

Student Government Association
Westminster Choir College of Rider University
Senate

2 April 2009

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m.

- II. Roll Call
 - a. Anthony Baron - proxy Sierra Oh
 - b. Alex Benestelli
 - c. Ted Bickish
 - d. Shani Foster
 - e. Anna Friars
 - f. Derrick Goff
 - g. Kristin Hagan
 - h. Dan Halbstein
 - i. Jim Hopkins
 - j. Shane Magargal
 - k. Patrice Malone
 - l. Katie Matheson - proxy Victoria Neil
 - m. Meredyth Morrison
 - n. Samantha Scully
 - o. Dena Sweeney - absent
 - p. Julianne Zervopoulos

- III. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Benestelli moved to approve the agenda

- b. Seconded
 - c. The ayes had it.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- a. March 26th minutes were approved without amendments.
- V. Reports
- i. President
 - 1. President LaBoy gave his report.
 - ii. Vice President
 - 1. Vice President Godfrey gave her report.
 - iii. Speaker
 - 1. Speaker Magargal gave his report.
 - iv. Constitution and Bylaws Committee
 - 1. Senator Benestelli will be sending his report via email to the body. President LaBoy gave a brief report on the occurrences within the bi-campus meeting.
 - v. Elections Committee
 - 1. Secretary Mendezona gave her report.
 - 2. The elections committee has further discussed the issue raised about candidate eligibility. As the process is currently underway, we have decided to uphold the language of the Bylaws as they currently stand. This, we feel is the decision in the best interest of the SGA at this time. However it is the opinion of this committee that the underlying problem of excluding graduate students is an issue that must be addressed before next year's election. We urge the

senate to undertake means to correct this issue before the next executive board election process begins (2010).

VI. New Business

i. Deaftones Acknowledgement Resolution

Vice President Godfrey read the resolution.

The floor was given to Senator Friars to discuss the resolution.

Call for Discussion.

Senator Benestelli thanked senator friars and moved to adopt the resolution.

Seconded

The resolution is adopted.

ii. Make It Happen Day

Vice President Godfrey presented the idea of bringing back "Make it Happen Day". On April 10th, she would like the senators to walk around with the form that she will be bringing to senate next year and asking students what they would like improved with the school.

Senator Benestelli pointed out that there might be some conflicts with senators during Holy Week.

VP Godfrey decided to move it to next Wednesday April 8th.

iii. Discussion with Dean Annis

Senator Magargal asked about the status of the parking lot next fall.

Dean Annis replied that last Monday evening they met with the neighbors in Bristol Chapel. The architect, the civil engineer, planning board and facilities staff were all present. They presented this history of the school, discussed the master plan of the school and opened the floor up to questions. The neighbors closest to the school were the most concerned with lights, drainage, etc. He will be relaying the message to the planning board and they will be moving forward from there.

Senator Halbstein reported that all of Ithaca is being converted into singles. Many students have been displaced for next year. He asked why the current residents of Ithaca didn't have first choice of keeping the rooms.

Dean Annis was not part of that decision. All housing decisions tend to be within Student Affairs. He will ask and encourage feedback to be given to the students. He encourages the body to email them.

Senator Zervopoulos reported that there were a lot of problems with the current Resident Life Staff this year. There is poor communication going on, a lot of issues

are being left to the Resident Directors and they are having trouble keeping up on things. Dayton is becoming a coed dorm and this is a huge concern because it was the only dorm specifically for women. This is a huge concern for female students who are conservative. She believes there is a huge miscommunication within the residence life staff. Most of their concerns have not been addressed. She is unsure whom else to go to above Jane and Dean Johnson.

Dean Annis: asked if she had a record of communication of things not being done by email. If so he will take them forward. He was not a part of the decision with regards to converting the dorms to coed status.

Ted Bickish mentioned that the closing of rehearsal places during breaks was very inconvenient especially for organ majors. He wondered if there was anything that could be done with regards to the issue.

The dean advised him to have the organ department or he himself send him an email regarding the issue. Unfortunately the school cannot have all doors open and unlocked when school is not in session but they will look into it. They are constantly re-evaluating the situation.

Senator Benestelli thanked Dean Annis for coming. Organ dept. is excited about the honorary doctorate being given. He was wondering if the dean could give

any definitive answer of what the color of the honorary doctorate hoods will be.

The dean suggested that we discuss this at the meeting with the President and the executive board tomorrow.

Senator Hopkins reported that one of his constituents was concerned about there being a smart board and the cost of it when it isn't really being used.

Dean Annis recommended utilizing the "Make it Happen Day" to suggest technology upgrades and/or spending.

Senator Goff asked when the other position to be filled even during the hiring freeze.

Dean Annis replied that he didn't but that it was still aligned.

Senator Goff asked the dean to describe the process of accreditation.

Dean Annis explained the process to the body.

Senator Friars explained to the dean the Smoking Forum Bill that she and Senator Halbstein are currently drafting. She invited the dean to attend the open forum during General Assembly. She asked the dean how he felt about the bill.

Dean Annis replied that he would love to have a smoke-free campus. He advised her to make sure they consider every aspect of how it fits within the university structure. He asked what percentage of the student body smoke.

Discussion occurred regarding the bill.

Senator Halbstein moved to extend the meeting until all points in the agenda have been met.
Seconded.

The nays had it.

Senator Benestelli moved to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded.
The ayes had it.

VII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.w