

**Student Government Association
Westminster Choir College of Rider University
Senate**

9 April 2009

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

- a. Anthony Baron-Proxy Robert Pegg
- b. Ted Bickish- Sierra Oh
- c. Anna Friars
- d. Kristin Hagan
- e. Dan Halbstein
- f. Jim Hopkins
- g. Shane Magargal
- h. Patrice Malone
- i. Meredyth Morrison
- j. Samantha Scully
- k. Dena Sweeney
- l. Julianne Zervopoulos

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Senator Magargal moves to approve the agenda.
- b. Seconded
- c. Ayes have it.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Senator Zervopoulos moved to postpone approval until next week.
- b. Seconded.
- c. The ayes have it.

V. Reports

- i. Vice President
 - 1. Meeting with Vicky Weaver about various issues such as conservatory parents going into Ithaca, late responses to calls, inconsistency to parking tickets, and lack of effort on part of security officers.
- ii. Speaker
 - 1. (Emailed report to Ryan)
 - 2. It is not specifically in the Constitution for senators to attend G.A. meetings, however it is implied.
 - 3. Memorandum being drafted.

VI. Unfinished Business

- i. Make It Happen Day

Vice President Godfrey asked how many senators “made it happen.” We will be doing it again, hopefully on Elections Day.

Senator Sweeney suggests having posters hung up.

Senator Magargal asked that it be posted during the Forum for Elections.

VII. New Business

- i. Presentation on Tuition by Dean Campbell
 1. Basic Principals are to keep tuition low and increase what they do with financial aide.
 2. 4.9% increase in tuition. Typical increase has been from 5.5-6.5%. Originally they thought it would fall where it did last year at around 5.8%. The Economy crash made them rethink this, which is where 4.7% came from. This is the lowest increase since 2001. Increase is critical because they need to address the needs being presented this year.

They are looking for more ways to make financial aide go further. They did not budget for the \$650,000.00 extra they spent in financial aide. So, they want to make sure they are budgeted for that.

Circumstances with the economy and family situations have changed, so if you are thinking of leaving you should come first to financial aide and try to work things out.

For example, they are offering grants to rising juniors in the fall to those who live on campus. The goal is to keep loan and debt rates down.

Number one investment is to financial aide so they can better serve the students.

This summer they are looking to do more improvements over the summer, specifically to the practice rooms. Parking lot is still being worked on however cannot be guaranteed for the fall 2009 semester. Another project is signage, not only in front of Williamson in other non-specified areas as well.

Vice President Godfrey stated last Senate meeting is April 30th.

Senator Magargal asked about graduate student limited financial aid, how might it be increased?

It was just increased, however until they secure more endowed awards it cannot be any more than it is.

At the graduate level you have 9 credits versus 12 credits at the undergraduate level. Some find it better to do part-time graduate school, because it is more affordable.

However, scholarships are usually given to full-time students, but not limited to full-time students. Your needs need to be communicated to the financial aide department.

Senator Friars asked what the overload charge is?

It is half of the credit charge, half of \$890.00.

Senator Sweeney asked if there is any way to reinstate or redistribute scholarship money if the student switches from full-time, to part-time, and back to full-time?

It needs to be addressed to the financial department personally. It is dependent on the situation. As long as they know what the situation is, they will work with you during the time of economic hardship.

Email: Johara@rider.edu

ii. Smoking Reform Act Bill

1. The origins lie in a constituent wanting to make the campus a smoke free environment. However, there needed to be a compromise. They are saying to smokers “you can still smoke” and you will not have to go very far. But to everyone else we are saying, “second hand smoke is a terrible problem to be addressed.” Also, the gazebo allows smokers to smoke in an area not near the dorms for shelter near the rain.
2. Senator Friars says that this was brought up at the G.A. meeting last Sunday, resulting in a unanimous vote for a designated smoking area. What was in question was if we should get one or two gazebos one for smokers and another for non-smokers. Essentially what is left up to the senate is whether there should be another gazebo for non-smokers.

Senator Magargal moved to extend the meeting until all business is met.

Seconded

The ayes have it.

3. Senator Magargal wishes to thank Senator Halbstein and Friars for their extensive work on this. One gazebo is sufficient for this purpose at this time according to constituents.
4. Senator Hopkins asks how we would address faculty and outsiders coming on the campus?
5. Senator Friars answered stating they have no say over faculty however, if you bring visitors on the campus the student is responsible for that visitor. Also, they would ask the faculty to have respect for this new legislation.
6. Dean Johnson says a good way to address the faculty is to explain the sentiment for this bill.
7. Steve Hitzel will be building a slate to the gazebo. They picked this location because it is friendly, safe, and well lit.
8. Senator Morrison asks for the exact location?
9. Senator Friars answers there is three trees at the top of the library hill, it will be between two of the trees. It will be far enough away from the walkway.
10. Senator Magargal moves to adopt the Smoking Act.
11. Seconded.
12. The ayes have it.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

- a. Senator Hopkins states the fridge and television in Ithaca are not working properly.
- b. Senator Friars moved to adjourn.
- c. Seconded.
- d. The ayes have it.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.