Who Needs Stressbusters, When You’ve Got...
College Council's Minutes for the
7:30 P.M., 5 November 2003, Regular Meeting in Hopkins 1964 Classroom
Jean Thorndike on Lockdown
President Schapiro on Everything

Open Time first 10 mins minimum of every meeting, for any to speak
President Morty Schapiro came to speak to College Council for approximately an hour. The transcript that follows is a combination of quoting and heavy summarization.

Mike Henry co pres asked Schapiro to say what he thought Council's role on campus was. Saying that he thought Adam Smith had certain things right, Schapiro said that "a strong and articulate student response" was necessary "so that we the administration don't do the wrong things...". If left to our own devices, we are going to do it right sometimes, and wrong others... My experience... is when students have something to say in a powerful way, most of the time they're right." They are closer to it and have the institution's best interest at heart.

Mike Henry asked also about the Climb Far Campaign. "We sort of did things in a backward way this time," said Schapiro, explaining that he felt that if we had waited to raise money before expanding the faculty and do capital projects, "we'd just be waiting and waiting," "It's a little scary now... waiting probably would have been the more mature thing," He explained his choice: "Class size had grown considerably while I was gone. I used to teach Econ sections of 25, now I have 46. We needed to do something about that. Now we're up to 70 of classes with 20 people or fewer," and that's great.

Mike Henry raised that cost estimates for the new Baxter had come back from the contractor and they are 2.5 million over budget. He asked if Schapiro would ask for the extra 2.5 million to be budgeted. Shapiro responded with anecdotes, real and figurative, of architects bringing back figures that were higher than the limit given, and also spoke of his happiness that the third floor had been taken out, as he had felt it would not have fit with the space around it. "Williams deserves a first rate student center in that space and we're going to get one. I don't know why it took 50 years." Schapiro then expressed his happiness with the art studio, science center, Griffin, and other renovations.

Godfrey Bakuli: Sage asked what steps the college is taking to address the recent alcohol problem. Schapiro mentioned a letter to go out to the campus about safety and sportsmanship during Homecoming. "We're all worried about homecoming..." one year we had two students nearly die from alcohol poisoning... I don't know if we would rethink the JA system, as 'Dean Johnson maybe said in The Record' it's such a mainstay."

But he said he gets so many questions all the time, such as, "Why don't you make it a dry campus?" "It shouldn't take a tragedy to make those decisions," he said. The issue "keeps me up at night, and it literally keeps me up at night. I live on the quad!"

"If you tell somebody you're making a mistake," said Morty, "you risk maybe their friendship. But if you don't, and you know in your heart they're making a mistake, you're risking your friend's life... I've been to enough funerals for 9/11. I don't want to go to another one."

Philipp Huy all campus asked why it seemed that by the time Council knew about important decisions being made by the administration, the administration was already on the brink of enacting the policies. Schapiro claimed to have had no idea about the "card thing" until he "got 79 emails that night. I felt like I was getting locked out of my own house." He drew a distinction between listening and agreeing, saying that students often mistakenly say the administration has not done the first when actually they have not done the second. He did say, however, that going to Council before implementing a change that affected students is "the way we should do everything because we get such good feedback from the students."

Carlos Ramirez MinCo thanked Schapiro for attending the anti hate rally the prior night, and asked him for comment and on whether in the future he saw "the college taking a more proactive role" in responding to those events that have generally led to student initiated responses. Schapiro said that he thought it unfair that "people who come here after having faced all kinds of discrimination" are then told "well, now you have..."
an extra burden." Schapiro raised and refuted the notion held by some that the rally was "preaching to the converted well, I don't think it was ... there were lots of white kids, football players, people with different religions." Schapiro also asked Council, "When do you erase the chalk? When do you censor a coach for comments? ... If you don't have a really good reason to censor what someone says, you allow it ... both because I have a really great respect for the Bill of Rights ... and because I think there is something really inappropriate ... there is real value in talking about it."

**Nora Burns** Spencer, West asked for Schapiro's opinions about the card swipe issue now that he did know about it. Schapiro spoke at length about how many emails he got, mentioned that he enjoyed reading Jonathan Landsman's letters, then addressed the question tangentially, but noncommitally by expressing that he placed importance on not reacting too paternalistically. He said that he felt, with regard to other campuses, Williams was of the less paternalistic. He said that the administration makes calls, tries not to intrude too much, and raised the example of the room draw changes, which he said he believed were not paternalistic.

**Aaron Wilson** all campus asked about possible changing of the role of JAs. Schapiro responded by talking about the anchor house idea, and his "love" for the idea. He said he thought "we have made some steps forward," and mentioned ACE as one. "In most colleges, the student life program is you say goodbye to your students at 4 pm, and at 9 am you do a bed check to see if anyone is dead."

**Federico Sosa** treasurer said he was concerned with the "string of construction projects we are having in the next five to six years," and asked what steps the administration is taking to control its effect on student life. Schapiro said he thought it important that there was no "lost generation" of Williams students, and that every class have a better experience than the prior year's. He said that people have made sacrifices for the current classes, and that's just the way it goes. He also restated his belief that delaying Baxter 'til '05 was inadvisable "I think that's something we learned from the theater and dance center."

**Jessi England** Class of 2006 asked about how the administration was working on making the transition into sophomore year less stressful. Schapiro asked if the million dollar renovation in Mission made it feel any more like the entries; Jessi indicated yes. Schapiro said he was open to ideas, and numerous cross campus studies had confirmed and reconfirmed the need to improve the sophomore need. "If Greylock becomes the new sophomore dorm, did we really do anything? I don't know; there are a lot of questions."

Morty closed by asking that students not bulk email "the next time I screw up, but if you email me individually ... I get a lot of advice from faculty. Some of it I delete. But the advice I get from students is really good advice."

As Schapiro retired, **Jean Thorndike**, Director of Campus Safety, now took center to talk with Council. She said she hadn't meant to throw the campus into an uproar when she broke the news about the affectionately termed Lockdown. She said that the emails she received may not have been exactly 200, but she said she spent 2.5 hours on them "that day."

"I'm here to find out now: where do we go?" She said she heard many good reasons from students not to enact what she specifically termed restricted access "I don't know where 'Lockdown' came from, but we're not a prison; I'm not a warden." She said many of the arguments she heard this time around she heard earlier when card access itself was instituted, and said that "sometimes the administration has to make a decision" but also that she was "delighted to postpone."

Thorndike said there has been twice as any thefts reported this year as last. Mike Henry asked for details on incidents. Thorndike said thefts were more spread out than last year, that there have been five broken windows compared to three last year, and "nuisance calls" for things like destroyed bulletin boards and posters were more frequent. She cited one of the few emails she got in support of limited access: "I got up in the middle of the night and someone I didn't know who didn't live in my house was vomiting in my sink."

**Cathy Mercado** MinCo asked how vandalism and theft correlated with drinking. In 8 cases, estimatedThorndike, alcohol is a causal factor.

**Chris Ryan** Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry strongly pushed the notion that money would be best spent upgrading all room locks to the card swipe kind in the renovated mission, that this would solve much of the problem. "That's something I can definitely talk to Irene Addison Director of Buildings and Grounds about, and start the dialog there."

**Jessi England** Class of 2006 said that, as a woman, she would feel very unsafe were she unable to seek shelter in a dorm other than her own, and asked what would be done to...
Gerry Lindo all campus asked about restricting the card access of offenders. Thorndike said this is very difficult.

Aaron Wilson all campus cited students’ expectation that they can get away with a campus crime, and asked how to put the onus of damages on students who aren’t the victims. Thorndike expressed hope for damage policy improvement with the hiring of Doug Bazuin, Director of Residential and Student Life. She also said that Security suspects that students often know more about the culprit then they let on, because they are protecting their friends.

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 asked if there had been a change in Tipps training requirements for JAs. Maria Lapetina confirmed that it was still required for JAs, they just didn’t do it this year. Nate said he thought this was a big factor in the drinking problem this year. Thorndike added that she is frustrated when she have five people of thirty signed up show to a training session.

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 also asked about security cameras. “We’ve considered that but I think the campus would be outraged if we started putting camera around,” said Thorndike. Acclamation from Council suggested she was right.

Thorndike parted, wishing us fun and safety for Homecoming weekend.

Committees and Groups reports from OIT Cmte and the CPR

Alden Robinson, Council’s proxy on the Information Technology Committee and Rude Cider fiddler extraordinaire, reported. The committee has met thrice so far, and is dealing with three major issues: 1 Faculty access to software from off campus. 2 Security vs. usability especially the problems caused by some people running mail servers on their personal computers. 3 Privacy the issue of RIAA subpoenas, and the issues of the US Patriot Act. They are also looking at wireless networking, “which really is a fun thing,” said Alden, who is from Maine.

In response to complaints about slowness and spam from deposed leaders of African countries, Alden mentioned there was a strong movement to buying more bandwidth. Asked how to get music, since file sharing seems not to work, Alden suggested iTunes, but said that the school has done nothing to prevent file sharing.

Maria Lapetina and Dave Riskin reported from the Committee on Educational Policy CEP. Grade inflation, they said, was the biggest issue. Last year the committee endorsed maximum target mean grades for classes, grade averages that professors were directed not to exceed, though in no way held to this. The average is 3.2 for a 100 level class, and goes up 0.1 every 100 step, up to 3.5 in a 400 level class. “We don’t want to be like Harvard,” said Maria.

The CEP is also bringing a writing director to campus in January and February to give workshops to students and faculty, as a kind of follow up to the Critical Writing Initiative, said Maria.

Mike Henry co pres asked how the sophomore advising problem was being addressed. Gargoyles is definitely working on it, said Maria. Aaron Wilson all campus, a Gargoyle SHHHHHH! , said it was on “about five people’s agendas,” and someone would come to Council to speak about it in the next two weeks.

Budgets Council hears requests from W.O.R.D and Chess Club

At this point, the meeting was about 2 hours in. In dire need, the secretary stepped out to use the facilities, leaving Chin Ho in charge of recording what happened meanwhile. As it happened, the two minutes he was gone was when budgets were reviewed and passed. This being the first vote of the meeting, the secretary is thus technically counted absent for the entire meeting Bylaw V.a.i.

W.O.R.D. requested 1455 and FinCom recommended 260 to fund their first speaker only. Chess Club requested and was recommended 354.

Chin’s notes indicate that Federico Sosa treasurer commented that the money that went to W.O.R.D would not leave campus, this fear raised due to knowledge that W.O.R.D is some kind of reincarnation of MASSPirg, which in the past gave part of its funds to off campus organizations.

Ratifying the Financial Committee’s recommendations PASSED, 24-0-2.
New Business from the Floor

Amending the DA Distributor’s Salary Back to 66% of a TA’s Salary

Peter Tosirisuk Morgan, Lehman moved to amend the Charter for the Daily Advisor to change the distributor’s pay to 66% of a TA’s salary, rather than the 85% passed last meeting. 66% was the figure of the original proposal drafted by Federico Sosa, treasurer, and Jonathan Landsman, secretary. Council had done most of the debate over this issue over its listserver rather than in the meeting. That saves me some typing.

Marissa Doran Class of 2005, sub spoke against the change, saying that she had been convinced that this was a position that needed continuity, and an 85% TA salary would guarantee that continuity.

Aaron Wilson all campus, “in the spirit of Homecoming and because this does not need to be dealt with now,” moved to postpone the motion to next week. Jonathan Landsman, secretary, and Federico Sosa, treasurer, argued strenuously against postponing.

Postponing a motion requires a 2/3 vote.

☐ Postponing consideration of the amendment to the DA Charter FAILED, 14-12-0.

Federico Sosa treasurer, said that “it has been proven” that a 66% salary does and will attract workers for the distributor position. He then moved to vote.

☒ Amending the distributor’s pay to 66% of a TA’s salary PASSED, 21-6-0.

Gerry Lindo offered a correction to what he said last meeting: CJ Bak’s failure to show to report for the CPR in Committees and Groups was due not to CJ’s “lack of response to emails,” as Gerry had claimed, but due in fact to Gerry’s error in mailing 04cb, rather than the correct 05cb.

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

Ilunga Kalala, Junior Advisors
Nadia Moore, Armstrong
PJ Bonavitacola, Pratt

Bill Ference, Frosh Council
Ali Moiz, Dodds Quad
Nasser Al Sabah, Carter

Nasser Al Sabah, Carter was present until 9:00, then left for a review session, missing all subsequent votes and discussion. He petitioned for and was denied excuse by the secretary, who empathized with his need to leave and appreciated his commitment until 9:00 but felt that Nasser should have prepared for the possibility of a meeting beyond 9:00. Nasser now has two absences: another absence from Council this term will result in his expulsion from Council.

Jonathan Landsman, secretary missed the first vote of the meeting and thus defined as absent. The secretary pardoned his absence, citing Jonathan’s spotless attendance record and the adequacy as an excuse of his need to urinate.

You can access member voting and absence records online at http://wso/cc/votingrecords.htm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Landsman,
Secretary of College Council