

SGA CABINET MEETING
September 17, 2009

Members Present: Jinny Choi, Rachel Massey Licata, Sabine Jean, Kai Devlin, Mary Kwan, Katie Clark, Angela Zhu, Eve Hunter, Elizabeth Tanner, Julia Behrs, Sam Young

Members Late: Hailey Bird

Members Absent: Lauren Young, Maggie Chestnut

I. Call to Order: 7:03PM

II. David DeSwert

- a. VP Finance and Administration (Budgets and grants)
- b. Heavily involved in financial planning as support staff
- c. Global economic downturn has a negative effect on endowment
 - i. Endowment reduced by 30%
 - ii. Looked at different strategies to cope with economic changes
 - iii. Estimated a 30 million dollar deficit by 2012
 - iv. Board of Trustees challenged to make up for that gap
 - v. Two major groups on campus: Committee on Mission and Priorities and Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation
 1. Made up of faculty, students, and staff
 2. Work to be as transparent as possible
- d. Developed reduction plan
 - i. Including salary freezes, cuts in medical benefits, raising student faculty ratio from 9:1 to 10:1
 - ii. Cuts in facilities and utilities (by up to 5%)
 1. Conservation projects for utilities
 - iii. Proposed cuts in study abroad programs
 - iv. Library and technology services savings
 1. Looking for areas to reduce staff (up to 60 positions)
 - v. One third of the cuts have taken place already
 1. Salary and benefit freeze in effect
 2. Reduced staff by around 35 positions
 3. Facilities management has budget to try and minimize utility costs
- e. Looking forward
 - i. Market is looking up which is good for the budget
 - ii. Probably implementing 22 million of the 30 million
- f. Concerns that faculty decrease will affect the number of classes available
 - i. Difficult with the tenure faculty model
 - ii. Turn to 5-college system as a resource to fill in gaps
 - iii. There is not a hiring freeze, but hiring will be for temporary positions
 - iv. Committee on Academic Priorities will have a big say in how the faculty shapes up
 - v. Big problem because the number of classes available are scarce

- g. Financial aid budget
 - i. Already over for this academic year
- h. Moving of public safety
 - i. Major savings in the dispatch moving
- i. Housing crisis
 - i. Students are living in studies
 - ii. Fewer students living off campus, causing rooms to be taken by upper classmen
 - iii. Hard to plan for, because of retention rates and study abroad
- j. Who will decide where the money goes if we only need to cut 20 million dollars rather than 30 million dollars?
 - i. Committee on Missions and Priorities and Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation in concert with Curriculum Committee
- k. Visible changes this year
 - i. Student : faculty ratio
 - ii. Tried to impact the Smith experience the least
- l. The residential liberal arts college model
 - i. Most expensive
 - ii. Roughly \$70,000 a year to educate one Smith student a year
 - iii. After financial aid the \$50,000 fee usually averages out to \$27,000 for a student who receives financial aid
 - iv. Concern that education costs will keep sky rocketing
 - 1. Getting a lot of attention from federal government
 - v. Have to find a way to bridge gap between costs
- m. Ada class concerned about their diminishing class size
 - i. Adas have a higher discount rate
 - 1. Has not been a Ada reduction for recruitment
 - 2. Much more competition because there are more opportunities for Ada scholars
 - 3. Dean of enrollment could answer more questions about the future of Ada enrollment

III. Minutes

- a. Approved: 10:0:1

IV. Announcements

- a. Julia's birthday! Monday the 14th
- b. Start to raise hand in meetings
- c. Jinny will make the agendas
- d. The V.O.T.E.S. flyer
 - i. Realign bold letters
 - ii. Make S.G.A. logo bigger
- e. Sam will retake Cabinet board photos
- f. Lighting Walk with Dean Ohotnicky
 - i. October 14th, 6:30PM
 - ii. Starts at Clark Hall, 1st floor

- iii. Access areas that need more blue lights
- g. Face campaign starts next week
 - i. Need “blurb” for flyer
 - 1. Describe position and why it is important
 - ii. Due Sunday, midnight
- h. Committee positions
 - i. Interviewing for the next month, three open committees
 - ii. Sign-ups October 14-16, interviews 17th
- i. Town Hall
 - i. Julia spoke with Dean Ohotnicky
 - 1. Instead of doing one campus wide town hall do several small town halls working with Area Coordinators
 - ii. Speak to Smithies about
 - 1. Our role with the Board of Trustees
 - 2. How students can get involved in what we talk with them about?
- j. Clark Hall
 - i. October 2nd
 - ii. “Neverland” theme
 - 1. Get Peter Pan bus company to sponsor event
 - 1. Blast Clark Hall with Peter Pan images
- k. Organization debt
 - i. Sophian has been in debt for a “very long time”
 - 1. Past few years they have slowly getting themselves out of debt
 - 1. From \$40,000 to \$36,000
 - i. Does S.G.A. want to “bail out” some of their debt?
 - 2. Leadership has been responsible with plans to get out of debt
 - ii. There is a problem when organizations go inactive and still have debt
 - 1. Should create more strict policies so that organizations cannot accumulate such huge amounts of debt
 - 1. Look at other colleges’ systems
- l. Transparency
 - i. Invite Sophian member or other organization members to Cabinet meeting
 - ii. Have them write an article about their experience

V. Funding requests

- a. Conference Fund
 - i. Etta Grover-Silva: \$450 10-0-2 Pass
- b. Sawyer Fund
 - i. Smith Spirit: \$0 10-0-2 Pass

VI. Board of Trustees Meeting

- a. October 16th
- b. Two talking points that really matter
- c. Brainstorming!
 - i. Traditions: why they matter and where they went?
 - ii. Diversity
 - iii. Distinctly Smith: what makes us different?
 - iv. Financial implementations: visibility
 - v. Academic concerns
 1. Course options
 2. 5-College collaborations
 - vi. More information on fiduciary plans and Smith mission
 1. More transparency
 2. Examples: sustainability
 3. How they impact our future and the future of Smith
 - vii. Rising costs of education
 1. Make Smith College relevant with current events
 - viii. Opening the conversation directly into a dialogue
 - ix. Connect with Board members on a nostalgic level
 1. Core values are changing, but we can still relate
 - x. Smith as a global community
 1. Smith as the launching point for the rest of our lives
- d. To get "core values"
 - i. Ask students during lunch hour wearing blue polos
 - ii. The points will be coming from Senate, House Presidents Association, Clark Hall Pool, Chapin Lawn walkabout
 - iii. Monday, September 21, 2009 11:30 in S.G.A. office
 - iv. Uniform questions:
 1. What do you value most as a student at Smith?
 2. What do you see as the core values of Smith College?

VII. Committee Updates

- a. Class of 2011
 - i. Met with cabinet Tuesday
 - ii. Fill vacancies September 22nd
 - iii. Class meeting with Dean, September 22nd
 - iv. Healthy account
- b. Curriculum Committee
 - i. Celebrating Collaborations Committee looking for student representatives
- c. Organization Resource Committee
 - i. Budget hearings this weekend, deliberation next weekend
- d. Class of 2012
 - i. Met with cabinet
 - ii. Planning event highlighting sophomore musicians
- e. Class of 2010

- i. Facebook page up and running
- f. Ada Class
 - i. First all-class meeting, huge turnout
 - ii. Trying to figure out funding for Ada class
- g. Judicial Board
 - i. Held training Sunday
 - ii. New board has one vacancy
 - 1. Looking for an Ada
 - iii. Couple of cases from last year
- h. House Presidents Association
 - i. Committees being formed
 - 1. Fun, Housing, Sustainability, House Cohesion
Committees
- i. Honor Board
 - i. Ada on Board now!

Adjournment: 9:07AM