COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES
March 14, 2012
Hopkins Hall

Quotes of the Week:
“I think down the road that is something that has a lot of potential, but I would be much more comfortable giving it to real people first” – Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President)

“I just came out of an Econometrics midterm; I want to write everything down”- April Jenkins ’14 (Treasurer)

CALL TO ORDER ____ 7:30 PM

Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President) opened the meeting. Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President) introduced the proxy for the meeting: Rose Courteau ’14 (Treasurer (proxy)).

Ben Shuham ’14 (Dodd At-Large Rep.) was absent (being very studious and taking a midterm!). Caroline Miller ’14 (Currier Board Rep.) arrived late.

ROLL CALL

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (2 min)

Approval of Minutes for March 7, 2012.

Motion: Ali Magruder ’15 (Mills Rep.)
Second: Wen Han ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)
Vote: 18-0-0

II. FACULTY FEEDBACK (15 min)

Consider whether or not Council wants to look at an alternative way of reviewing Professors (throughout the year) to ensure all classrooms remain a safe space.

Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President) started off the conversation by stating that this current topic was another initiative by Francesca last term in light of the hate crime that occurred last semester. She stated that a lot of students did not feel that classroom were safe spaces and therefore, an idea was providing students some outlet (submitting anonymous feedback) to let the professors know whether or not they felt they were being supported in class. After speaking to the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), this will be more of an undertaking than we expected. It has to be passed by faculty. The faculty isn’t resistant to getting more feedback (some Junior Faculty ask for feedback), but they worry that if students were given an
outlet about certain points, faculty wouldn’t want to take any risks in discussion. We want to have these discussions, though. This whole mechanism has evolved from something that would happen only mid-semester to something available at any time during the semester. This online form would go straight to professor and other faculty members would NOT be able to see it. She ended by stating that what she wanted was for Council to clarify what this mechanism would look like and whether or not Council should proceed, or should pass this off to the Students Against Silence (SAS) taskforce.

Here are some questions asked and responses to them:

*Simply about interactions in class and not on their curriculum: Yes

*Is this service anonymous: Yes

*Who expressed concern about this project: Professors. The faculty wants to ensure professors feel they can teach controversial issues without worrying about continually being judged and reprimanded.

*How would this affect what professors can teach: It wouldn’t. Its purpose is to assist professors throughout the semester in knowing if and when students feel uncomfortable and why so that they don’t continue making these students feel this way all semester and so that students are able to address this early on.

*Is there a way to encourage more students to go to office hours for these sort of issues so that they are addressed early on: May not solve all issues, but should be added to whatever resolution we come up with

Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President) wanted to reiterate the fact that although some faculty members may not like students having another forum to rate them, there are several professors who bluntly let their students know the way they feel about certain “kinds” of students (athlete, non-athlete, involvement in CC, etc.).

Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) reiterated that this was not just for students who don’t like their professors, but for students who feel unsafe in class (many times from a minority on campus)

At this point, the following question was presented to be considered for several strawpolls that follow:

Does Council believe it should continue to pursue this issue through the student-faculty committee structure (CEP, which hasn’t worked), give this to SAS to address the potential policy changes on campus, or look at other organizations on campus (weirdly long strawpoll, I know!)

All in favor of Council working on this as a CC initiative:

Vote: 5 in favor
All in favor of pushing this to the Students Against Silence committee:
Vote: Majority

All in favor of CC not addressing this at all and pushing this item to outside committees:
Vote: 1
At this point, April “Bank”-Ins ’14 (Treasurer) made it back from her Econometrics midterm.

III. ROLLOVER (15 min)

Begin talking about what Council wants to do with Rollover and what conversations Council wants to have with administrators

Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President) began by the conversation by giving a quick historical overview of funding on campus:

We have rollover because in 2009, CC voted that we should clear out funds of inactive groups and inactive money in groups at end of year. That’s because groups requested more and more money every year and didn’t spend it all. (Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President) also mentioned that it is not being adjusted for inflation). That Council didn’t think it was responsible to increase budget by an exorbitant amount of money that one year and never increase the budget again. For past two years, it’s been used to supplement the different funds we have. Currently, we have to figure out how we want to move forward from here. She reminded Council that while it is not current SAT money, it is still money from the student body.

April Jenkins ’14 (Treasurer) began by explaining how rollover currently works (accounts are cleared, money is moved to this rollover fund, and then is redistributed to the other CC funds). She proposed several possible courses of action:

Plan A: Create an Endowment with the Fund

We would take take cumulative rollover (the lump sum just sitting in the fund) and working with the Provost, invest that money. Following that, the Finance Committee and CC would come up with a way to find the expected return, figure out a responsible amount to spend per year, and move on from that.

Henry Bergman ’15 (Williams Hall Rep.) asked if this meant that we would invest the money and spend the interest on it. April stated that it probably will be the interest the Council spends every year.

Max Heninger ’14 (Currier At-Large Rep.) called a Point of Information. He asked if Great Ideas and other funds are currently eating away at Rollover. April
confirmed his point. He then proceeded to ask if rollover per year is nominal. She stated that since we have only had two fiscal years with this fund, it has been reallocated into different funds (around 40k a year).

Wen Han ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.) asked if groups were currently penalized for having leftover funds during the subgroup allocation process at the beginning of each year. April stated they groups weren’t punished at all, but this information is used to assist the Finance Committee with their recommendations in September.

Rani Mukherjee ’15 (Dennett Hall Rep.) stated that currently, there is an incentive to spend all the money left over in a groups account at the end of the year so that in the fall, it doesn’t look like that group had a lot of funding leftover in June. She asked if there was a way to encourage groups to spend only the money that they needed and not spend money just because they have it. April stated that a lot of the group treasurer’s are not on top of their accounting and therefore, they don’t know how much money is in their account. In a world of perfect information, that could be a flaw in our system. She also reminded Council that FinCom is very careful with allocating money and as a result, there is not much wiggle room for students to spend their money wastefully. Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) also stated that through vouchers, the treasurer is able to keep track of all accounts. April agreed.

Peter stated that the endowment idea came from Wesleyan University, where they have a large chunk of money that they invested to grow it a certain number of years to supplement their student activities tax to discourage any increase to the SAT. Their endowment is already very large. He likes thinking of this endowment as a buffer to any increases in the SAT.

Max proposed allowing some of the investment clubs on campus to work with the investment office to assist in the investment of the rollover. Many members of Council agreed. Stefan Lainovic ’14 (Dodd Board Rep.) reiterated that this wasn’t a crazy idea (thanks Stefan!) and mentioned that at Georgetown University, students manage and invest their own money and it seems to work out.

April proposed her second idea:

Plan B: Spend the Money in a Responsible Manner over a Period of Time

Essentially, we’d talk to Financial Aid and figure out when we are getting our SAT increased. Based upon that information, we’d decide how much we want to infuse into our funds yearly (considering inflation and other factors). This will allow us to spend more money per year. This has short term benefits that would eventually stop accruing
when we run out of money. It has more immediate benefits in the short run. She then gave Council a math lesson and taught everyone how to incorporate inflation into different funding models. Kate asked if this model would leave a legacy. Peter stated that it wouldn’t. She also asked about the risk with the endowment idea. April stated that in 2008, the Williams endowment decreased by a lot. But, in the last few years, the endowment has gone back up and is higher than it was. There are risks associated, but it would be managed by the same people who manage Williams’ endowment.

Caroline Miller ’14 (Currier Board Rep.) and Stefan explained to Council how this entire funding model would work. (I don’t think us non-Econ 251 people understood the present discounted value thing that they talked about. Oh well. That’s why we have an awesome investment office that knows what they’re doing!)

IV. CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND BYLAW (10 min)

Consider a Capital Investment Bylaw and what Council sees the CIF doing.

Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President) began by introducing the proposed by-law change and stated that Adrian Castro ’14 (Secretary) simply copied and pasted the language in the CIF Resolution. This is changing nothing at all, except for the fact this we are making this a by-law now.

Motion: Wen Han ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep)
Second: Ali Magruder ’15 (Mills Hall Rep.)
Vote: 17-0-1 (Katy Carrigan ’14 (Spencer At-Large Rep.))

Before the vote, Benjamin Fischberg ’14 (Wood At-Large Rep.) asked if making this a by-law would make it harder to change this item later. Peter responded that with a by-law, Council would need a 2/3 vote to change it.

V. FUNDING REQUESTS (8 min)

Approval of Finance Committee budget recommendations for the week.

April Jenkins ’14 (Treasurer) presented the budget proposals for the following groups: WCFM Spring Concert, Frosh Council Casino Night, WUFO King Fantastic, International Investment, Ephoria Spring Break, BSU symposium, and Yearbook.

Henry Bergman ’15 (Williams Hall Rep.) asked what the banner for the Yearbook was for. April stated that it was going to have the group’s name on it. Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President) also impressed Council by being the only person able to pronounce its name. wow
Motion: Adrian Castro ’14 (Secretary) moved to vote on the Yearbook allocation separately from the other groups. Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) seconded the motion. Benjamin Fischberg ’14 (Wood At-Large Rep.) motioned to amendment the motion to instead vote on every item separately. Stefan Lainovic ’14 (Dodd Board Rep.) seconded. Adrian stated that it was a friendly amendment and therefore, no vote was needed.

April asked Ben to clarify. Ben F. clarified his reasoning for motioning to vote on each item separately because his disagreed with the allotment of funds for the Black Student Union. He stated that because of inconsistencies with their proposal (number of attendees changes, number of schools present changed, etc.), he wanted to vote differently on that item. April responded that Ben was actually wrong and that the funds being used were for the keynote speaker and for the symposium dinner, which is allowed in our by-laws. She also stated that because the BSU cut down costs and is hosting an all-campus event, this is allowed per our by-laws. Julia Hoch ’15 (Armstrong House Rep.) agreed with Ben.

Below is the line-item vote for the agendized item:

1. WCFM
   Motion: Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.)
   Second: Emily Dzieciatko ’15 (Sage Hall Rep.)
   Vote: Unanimous

2. Frosh Council (Because of a potential Conflict of Interest, I have pulled this item off of these minutes and have added it onto the Agenda for April 4, 2012 to ensure this item is legit.)

3. WUFO
   Motion: Henry Bergman ’15 (Williams Hall Rep.)
   Second: Emily Calkins ’14 (Class of 2014 Rep.)
   Vote: 17-0-1

4. International Investment Club
   Motion: Wen Han ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)
   Second: Nicole Chen ’15 (Pratt Rep.)
   Vote: Unanimous

5. Ephoria
   Motion: Rani Mukherjee ’15 (Dennett Rep.)
   Second: Wen Han ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)
   Vote: Unanimous
6. BSU

**Motion:** Emily Dzieciatko ’15 (Sage Hall Rep.)

**Second:** Caroline Miller ’14 (Currier Board Rep.)

**Vote:** 15-1-2 (Abs: Emily Calkins, Against: Benjamin Fischberg ’15 and Julia Hoch ’15 (Armstrong Rep.))

7. Yearbook

**Motion:** Katy Carrigan ’15 (Spencer At-Large Rep.)

**Second:** Rani Mukherjee ’15 (Dennett Rep.)

**Vote:** 13-0-0 (Adrian Castro ’14 (Secretary), Emily Calkins ’14 (Class of 2014), Henry Bergman ’15 (Williams Hall Rep.), Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.), and Stefan Lainovic ’14 (Dodd Board Rep.))

VI. **CC COMMITTEE FUNDING**

April Jenkins ’14 (Treasurer) presented proposed budgets for College Council committees.

**Video Game Library:**

Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) moved to amend the item to include usage patterns before actually giving the committee funding. **Nicole Chen ’15 (Pratt Rep.)** seconded.

Adrian Castro ’14 (Secretary) moved to table this item until after Spring Break to give the committee a chance to get a better idea of what video games students wanted. There was no second and therefore, his motion died.

Emily Calkins ’14 (Class of 2014) then moved to table this item until after Spring Break to give the committee time to look at a better selection of games before presenting to Council. **Katy Carrigan ’14 (Spencer At-Large)** seconded.

**Vote:** 17-0-1 (Benjamin Fischberg ’14 (Wood At-Large Rep.))

**Paddles:**

**Motion:** Ali Magruder ’15 (Mills Hall Rep.)

**Second:** Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.)

**Vote:** Unanimous

VII. **COMMITTEE UPDATES (20 min)**

**Great Ideas Committee:**

*Video games library. There are about 17 new games that are on the top 20 list.*
* Working on rackets and balls for court behind mission.
* Met with dining last week about different items: feta cheese at Paresky salad bar, seltzer in grab n go hopefully, vending machine bid comes in March 16 for healthier vending machines.
* Working on ordering oven mitts for houses. (Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President) mentioned that the committee should talk to the neighborhood boards instead
* Color printing on Friday.
* Towels in locker rooms

**Benjamin Augenbraun ’15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)** talked about the Bike Share program. 10-15 years ago, there was an honors system in place, but the bikes got destroyed by irresponsible drunk students. They don’t want to leave the bikes outside during the weekend for this reason. They are also meeting with WOC to discuss the possibility of them renting the bikes out. The hours would limit the times we could use bikes, but it is better than having nothing. **Rani Mukherjee ’15 (Dennett Hall Rep.)** stated that it is their goal to get this up and running and then push it off to a student club to continue running this program. **Peter** asked how many bikes are currently available to use. **Ben** stated that currently, security is going to round up unclaimed bikes on campus and potentially spray paint them purple and yellow. This is a nice stepping stone.

**Rani Mukherjee ’15 (Dennett Hall Rep.)** talked about the proposed bouldering cave idea in Greylock. WOC presented this and asked for College Council support. Currently, the committee is helping to put them in the right direction since they still do not know what Greylock will be used for

**Krista Pickett ’13 (CC Co-President)** presented a Great Ideas update. She talked about a Social Scene task force with the Office of Student Life to know and address the social scene shortcomings. Next year, their programming coordinator will be in charge of starting this up. This will be implemented in the fall

**Emily Calkins ’14 (Class of 2014 Rep.)** talked about her “Before I Graduate” wall idea. She was happy to announce that the wall will be painted during Spring Break (props Emily!!). **Katy** stated that she’d like to throw a big bash in celebration of the wall.

**College Council Communications Team**

**Max Heninger ’14 (Currier At-Large Rep.)** presented for the committee. He stated that the committee plans on making a video to get students excited. One video will have President Falk speak about the importance of getting students on committees. This video will also feature **Krista** and **Peter**. **Jackie Milian ’13 (Wood Board Rep.)** also added that depending on the excitement we get from other committees, we might make another video for committee themselves. **Adrian Castro ’14 (Secretary)** also talked about the importance of the two C’s of CC-Collaboration and Communication-in
an effort to become a Council that tries to communicate and collaborate with others on campus (yes, that’s repetitive!). **Krista** added that there will also be educational posters to inform students

**Student Organizations Committee**

**Kate Flanagan ’14 (Community and Diversity Rep.)** began by talking about the completion of their first task (protocol for student group formation). Basically, student fill out a form that gets sent to Kate and Ben Lamb. Afterwards, they meet with interested students to ensure they are on track. Following that, they hold an interest meeting to ensure students are interested (at least 15 students). Next, groups will present a constitution with a student petition (at least 15 students) to OSL. Finally, SOC will make a recommendation to CC. Currently, there are 4 groups on track to becoming groups (nice!).

**VIII. OPEN TIME (10 min)**

No comments.

**IX. OPINIONS**

See attached page!

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS (10 min)**

**Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President)** mentioned that the Committee on Undergraduate Life discussed this issue and put in a request to extend the hours for Shapiro Hall/Hollander Hall until 12:30AM, although there is no guarantee that they will approve of this. He also stated that the reason why this time was proposed was to help make it less awkward to students who are studying to have to leave at 11PM (current time) since many don’t start studying until that time. **Benjamin Fischberg ’14 (Wood At-Large Rep.)** asked why they currently closed these buildings at 11PM. **Peter** responded that there have been incidents in those buildings (kids running around without clothes on...maybe the Springstreekers were just practicing!), which prompted the early closure time.

**Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President)** also mentioned that they have been working on the final exam issues that Francesca Barrett, former College Council Co-President, began working on last term. She stated that a lot of professors already do return final exams, but they only do it to students who ask. **Krista** stated that she asked them to advertise this more on their end and College Council can advertise it more on ours

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

And finally, after the plethora of thoughts that flew around the room tonight, I shut down my computer at **9:00PM** and ventured off to do taxes for students on campus in Jesup 205. Talk about mentally taxing!
Opinions!
March 7-March 13

1. A student suggested getting hot Cheetos to become a regular commodity at Grab-N-Go!
2. An opinion was submitted to have a gaming console in Paresky Basement with Super Mario Kart!