

Senate 2/26/08

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call 6:31pm
- III. Introduction of Guests
  - a. Tom Colao
  - b. Anthony Barron
  - c. Sara Rosetti
  - d. Rob Kelley
  - e. Laura Seplaki
  - f. Aaron Blakenfield
- IV. President's Report
  - a. DL – one thing is that Westminster Wednesdays is due to be launched this week. On Monday evening during dinner 5:30-7:30 we are having a pep-rally style launch in the dining commons. We still need cheerleaders. I'd love to see you all there as student leaders and please bring your constituents out as well. It will start this Wednesday and continue through the rest of the semester.
  - b. DL – Westminster Student Summit – i.e. the sit-in. Unfortunately I was unable to be there because of student teaching, however other executive board members, and the members of administration are taking a look at the concerns listed there. We've had several meetings and the thing we are working on is stepping up our communication between administration and the student-body, we realized that there needs to be a steadier flow of communication to you.
  - c. DL – Some of the concerns that were raised:
    - i. Facilities – None of these were surprising, Shane is our facilities chair on the President's Cabinet and we are working through him and Steve for some sort of communication. There were some comparisons between facilities here and at Lawrenceville, one thing I would like you to do as student leaders is to be objective and look at exactly what Westminster needs. Don't look at it as an "us against them issue". I'd also say that I'm confident that our administration (particularly Dean Annis) is very passionate about these issues and we are working to solve these problems. Yes we have our own campus but we also fit into a larger college structure. In mentioning that in the general scope of the university, I'm very happy with what I'm hearing from the President and the Board of Trustees about the direction of the college. So the whole concept of WCA is to translate the great things that have been happening here and to implant it into the larger scheme of the university so

that arts becomes a forerunning part of the identity of the university. At the same time this does not mean the transition is going to be easy. I can say that personally I'd rather see the structure of the school change rather than the entire school disappear. Its always up to you as student leaders to come up with ways to help this transition smoother, I know Jamie O'Hara has invited you all to be part of a committee to deal with these issues.

- ii. LS – It doesn't mean that if you have concerns about where WCC is going you don't bring them up, Senate is the place to bring these up and the Executive board is the vehicle through which you should bring these issues.
  - iii. DL – Also last semester we had Dean Onofrio addressed issues of the WCA at a GA as well as having other administrators out and talking about these. If you want more of these to occur, we're also working on having standing Dean's Lunches through the semester so that students can come and have lunch with the Dean's.
- d. Dining Commons and Food Services
- i. DL – Brittany Hines-Hill is the president's cabinet representative. Also we will be having a food committee meeting on Thursday. However a food committee meeting does not always represent the entire student body, I highly encourage you to contact your constituents and see what they say and then go to the meeting and relay the information. Please also know that if at any point you want to see written communication from GA you can email me.
- e. Instruments and Practice Rooms
- i. DL – I would challenge you as a student body, I charge you to contact your constituents and do a poll to see where the worst instruments and try to prioritize what is important (instruments, rooms, benches etc) but if you as our student leaders could get us information it can make our job as the exec board easier when we talk to administration and try to affect positive change.
- f. Parking
- i. DL – First of all let me say that it has been constantly on our agenda all year. There are a lot of factors that have limited our progress however, there is some information relating to the parking situation where there is light at the end of the tunnel, improvement is on the way. You'll just have to trust me, and hopefully we'll have more information for you soon.
- g. AB – In a meeting with Dean Annis he was very in favor of setting up a forum has any progress with that?

h. DL – We’re working with the Dean and his secretary to find a time. I’d also like to reinforce that this is really a partnership; we have different jobs to do. We’re all here to serve students but we do it in different ways. It is very easy for the exec board to get caught up in the loop of the administration bubble, but one of the first things that I noticed that I didn’t have as much contact with the students but that’s what I think the senate’s role really is. Your role is to work more for students so that as we increase our communication we need you to be in contact with us from your constituents. But most importantly thank you for the work you’ve done so far, I really want to see us working in synergy; we’re going to make sure that we’re going in the right direction.

V. Speaker of the Senate Report

a. CO – Under bulletin board

VI. Approvals

a. Minutes

i. CO – We’ll move right on to approval of the minutes from January 29<sup>th</sup>.

1. AB – So moved, RG – seconds – Approved unanimously.

ii. CO – Looking for a motion to approve the minutes from February 5<sup>th</sup>.

1. SM – So moved, AB – seconds – Approved unanimously.

iii. CO – Looking for a motion to approve the minutes from February 12<sup>th</sup>.

1. AB – So moved, DG – seconds – Approved unanimously.

b. Prospective Senators

i. CO – I’ll offer each of you a two-minute period to talk and then we’ll dismiss you.

ii. SMR – I think it’s important to have communication between the student body and the senate, and I think this should be a place that people are comfortable and I’d really like to be here so I can communicate between the students and the exec board.

iii. AntBar – A couple of weeks ago someone asked me to proctor for them and I saw that there are a lot of great things going on and there is a great deal of desire for change. I also heard that there was a shortage of senators and after that meeting a few people approached me and asked if I would be willing to take on this role. At first I was leery of taking on a large time commitment but after consideration I decided that it would be a positive thing to

do and I would hop that my presence would be affective in allowing change and communication to happen.

- iv. RK – I've been directed here because of the shortage of senators and I think there is a great need for student to speak up and from what I'm seeing or not seeing and I think we need more hands to do the work.
- v. TC – I think that the Senate does and has the opportunity to do in the future some really vital work on campus and with the student body especially with this transitional period. I think that if we want the students at large to be involved and feel confident in what's going on we need to have more people involved. I've been through this before because I was at my last university (we've been through he same transitional period) I think that having been though this it gives me a unique period of where we might end up if we do this well and we have the opportunity to make this really wonderful.
- vi. CO – I'll ask that questions that are directed to the chair are suspended and ask each prospective senator directly.
- vii. SM – to all – What brings you our at this point in the year?
  - 1. TC – To be honest, I have always been fairly reluctant to sacrifice time, however I think everyone has to at some point you have to practice what you preach, and if you want change you have to be an instrument of that change.
  - 2. RK – I've come from the perspective of a normal student and I think that the reason senate has been ineffective because students aren't willing to get out there and express themselves.
  - 3. AntBar – First of all, at the beginning of the year I was leery to take on the role of being involved in the senate because I didn't know what the workload would be like, I also didn't know if I should take on a leadership role in a new school. I very much want to be a part of the great things that are going on here, also I was personally unaware of the campaign to get more senators.
  - 4. SMR – I was also unaware of the attempts to get more senators involved, however I decided I wanted to find more ways to help students express themselves.
- viii. PM – There was at one point someone who questioned our senate as a whole especially regarding people voting based

on their personal opinion rather than voting for their constituents, could you vote for yourself or someone else?

1. AntBar – I spoke to my senator Andrew Brothers and we were discussing the Morten Lauridsen and I expressed my concern that this residency at this point was not going to affect the entire student body, and I wanted to find ways to have activities that would affect all students. However the next night I was a proxy for Rachael who informed me that all of her constituents were in favor so I voted with this wishes in mind.
  2. SMR – I think its important to see the student body as a whole an see what is best for everyone not just yourself.
  3. RK – Continuing where Anthony left off, I'm not afraid as a senator I'm not afraid of putting my own personal opinions here in debates. I think if anything communicating with my constituents and discerning what they really want comes before personal opinion.
  4. TC – This is a representation of representative government, I think you are here to represent their voice in the issues at stake, however we are a governing body and it is our job to govern based on the best decision for the good of the community.
- ix. CO – At this time I'll dismiss the four of you for the duration of our debate.
  - x. LoSp – All I would say that if we do get these 4 senators perhaps one more table in here would be appropriate.
  - xi. AZ – Are we voting on just these four?
  - xii. CO – Yes.
  - xiii. SM – I think these four represented themselves well but we have issues already in Senate and I'm wondering if adding 4 more would just complicate the issue.
  - xiv. JF – I think Shane has a good point, but we have 2 months left and if we can pre-season them we'll have more seasoned senators next year.
  - xv. AZ – I think that if they really want to be involved perhaps they should just sit-in for the rest of the year and then join next year.
  - xvi. AB – I've found very few people on this campus who are more dedicated than the four here tonight, and I think we should give them the opportunity to represent themselves and others.

- xvii. AZ – just specifically with Rob Kelley, I don't know him on a personal level but I did see at the last meeting that he left before the meeting was over and he did arrive late today, it is a concern of mine.
- xviii. AB – I can't speak for Rob Kelley, if we tell people no they can't be a part of this I think it sets a dangerous precedent.
- xix. CO – That is going against the constitution.
- xx. AB – I disagree.
- xxi. MF – I think there were very few senators running, including you Mr. Chairmen and if these senators are interested in contributing I think we should let them.
- xxii. SM – In response to Senator Benestelli I think it would be setting an equally dangerous precedent to accept everyone, I think it should be considered on an individual case.
- xxiii. AZ – I'm concerned that all of the sudden so many people are showing interest, I think I do realize that a large part of it was after the forum and that was probably a factor and how much of this was a spur of the moment thing.
- xxiv. LS – Based on the elections in the fall a lot of you are here based on write-ins and a couple of votes, so if anything these students actually have it harder.
- xxv. PM – They all spoke about voicing their opinion, however they all changed their tune when I asked my question, are they going to vote from an unbiased viewpoint?
- xxvi. MF – In discussions on bills and resolutions we each voice our own opinion, so having those perspective senators voice their own opinion and then voting based upon their constituents wishes isn't that what we want in a senator.
- xxvii. MG – Could it be possible that you are sending a biased opinion, its really inevitable based on personal opinion.
- xxviii. AB – I think what we're talking about is that there is a lot of disagreement on how we work with our constituents, but where their answers unsatisfactory and if so how are they?
- xxix. AZ – Specifically with Rob Kelley's answer that when hearing about the Lauridsen, he wasn't thoroughly informed but he was so excited about it that he wanted to be part of it
- xxx. AB – Point of clarification if he was misinformed, it was by a member of this body.
- xxxi. SM – I believe the point raised was how he reacted to the situation rather than how he would react to the situation himself.
- xxxii. AZ – I didn't mean to say misinformed.
- xxxiii. CO – To vote in new Senators we need a 2/3 quorum, I'll look for a motion to approve Sara Maria Rosetti.

- 1. AB – So moved, JF seconds – Motion fails.
- xxxiv. CO – Motion to approve Anthony Barron.
  - 1. RG – So moved, DG – seconds – Passed.
- xxxv. CO – Motion to approve Robert Kelley.
  - 1. AB – So moved, LoSp – seconds – Motion fails.
- xxxvi. CO – Motion to approve Tom Colao.
  - 1. JF – So moved, DG – seconds – Motion fails.
- xxxvii. AB – Could we re-do Sarah, I thought I saw 8 votes.
- xxxviii. CO – 7 votes, could someone please call them into the room.
- xxxix. CO – Thank you for your interest however based up the votes needed by our constitution 3 of you were not accepted to this body and one of you was, however please continue to show interest and please run again in the fall.

## VII. Roberts Rules Training

- a. AarBla – Thank you for having me this evening, if at anytime you have questions please ask. I'm the parliamentarian for Phi Mu Alpha. I don't know what your knowledge is but: the reason you have Roberts rules is so that there is a firm set of rules as to how you will proceed in business. If you want to get a book get RRO in Brief. In RRO – you have a system that one person is elected as a chair. The role of the chair is to facilitate discussion, what's important to realize is that you have the power of the body. The chair is just there to make sure things are running smoothly. If the chair decided to speak on an issue they have to pass on their responsibilities to another persona and then it's the other person's responsibility to pass the power back to the chair. A couple of things I would suggest based on your agenda is approval of minutes first, and then next comes reports (typically they are just to give information). Then special orders of business then unfinished business (unfinished because things that have been carried over from the previous meeting), then new business (and you should always have new business). I always give my formula to people for making a motion, a simple formula is to add 'because' then the motion. During debate each person is only allowed to speak twice and then only for 2 minutes. You really think about what you have to say you don't debate personalities and you focus on the issue on hand. You should never have your hand raised while someone else is speaking, the preference is the person who made then motion then someone new then someone who has a different opinion. When you get ready to close debate make sure you ask a few times to close discussion, however if you know someone has something else to say don't close the motion its rude. With you being elected you should generally know how your

constituents should want you to vote, you should already talk to your constituents.

- b. LS – The issue is that they were getting the legislation late.
- c. AarBla – I would put in a by-law that would prevent legislation from being automatically considered. Something else is that you have interjections, there are three different types: point of information (when you have information that is important and you have to interrupt) Point of inquiry (when you have a question), Point of Order (if someone is out of order and if you have a question about the order of the meeting).
- d. DG – If I'm not mistaken the way I've seen RRO – there is typically a parliamentarian on the body that is an expert and I think we might not always know if they are in violation of RRO.
- e. AarBla – I would suggest that you put it in your by-laws to incorporate that person and it is the chairs responsibility to appoint one.
- f. DG – And that person wouldn't be a member?
- g. AarBla – No they are a member, it is just someone else who is an expert but the chair should be the most well versed in RRO
- h. AB – Would the parliamentarian have a vote?
- i. AarBla – The parliamentarian would vote they have the same privileges and rights.
- j. CO – POI - The chair does not always abstain, if there is a tie the chair divides the vote.
- k. AarBla – Use the three interjections sparingly, if you use them too often it is considered rude. The basics are really simple you just have to know the system and know that you have the power of the meeting. The presiding chair just has the power to move the meeting along; you have the power to do what you want to do.
- l. AntBar – How is RRO fundamentally different from what we've been doing in here?
- m. PM – Each topic will be much more to the point because each person only speaks twice. Mainly for this body it would be the discussion.
- n. AntBar – Follow up, what if debate changes through the discussion?
- o. AarBla – You use your comments sparingly, the way to get around it is to suspend RRO but that is dangerous.
- p. CO – I have to stop discussion to go through the meeting.

#### VIII. Old Business

- a. Bulletin Board
  - i. CO – 4 people got together, it will be taken care of, what's important for you to know is that you will be getting new

constituents. In case I don't get to this please go and make a list of who you're people are.

- b. Seabrook Lounge Doors
  - i. KC – POI – explanation.
  - ii. CO – I'll entertain a motion to put this off until next week
    - 1. SM – So moved – DG seconds – approved unanimously.
- c. Gong Show – March 28<sup>th</sup>
  - i. CO – Every year we do the gong show, but you have the floor.
  - ii. PM – If you do want to pass the rights on...
  - iii. CO – No thanks.
  - iv. JW – The Gong Show was spearheaded by Senators in past years, it doesn't have to be tradition but it has sort of become one.
  - v. DG – Can we enlighten some senators?
  - vi. CO – It is a non-talent talent show. It's a very easy thing to do as a body (sign-up sheet, decorating, finding a host, and securing an opinion) its something that we are able to do to bring a positive light to the senate.
  - vii. AZ – I think it's a great idea and I think we should do it. I know that Ed had mentioned that we could have a student forum but I think we've had enough it.
  - viii. AB – Can we appoint someone to spearhead the project?
  - ix. CO – I'll entertain a motion to approve the moment.
    - 1. SM – so moved, AZ seconds – approved unanimously.
  - x. CO – The speaker of the senate will take this on and
- d. Food Committee Meeting – This Thursday!
  - i. CO – Please let your constituents know.
  - ii. PM – Also please make sure that you are there as well. If you can't be there email Courtney.
  - iii. Laura – 12:15-1:15 Robinson Room.

IX. For the Good of the Order

- a. LS – GA meeting this Sunday 8:00pm in Williamson, no specific speaker but we will be talking about heritage. OIT update - We have a meeting with the dean on Friday and we'll bring it up with him. There is a SRC steering committee meeting next week and if anyone is interested in being part of that committee and we'd love you to be part of it.
- b. DG – Is this for our campus or Lawrenceville?
- c. Laura – Both even if you can't be at the meeting please email me and let me know what the issues.
- d. AB – Motion to extend the meeting for extending the meeting for the duration of Laura's meeting – DG seconds, approved.

e. LS – Last semester there were concerns about the running of senate (breakdown of communication etc), that's why I've been attending meetings. The positive thing is that everyone seems to have a genuine interest in WCC, the bad issues is that there are major communication issues. We've met with students, and it is my mission now to make these issues decrease and increase the effectiveness of these meetings. As Dionne stated earlier it is our responsibility to make sure that you can be affective. So over the next several weeks I'll be working with Ed and talking with him about some of the concerns so there might be some discussions about how things are working – we are going to need continual feedback from you to see how things are working. Does anyone want tot add anything else? I mainly wanted you to know that I've been listening and as changes are made and we'll make sure things are being addressed.

X. Adjournment 8:05pm