



Student Government Association Senate

Senate Agenda 3/2/17

7-9 PM Seelye 101

Agenda:

- I. Attendance – 7:10 pm
  
- II. Approval of Minutes – Quorum not met
  
- III. Divest Presentation – Not happening tonight
  - A. Divest Protest from Pierce Hall to CC
  - B. Climate Action Now came up from downtown to support students
  - C. Zoe Brian (Elections and Appointments Chair): I voiced my support on behalf of SGA and said the Board, and the school are not being respectful of us by not listening to demands.
  - D. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Divest and the student group on climate change presented to the Board. Overall, it was a very productive meeting. Divest was preparing for that meeting this week, so they will present next week.

- E. Katie Chong (SGA Vice President): They will be back with their resolution from 2015. The resolution asked for a formal recommendation to divest within 5 years from the administration.
  - F. Zoe Brian (Elections and Appointments Chair): No, they asked for the administration to make a statement that they would divest by 2020.
- IV. Hawaii Club Vote – Quorum not met, voting moved to next week
- V. Letter to Orgs and Student Body – 7:11 pm
- A. Stacey is our VP of Finance--aka SGA Treasurer
  - B. Dominique Straughn is our Vice Chair of ORC
  - C. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Stacey and I wrote a letter of support for affinity/activist/unity organizations saying that if these groups need any help with advertising or programming then SGA is supportive.
  - D. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): What is the purpose of the letter? Doesn't SGA already support orgs?
    - 1. Katie Chong (SGA VP): There has been some sentiments that they want some explicit support from SGA. We have limited funds, but this letter acknowledges that while saying that we will support orgs in any way we can.
  - E. Annika Jensen (East Quad FS Senator): I am in Sarena's camp and feel like orgs should already know that SGA.
  - F. Zoe Brian (Elections and Appointments Chair): This will help differentiate SGA from administration.
- VI. BOT update – 7:16 pm
- A. Meghna Purkayastha (SGA President 2016): The presentation was very well received. SGA was my favorite part of Smith. This stuff really matters; Senate and Cabinet have really contributed to my life after Smith.

- B. Cassie Follman (West Quad FS Senator): Unity orgs--BSA, EKTA (South Asian Organization), ISO--presented about issues that have affected their communities post-election. They discussed how Smith students have been targeted downtown and on campus.
- C. Katie Chong (SGA VP): We discussed self-censorship and self-surveillance. Some Board members said they didn't want Smith to experience this division--Dean Lisker said that it is natural because even adults are responding in this way. Also, when students experience racism and islamophobia off campus, the police can't always help them unless it is well documented. Dean Ohotnicky was talking about how to expand out; maybe Campus Police can do something. Questions we answered were how students are responding after the executive orders based on specific orgs, in Senate, and in the HPA community.
- D. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Is it okay to say "All members of the Senate 2016-2017" in the letter under my name? Yes, passes 19-1-1.

VII. Senator Bei's Scholarship Proposal – 7:30 pm

- A. Katie (Bei) Heald (West Quad JS Senator), co-chair of Higher Education for Refugees at Smith (HERS)
- B. Activist org for refugees
- C. Most recently had a winter clothing drive
- D. The biggest project is creating a scholarship
- E. HERS wants support from Senate
- F. A week after the executive order, Wheaton College created a scholarship for refugees. HERS email a dean at Wheaton who said the scholarship wouldn't take away from financial aid for other students.
- G. Kahoud, co-chair of HERS: We know there is a way to set up this scholarship in a practical way. Alums have even been eager to donate

funds for the resettlement of refugees. If Smith is willing, this will work, so it is important to get student and organizational support.

- H. Bei Heald (West Quad JS Senator): We are meeting with President McCartney on Monday.
- I. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): What else can SGA do to support you besides supporting the scholarship proposal?
  - 1. Bei: Petition
- J. Katie Chong (SGA VP): For the funding for the scholarship, are you only looking at support from alums?
  - 1. Bei Heald (West Quad JS Senator): The scholarship would include tuition, room and board.
- K. Kahoud, co-chair of HERS: Development has unrestricted funds that could help, and we are just figuring out how to fill in the gaps after our meeting with the administration.
- L. Traci Williams (Ada Comstock Vice President): Is your vision that the scholarship will go to a few or just one?
  - 1. Kahoud, co-chair of HERS: The administration has said making this available to two scholars per year.
- M. Vote of Confidence

#### VIII. Announcements – 8:05 pm

- A. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Usually in the fall and spring SGA and the Board meet. It has changed now where the Board meets with different student groups, which is a way for the Board to get to meet with a wider group of students and identities.
- B. Katie Chong (SGA VP): The SGA Office
  - 1. Sharon, Kasch, Erin, and Quinn.

2. After many years of dedicated service to Smith College and the SGA, Sharon will not be coming back to work in the SGA Office next year as the position has been eliminated.
  3. Students will work in the office--SGA members and Work-Study students will be given priority
  4. Forward resumes and letters of interest to Tamra Bates, [tbates@smith.edu](mailto:tbates@smith.edu)
  5. The SGA Office is a place for all SGA members; everyone should feel welcome.
- C. Traci Williams (Ada Comstock Vice President): Students should be reminded that respect goes both ways when using the space. If there are comments or questions please talk to Tamra or Katie.
- D. Carrie Lee Lancaster (SGA Secretary): How many students?
1. Tamra: It will be based on the numbers of hours rather than the number of students. The office will operate from 10am-9pm and closed on weekends.
- E. SGA Mixer is tomorrow.
1. Themes on index cards on tables for discussion topics
  2. It's an unconference style mixer
  3. Katie Chong (SGA VP): I can tell you, from first hand experience, we are the best looking people.
  4. The Amherst guy came in with Sperrys and a "Scrolex" watch--he's a huge mansplainer.
- F. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Now is the time to start thinking about running for position for next year.

## IX. Committee Updates – 8:15 pm

### A. Rules Committee

1. We've been called out!

2. Dominique Straughn (ORC Vice Chair): If you hear anything that is not super positive in terms of SGA supporting organizations, smile and nod and send the organization Katie's way.
3. Emma Stewart (Parliamentarian): Rules Committee deals with charters and organizations that want to become chartered or recognized or if organizations want to amend their charters. There was a charter that came through Rules Committee that the committee decided not to recognize, and then SGA was called out.
4. Katie Chong (SGA VP): We will support Beyond Injustice if they give us a complete charter.

B. Sarena Shafner with Financial Aid

1. The loan regalia issue--moved to Open Forum.

C. Academic Freedom

1. Katie Chong (SGA VP): We are rewriting the statement on academic freedom to include inclusivity--the committee is finding that professors are feeling like they can't teach to a certain topic, and students are feeling censored. The committee will release a statement advocating for inclusivity in the classroom while encouraging academic freedom in a safe space.

X. Open Forum – 8:17 pm

A. Emma Stewart (Parliamentarian) 5 minutes

1. Called Maura Healey's office this week, seemed excited about Maura Healey speaking at Smith
2. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Maybe if it is an event then Senate could work the event.

B. Vivian Hulsey (Sophomore Class VP) 3 minutes

1. Sophomore cabinet--email from Faith Kim looking to bring Brianna Wu to campus

2. Technology and game industry--working in male-dominated fields
3. Running for Congress in 2018
4. Looking to partner with SGA for funding

C. Annika Jensen (East Quad FS Senator) 30 seconds-1 min

1. Catherine Cortez-Masto
2. Would like an estimate for funding for travel expenses and such

D. Sarena 2 minutes

1. Tamra: The regalia program has always been owned by the SGA. Seniors are encouraged to donate their regalia and then donate it back to the college. Under Sharon's guidance, the program has grown to about 220. Students receiving aid get a gown if they request help. Students donate their gowns up until two days after commencement.
2. Katie Chong (SGA VP): If students self-identify then they go into the lottery.
3. Tamra: Sharon gave gowns to two students who were not on aid.

E. Katie: Check out the flyers in the Senate folder. Ask your constituents to use the Area Feedback Forms, too.

XI. Area Meetings – 8:35 pm

XII. Meeting Adjourned – 9:03 pm