



Student Government Association

Electronic Newsletter

Volume No. 1: October 1, 2008

<http://sophia.smith.edu/sga/>

Mission Statement

The Student Government Association serves as a multifaceted resource, which fosters solidarity and empowers the Smith community through student efficacy, proactive dialogue and community engagement. As a conduit of change, the SGA acts as a voice of and for the students.

What does the SGA President do?

Marlowe Dieckmann, SGA President

As the SGA President, I sit on several committees, including the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA), Organization Resource Committee and Diversity Planning Committee. I meet biweekly with President Christ, Dean Mahoney, Dean Ohotnicky and Naomi Miller. Outside of those scheduled meetings, I also talk to other administrators and staff about various issues of concern or questions on Campus. I am meeting with Kathy Zieja about changing the start time of Hubbard Grab and Go to 10:30 a.m., just like Chapin Grab and Go, rather than the current 11:00 a.m. start time. We are just starting our fourth week of school and there has already been a wide variety of issues discussed on Campus. Below is a brief presentation of the discussion topics that have been or are currently being discussed during various meetings.

President Christ

President, Smith College

- The Board of Trustees in October
- Diversity Committee
- Convocation
- A Fireside Chat on "Women and Power"
- 24-hour spaces on campus
- Improving the speed of our internet connection on campus
- Double-sided copying availability on campus
- A certain amount of free copies for students, just like Cafe dollars

Dean Mahoney

Dean of the College

- The Board of Trustees in October
- A Fireside Chat on "Women and Power"
- The response of the college surrounding Ryan Sorba's visit
- 24-hour space
- The pub in the Campus Center

Dean Ohotnicky

Dean of Students

- The satellite gyms
- 24-hour space
- Nudity at Smith events
- Campus lighting and blue lights

Naomi Miller

Director of Institutional Diversity

- Otelia Cromwell Day
- The role of the Diversity Committee
- Class Matters Initiative
- The diversity programming this year from Dialogues to forums

SGA Cabinet

- The Board of Trustees in October
- We purchased 2 previously leased vans
- SGA van use policy
- Fireside Chat on "Women and Power"
- SGA Cabinet "Facebook" for the Board of Trustees
- The "SmithRant" e-mail address to answer student concerns, complaints and questions
- Clark and College Hall Open House
- SGA Open House
- Election Day shuttles to polls
- House competitions
- Dining Tea and Dialogue
- The new Diversity Committee that incorporates all the house diversity representatives

What's Next?

Upcoming Event

- Fireside Chat on "Women and Power: Political and Institutional" with President Christ, Dean Mahoney, Dean Ohotnicky and Dean Riddell
- Tuesday, December 9 at 4:15 p.m. in the Goldstein Lounge

Student Outreach

SGA House Liaison Program

This is a NEW program. Each house has an SGA liaison. We want to come to your house events and hear what you have to say. We are a resource and want to be as accessible as possible to you. Please feel free to contact us or invite us to any of your house events.

SGA Website

Check out the SGA website at <http://sophia.smith.edu/sga/> it's great. We have SGA info posted online for easy access. All of the SGA Cabinet and Committee information are on the site. Make sure you take a look and send an e-mail to sga@email.smith.edu with comments.

Electronic Newsletter

The SGA will use the website and this newsletter to communicate with the student body. The newsletter will be available via e-mail and online at the SGA website. If there is something that you would like to see on the newsletter, let us know at sga@email.smith.edu or stop by the **SGA Office in Campus Center 206**.

Senate

Megan Gallo, Vice-President of SGA

Hello Everyone! My name is Megan Gallo and I am the 2008-2009 SGA Vice-President, and also the Chair of Senate. Senate meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in CC 103/104. Everyone of the Smith College Community is encouraged to attend and participate as a non-voting member. The voting members include two house Senators from every house on Campus.

We are currently working on Senate and Committee goals for the year. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at mgallo@email.smith.edu and please do stop by CC 103/104 if you would like to make any announcements or just see what's going on around Campus!

House President's Association (HPA)

Meg Schmitt, Chair

HPA meets weekly on Tuesday nights from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and is well under way with planning for the year. Quad Halloween will be on Saturday, November 1 from 1:00-3pm; houses from all areas of campus will be hosting different activities and invitations are being sent to four local schools. All members of the Smith community and their families are welcome.

Like last spring a House Competition is being lined up for this fall. Smithies can earn points and a reward for their Houses by attending events: Otelia Cromwell Day, 2nd Fridays at the Art Museum, Float Night, and the Mum Show at the Greenhouse. You'll be getting more info from your HP soon! Upcoming guests at HPA meetings include the Ombudsperson Adrienne Andrews, Director of Dining Services Kathy Zieja, and Trish Jackson, VP of Advancement. If anyone has concerns that they would like to have addressed during these conversations, speak with your HP. If you have any questions e-mail mschmitt@smith.edu.

Organization Resources Committee

Krystal Cummings, Chair

The Organization Resources Committee (ORC) serves as a source of support for all chartered organizations on campus. The month of September is extremely busy for ORC as October 1st marks the beginning of the new ORC fiscal year. During the month of September ORC met with organizations for a 10-minute budget hearing. This was an

opportunity for organizations to provide ORC with an overview of their budget. This is also an opportunity for ORC to ask any clarifying questions about the budgets. ORC then deliberates each budget. Two thirds of the committee must approve for the vote to pass. Abstentions include the ORC Chair, the organizations' liaison, and any ORC member who feels a connection to the specific organization being voted on. Organizations are allocated their new ORC fiscal budget on October 1st. ORC stresses that there is an Equipment Fund and a Discretionary Fund from which ORC can allocate to organizations throughout the year as appropriate. There are potentially a total of 119 organizations that will be chartered by October 15th. ORC is making a one-time exception this year to review and allocate funds to a second wave of late budgets. The second wave of budgets is due October 15th. Every organization is unique as they plan different events and require different necessities to function. ORC wishes all organizations the best!

Diversity Committee

Mercedes Davis, Chair

The Diversity Committee is currently working on getting all of the Diversity Reps in the houses trained for Social Justice and Facilitation training. We are also collaborating with the Social Justice Committee and the Diversity Planning Committee to find a way to make DC more functional and useful than it has been in year's past.

Academic Honor Board

Sarah Kam, Chair

The Honor Board is currently closing up cases from last year. We have not received any new reports of dishonesty so far...well done, Smithies! Keep up the good work!

Judicial Board

Alexis Warth, Chair

Judicial Board has established a new position of Community Liaison in an attempt to maintain a strong line of communication between the larger Smith community and the Board. The liaison for 2008-2009 is Marissa Szabo. Please check the Judicial Board website <http://www.smith.edu/sao/jb/> for more information on this new position, as well as more information about what's new with the Board. There is an entire section on Section 4 (Community Judicial Board), which everyone should check out. As of now, Judicial Board is not accepting applications for new members, but please keep checking the E-newsletter for updates. If anyone has any questions, concerns, or comments about anything related to Judicial Board, please feel free to contact Marissa Szabo (Community Liaison), Donielle Hatcher (Vice-Chair), or Alexis Warth (Chair).

Elections and Appointments

Laura Winkler, Chair

The Elections and Appointments Committee is in the process of holding first-year and Ada class as well as one position for all-campus elections. Voting begins Monday, October 6, at 9:00 a.m., and ends Sunday, October 12, at 9:00 p.m. All students need to vote at www.smith.edu/voting. An informational meeting will be held Wednesday October 15, at 7:00 p.m. regarding appointments to various college

committees. All interested students should plan to attend this meeting. A meeting location will be announced shortly. Interviews will be held the weekend of October 18 and 19. Any questions regarding Campus elections or committee appointments, please contact the ENA Committee Chair, Laura Winkler, lwinkler@email.smith.edu.

Treasurer

Julia (J.J.) Yang, SGA Treasurer

As the SGA Treasurer, I am responsible for the SGA funds. The funds are Conference, Student Lecture, and Sawyer. These funds are available for you to apply individually or as an organization. I will present your funding request to the SGA Cabinet on Thursday nights. Please go on to the SGA website to download the forms. Contact me at jyang@email.smith.edu with any questions.

Class of 2009

Aliza Leventhal, President

The Senior Class since the beginning has been a busy group of women and that will not be changing this year. We've have tons planned and are so excited to get things started off with our Pub Crawl on October 4th, 2008. We have already started thinking about spring semester and are interested in trying a few new things out for care-packages as well.

Class of 2010

Elaine Harris, President

In September, the Class of 2010 Cabinet started to meet regularly to discuss and plan for the upcoming school year. The Junior Class had an all class meeting and cider social with our Class Dean, Erika Laquer. Currently we are working to fill three open positions; Treasurer, Historian and Social Chair. 2010 class representatives are eligible to run and the elections will be held next Thursday, October 8, in the SGA office. Questions e-mail eharris@email.smith.edu

Class of 2011

Keturah Edwards, President

Hi my name is Keturah Edwards and I am the 2011 Class President. The 2011 cabinet consists of these following members; Sarah Muskier: Vice President, Helene Sitar: Treasurer, Martha Geaneas: Historian, Angela Zhu: Secretary, and Bryce Bludevich: Social Events Manager. Please feel free to email anyone of us or just stop us on Campus and say hello. Currently we are working on the first event for the Sophomore Class, but we would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions. Our cabinet e-mail address is class2011@email.smith.edu. Be on the look out for information from us about upcoming events.

Until Next Time

The deadline for submissions for the month of November will be **Sunday, October 26th, 2008**. Please submit all information to Sabine Jean, SGA Secretary, at sjean@email.smith.edu Your SGA Cabinet encourages all orgs and to utilize this resource by submitting you org updates.