CALL TO ORDER: 7:30PM

ROLL CALL

Due to a hard drive failure during the meeting, the following items do not include motioners, seconders, official tallies for votes, or a detailed summary of conversation: I. Approval of Minutes, II. Announcements, III. Rollover Fund Taskforce, IV. Dining Services App., V. College Council Composition

All official votes (whether passed or failed) are included, however. I’m sorry for any inconveniences.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1 min.)

The minutes were approved by general consensus.

II. ROLLOVER FUND TASKFORCE (5 min)

Update from April Jenkins, Treasurer, on the Rollover Taskforce and the current plan of action for the group.

April Jenkins ’14 (Treasurer) and Max Heninger ’14 (Currier At-Large Rep.) gave a brief report on the status of the task force. At the moment, they are in communication with Susan Hogan, Controller, for information on the feasibility of: an endowment fund, investing the money, and other methods of saving the money. During the summer, April and Max will work on a draft of a timeline for the following school year (’12-’13), at which point a taskforce comprised of College Council and non-College Council members will look at all options and devise a plan to be presented and adopted by the next council.

III. DINING SERVICES APP (10 min)

Presentation by a student at-large with an idea of a dining services mobile application.

Jacob Halpert, Class of 2012 student at-large, presented an idea for a dining services mobile application for the ’82 grill. This application would allow students to order their food prior to arriving so as to avoid any time spent waiting in line. Council agreed to table the item to CC Campus during the summer to negotiate a deal with Dining Services to split the initial investment ($10, 000+) for the service.

This item was tabled by a general consensus of Council, called by the Chair.

Short Break
IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 min)

Krista Pickett ’13 and Peter Skipper ’13, Co-Presidents, recommenced the meeting at 8:03PM. Prior to continuing on, they thanked Council for this semester and reiterated some of the many items this term completed, including a more organized council structure, the creation of internal committees that streamlined many of the previous processes, and more.

V. COLLEGE COUNCIL COMPOSITION (40 min)

Continue conversation on the composition of College Council, review the proposed resolution, and finish talking about the changes to the composition of College Council.

As a continuation of the previous meeting, Council deliberated on the structure of the Council. The Co-Presidents presented Council with a copy of the proposal that will be used to write a new Constitution for the Council (pending Council approval). Several Council members and members of the community offered suggestions and the final proposal was approved by the Council. Please read below for an attached copy of the proposal.

VI. OPINIONS@WSO (4 min)

Adrian Castro ’14 (Secretary) presented the two opinions for the week:

1. The need for Country music at Williams for concerts (suggestion aimed at the recent All-Campus Entertainment (ACE) survey that asked students to rank certain genres of music for the Homecoming Concert.
2. ACE needs to allow students to give more input on the Homecoming Concert.

VII. FUNDING REQUESTS (10 min)

April Jenkins ’14 (Treasurer) presented the funding requests for the following groups (slate one):

- Storytime, Peer Tutors, and Ephoria.

Vote:

- Storytime: Kate and Henry (nay), Brian, Jackie, and Katy (abstain)
- Peer Tutors: Passes unanimously
- Ephoria: Kate (abstain)

(slate two): ACE Homecoming Concert Budget:

April began this conversation by describing the dilemma Council is currently in. Every week, the Finance Committee meets with groups seeking funds, asks a series of questions to determine how much to allocate, and then recommend an allotment of funds to Council to then vote on. This week, however, the Finance Committee returned with a “No Recommendation” on this slate. According to Section VIII. Distribution of the General Fund in the College Council bylaws, “This Allocation Committee may decide not to pass judgment on any request, thus placing it on the agenda for Council to hear at the
following Council meeting.” As a result, Council is now charged with coming up with an allocation. Because the budget requested ($83,400) was too last minute and without the proper details FinCom needs to discuss this budget, the committee had no choice but pass a “No Judgment” on this item.

Historically, ACE has received money from Council prior to the end of the school year for the following school year’s Homecoming Concert (a precedent held by two previous sessions of Council). This year, however, Council invited ACE at the commencement of the semester to discuss the funding structure of ACE Concerts and begin dialogue with the committee on this issue. The question, therefore, is how much money, if any, shall Council allocate for this item and whether or not this allocation will be an informed decision by Council.

Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President) reminded Council that the conversation shall be strictly about finances and not feelings. April reminded Council that the request constitutes a quarter of Council’s annual Student Activities Tax (SAT).

Several Councilmembers brought up the following items:
• Call a recess and postpone the official vote to give ACE more time to formulate another budget proposal for Council to review
• Not many students are able to attend this concert due to many reasons, including ticket prices. The SAT allocation to this one event doesn’t take this into account
  o ACE stated they are willing to negotiate a lower ticket price
• Capacity is an issue; it is limiting → doesn’t promote student engagement
• The current budget is too limiting for Council to vote on. It would be irresponsible and unfair to ACE to allocate a random number without any information (i.e. a random allocation may not leave enough money for all fixed and variable costs). College Council is not a programming body and cannot make this decision without information previously requested
• ACE failed to survey the campus about how important the concert is to them/some surveys passed around by ACE earlier today show students are in favor of the concert
• ACE should do a smaller concert since Williams isn’t equipped to handle big name artists
• College Council is merely deciding on funding and not on whether or not ACE should have a fall concert. What they do is up to them.
• CC Campus is able to review budgets during the summer
• Since this is something that affects all students on campus, CC should allow all of Council to vote instead of just CC campus, despite the adjournment of the meeting
• Council members shouldn’t be polled to determine whether or not students want the concert, the entire campus should be polled.
• Finals time should be for studying for tests and not for reviewing late budgets
• CC campus, while comprised of eight members, is elected by a large part of the campus (more so than semester long representatives) and therefore, have more responsibility to and trust from the campus
A motion was presented to extend the meeting by fifteen (15) minutes and passed. Additionally, a motion to end discussion and vote was presented, but failed.

Seeing as how there was no further motion presented to extend the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16PM. Peter let ACE know that CC Campus is willing to discuss this over the summer if presented with additional budgets.

ADJOURNMENT

And with that, Council Spring 2012 is now adjourned! See you in the fall!
Resolution 2-1213
Introduced on May 9, 2012

Author(s): Krista Pickett ‘13 and Peter Skipper ‘13
Co-Sponsor(s): Kate Flanagan ’14, Adrian Castro ’14, April Jenkins ’14, Wen Han ’13, Emily Calkins ’14, Ben Augenbraun ’15

A Resolution to Restructure College Council

WHEREAS The College Council, as the student government of Williams College, is charged with representing the student voice on College matters;

WHEREAS The composition of College Council should as closely as possible reflect the students it represents;

WHEREAS The existing structure of College Council disproportionately represents first and second year students;

WHEREAS There is a demonstrated need for the institutionalization of an additional position dedicated to managing College Council’s finances;

WHEREAS College Council is committed to supporting student organizations and actively improving student life at Williams;

WHEREAS College Council is committed to advocating student interest with regard to academic policy and issues relating to community and diversity;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Williams College Council:
1. Supports a constitutional amendment to alter its structure and membership via an all-campus vote in the Fall of 2012.
2. Supports the continuation of the Neighborhood Board Representatives until the Spring Mid-Year elections in 2013
3. Recommends that the following structure be adopted:

I. Membership

Four semester-long representatives from each class year will be elected in the Fall and Spring elections.

Four Vice Presidents, each elected with a focus on Intellectual Life, Community and Diversity, Student Life, and Student Organizations.

An Associate Treasurer, elected in the Fall and Spring elections.

II. Duties

The Vice President for Intellectual Life shall address all issues of academic life and navigate the intersections between students and faculty at Williams. The VP for Intellectual Life will chair an Intellectual Life Committee that will represent student interests in all matters relating to educational policy. Membership of the committee will include members of Council, the student chairs of College committees including but not limited to: Committee on Educational Policy, Lecture Committee, Winter Study Committee, Calendar and Scheduling Committee, and Free University. The committee will be the primary forum for students to address academic-related issues and to advocate for the academic needs of students. The committee will make official recommendations to College Council.

The Vice President for Community and Diversity shall function in the same capacity as the All Campus Representative for Community and Diversity. Additionally, the VP for Community and Diversity will chair a Community and Diversity Committee that will represent student interests in all matters relating to issues of community and diversity. Members of the committee will include members of Council, the student chairs of College committees including, but not limited to: Committee on Diversity and Community, Williams Reads, College and Community Advisory Committee, Claiming Williams Steering Committee, etc. The committee will make official recommendations to College Council.

The Vice President for Student Life shall address all issues of non-academic student life, including but not limited to, athletics, social life, programming, etc. The VP for Student Life will communicate with the Office of Student Life and the Dean’s Office, and will chair the Student Life Committee. The Student Life Committee will represent student interests on all non-academic matters relating
to student life. Committee membership will consist of members of Council, the student chairs of committees such as the Great Ideas Committee, Committee on Undergraduate Life, Dining Services Committee, Campus Safety and Security Advisory Committee, and representatives from additional bodies such as the Neighborhoods and ACE. The committee will be the primary forum for students to discuss issues such as housing and social life, and will make official recommendations to College Council.

The Vice President for Student Organizations shall serve as the primary contact point for all student organizations under College Council's mandate. The VP for Student Organizations will work with the Office of Student Life on issues concerning student organizations at Williams, and will collaborate with the Treasurer to support student organizations financially and institutionally. The VP for Student Organizations will chair the Student Organizations Committee, which shall approve new student groups and oversee and support all existing College Council student organizations. Membership will consist of members of Council. The committee will be responsible for formulating College Council policy governing student organizations.

The Associate Treasurer will assist the Treasurer in maintaining Council’s books and overseeing its weekly finances and will serve on the Finance Committee as well.

III. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will be elected by the student body at large during the Spring elections and serve yearlong terms. The Executive Committee will consist of two Co-Presidents or a President and Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Vice Presidents, each with a focus on Academic Affairs, Community and Diversity, Student Life and Student Organizations. The Executive Committee will assume the duties of the Appointments Committee.

Motion passes to approve Resolution 02-1213