20,000 Leagues Under CC
College Council's Minutes for the
7:30 P.M., 15 November 2003, Regular Meeting in Hopkins 1964 Classroom
Sophomore Advising, Council's Rules for Substitutes

Open Time starts every meeting
Elliot Morrison of the Gargoyle Society came to address Council on their efforts in sophomore advising. Elliot was accompanied by Scott Grinsell, and two seniors who were introduced only as "Jeff" and "Carlos."

Elliot stressed that the Gargoyles were trying to keep this as low key a process as possible because in the past they have found that whenever a committee has been formed, it becomes officially brought to people's attention an the professors that wish to resist change get involved. A lot of the faculty don't want to change the system to give them more work because it's just a bother for them. Gargoyles is now in the process of talking to many professors to get their views on the advising system. They hope to work with the professors, because ultimately any change has to go through the Committee on Educational Priorities CEP and the faculty themselves. He said that Carlos, Jeff, Scott Grinsell, Adam Grogg, and he himself were working on the project, and hoped to eventually present a proposal to the CEP.

Mike Henry co pre s mentioned that he and Chin had met with the Dean of Faculty on the issue. He said the dean is new, and asked what other professors thought about the issue, waited for an answer, and then said she agreed with them. He also said that Tom Kohut, Acting Provost, was opposed to the advising system in general. He later commented that Kohut was considering "revamping" the system.

Scott Grinsell, also a Gargoyle, said that Gargoyle's intent was also to look at the system as a whole, and restated the decision not to create a committee because, once one is created, the issue becomes political and the faculty weigh in. He said the way Gargoyles is doing it might be less prone to failing because the whole thing won't "collapse around fear." Elliot added that the intent was to put the change in a more positive light before breaking it to professors, who, he postulated, might object with, "You can't make us do more" and "You can't make some of us do more and some of us do less."

Andres Schabelman all campus asked if there was any plan or backup plan to have a student run advising system. "Maybe it's a testament to how bad the faculty advising system is," he said, "but I haven't gotten much more from my faculty advisor freshman year and have gotten more from older students I know." Elliot answered said that continuity in switching systems is hard because it's all run through the dean. Scott answered with a few points: a preexisting system like the Senior Advisors is hard to switch to a new course, and institutions such as that and the Junior Advisors are in place to have students advise other students. He later added: "Some of the professors here are some of the best trained minds in the country, and it's a privilege to have that mind turned back on you. the conversations I've had with professors have really offered a lot. Frankly, I'm just a senior. I don't feel qualified to give much advice to anybody beyond maybe a course here and there."

Jessi England Class of 2006 said that she had had no idea that she could talk to the deans as a sophomore her mom figured it out for her. Many others of her friends, she said, were similarly ignorant.

Chin Ho co pre s asked how the Gargoyles were doing getting sophomore input. He commented that it seemed like the Gargoyles were in "kind of sleeper mode" on change. Scott took this up quickly, with a terse: "I don't think 'sleeper mode' is the word for it.

Elliot responded that input was important, but it is the faculty that will constrain the system in the end; thus, Gargoyles wanted to first get a realistic idea of what is possible. Scott added that the Gargoyles would appreciate help and gave the email addresses the members who were present' his is 045sg, Elliot's is 046dm.

Committees and Groups Reports from HC/CLC, Library, Dining Services
Aaron Wilson all campus spoke for the Housing Coordinator/Community Life Coordinator Committee, created last year to "examine the role of Housing Coordinators on campus" Chin Ho, Minutes, April 16 2003. Aaron informed Council that the committee is meeting every other week now with Doug Bazuin. Aaron listed the
To consider: a 1:00-4:00 lunch equivalence option may be added, but likely at the expense of dinner point hours. If YOU COMPLAIN, that you do not hear about changes until the last minute, well – here’s your chance.

opinions@wso.williams.edu
YiFan.Guo@williams.edu

Also: Mission custom pizza and Dodd sushi, coming soon.

Looks like a Mastercard commercial.

Antigrav’s 2002-3 audit says they bought 12 toilet plungers. It does not explicitly state they were or juggling. Hm.

Funding given: Antigravity, $354

members of the committee; you can go to http://wso/cc/committees/ to see who they are. Aaron said the committee had met with the old House Presidents from two years ago, and with the Community Life Coordinators to see how they had been hired.

Jessi Englund Class of 2006 spoke for the Library Committee. It met last Tuesday. They talked about the annoyance of the library not being open enough on weekends during the summer she later stated that the reason for this was lack of requisite staffing. They also discussed the new Sawyer to come, and current plans to create Schow like study spaces. The committee meets once every 3 weeks.

Chin Ho asked Jessi to get Sawyer to acquire more DVDs per month.

Federico Sosa treasurer asked about the fine structure, complaining that he recently got billed without warning. Jessi did not know; Ezemudi Okaonu Tyler, Tyler Annex answered that nothing had changed: Fede should have received multiple late notices before being billed.

Godfrey Bakuli Sage read an email from Yifan Guo, College Council’s proxy for and member of the Dining Services Committee. Of interest from the emailed report include that Dining Services is looking for a new Associate Director. They are considering adding lunch equivalency, to be redeemable from 1:00 to 4:00. Chin commented that if this were to be put into effect, they would take away some time from dinner equivalency. Finally, make your own pizza and sushi nights are to return to their respective dining halls soon.

Budgets Williams Antigravity Society

The Williams Antigravity Society came before Council’s Financial Committee last Sunday to request 331.89, which the committee concurred with. Federico Sosa treasurer also commented that another group had come to request funds, but they had not been College recognized yet, so were told to come back. When Jonathan Landsman later inquired into this group’s name, Fede said he was uncertain, but said it was something like “Magic Cards.”

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 asked what the money was needed for. Fede answered by reading the club’s list. Just because it’s humorous, and because I happen to have a copy, their request is reproduced below:

- 1 set of juggling clubs: $105.00
- 3 steel contact balls: $48.00
- Fruit and other perish able juggling items: $15.00
- Gym Bag for carrying equipment: $40.00
- Equipment maintenance/repair
  - for incidental damage including currently broken clubs: $30.00

TOTAL $354.00

☐ Ratifying the Financial Committee’s recommendations PASSED, 30-0-0.

Opinions We do them every meeting, you just don’t usually see them printed here

Once upon a time, all opinions sent to Council were printed in the minutes. This is not the practice this year. Depending on their content, electronic opinions are either forwarded to the appropriate committee, or read to Council. Opinions given to members directly are read Council at the member’s discretion. None are printed in the minutes.

Council’s discussion regarding its failure this year to do Opinions Unplugged, the program to have Council members poll dining halls for opinions, is recounted here.

Upon finding that only about seven members had done Opinions Unplugged this week, and requesting that their names be put into the minutes, Mike Henry co pres opened the discussion by calling Council out: “Those of you who aren’t doing Opinions UNplugged, why not? Let’s have a discussion for fifteen minutes.”

Jessi Englund Class of 2006 said that house reps did not know this was one of their responsibilities when they applied for the position.

Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry said he’s stopped emailing his house for opinions because “my house doesn’t respond. They don’t care.” He said that, from watching Brendan Dougherty, a past member of Council and big proponent of Unplugged, it seemed he was always just sitting there. “People have better things to do with their time.”

Sabrina Wirth Prospect pipped up with one of the best stories I have ever heard in Council. “The first week we were supposed to do it, I actually went around Driscoll and
I love this story.  It’s both sad andunny . . . like life.

Jim becomes the first person to use the word “fount” in a CC meeting.

Another nice exchange. Eat that, Mad Cow.

If you are one of those who like to complain that Council spends too much time revising its own bylaws, stop reading now.

Council votes unanimously to give Fede more work.

The bylaws neither provide members the ability to appoint subs, nor do they restrict it. Precedent allows anyone to sub for anyone, and that is how it currently works, with no records kept.

introduced myself to each table . . . a lot of them weren’t from my house, so they would look up at me and say things like: well, you know, I’m from Fitch. Nobody gave me any opinions except some friends. I ended up sitting next to them and drilling them . . . . The second week, I decided to make little cards for Prospect people to fill out while they were eating and left them at the card swipe table. When I left the dining hall, nobody had picked them up! So I emailed the house and got three opinions. So I think the best way to get opinions is emailing the house. People feel weird when you come to their table while they’re eating."

Jim Irving  Class of 2005 broke the trend by saying he thought going up to people to solicit their opinions was important. He suggested: “90% of the time they might look at you weird, but if you cue certain topics, they are a fount of knowledge.”

David Gray  Currier, Fitch said he did Ops on the stairs at Driscoll, and the only people who gave him opinions were almost always people he already knew.

Dan Rooney  Mills, Thompson asked if you come up and extract an opinion from people, is it really that valuable? “I get people saying, ‘We need a clock in Baxter mailroom.’” Council chuckled. Someone in Council said, “That’s valid!” Council’s amusement grew somewhat. “There is one!” said Drew Newman. Council broke into full laughter. “It’s a lot of work and you get a lot of crap out of it,” closed Dan.

New Business from the Agenda

Bylaw Package B Council attacks 4 parts of its Bylaws

The proposals in this package are remnants from suggestions made by a bylaw committee in May of 2003. The changes came to the last meeting of Council, which members voted to adjourn before the changes ever came to the floor. The secretary then was so pissed about that and other things, as well as swamped with midterms, that minutes for the meeting do not exist.

The document containing four bylaw proposals for Council’s considerations was retrieved from the secretary’s public folder. During navigation, a folder titled “Dancing Folk” was discovered. Council had a laugh whose cause was unfathomable to the secretary. Council then proceeded to consider the proposals one by one. Note: All proposals, because they were amendments to the bylaws, required 2/3 to pass.

Treasurer’s duties: The current state of the student body budget

This change would amend IV. f. to: “Treasurer At least once per year, the Treasurer will inform the student body of the current state of the student body budget.”

Amending the IV.f. to add the budget update PASSED, 30-0-0.

Regulating Substitutes: restrict eligibility, require approval, and require instruction

This was the big one. The proposed bylaw follows:

V. b. Substitutes
i. A substitute must be eligible to serve in the position for which he or she is substituting.
ii. A substitute must be instructed by the representative for whom he or she is substituting.
iii. Substitutes are subject to approval by the Officers at the beginning of each meeting.

Aaron Wilson  all campus opened a debate that would last long enough to make the poor secretary miss his much needed massage for the second week in a row. “I strongly support this bylaw for a lot of reasons. People miss a lot of meetings.” He then asked for everyone at the meeting who was a sub to raise his or her hand. About six people were subs.

Andrew Nathenson  co op, off campus said he thought house reps were elected “on some kind of popularity contest.” He said he liked part ii., but said he thought asub was as qualified as he was and thus other restrictions were wrong.

Nate Winstanley  Class of 2004 said he thought the whole bylaw was a bad idea, especially iii. “First of all, since when did officers have that much power, and second, why should the officers have any say in substitues?” He then moved to strike iii. from the proposal.

Ricardo Woolery  did not introduce self as sub; constituency unknown said it was “a dangerous precedent to give that much power to shape the discussion to the officers. It goes against democratic spirit.” Aaron Wilson all campus and Jim Irving  Class of 2005 spoke to say they did not believe the officers would abuse this power. “Currently, the officers can already ice anyone from speaking,” said Jim. “If our officers are screwing us over, then we have much bigger problems than this.”
Jonathan Landsman secretary said that allowing representatives to send substitutes to Council was, on the contrary, not part of the democratic system at all. He also said, contrary to Jim, that members did not have to trust the officers, and he was glad they didn’t. His proposal to answer the fear of officer abuse arises later.

Jessi England Class of 2006 said that the officer approval section implicitly condoned officers’ questioning representatives, which she stated they had no more right to do than did members to question them. Thus, she supported striking iii.

Striking iii., on officers approving substitutes, PASSED, 18-12-0.

Drew Newman sub for Mark Hopkins asked, if this bylaw passed, would he have to leave since he was not a resident of Mark Hopkins. Jonathan Landsman secretary was the first of the three officers to answer, No. Rules that protect absent members may not be abridged without fair notice see http://www.constitution.org/rrt/rrt 08.htm#47.

Andres Schabelman all campus said that he felt the time spent in Council is not the time members spend representing their constituents the best. Getting subs “spreads the love,” he said; “It gets more people onto Council.”

Jim Irving Class of 2005 said CC meetings are critical to what CC is and does. “This bylaw is about avoiding abuse of the system. Right now I can sub myself anytime I want this meeting,” and let anyone else talk. “That’s wrong. This is a loophole we are going to close . . . The most consistent argument I’ve heard against this is that it’s hard to find a sub. Well that’s just copping out on work.”

Jonathan Landsman secretary moved to reinstate the stricken iii., adding to it the text, “A substitute rejected by the officers may petition the majority of Council to overturn the officers’ decision.”

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 said that this would add “more bureaucracy we do not need.”

Andrew Nathenson co op, off campus asked Mike Henry co pres to describe the past abuses that had led to this bylaw. Mike recounted the meeting about the David Horowitz ad, during which the MinCo rep was present but had the MinCo president “substitute” for him so that he could speak. He said this wa an abuse for the system. Carlos Ramirez MinCo said he thought the MinCo example was driving the whole amendment.

Reincarnating iii. with Jonathan’s addition FAILED, 8-21-1.

Allison Farley Armstrong, sub said she agreed, despite being a sub in violation of i. and ii. What is the point of having a representative without these restrictions, she asked.

Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourn, Perry said that he wanted to write a bylaw that would forbid subbing at all except when you have a prior reason or emergency. Jessi England Class of 2006 objected, “There will be reasons for subbing that we cannot necessarily come up with now. We cannot predict the future . . . Frankly, when I was a house rep last year for Fay, I didn’t think I was only representing Fay, I was also representing 2006.” Members represent the school, not just their houses, she said.

Aaron Wilson all campus strongly supported limiting substituting. “You were elected for a reason as a person to do a duty. There is an advantage to having the same people here every week, who know the procedure, the bylaws . . . If you have a reason for needing a sub fine, but if you are just tired, have work ‘why did you run’?”

Ali Moiz Dodd Quad now moved to amend what he considered to be the unclear text in i. to the following: “In order to be eligible, a substitute must be from the constituency that person is substituting for.”

Jonathan Landsman secretary asked, “How will this work for MinCo reps?”

The co presidents answered that any member of campus would be an eligible sub. Jonathan expressed his incredulity.

Amending i. to Ali’s text PASSED, 22-8-0.

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 said that it was still very easy to get around the bylaw. “This just creates more bureaucracy. This does nothing.”

Andrew Nathenson co op, off campus said, “If we are going to take our jobs as elected representatives seriously, then we should eliminate subs totally.” Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourn, Perry agreed.

The amended bylaw now came to a vote. Remember, it takes 2/3 to pass.

Amending the bylaws to add the proposal, with i. and iii. amended, FAILED, 15-15-0.
Knock, knock, Mr. Bazuin.

Betcha didn't know about this little gem, for the past year.

Potential Sources of Funding: Add the Office of Residential Life

This amendment would add to VI. b. 1., which lists places where groups should seek funding before requesting from Council, “the Office of Residential Life,” which apparently has a not so well publicized discretionary fund.

□ Amending Funding Guidelines to list the new source, PASSED, 30-0-0.

Remove Co Sponsorship Mention Requirement

This Bylaw would strike section VI.h.ix, which reads: “Every group receiving funds from the Student Activities Tax through College Council must include on all electronic and print advertisements for Council funded events the statement: ‘Funded in part by your Student Activities Tax through the College Council.’ ”

□ Striking VI.h.ix, the advertising requirement, PASSED, 21-8-1.

Closing where members air kvetches that they can't make into motions

Ali Moiz  Dodd Quad  said, “I think it’s really sad we spent 1.5 hours on a sentence in a bylaw that I didn’t even know existed, and real things are happening that we don’t deal with at all.” To illustrate his point, he then read from an article in the most recent Record reporting alleged assaults on campus during Homecoming weekend. He read for a good few minutes. He then called Council’s spending time on the bylaw sentence “pathetically sad.”

Chris Ryan  Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry  referred to Jean Thorndike’s visit the prior meeting and asked if we could create some kind of security liaison committee. He was informed that one already existed. “We could work on giving them a proper mission statement,” he said. He then commented on Dave Boyer’s conduct towards students this weekend, and asked that his specific language be kept out of the minutes. “There’s really an issue with security and their ties with WPD. My impression was that Security was supposed to be a buffer between students and the police.” Chin Ho  co pres  said that one of the WPD officers got decked by an Amherst football player. A security officer got hit by a beer can from the Williams side, offered Chin in explanation for Boyer’s actions.

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

Peter Tosirisuk  Morgan, Lehman
Gerry Lindo  all campus
Nora Burns  Spencer, West

Nora Burns now has two absences from Council. If she is absent again this term, she will lose her seat on Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Landsman,
Secretary of College Council

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