



Student Government Association Senate

Senate Agenda 4/6/17

7-9 PM Carroll Room

Agenda:

- I. Attendance – 7:03 pm
- II. Approval of Minutes – 7:07 pm – Sarena Shafner motions, Gigi Litovich seconds
– motion passes 17-0-3
- III. Announcements – 7:37 pm
 - A. Janis Luke has taken a leave of absence and has stepped down as SGA President.
 - B. Next Thursday--Campus Police Town Hall
 - C. Parliamentarian vote will be April 20th!!!
 1. Emma Stewart (Parliamentarian): Keeps order aka Parliamentary procedure, supports Vice President, co-chair Rules Committee (once per week to go over organizations that need to be chartered)
 - D. Katie Chong (SGA VP): This is a medium-well steak--I was Parliamentarian last year. When VP is absent, Parliamentarian runs Senate.
 - E. Student Leadership Awards--

- F. Badriyyah will sit on the Board of Trustees for two years.
- IV. EnA Bylaw Changes – 7:10 pm
- A. Chair will no longer attend Senate
 - B. Katie Chong (SGA VP): Bylaws, changed through Senate, are longer than Constitution which can only be changed through a student body vote. Zoe wants to vote to make a change in its Constitution to put chair in Cabinet and take chair off of Senate.
 - C. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): It would be nice to put this in layman's terms for the student body if the student body will vote on it.
- V. SJE Bylaw Changes – 7:20 pm
- A. Nybria Acklin (SJE Chair): Changes just came from reflecting on my experience as chair in SJE. To the chair--I want to make it a co-chair position to share responsibilities. This would be less pressure. Co-chairs would be meeting once a month and one would go to Senate and the other would go to Cabinet.
 - B. Katie Chong (SGA VP): We have a week to think about these and then we will pass them next week.
- VI. Intercultural Culinary Club – 7:40 pm
- A. Gloria, junior
 - B. Every cultural or unity organization has cooking events, Julia Child has sparked Julia Child Day, so we should have a culinary club.
 - C. Collaborate with unity orgs for funding purposes.
 - D. Meet once a month.
 - E. Board meeting every two weeks.
 - F. Fall Fest and IS Day in the fall--there is nothing related to food and culture in the spring.
 - G. Deepal Patel (Senior Class VP): Have you thought about any ways that the club could work with Dining Services? Sometimes they have events with ISO--have you thought of ways to collaborate with them?

1. Gloria: The kitchen is only used by ISO. But that is a really good idea.

H. Dorie Klein (East Quad All Campus Senator): What's your email?

1. gcheng69@smith.edu

I. Nybria Acklin (SJE Chair): So there will be one major event in the spring?

1. Gloria: No, one competition-style event related to food.
2. Nybria Acklin (SJE Chair): So what will you do in the fall?

VII. Committee Updates/Open Forum – 7:42 pm

A. Marie: The Curriculum Committee is hosting a workshop about the Writing Intensive. “Reimagining Writing Requirement”--pizza.

1. Social Justice?
2. Social Justice will be separate from the writing intensive.
3. Sarena: Is there a quantitative requirement?
 - a) No, that's been tabled.

B. Sarena

C. Savannah

1. Registration ends at 8 PM tomorrow, April 7.
2. People can start campaigning this weekend until the 14th.
3. Voting ends on the 21st.
4. REGISTER, Y'ALL! Don't forget to include a budget.
5. Budget page-forms-Candidate Budget 2017

VIII. Prep the Room 7:50 pm

IX. Adjourned – 7:59

X. Discussion with Administration

A. How do you think the culture on campus can shift from a calling out environment to a calling in environment?

1. Dwight: Smith students have more power in that than the administrators do; there are a lot of spaces that only students have access to. Faculty and students--it's difficult to grow and make a

mistake, and when you make a mistake it spreads rapidly. It's difficult for people to come into this community. ARIA--Affirm, Resist, IA.

2. Microaffirmations and microresistance can bring people into the space of belonging. Active listening, giving credit to others, amplifying others' voices
3. Top-down does not work. This must be owned by the community itself. Students have more power than they realize.
4. Dean Ohotnicky: To add, on April 18 there will be a gathering to hear the results of the climate survey that was taken during the fall. With that, the data will come with the story of the Smith experience. This will frame the conversations, "Who are we? How are we?" I'm looking forward to the next steps in receiving that data. Not one of us has those next steps or knows those next steps.
5. Laura: There is something about how we want to be with one another. We can talk intellectually, but we have to figure out where is the place where we love each other? We need to understand that each moment of hurt is a representation of not being loved--we need to find the spaces where we love each other.

B. How can we work to minimize stress on campus?

1. Donna Lisker: A senior walked into my office yesterday--my main advice was to get sleep and I gave her a list of resources (Class Deans, Res Life, Schacht Center, Center for Spiritual and Religious Life). A lot of it has to do with allowing yourself to be a human being and to not let yourself suffer in silence.
2. Dean O: How much is being offered here that you feel obligated to attend? Programs on eDigest sometimes number 25 in one week. This adds another layer of stress.

3. Dean Caitlin: An example--immigration programming--we decided to offer consultations for undocumented students. Also, as an administrator, I am aware of my position as that. I try to show my own vulnerability--I run on campus to show that this is part of my life too--I make time for me and I want students to know that. Changing the stress culture will take time as well.
4. Laura: It is fascinating to figure out where the stress is coming from. Students with disabilities, I think, could teach Smithies how to take care of themselves because sometimes for us it isn't a choice. We need to figure out how to be satisfied. What is really enough for you?
5. Dwight: I'm trying to stop students for being so outstanding. I usually know students mainly for their successes--and when I need students, I usually ask students who are already overburdened. Life isn't about being whatever you want but being everything you want.

C. How might the relationship between students and "the administration" be improved?

1. Dean Lisker: The key is on both sides: nothing is not monolithic. I encourage more one-on-one relationships. Think carefully about your relationship with social media as well.

D. Health Services

1. Dean O: It is not ideal, and it is an ongoing problem that we are trying to figure out. Counseling's structure has changed, we have a new building, and requests for counseling services has increased each year. We added an additional therapist, we added funding for acupuncture, we added additional hours for psychiatry. We know the need continues to grow. Dwight, Laura, and myself, the director of the Schacht Center, and faculty, and students are working together to structure Health Services so it works better.

2. Donna Lisker: This is a national issue. A third of our students utilize health services, which has grown. We have to think about how we are delivering services.
3. Dean O: Are there medical services?
 - a) Alejandra: The logistics of delivering services is skewed based on what students know how to communicate.
 - b) Dean O: Transparency and education about how to utilize the service and how to utilize it well. These are things students should be prepared to know--some students are calling to make appointments for the first time ever, so we really need to educate.
 - c) Dean Caitlin: With international students we have discussed health insurance and I realize that the entire student body could benefit from this information. Also, pre-departure orientation is covering health insurance for students studying abroad.
 - d) Laura: Mental Health--how can we broaden this conversation about mental health? We are often focused on counseling services. This is about ongoing support, connections and community, and a wide range of things that contribute to living well beyond a 50 minute appointment. I come from a public health background so I think a lot about prevention--what happened a week ago that built up to today? My office tries to help students to reduce stress, we have learning specialists about how to manage time.
 - e) Dean O--Kris conversation can happen later in a one-on-one.

E. How we represent our community

1. Dwight: When people think about diversity, they think about race and ethnicity. Who are you missing? There is no representation of a lot of students on this campus.
2. Dean Lisker: In 2014-2015 Smith looked at its admission policy. There was a year-long study group; at the time, Smith accepts students who are willing to check the “female” box on the application. We made a decision at that time to continue to use “women” and “sisters” in promotions of the college. Any student once admitted is welcome to stay no matter if their gender identity changes.
3. Laura: Invite me back so we can have a conversation. It would be helpful to not assume what we are doing because it is really hard for people to tell their stories. If you’re wondering what we’re doing, then don’t be afraid to ask.
4. Dean O: For folks interested in funding. . .it is listed on the Dean of the College’s page and the Wurtele Center page (and on the Chapel website?)
5. Dean Lisker: Susan Zachary--Smith has more discretionary funding for students than any other college--utilize these funds!
6. Dean Caitlin: If you find someone that you click with in the administration, use that connection.

F. 24 hour silent period?

1. Dean O: I thought quiet hours is a house decision?
 - a) It’s Res Life.
 - b) Deepal: Having a 24 hour quiet period has become stricter.
 - c) Dean O: When we talk about stress culture, we need to build space for students to breathe.