After the Ball, Midnight Strikes
College Council's Minutes for the
7:30 P.M., 19 November 2003, Regular Meeting in Hopkins 1964 Classroom
The Motorcoach

Open Time starts every meeting
Bryan LaPlant griped that, every Monday and Wednesday at 12:50, they have nothing left but turkey on white bread.

Sophie Hood asked what sort of response Council would have to the secret frat issue. Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry asked if we knew all the facts, citing that he'd heard that there are "up to four of them." Chinh Ho co pres answered that the stance that he and the four officers took was to make this a discussion by asking the houses what they think. Mike Needham pressed this by asking if all four officers were agreed on this level of response. Jonathan Landsman secretary replied, "I doubt we are agreed on the level." Mike Henry co pres explained that the issue had been brought only recently, and more time was desired to make a decision.

Committees and Groups
Environmental Advisory, Calendar and Scheduling, Undergraduate Life, Security Advisory, Baxter Transition, MinCo

Bryan LaPlant began his report from the Security Advisory Committee with news that the banning of RVs, buses, and U Hauls is certain for next year's homecoming. This was because the vehicles obstruct police and security's view, give Amherst fans a place from which to throw beer cans, and lead to fights. There will also be a heavier police presence technically, he said, there should be one officer for every 250 students; this homecoming fell well short of that.

Aaron Wilson all campus asked why the fact that the misbehavior was not from a Williams student seems not to be mattering, and a Williams event is unjustly being restricted. Jessi England Class of 2006 mentioned that Bryan had referred to security's "disgust" over homecoming and asked what that meant. Bryan explained that Jean Thorndike, Director of Security is upset that nobody watches the game, but is just there for drinking, etc. To a question from Andrew Nathenson co op, off campus, Bryan clarified that the restrictions were being considered for homecoming not all football games.

Bryan brought a second major issue from the committee. Thorndike had announced that there would be a change to security transport policy in Winter Study, apparently, due to officers' frequent engagement in transports, the average number of officers on campus at any given time is one, rather than the two that is Thorndike's goal. Thus, during Winter Study, officers will be limited in transports to a strict two mile radius within Williamstown for any non emergency transports. Philipp Huy all campus asked if there would be any compensation for the loss of transportation. Bryan said he'd raised the hardship on people without money for taxis or cars, and Thorndike had mentioned a hope to get money from the dean's office for that.

Sophie Hood now reported from the Committee on Undergraduate Life CUL, which is chaired this year by Professor James McAllister. Small projects have included getting more benches on campus and the student faculty dinner organized by Chin Ho, as well as a planned all campus lip sync, the prize for which would be the first pick in housing draw for the winners from each class. Apparently, there is precedent for this in other schools. The main issue that McAllister has asked the committee to focus on has been that of alcohol on campus. "We're still in the brainstorming phase," said Sophie, and are not ready to talk too openly, no concrete ideas yet. She said they are aware they should not do anything rash before checking with the student body; "We will be delicate about that."

Carlos Ramirez MinCo brought word from the Minority Coalition. He mentioned that MinCo had received an email from the victim, and the victim says he believes it was not a racially motivated incident, and apologized. Carlos said the victim "hasn't been very communicative." He continued to say that MinCo thought it would be
good to use the incident as a platform to make sure that victims of incidents that are racially motivated know whom to go to, that there are people to go to at the College.

Jim Irving Class of 2005 spoke to outline some of the changes on campus that will occur during the Baxter Transition, as discussed in the committee of the same name. The Committee’s “Relocation Strategy” is reprinted below:

Here’s what will move where while Baxter is rebuilt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATM Machine</th>
<th>Outing Club</th>
<th>Siskind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bake Shop</td>
<td>Peer Health</td>
<td>Siskind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits/Payroll</td>
<td>Radio Station</td>
<td>Prospect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar Office</td>
<td>Res. Life Director, CLCs</td>
<td>Hopkins Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Activities</td>
<td>Goodrich Hall</td>
<td>Houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering</td>
<td>Greylock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain/Community Service</td>
<td>Siskind</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining Admin Offices, &amp; Faculty House</td>
<td>Droppers House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grab and Go Dist.</td>
<td>Goodrich Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grab and Go Prep</td>
<td>Greylock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Res. Drovers</td>
<td>B&amp;L Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail Distribution</td>
<td>Dining Halls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Italicized location means the move is permanent

Gerry Lindo all campus, the organizer of Committees and Groups, now read an email report from Mark Orlofski, the proxy for the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility ACSR. The ACSR has met only once so far, and has discussed investing 10 of the alumni Social Choice Fund into “community development financial institutions.” In a future meeting, they will discuss putting committee proxy votes online and publishing publicly traded endowment portfolio holdings, to increase transparency.

Mark is also the proxy for the Campus Environmental Advisory Committee CEAC, and a section of his email said that committee has met three times, and has formed subcommittees to investigate and promote green building, and one to praise and recognize environmentally friendly things that already exist or are in practice on campus.

Budgets for Magic Club and W.O.R.D.

Peter Tosirisuk Morgan, Lehman explained that Magic had come to ask for 717.38 for cards and storage plastic sleeves, and the like. The Financial Committee had cut their request a lot, recommending 200 for a more moderate amount of cards. Also on the slate was W.O.R.D.’s request for 905 cut to 850, and the Public Art Performers’ request for 172.24, which was cut to 142.24.

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 moved to amend the slate to cut Magic’s 200. He compared the club to Dance Dance Revolution, and in their case we funded mats to play with, because they are large items that people do not have. For Magic, most people who play already have their cards. He compared this requirement to other activities, like WUFO, where members have to buy their own oats. He also said that cards are really hard to track, they are easy to bring home and lose.

Nora Burns Spencer, West countered with the example of the Chess Club, whose clocks and boards we funded. Carlos Ramirez MintCo supported funding because people who want to start playing may not have cards.

☐ Amending FinCom’s proposal to drop Magic’s 200 FAILED, 2-26-1.

☐ Federico Sosa treasurer then read W.O.R.D.’s budget, which I do not have, to Council. Email 04fgs for the breakdown of their request, or any other.

☐ Ratifying FinCom’s funding proposal PASSED, 26-3-0.

Old Business from the Agenda

Free University Charter to set up and govern Free University this year

In cooperation with Gerry Lindo, Jonathan Landsman, and Mike Guo, Federico Sosa treasurer drafted a charter for the Free University, which was once a student organization but which Council agreed last year to take up and organize, and since the previous student leaders were graduating.

Mike Henry co pres recommended to Council that this be postponed because it had not gone out over the listserver, and people had not had a chance to read it over. Furthermore, he said that Council could, in absence of a charter, simply run the service informally, as it had been in the past.

Ever obliging, Jim Irving Class of 2005 moved to table consideration of the charter.

☐ Tabled the Free University charter draft PASSED, 21-6-1.

Funding given:

- Magic, $500
- W.O.R.D, $850
- Public Art Performers, $142

Council will hear, and hopefully pass, the Free U charter, next meeting.
New Business from the Agenda

The Motor Coach Council bears a presentation of the service's financial history, and fixes a deadline for information required to draft its charter.

From the Motor Coach, two representatives were present to speak. Josh Earn introduced himself as the Assistant Director, and Neil Hoffman introduced himself as the service's Organizational Specialist. Drew Newman, the Director, was unable to be present due to a mandatory lecture for one of his classes. Both workers for the service offered to answer questions from Council.

Mike Henry co pres asked for information on the organization of the service. “Our positions aren’t real positions,” said Josh. “We don’t get any salary for holding the positions we do . . . pay is ad hoc.” As for how the busing itself worked, he explained that companies compete by submitting price bids, and different companies end up getting the busing to each destination. There are now 89 departures a year, said Josh.

Federico Sosa treasurer asked how the Coach determines its prices, and what “internal regulations” it had on finances. Josh answered that they never knew how many people would ride, and the service was non-profit. Last year, records were kept on who bought tickets, and profits were given back to students. People had a choice to get three dollars per ticket back on their term bill, or donated to Lehman Service they could actually also donate to Council’s General fund, but Josh did not mention this.

Fede continued to ask about the profits of two years ago. “They were poured back into the account,” said Josh.

Philipp Huy all campus asked what the relationship of the dean’s office to the Motor Coach was. “I don’t think there is a direct one, but it is involved any time money is being sent back to students.” Drew Newman’s original idea was to give cash back, but the lawyer of the provost said you can’t just put cash in mailboxes, answered Josh.

Jessi England Class of 2006 asked if the service had ever considered keeping its prices the same as last year, instead of lowering them, and offering more departures. Josh answered that not all routes were being filled as is. One problem with shifting service to meet high demand is that high demand arises unpredictably, said Josh, and the bus lines bid in August.

Jonathan Landsman secretary had prepared a presentation of the Coach’s accounts for the past two fiscal years, not including the current one. He began by explaining what had led to the current motion on the floor: that since the services Council provides now must have charters in the wake of the Daily Advisor incident and Council’s ensuing action to prevent the abuses that could occur in an unsupervised service see minutes for 29 October 2003 , Jonathan had emailed Drew Newman, director of the Motor Coach, to request the information needed to draft a charter. He emailed Drew on November 5th and asked for the information in a week and a half, and received a reply immediately from Drew, saying that he could not provide the information until Winter Study, because he was too busy and because the service was about to create a new online reservations system.

The motion before Council now was to fix a due date for the information to be provided to Council, by Drew or another representative of the Motor Coach, so that Council could draft a charter in collaboration with the service’s workers. Jonathan stressed that it felt important to receive the information as soon as possible so that work could begin on it, because the later it was delayed the less Council would be able to review the information provided, and “the more we would have to swallow whole whatever the Motor Coach came up,” said Jonathan. Ideally, he said, both sides would get to review all of the information leading to a contract independently.

Jonathan now presented an annotated, line by line account of the Motor Coach’s financial actions over the past two years. He highlighted in yellow the transfers that were identified as legitimate service expenses, such as ticket revenue, bus company pay, and student worker pay, and in light and dark oranges the charges that seemed to have nothing to do with the service, such as snacks for past College Council officers, transfers to the Student Activities Council during the year Drew was its treasurer, and funding for a trip to a Red Sox game in 2002. Jonathan hoped to impress upon Council the need for a charter to permanently regulate the profit use of the Motor Coach, which he said handled about 50,000 of student money, as well as the other aspects of the service, in hopes of permanently guaranteeing a good service.

The spreadsheets he presented were annotated copies of the Coach’s PeopleSoft account spreadsheets. The documents, as highlighted and annotated by Jonathan, but converted to grayscale for printing, are reprinted on the next three pages.
Josh Earn, Assistant Director of the Motor Coach, commented on the change in “dubious charges” between FY 2002 and FY 2003 that, there had been a “recognition last year that something had to change.” He also tried to explain why the information requested by Council for a charter draft would not shed much light: “The job description is that Drew runs the service and people help him out.”

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 had earlier attempted to move to postpone discussion of the charter, but was recognized by Chin in a way that Chin deemed improper at that time. Nate now said that he thought the Motor Coach was unfair to bring up now, as Drew was not present to give his input. He then moved to postpone discussion of the Motor Coach.

Members demanded Jonathan’s expertise with budgets, and asked why he was giving the presentation. Federico Sosa treasurer defended Jonathan’s ability and said that he had provided the spreadsheets to Jonathan, gone over it with him, and indicated some of the questionable charges to him. Fede also spoke to try to impress upon Council that information on Coach employees’ pay scales and the service’s workings had been requested even before November 5th: he said that he had sent an email to Drew and Jacob Scott, the Managing Director of the Coach at the beginning of the semester, and they had not gotten back to him. Fede predicted that when the information finally came, it would be very late in Winter Study.

Josh Earn said, “With all due respect, you can motion all you want,” but Council was going to have to wait until the information could be provided. He said that what was requested was too extensive for workers to be able to provide before Winter Study.

Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry said he was really disappointed in Jonathan and Fede. He said this was a personal battle and that the two should have kept their squabbles for more power out of Council business.

The motion to postpone came to a vote. Postponing requires 2/3.

☐ Postponing discussion of the Motor Coach FAILED, 14-13-1.

Gerry Lindo all campus tried to bring Council in line with reality by clarifying what information was actually being requested from the service, but this too was a subject of dispute. Josh Earn replied by beginning to read from an extensive email from Fede requesting very detailed financial information. Jonathan restated his original requests, which were much lesser: a set of job descriptions, because, he said, from that information everything else like pay could be researched and determined, and the service understood.

But Josh said even this was not really possible: How the Motor Coach works is that Drew does it, said Josh, and then proceeded to list details of Drew’s extensive management, including his changing of his answering machine message near service time, to answer calls more effectively. Jonathan responded that, if Coach employees did indeed deem all those specific details to be integral to the service, they should be provided, but more likely there was some way to encompass them in general terms that would serve the purpose. Dan Rooney Mills, Thompson asked if it was not possible to find some midground between every single detail and the unworkable statement, “Drew does it.”

Jessi England Class of 2006 threw herself into the fray, and said “Can we please act like adults? This is ridiculous. I have never seen something like this before in my life.” She then said that Council could not really enforce a due date; “We cannot fire Drew,” she said. “It would be nice if you would compromise with us,” she said to Josh. “You have to understand our concern.”

Andres Schabelman all campus proposed that Council simply ask nicely, “Like adults: Can you have a charter, or something like a charter, by January 9th. If not, ok.”

Josh Earn said, “If you give us the specific information you want, we will do our best to get it to you by the date.”

The setting of a due date was effected in a two stage process. A vote was first made to set a date, then a vote taken to choose a date specifically of two options: December 12th or January 9th.

☐ Setting a due date for information for a Motor Coach charter PASSED, 27-1-1.

Nasser Al Sabah Carter asked how many people worked on the Motor Coach. He voiced his opinion that what Jonathan was asking for was not that unreasonable. “There is only one job description, and it is Drew’s,” replied Josh Earn.

Andres Schabelman all campus reasserted his support for the pretty please approach. “Let’s vote this down and set the due date for the end of Winter Study and ask them, if they can do it by the ninth great, ok, but if not, no big deal. Let’s not be asses here. They do a good service. Let’s not forget that.

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 got in a few last words before the vote: “This is stupid.”

☐ Setting the due date for the charter information to January 9th PASSED, 19-9-0.
New Business from the Floor

Council Operations Committee envisioned by some to drastically reduce the amount of time Council spends debating and acting on its structure

Veronica Mendiola Gladden proposed to add the following to “some appropriate place in the bylaws”:

There’s always a place for you in this poor secretary’s heart, Jim.

The Operations Committee

1. The Operations Committee shall be composed of on of the co-presidents and three to five other members chosen by Council.
2. The Operations Committee will be responsible for creating and revising bylaws, and other documentation regarding the operation of Council and its committees and services, which they will present to Council at the first meeting of every month.
3. The committee’s recommendations must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of Council.

Veronica commented that the mood of the room might be exactly what was needed to get this passed. “I don’t think anyone signed up for this,” she said, referring to what she saw as an unduly high amount of time spent on “bylaws.” “I don’t think other people care about this.”

Jim Irving Class of 2005 gave six points against the proposed committee. Some were: forcing the bylaw discussion into certain weeks mismanages Council’s workload, and restrict officers’ ability to balance the workload. What if we really need a bylaw? there a times this might happen. He closed by exhorting Council, as he said Gerry had, to use the system already in place to save time. Parliamentary procedure. “This is the best system that anyone in the world has ever come up with. It sounds ridiculous, I know it does, but you have to have faith in it, and I do.”

Peter Tosirisuk Morgan, Lehman said that a lot of the undue time Council has spent on bylaws this year has been a direct result of the need for new charters prompted by the Daily Advisor issue, and once the charters are completed they won’t come up again.

Gerry Lindo all campus said, “There seems to be this idea that we spend too much time on bylaws. But there also seems to be this idea that if we restrict bylaw time, then somehow things will just appear on our agenda. . . . The last time, when we spent so much time bylaw B see minutes of 12 November 2003 there was nothing else on the agenda!”

Philipp Huy all campus supported the idea, saying that the committee would be a “working process,” and “would not prevent bringing up bylaws and discussing them at meetings, like we are used to.” Nate Winstanley Class of 2004 concurred, but warned Council against what he saw as a trend of delegating things to committees and then rubber stamping their decisions. Federico Sosa treasurer later rebutted this: “Since I’ve been in CC . . . we have become more efficient. One way was by delegating budget decisions to FinCom.”

Andres Schabelman all campus spoke against bylaws entirely: “I think bylaws hinder us.”

Because Veronica’s proposal to restrict the discussion of bylaws was a bylaw itself, it required 2/3 to pass.

☐ Creating the Operations Committee FAILED, 15-10-2.

Closing just a few choice words

Nate Winstanley Class of 2004: “I just want to state my upsetness because I was recognized and we could have saved 50 minutes.”

Jim Irving Class of 2005: “I just want to say that we need to work on morale here. I want you to believe in what Council does. This is so much better than it used to be. . . . You just gotta believe.”

Chris Ryan Brooks, Chadbourne, Perry: I urge everyone to think about how CC is run. Jim and Fede say it is getting better, but who cares? It still sucks. . . Most people don’t want to be on CC because they know this is what’s here, and they don’t want to be here. . . . It’s tough to want to run time and time again because you know this is what you’re getting into.”
**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

- Godfrey Bakuli  Sage
- PJ Bonavitacola  Pratt
- Bill Ference  Frosh Council

- Ali Moiz  Dodd Quad
- Sabrina Wirth  Prospect

These are second absences for Ali Moiz, Bill Ference, and PJ Bonavitacola. Another absence this term for any of the three will result in his expulsion from Council.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Landsman,
Secretary of College Council