jensen (West Quad FS Senator): Three of us are first years, is that okay?

Katie Chong (SGA VP): I went as a sophomore and almost peed my pants.

## Rally Day

What is Rally Day?

- We celebrate seniors, it's their pre-party before leaving party. Medalists are coming, including Gloria S. February 22 at 1PM Katie is hosting Gloria in the Carroll Room for a speaking event and she will be fielding questions.
- The night before Rally Day is the Rally Day Carnival 8-10 PM on 22nd
- Wipeout, DJ, food, crafts, music
- We need Senators to work shifts and they'll get free t-shirts

Sarena Shafner: Randy Bartlett is hosting Financial Learning lunches every Thursday

Emma Stewart (Parliamentarian): Mental Health Committee had the first meeting of the Schacht Center advisory board. They said once a month but Emma will push for more meetings.

Zoe Brian (ENA Chair '17): Needs 3 Senators for the Student Life Committee

Amanda Saperstone is interested.

ENA Timeline

Katie Chong (SGA VP): I know it's early to say these things. It's a great time for us to start thinking about the future. I have been in Senate for 3 years, and this is the best Senate group I have seen.

Xiomara Cooke (HPA President): If you're interested in being an HP at your house, then attend the HP Info event on February 28. HPs must be elected before March 10.

Zoe Brian (ENA Chair '17): Registration begins March 20 and ends on April 7. Campaigning begins April 7 until April 14. There will be a Meet and Greet/Debate/Ice Cream Party hosted by SGA. People will know who won by April 21.

Zoe Brian (ENA Chair '17): Needs a Senator for Library Committee meets 4th Tuesday of every month from 12-12:50.

VIII. Area Meetings – 8:55 pm

IX. Adjourned 9:04 pm