The Thousand Year Old Egg
College Council’s Minutes for the
7:30 P.M., 11 February 2004, Regular Meeting in Hopkins 1964 Classroom
Freshman Representation

Note the date: this is not the most recent meeting’s minutes, but those of the one before it, a week and a half ago.
The title is to make these seem fresher, and less stinky, by comparison.

Goodrich Living room will house Grab and Go.
Pig’s feet in the hot dog chili? Pah. Next you’ll be complaining there are no mollusks in the prairie oysters.

Committees and Groups

Alden Robinson gave Council an update from the Information Technology Committee OIT Committee. They have approved a project to set up a “virtual network of some sort” to allow faculty to use college licensed software from their homes. Anticipating inquiry from Council members, he addressed recent network malfunctions, stating primarily that he was satisfied that serious work was being done to correct what could be, to keep the network going as well as possible.

Rana Suh spoke as Council’s proxy from the Athletic Field Committee originally christened the Turf Field Committee. She delivered news already known by most, that the site chosen for the turf field by the committee was Weston Field, over the current baseball field. She added also, however, that this site had apparently displeased some parties, most prominently town neighbors and the college Astronomy department, and that those objections may in fact cause the process to go back to the drawing board. She delivered this last news with great hesitancy, however, qualifying that she was very unsure as to the degree of likelihood of that event, and how much was supposition or rumor. If it were to go as planned, the field would be finished by next year. Peter Tosirisuk Morgan, Lehman asked if it were not possible to have lights on the turf field that did not affect astronomy. Rana said the representative from those contracted to build the field claimed there is a way to have the lights light only the field, and no surrounding area, but she expressed skepticism. Peter asked what would happen to the field if Weston was rejected. Rana said the chances of a return to Upper Colé were slim, and in fact she had no real idea of any other place.

Adam Grogg had graciously deferred to the other reports, and now took the floor to give the next update, from the Student Centers Management Team SCMT. The committee works on day to day issues for the buildings, occasionally putting together programming, said Adam. His position as Student Centers Manager will be open, as will those of coffee bar supply and personnel manager. Once the positions are announced, interested candidates will complete an application. Adam also talked about SCMT’s role in giving input to the Baxter transition, as far as how space in Goodrich would be used. SCMT approved an Activities Office move to the second floor, and Grab and Go to Goodrich living room. “We have received genuine assurances” that Dining Services will do all that it can to minimize disruption of the space’s use. They said they’ll truck food in rather than prepare it on the spot, and will need only display space, essentially some coolers and tables, with a curtain up to hide machinery during the hours that Grab and Go is not open.

Finally, Marcus Duyzend and Yifan Guo of the Dining Services Committee spoke, to wrap up the session. The had gauged that students would be fine with the plans for operation during Baxter’s shutdown: all dining halls will be open for breakfast. Grab and Go hours will be extended. The Snack Bar will move to Mission Park. The Eco Café will have extended hours. Marcus also mentioned that the butter substitute currently used on the flattop grills in dining halls was to be phased out; Ezemudi Ukaonu Tyler, Tyler Annex objected on the grounds that he liked the flavor. Ali Moiz Dodd Quad raised an issue he had with the names and ingredients printed on food cards in the dining halls. Frequently the names omitted ingredients that may be important to some. there was something today called “Hot Dog Chili,” said Ali. When he asked what was in it, the attendant said chicken feet and pig intestines.

Budgets

Federico Sosa treasurer brought this week’s Financial Committee FinCom recommendations before Council. This week featured a 570 request from the Garfield Republicans for a speaker they intended to bring to campus. The speaker would waive his honorarium if the club used the money instead to buy 300 copies of his book to distribute.

Highlights

- Interesting committee reports.
- A turf field complication?
- The number and nature of house positions may change.

☐ Hey, Mr. “never looked better” secretarial candidate: I got a challenge for you. Last page.
to the first 300 people to attend the lecture. FinCom appreciated this deal as well as the club's success in bringing Ben Stein to campus at minimal cost, and recommended the full $570.

The Elizabethans requested $570 to pay down a debt left at the end of last year that the treasurer had actually paid to the Controller's office already, but which the office had lost. FinCom sympathized with the situation and appreciated the treasurer's wish to pay the debt, but did not believe that Council should pay for the error of the Controller's office. They recommended no, with the intent to see if the situation could be sorted out with the office.

Finally, Women's Rugby requested $1,200 for balls, scrum caps, and shoulder pads. FinCom cut $650 from the budget and recommended $550 because they believed shoulder pads could be shared more, and because the club had a lot of money in their account, though they claimed it was all tied up already.

As per usual, Council moved to a vote on the slate nearly immediately.

☐ Ratifying the Financial Committee's recommendations PASSED, 29-0-0.

New Business from the Agenda

Freshman Representation An initiative to increase and redistribute freshman representation hits the Council floor, and revives general redistricting

Peter Tosirisuk Morgan Lehman raised two possible solutions to the problem he and noticed in the Council bylaws, which in no place explicitly provided for representatives from the freshman dorms. One proposal simply added the required text to the freshman dorms. One proposal, said Peter, and it was in Council's interest to make positions available to them. Finally, the sheer numbers per rep were in need of fixing. Some freshman house rep positions, like his own, were distanced such that they had too large and scattered number of students to speak for.

Peter's increased plan proposed one rep each for Lehman, Morgan, East, and Fayerweather, and two reps for each of the Frosh Quad dorms, Sage and Williams. All Council discussion pertained to this part of his proposal.

Jessi England Class of 2006 opposed increased representation. Eight representatives was out of line with what other classes had, said Peter, and it was vitally important to get Council a lot smaller.

Andres Schabelman all campus favored Peter's proposal. “I love the frosh on this council. They are not jaded by upperclass whatever, i.e. me and others like me.” He said this year's frosh reps had been incredibly active.

Aaron Wilson all campus stood with Jessi, and answered Andres that freshman reps have less experience on Council as a whole. “If you are going to expand Council, why expand it with eight freshmen instead of more experienced reps?” Peter later rebutted this directly: “About experience on Council: what really is the experience they get? They just get more and more frustrated.”

Jonathan Landsman secretary recalled to Council efforts made the prior spring to redistrict constituencies across campus, with the general idea of grouping houses with similar interests and geographical location, thus having fewer districts but more reps per district. He said this mentality could and should be applied to the current proposal, and specifically said having a Lehman rep seemed unreasonable. He proposed to group Lehman with the two Frosh Quad dorms and have 3 positions to represent all three houses. Peter opposed this on the grounds that “Lehman would be overwhelmed by the Frosh Quad.”

Jim Irving Class of 2005 moved to postpone Peter's second proposal, fixing the guidelines that would increase freshman representation. Commending the current year's frosh reps, he said he was still not convinced that adding more inexperienced frosh was a good idea. He wanted a committee to meet between this meeting and the next to draw up a comprehensive representational change to cover all of campus.

☐ Postponing the freshman redistricting bylaw PASSED, 20-7-0.

Ali Moiz, Andres Schabelman, Skip McMannon, Peter Tosirisuk, Jim Irving, Veronica Mendiola, and Philipp Huy volunteered to work on the committee to examine and make recommendations to Council on house representation districts.
New Business from the Floor

Petition for Eligibility to Run for Treasurer by Kerel Nurse

The Constitution of the Student Body states, in IV, Section A. Requirements: “2. Candidates for the position of Treasurer must be or have been members of the Finance Committee, unless the Council, by two thirds majority vote, makes other candidates eligible.” Kerel Nurse, never a FinCom member, nevertheless submitted a selfnom to the Elections Supervisory Committee stating his intent to run for Council treasurer, and now petitioned Council to make him eligible.

Kerel was not present to make his appeal, but sent a letter to Council by Chin and reprinted below:

hi.

I can't make council tonight because of a class conflict. As you all may know, I am running for treasurer and have served on the allocations committee. However, I was never a member of Fincom and need a 2/3 vote from council in order to run for the position. I would like to ask for those votes tonight in my absence. I would rather be there to present my case to members of Council, but because of my class running from 7:30 until 10 p.m., I am unable to be there tonight. Thank you for your time.

Veronica Mendiola Gladden asked if there was any difference between the experience gained by serving on FinCom and that by serving on GFAC. She was answered that FinCom members gain more experience auditing budgets, as they serve throughout the year and review all budgets at the start of the year. A member who serves on GFAC but not FinCom also misses all the work done over the summer to review budgets.

Andres Schabelman all campus supported making Kerel eligible. “For the purposes of democracy, we should let the student body decide.” Jim Irving Class of 2005 agreed, and raised Mike Henry as an example of a past treasurer who did a great job, despite having no experience on FinCom.

Aaron Wilson all campus voiced aloud a suspicion some members of Council felt that there wasn’t “A real class tonight,” and if Kerel had really wanted the position he’d have come to Council. Dan Rooney Mills, Thompson disagreed and said Council should give Kerel “the benefit of the doubt,” and echoed Jim and Andres’s sentiments.

Federico Sosa treasurer weighed in with the opinions, “This treasurer is the most important position on Council. Jonathan Landsman secretary cleared his throat loudly in protest. Fede echoed Aaron, and mentioned that before the constitution had restricted eligibility, the bylaws had.

☐ Making Kerel Nurse eligible to run for treasurer FAILED, 16-10-0.

The 30-Second Rule A procedural device introduced with this administration allowing members time to speak after a motion to vote closes debate

Gerry Lindo all campus moved to strike the 30 second rule from procedure.

Robert’s Rules of Order provide for a motion to “Demand the Previous Question” or as it is affectionately called in Council, the “Motion to Vote.” The motion is made when a member feels that a motion has been debated sufficiently, and it is time to vote on it. It requires a 2/3 vote to pass, to ensure that any minority silenced is sufficiently small.

Until this year, Council procedure used this motion as it appears in Robert’s Rules.

This year, however, the procedure approved by Council contained an amended form of the Motion to Vote: “Before the vote, however, all members who had their hands raised, and only those members who had their hands raised, at the time the motion to vote was declared may speak for no more than 30 seconds each.”

Many members opposed Gerry’s motion. Aaron Wilson all campus said that moving to vote let people cut off the minority of Council. Federico Sosa treasurer added that the rule defends not only the minority, but those shy of speaking up. Philipp Huy all campus said it is “too easy to win 2/3 in this group.” Other members stated that a string of 30 seconds, amounting to no more than a couple of minutes per issue total, was not a lot of time to sacrifice for the additional debate.

Jonathan Landsman secretary was most vociferously in favor of abolishing the rule, which he said he had opposed since its conception, and which he characterized as an abomination in procedure. He said that Robert’s Rules were designed with the central purpose of balancing the right of every person to speak on an issue with the need of the body to move through business. Requiring 2/3, he said, was a sufficient measure to control
the closing of debate, the problem with debate and the time spent in meetings currently was that a 2/3 vote, which should be hard to pass, is instead easily gained both in extending debate and then in closing it. He called for, rather than members allowing a measure which he said was to “protect them from their own stupid usage of procedure” to instead use the rules more wisely.

Chin Ho co pres spoke in favor of the 30 second rule. “People who don’t get to talk feel angry, he said.” Later, ironically by using his own 30 seconds after a motion to vote passed, Jonathan exhorted members that procedure was not designed to give members the “cathartic pleasure of making their own points,” but rather to serve the body as a whole.

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 spoke also as one of the few supporters of Gerry’s motion. It seemed to him that people were getting in line to speak just to make their own point, he said, and there was not a lot of real dialog between members on an issue.

Mike Henry, with dissent from the secretary, ruled that the motion, because it was an amendment to procedure, required a 2/3 majority to pass. The point was academic, as . . .

The motion to strike the 30 second bylaw from procedure FAILED, 4-23-0.

Absentees Two absences in a row or three in a term result in a members’ expulsion, unless overridden by the secretary’s discretion or petition to the Council

Sabrina Wirth Prospect Evan Schutz Mark Hopkins
Lindsay Dwyer Bryant, Woodbridge

This is the second absence for all three of the above representatives. Another absence this term will result in their removal from Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Landsman
Secretary of College Council