



Student Government Association Senate

Senate Agenda 3/9/17

7-9 PM Seelye 101

Agenda:

- I. Attendance – 7:03 pm
- II. Approval of 2/23 Minutes – 7:05 pm – Senator Sarena Shafner motions, Senator Miranda Coleman seconds 18-0-2
- III. Approval of 3/2 Minutes – 7:10 pm – Senator Sarena Shafner motions, Ada Comstock VP Traci Williams seconds 16-0-4
- IV. Senator Bei's Scholarship Proposal – 7:15 pm
 - A. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): We should vote on it unless you think we should have a referendum so the student body can vote on it.
 - B. Annika Jensen (East Quad FS Senator): I think it is a complex issue and we should table about it after spring break – motions to table after spring break, Sarena Shafner seconds 17-1-3

V. Hawaii Club Voting – 7:25 pm – 19-0-1

VI. Divest Presentation – 7:35 pm

- A. Hoping to get chartered but want to discuss the SGA resolution that was passed a few years ago.
- B. Check out their charter in the Senate folder.
- C. Climate justice issue. People are directly affected by this issue. Divest seek to engage with Smith College alumni, faculty and staff, and students.
- D. Been an org since 2012; 20 members who are very invested in the group
- E. Want to be chartered in order to have better access to reserving spaces, more financial support, and better opportunities to have information sessions with the student body

Questions/Discussion:

- Traci Williams (Ada Comstock Vice President): There is something under your charter, I think it's under "Goals number 2"--our morals? The mission of Smith College or the morals of the organization?
 - The morals of the organization and we would like to see more socially responsible investment principles and practices by the college.
- Traci Williams (Ada Comstock VP): Under "Purpose"--suppose you guys get chartered and divestment happens, so what will happen to Divest?
 - We could divest from private prisons and the military industrial complex. Divest is the foundation for more divestments beyond fossil fuels. We have divested before.
- Katie Chong (SGA VP): Do you want to completely separate from Green Team?
 - Yes. Our purposes have diverged and it is in both of our interests to separate.

Resolution Talk:

- Passed via a student body referendum 86.4% by the student body--SGA drafted a resolution to reinstate the ACIR (Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility) in 2015
- In December of 2015 the ACIR began meeting and in the fall of 2015 the study group on climate change came about--the study group just finished up their research--the ACIR has only posted one interim report and has not released a timeline and hasn't done a great job at responding to requests from Divest.
- Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): If ACIR hears more from groups and students on campus then they will get moving on the recommendation soon.
- This was an SGA resolution so the ACIR has not been as helpful as the students originally demanded. We would like SGA to remind the Board of Trustees that this resolution exists and that students support fossil fuel divestment.
- Ways that this can happen--request more student engagement, in the ACIR students are pushing for a timeline--so students should continue to push ACIR within the group

VII. Update on Speakers to Senate/Panel – 7:50 pm

- A. Katie Chong (SGA VP): I have an idea that I am going to send out a slew of invitations for administration and staff (Dwight, Matilda, Kathy, Ohotnicky, Lisker, and others) to come to Senate for a panel about steps to take on how to progress this campus. We can invite faculty--Michelle Joffroy, Liz Pryor
- B. Vanessa Bethel (Ada Comstock Senator): Sid Dalbey for an Ada Comstock representative could come.
- C. Nybria Acklin (SJE Chair): Can we invite students and faculty?

VIII. Questions for Audrey Smith/David Belanger (Endowment) – 7:55 pm

- A. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): How do they determine where the money goes if someone donates to Smith without donating to a specific cause?

- B. Zoe Brian (Elections and Appointments Chair): Is there a process for changing what money goes to if it has been specifically earmarked?
 - 1. Tamra: Issues have to go to court if endowments change.
 - C. Nybria Acklin (SJE Chair): Is it true that if we divest from fossil fuels then we won't have coffee anymore?
 - 1. No.
 - D. Nybria Acklin (SJE Chair): What will happen to the money we raised for Women of the World?
 - E. Annika Jensen (East Quad FS Senator): Where did the money come from that paid for all the banners around campus celebrating the Women for the World Campaign?
 - 1. Tamra: Most likely from the operating budget from the Development Office.
 - F. Katie Chong (SGA VP): What priorities are reassessed when the endowment changes?
 - 1. Tamra: Ask Mike Howard--We hear you're looking at the endowment/finances over the next five years. What does that look like?
 - G. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Can you explain what the Smith Fund is?
 - 1. Do we still count the quantity of the people who donate versus how much they donate with our ranking?
 - H. Zoe Brian (Elections and Appointments Chair): Is there a way to make information about the endowment more accessible for students?
 - I. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): The market has been volatile, so is Smith preparing for another recession?
- IX. Committee Updates/Open Forum – 8:05 pm
- A. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Dean Roe and Roger Mosier are coming back April 27th. They will inform us about Neilson.

B. Gigi Litovich (East Quad All Campus Senator) – survey for the Financial Services Committee:

1. Collect data on what students of high need really need on campus.
2. The committee will send out email next week and hopefully get results.
3. For next semester/next year then the FS Committee will have a better understanding of what students need?
4. Katie Chong (SGA VP): I am emailing all of you so please take a look at it and send recommendations to Gigi about what should be changed.
5. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): Are we sending this out to our constituents this week?
 - a) No, we will take a look at it and then send it when we come back after spring break.

C. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator):

1. Demystifying Financial Aid--help the students understand financial aid better--David Bellinger will be there and Stacey (VP of Finance) will moderate
2. April 10th during lunch in CC 103/104
3. Traci Williams (Ada Comstock Vice President): On the topic of the survey for the FS Committee--are the emails going to everyone? There will be some pushback, opposition, or mumbling about students who have high need such as why are you taking my life story as data?
4. Gigi Litovich (East Quad All Campus Senator): At least through this committee we can understand that students with high need so we aren't fumbling around trying to target issues and actually help.

5. Does this include financial assistance at Smith--like the “Beyond Smith Fund”--Gigi says that there is a question in the survey asking, “Who do you turn to when you are struggling financially?”
6. Vanessa Bethel (Ada Comstock Senator): Is it completely anonymous?
 - a) Yes, we just want to know what the student body is experiencing and for the event we just want to know if the student body has any questions.

D. Banners

1. Conversation has been coming up about the administration not supporting Black Lives Matter banners.
2. Administration is not banning us but because houses are self-governed, the banners can only go up if the house agrees within its community.
3. Administration does support students.
4. Vanessa Bethel (Ada Comstock Senator): I don't live on campus so I'm not fully in tune, but I read that a student of color posted that the banners/posters were maybe going to be posted on the chapel or on academic buildings but the administration's response was unsatisfactory.
5. Tamra: There is an administrative policy about where signs, posters, and banners can be posted on campus. Ohotnicky cannot give support for the administration regarding banners being hung on academic buildings but she can encourage houses to have conversations.
6. Traci Williams (Ada Comstock VP): If the buildings are Smith buildings then it is assumed that the building represents Smith and not the students. That is why you cannot put things on buildings that are explicitly Smith.

7. Annika Jensen (East Quad FS Senator): In my house council it was explained that it was about the chapel. HPAs in response are wanting to put up banners on their houses.
8. Gigi Litovich (East Quad All Campus Senator): It's not about the message of the college but the image--representing the college in a different way that stray the image that Smith wants to portray.

- X. Area Meetings – 8:15 pm
- XI. Meeting Adjourned – 8:22 pm