For God’s Sake, Read the Closing
College Council’s Minutes for the
7:30 P.M., 22 October 2003, Regular Meeting in Hopkins 1964 Classroom
Turf Field, Daily Advisor
Possible Impeding Dorm Access Restrictions

Open Time starts every meeting
Harry Sheehy, Director of Athletics, came to Council and spoke for 20 minutes on athletics at the College.
Sheehy expressed his general happiness with the debate over the turf field. He stated his great dissatisfaction with the Record article on the issue, calling it “grossly unfair” and said that he intended to talk to Bart Clareman about it. He said that Athletics had been told “from the start” that the area by Weston Field was off limits, and that information, now “water under the bridge,” was one reason things went the way they did initially. He affirmed that he now believed the field “will be put in a good place.”

Movements to fulfill student’s needs in athletics are best pushed by students, he said.
Sheehy delivered his views on numerous aspects of athletic facilities that were outdated, such as the “draconian” weight room and its air circulation system. He spoke with disdain about the parking garage, “the one with about four cars in it,” saying that it had been built over what used to be heavily used as field space, and neither he nor anyone else in his department had been consulted about the project, to his knowledge.

Godfrey Bakuli Sagé asked what steps were being taken to improve facilities.
Sheehy reminded Council that there are three major construction projects in the works or in progress, and that to be a team player he had decided to hold off on clamoring for other big improvements. One example of one that needs to be done, he said, is the ice hockey rink. Lindsay Dwyer Bryant, Woodbridge, on a similar line, asked if there were any plans to improve the weight center. “The best improvement would be to put a bomb in there when no one is around,” answered Sheehy, asking specifically that it be noted in the minutes that he was kidding. More seriously, he noted that we are pushing currently the limits of safety in there, due to having “7,000 square feet less of footage than many other campuses.” Lindsay followed up to ask about other measures, like satellite treadmills’ etc., treadmills spaced around the building. Sheehy said misgivings were for safety concerns, such as a student’s collapsing with no staff member around to help.

Sabrina Wirth Prospect asked about allowing IM and club sports to count for PE credit. Sheehy said that he was “committed to having this discussion” and said that the Athletic Department mainly needed to get to a point where they could be sure that such programs met a level of intensity and that those receiving credit attended enough meetings. The lack of a coach would also need to be addressed.

Michael Greenberg East, Fayerweather asked, “in light of recent incidents,” what responsibilities do athlete hosts have? Sheehy admonished Council that the issue was not just athletes, but applied to all hosts. He mentioned a proposal to force hosts to sign a commitment to follow rules, but his staff was split on that. Michael pressed to ask what the responsibilities of athletes were in terms of punishment? Sheehy held that he believed it was necessary to expect students to act responsibly. He asked Council members if they would consider a host responsible for what his guest did when away from the host.

Nora Burns Spencer, West asked why trainers are only available to varsity athletes.
Sheehy said that even with the restriction, the head trainer, Mike Frawley, and his staff of three are hopelessly overworked. Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry followed up to ask why more trainers have not been hired. Sheehy said it has been proposed, and such positions were not approved. The department has been considering, for an alternative, giving clubs and intramural groups an optional training and injury prevention clinic.

Peter McMannan Williams asked about the policy of allotting field space to off season teams, and whether off season sports could be considered for IM status or PE credit. Sheehy answered that it was a NESCAC violation to reserve space for practices off season. He expressed concern for the “ratcheting up” of out of season activities, and that he felt strongly that athletes should have time for other activities.

Andrew Nathenson co op, off campus asked Sheehy to address the issue of athletes’ hardship making committee meetings and late classes. Sheehy added that not just athletes...
miss out, but Athletic faculty, who are also able to serve on committees. He said that he believed there was a bias against athletes and athletic faculty. “We have been screaming about this. We are talking about students’ ability to share fully in the life of the College.”

Federico Sosa treasurer asked how to get the Athletic Department to support some of the more expensive club teams. Sheehy said that he was willing to address the issue, but that the solution would require more resources and personnel. The way to find out how important an issue is to the administration, he said, is: “Will they throw money at it?”

Sheehy closed by restating that the best part of his job is working with the students, and told an anecdote of a thank you card he saw on the wall of Beginner Swim instructor Steve Kuster, which said, “Thanks so much, Steve. See you on the deep end.” He wants clubs and IM teams to flourish, and said that one of the worst things he heard come out of the debate was the false notion that Athletics did not support those teams.

Committees and Groups

Reports from student faculty policy groups

Minority Coalition MinCo. Carlos Ramirez MinCo said that MinCo was an organizational group composed of 14 cultural groups, which he then listed. He said that it was important for Council to know all those names, so that we know what we are talking about when we say “MinCo.” Cathy Mercado MinCo added that MinCo’s current major work concerned with campaigns to inform campus about the Coalition’s mission and history, such as past hunger strikes to push for desired majors. There is also the Anti Hate Rally, to be held November 4th. She stressed that its goal was to target hatred in general, not only the recent incidents regarding the QSU.

Coalition Environmental Advisory Committee CEAC. Mark Orlowski, student chair of CEAC, told Council that the group is looking at the feasibility of implementing green building design features, which would return a benefit to the college over the long term. They also want to raise praise and recognition for what the College is doing now environmentally, such as the Honda Civic hybrid in the B&G fleet which “drives really nice,” or the cogen facility that uses the College heating system to generate electricity.

Budgets

Federico Sosa treasurer presented and explained the Financial Committee’s FinCom recommendations from last weekend’s group funding request meeting.

Wishes, Williams Initiative for School Health Education Services, requested 450 and was recommended 450. Fede remarked that their budget was well organized.

The Forensics Society, a mock trial group, requested 2033 and 950 was recommended. The cut was made because FinCom believed this was the minimum needed to start out, and they should work from that and return later if things go well and require more. Jonathan Landsman secretary asked for clarification on the appeal of the FinCom decision that he had heard Forensics had made. Fede explained that it was based on money that Forensics wanted to pay for lodging, which was denied because it is FinCom policy that group dues should go to that expense. Chin Ho co pres responded to the issue of the appeal: “I never emailed him back, so he never got his appeal.”

Swing Club requested 2000 for a band for a dance this weekend. FinCom recommended 0. The request violated the bylaw requiring that requests be made 2 weeks before fund usage, said Fede. Also, Swing’s treasurer had not negotiated with the band, and in fact later found out that the band would play for 1200, of which Aaron Wilson all campus said ACE is paying 800. Secretary’s note: Council’s secretary has confirmed the amount to be 1100, from discussions with the Swing Club president, Eric Engler.

FinCom’s recommendations PASSED, 32-0-0.

New Business from the Agenda

Committee Solicitations for the Turf Field and Bookstore Committees

Mike Henry co pres brought a proposal to form a committee to deal with the turf field’s construction. For the sake of space, the version below is an integrated version of the proposal in its original form, and in its form passed after numerous amendments by CC. Sections that were deleted are stricken out, sections added are in brackets.

Turf Athletic Field Planning Committee

A focus group of 15 to 20 participants to meet to develop a master plan for the proposed turf athletic field, b) determine a location for the field, c) stipulate the construction and design requirements of the field, and d) develop a long term vision for athletic fields at Williams. These plans will be subject to further review by the larger campus community.
Focus group should be a diverse group of faculty, staff and students. Members should include representatives from the Athletics Department, Buildings and Grounds Athletic Grounds, varsity athletic teams, IM and club athletic teams, and the Clark Company.

**Administrator, Faculty, and Staff Membership**

Harry Sheehy, Director of Athletics  
Irene Addison, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Varisty Team Coaches  
Faculty Member?

**Student Membership**

1. WUFO rep — CJ Bak, treasurer of Men’s WUFO and member of CPR  
2. CPR rep — CJ Bak, captain of Men’s WUFO and member of CPR  
3. CEAC rep — To be selected from and by CEAC  
1. Field Hockey rep — To be selected from and by the Field Hockey team  
2. Women’s Lacrosse rep  
3. Field Hockey/Women’s Lacrosse rep — To be selected from the Field Hockey and Women’s Lacrosse team by the coach of those teams  
4. Men’s Lacrosse rep — To be selected from and by the Men’s Lacrosse team  
5. Baseball rep — To be selected from and by the Baseball team  
6. All-campus rep — To be selected from the student body through the College Council appointments process. Council will solicit for self nominations from Thursday, Oct. 22 to Monday, Oct. 27. The Appointments Committee will select two students for the committee on Tuesday, Oct. 28, and those recommendations will come before Council for approval on Wednesday, Oct. 29. Although there are no prerequisites for membership on the committee, special consideration will be given to those applicants involved with IM sports.

One member of the committee will be assigned as the College Council liaison, and he or she will report to Council from time to time.

The discussion on this motion, as evidenced by the nature of the text above, resulted in more amendments, passed and failed, than previously imaginable. Note that material concerning amendments is indented, as opposed to material concerning the main motion.

Aaron Wilson all campus answered the question he anticipated: why there seem to be so many athletes on the committee. The reason, he said, was that the committee is not to deal with placement of the field, but with aspects of it, such as the play surface decision which requires team members to understand. IM team members were desirable, but could not be included as a stipulation because there is no formal pool to recruit from, as they are not organized enough.

Cathy Mercado MinCo moved to amend the proposal to strike the “Men’s” in “Men’s Lacrosse rep.” Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry spoke against this, citing that men’s and women’s lacrosse have different field requirements. Aaron raised that there is a lot of overlap between the Women’s Field Hockey and Lacrosse teams, and it would be easy to get one student to represent both.

- Amending to strike “Men’s” FAILED, 4-25-2.  
- Gerry Lindo all campus moved to amend to add a women’s lacrosse rep.
- Amending to add “1 Women’s Lacrosse rep” PASSED, 27-4-1.

Mark Orlowski urged Council to add a rep from the CEAC to ensure that environmental concerns were respected. A facility like this has a big footprint, he said.

Federico Sosa treasurer moved to add an IM Soccer rep. There was no second.

Peter Tosirisuk Morgan, Lehman moved to amend the committee to have 3 campus reps instead of two, citing the relative lack of all campus representatives as compared to varsity representatives.

Jim Irving Class of 2005 spoke against this, saying that it was important to keep committee size small for efficiency’s sake. “Let’s get the best people possible rather than the bulk of people.” The committee was to be advisory, not a battle.

Jonathan Landsman secretary spoke in favor of adding the third all campus member. He said that he has seen too many committees that “were supposed to be just advisory” but ended up being not so. In addition, the large number of people already on the committee was, to him, an argument for adding an all campus rep, not against, as most of those people were decidedly of varsity perspective.

- Amending add a third all campus rep FAILED, 14-18-0.

Godfrey Bakuli Sage questioned having a WUFO rep when CJ Bak was already to serve as the CPR rep, and was also on WUFO, thus able to represent both.
Lindsay Dwyer Bryant, Woodbridge moved to combine the Women’s Lacrosse and Field Hockey reps into one position to represent both.
☐ Amending to combine these positions reps PASSED, 29-3-1.

Nora Burns Spencer, West proposed to amend the committee to remove the WUFO rep and add a third all campus rep.
☐ Amending to remove the WUFO rep and add a 3rd all campus PASSED, 27-5-0.
Here something interesting happened. A motion to vote passed, but Gerry Lindo all campus invoked a rule allowing him to speak because he had his hand up while the motion to vote passed. He then urged Council to vote the proposal down, so that they could add a representative from CEAC to the committee.
☐ The amended Turf Field Committee proposal FAILED, 15-16-0.
A 2/3 vote of Council now passed to force the defeated motion to be considered again.
Gerry Lindo all campus moved to amend the amended proposal to add a rep from CEAC.
☐ Amending to add a representative from CEAC PASSED, 18-14-0.
This brought the Turf Field committee motion to the form it is at the start of this section. The original motion, amended more times than Michael Jackson’s face, now came to a vote.
☐ The amended proposal to form a Turf Field Committee PASSED, 32-0-0.

Jonathan Landsman secretary then moved to solicit one student for the Bookstore Committee, concurrently with efforts for the Turf Field Committee. He suggested that the vote be by consensus, for expediency, and the motion passed by consensus.

Fixing the Daily Advisor and the system of Council services in general

Fedrero Sosa treasurer informed Council that there was a $2000 deficit in the account used to finance the Daily Advisor DA, due to mismanagement and lack of oversight of the service last year by the officer responsible, namely the secretary, Chin Ho. The problem was that the DA position was handed down as opposed to assigned by Council year after year, and there were no guidelines, written or otherwise, for the position. A bylaw that governed pay XI.bii was supposed to limit pay to $250 a semester, but that bylaw had been violated for years before Chin. In addition, the DA manager had been signing his own time cards, and that of the DA distributor. The end result is that last year, said Fede, the DA manager and the distributor were paid somewhere between $4000 and $5000. Fede passed out photocopies of the time cards to demonstrate his point to Council.

Jonathan Landsman secretary introduced the bylaw he and Fede had written to try to fix the problem. He explained that the main reason this situation was able to develop is that there was never any defined set of responsibilities, no contract between Council and the Managers who run the services Council provides, like the DA. The proposed bylaw was intended to solve this problem by requiring all services to have and operate under a Charter, which would act as the mission, statement, job description, and contract between Council and the hired Manager. Jonathan and Fede brought before Council a draft of the bylaw and of the Charter to govern the DA, but these will not reprinted in the next minutes because the motion was postponed to next week before nearly any discussion took place.
To see the proposal brought before Council this week, go to osjl’s Achilles folder and view the document “DA Bylaw 10 22.doc.” or email osjl@williams.edu to request a copy.
After expressing his view that Council members had not had time to adequately review and familiarize themselves with this proposal, Philipp Huy all campus moved to postpone it to the next meeting. This motion required 2/3.
☐ Postponing consideration of the DA Bylaw and Charter one week PASSED, 28-4-0.

New Business from the Floor

Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry posed the question: “What happens when we have issues of abstaining from votes?” Chris noted that there are no bylaws that govern how we vote, and the only guideline was in the procedure we approved at the start of the year, which states that, “A member indicates his/her vote by raising a hand, and should only abstain if he/she has a conflict of interest that prevents her/him from considering the motion at hand fairly.” Also in that procedure, he argued, there was a clause that said that procedure may be changed by a 2/3 vote, thus, he could propose a change to procedure that would propose rules for when a member could be forced to abstain by a 2/3
Mike Henry co-pres answered Chris’s citing of the ability to change procedure, stating that only changes that did not conflict with the Constitution were allowed. Chin Ho co-pres cited Article III, Section D of Council’s Constitution, which states, “All members of Council shall be voting members, with the exception of the Co-Presidents…” Mike concluded no measure of the nature of Chris’s proposal could be adopted, as it would make some members not voting members.

Chris pressed the matter by asking what Council can do in instances when it feels that there has been a violation. “It has happened before and it can happen again. We need to address it.” Jonathan Landsman, who as secretary also holds the role of parliamentarian of Council, spoke to this. Besides violating the Constitution, he said, allowing forced abstention violates the overarching rules of the deliberative rules of a deliberative assembly, like Council. It is the same as allowing a majority to change an aye vote to a nay. No specific rule prevents that either, but it is manifestly illegal. As for the way to deal with failures to abstain, Jonathan said that there are recourses. A point of order can be made and sustained, by the co-presidents or a majority of Council, to have Council note condemnation of the action in the minutes. A 2/3 vote could also eject a member for the meeting, or expel the member from Council entirely. This requires a one-week delay.

Jim Irving Class of 2005 expressed his view that the matter was one of give and take, and that “it is critical that we be able to vote as we want to and say what we want to say.” He said that, though he believed we needed to look into the issue of when to abstain, we also needed to consider “what we get and what we lose.” In discussion, we do not lose, but we “build up the democratic confidence in CC.”

Closing Chin drops a bomb from the administration’s left field

There was some brief return to the DA issue, and what Council viewed as embezzled money. Nora Burns Spencer, West emphasized that $5000 dollars of student money was taken. Dan Rooney Mills, Thompson drew attention to the 250 bonus drawn onto one of the time cards, and asked if it had any basis at all. Chin Ho co-pres responded that he had had no instruction when he met with the DA manager during his term last year and thought that they were just doing it for the 250 dollars per semester in the bylaw, so the bonus seemed reasonable.

Aaron Wilson all campus said that he felt the climate of last week’s meeting had gotten overheated, and asked how best to prevent a repeat of that. Mike Henry co-pres said the best way was for members to take responsibility, and stay in order.

Chin Ho co-pres then mentioned that, in response to “a ton of bad behavior on this campus” Security is thinking of changing ID card times, so that at certain times certain cards would not work in certain dorms. According to Security, he said, the push for the idea was coming from the Housing Coordinators and Junior Advisors. Mike Henry co-pres clarified that the proposal on the table now involved first year dorms, to stop all but first year from entering those dorms between midnight and 7 am.

Council’s response was a whirlwind at hearing this.

Ilunga Kalala JA stated that he did not believe the Junior Advisors this year made that proposal, but said he would check with the JA presidents. Gerry Lindo all campus said he wanted to know exactly when this is to take effect “because this is the worst idea I have ever heard ever.” Andrew Nathenson co-op, off campus said that while he understood the motivation, he thought it “sends us down a very slippery slope in terms of controlling out movements and our behavior.” Efemun Nkama Tyler, Tyler Annex said it set a bad precedent to go so quickly and not go through Council.

Gerry Lindo all campus volunteered to write a proposal to counteract this.

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.

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Landsman, Secretary of College Council

Hey! Now you can now see how your rep has voted on every issue this year!
www.collegecouncil.org/votingrecords.htm