



Student Government Association Senate

Senate Agenda 3/23/17

7-9 PM Seelye 101

Agenda:

- I. Attendance – 7:03 pm
 - A. Roger Mosier has been rescheduled for April 13th
 - B. ENA will be tabling next week
 - C. Katie Chong (SGA VP): If you know anyone who is marginally a good human being, get them to run!

- I. Approval of Minutes – 7:07 pm – Savannah Berryman-Moore (East Quad FS Senator) motions, Nicole Lawler (East Quad Transfer Senator) seconds 19-0-3 passes

- II. Financial Aid Presentation – 7:15 pm
 - A. Need Conscious or Need Sensitive admission
 1. A small number of institutions are need-blind. Smith is need-sensitive and has been since 1994--5-10% of our decisions may factor into admissions decisions.
 2. Every admitted student got into Smith because they are qualified.

3. It is impossible to be completely need-blind
4. Applying for financial aid must be done when applying to the college
5. Awarding policies--meeting full demonstrated need of each family, loan and federal work study awards, merit awards only at the time of admission

B. Information

1. SFS in College Hall 106
2. Staff of 15
3. Financial Aid and Bursar Functions (offers aid and sends aid out)
4. Budget for 2016-2017 \$67.7 Million (projected)

C. Financial Aid Issues

1. Goal: determine the ability of each family to pay for a student's education
2. Willingness to pay may be very different
3. Only budget that did not get cut during the crisis of 2008-2009

D. Positive Aid Initiatives

1. More realistic budget for Ada Comstock Scholars
2. Net Price Calculator – Help applicants determine actual cost
3. Equalized cost of Washington Programs with those on campus
4. More aid for middle income families (\$90,000 to \$180,000)

E. Positives of SFS Office

1. Can always meet with a director
 - a) Appointments can be made ahead of time

F. Common Areas of Concern

1. Study Away – what happens with my aid
2. Emma Stewart (Parliamentarian): I have friends who are studying abroad next year through programs that are not Smith programs. How does aid work in these situations?

- a) Home-school fees: began in 2000 and has a commitment to equity so that students on Financial Aid can go abroad
3. Deepal Patel (Senior Class VP): Meal stipends in London--students who are not on Financial Aid--they pay the comprehensive fee that is not equal to the what they get through the stipends.
4. Katie Cooney (HPA Secretary): When did the Washington program change? I had to pay tuition for Smith and more on the Washington program.
5. How does work study translate when abroad?
 - a) Loan, work, and grant
 - b) Loan = "self-help"
 - c) Work is taken away when overseas, so usually loans are increased
6. With the way the endowment was hit this past year, will the financial aid budget be impacted?
 - a) No. Smith has a commitment to working with every family.
7. Measuring family's ability to pay rather than willingness.
8. Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator): If you have divorced parents that are active in your life, how does that contribute to financial aid awards?
 - a) SFS counts two individuals rather than four. This is Smith's policy and not how federal financial aid is configured.
9. If we get sizable outside scholarships, our Smith package seems to go down. Why?
 - a) Encourage everyone to get as much outside help as possible so SFS can use that to advantage students in the self-help area. The Office will tell the student that SFS will purchase a computer and campus health care plan so each student's full demonstrated need is met.

III. Divest – 8:00 pm – Sarena Shafner (Lower Elm JS Senator) motions, Miranda Coleman (Upper Elm All Campus Senator) seconds – 18-0-3 passes

IV. Committee Updates – 8:10 pm

- Social Justice and the curriculum Wed at lunch next two coming Wednesdays
- Sarena
SFS Committee in conjunction w finance committee april 10 demystifying fin aid comparable to topics covered by david and audrey today
- Katie Chong (SGA VP): My committee update is that my starbursts had two pink candies.

V. Open Forum – 8:20 pm

Annika (East Quad FS Senator) – April 5 Bipartisan Committee Lindsey Hayes

- Emma Stewart (Parliamentarian)
 - Class schedules will change due to construction
 - Senate could advocate for student representation
- Tamra: It's also about space utilization now that construction is going to limit study spaces
- Deepal (Senior Class VP): After banner blow up stuff – how much are administrators held accountable through social justice training? This recent event showed again that admin is not always understanding and sensitive.
- Katie Chong (SGA VP): Donuts with Dean O – 8-9am come in and talk.

- Katie Chong (SGA VP): Dwight has heard from students that all professors need social justice training, but it is really hard to mandate this training.

Area Meetings – 8:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned – 8:30 pm