CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

ROLL CALL

Henry Bergman ’15 (Spencer Board Rep.) and Jesus Espinoza ’16 (Williams Hall Rep.) were absent from today’s meeting.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   a. Snack Bar
   b. Great Ideas Campaign
   c. Broomball
   d. Meeting for Darryl Brown ’13

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
    Approval of Minutes for December 5, 2012.

    Motion to Approve: Laura Calloway ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)
    Second: Michael Williams ’15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)
    Vote: 20-0-0

III. FUNDING REQUESTS
     Approval of funding requests for the week, presented by none other than Jillie Schwiep!

     Slate One
     Motion to Approve General Funding Request: Laura Calloway ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)
     Second: Brian McGrail ’14 (Class of 2014 Rep.)
     Vote: 19-0-1

     Motion to Approve Co-Sponsorship: Michael Williams ’15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)
     Second: Kristen Sinicariello ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)
     Vote: 17-0-3

     Slate Two: Great Ideas Budget
     Motion to Approve Lights for the Quiet Room: Emily Dzieciatko ’15 (Asst. Treasurer)
     Second: Brian McGrail ’14 (Class of 2014 Rep.)
     Vote: 19-0-1

     Slate Three: SuperFan Budget
     Motion to Approve $807: Rani Mukherjee ’15 (Wood Board Rep.)
     Second: Michael Williams ’15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)
     Vote: 15-2-3
IV. STUDENT CHAMBER BOARD REPRESENTATIVE
Update from Kerry Koehler ‘13, who is working with this group to revitalize Spring Street. Is this a position that CC can fund membership fees for and how is it a useful link between the student body and the town?

Kerry Koehler ‘13, student chamber board representative, visited Council to give an update on what she has worked on this semester and her hopes in establishing this as a permanent position. According to Kerry, the Chamber of Commerce for Williamstown, which represents Williamstown businesses, includes people from the Northern Berkshires and has three chambers: North Adams, Northern Berkshire, and the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce. This position came out of her summer research this past year because of a desire and need to include student perspective at chamber meetings.

As a Williams College representative, she has voting power, works on projects like other members, can introduce ideas, and add items to agendas. For the new representative, she wants someone with a more formal backing (someone from CC, maybe). This would allow for a more public view to take student issues to the chamber. There has been a disconnect between businesses and students. They also look at how to get members, how to make the businesses thrive, and how to include college students.

Emily Dzieciatko ’15 (Assistant Treasurer) asked what current projects she is working on? Kerry stated that she worked on “adding a touch of professionalism to the Chamber” this past summer. She looked at similar towns and analyzed why Williamstown is the way it is. She ended by saying that the College is very committed and wants the student body to be committed as well, hence her seeking of a Council bylaw change.

V. HIGHER GROUND
Presentation by Bilal Ansari on his work with Higher Ground, where he is working with the College to donate land and to increase the availability of affordable housing in Williamstown.

Peter Skipper ’13 (Co-President) introduced Bilal Ansari, Muslin Chaplain for the College, who has been working with Higher Ground to look at the affordable housing in the community. They have come up with a proposal for this, so it’s important for the community and the College to look over and consider this proposal.

Bilal stated that many people in the town and at Williams have been working on this issue for over a year now. When Irene came, 125 homes were wiped out and have not been replaced. Regrettably, those were the poorest parts of the communities as well. They have been working with FEMA to rebuild these homes. Currently, they are built in a way that causes the homes to flood with as little as 6 inches.
The town owns a few places near the town lines, but there has been a lot of contention recently. The Spruces has roughly 100 acres that will be swapped for about 28 acres to build the homes that were destroyed. People who live around the new area, however, don’t want the homes around their houses; there is a lot of push back. He continued by saying that it will take a lot to raise the funding to make up the difference so that the poor can afford it. One option is including both people with money and without money so that a combination of both can live in that housing complex and help offset the cost.

In order for this to pass, there will need to be a town vote of a 2/3 majority. College Council can help by getting people out to the town meeting and mobilizing a vote to help make that change. As College residents, students are also allowed to vote.

**Erica Moszkowski ’15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)** asked if people are being relocated from Spruces and what the space will be used for. **Bilal** stated that they the people currently living there would indeed be relocated and that the space will probably be turned into a park, since the townies don’t have a park at the moment (except for Camp Williams!).

**Liz Visconti ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)** added that it is important to look at both sides before coming up with a set point of view. This will ensure that the college community is educated on the subject matter and can make an educated decision.

**VI. COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Update by Emily Hertz ’13 and Max Heninger ’14, Currier Board Rep., on what the CSAC has been working on so far this year.*

**Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President)** introduced **Emily Hertz ’13** and **Max Heninger ’14** (student chair and beloved CC member) to the meeting this evening. **Max** began by stating that the purpose of this committee is to look at how the College and the community is intertwined. The Committee, which is assembled by Assistant to the President for Public Affairs James Kolesar, looks at where Williams can leverage its resources and helps to guide Williams’ investments. This year, they’ve looked at the challenge of providing quality health care for the community and ensuring we have a hospital in the area. Additionally, MGRHS is run down and it needs to be renovated; how can Williams procure the financing for that?

**Emily** added that there is a movement in town to known the whole building down and start completely. CC wouldn’t be super involved in this, but it’s interesting for people to know what’s going on. At the last meeting, the Chief of Police and Security for Williamstown presented and they were able to discuss the presence of WPD and whether we want more of their presence here (for Williams to get to know them).

**Max** continued by saying that the most positive step going forward is getting them to come into CC to hear about their position. They do realize, luckily, that college students
aren't perfect and they don't want people to graduate with penalties and whatnot; they want to educate the student body. He ended by saying that while they have an ability to look at how Williams spends its money, it's an administrative decision; students don't have a say in where the money goes and how it is spent.

VII. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY UPDATE

Update by Michael Girouard '13, student chair of the CEP, on the committee’s review of the Exploring Diversity Initiative. Could this be a Community Matters discussion?

Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President) welcomed Michael Girouard ’13, student chair of the Committee on Educational Policy, back to the Council meeting to update everyone on the Committee’s work with the Exploring Diversity requirement.

He began by saying that recently, they've reviewed the EDI requirement more extensively than previous years. They are now soliciting feedback from the faculty and students via a survey. For the student survey, they are directly asking students who took an EDI course this past semester. If students who didn't take an EDI course want to give some feedback, they are having a community forum on Sunday, January 20 in Henze Lounge.

Liz Visconti ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.) asked which courses get the EDI credit. She added that many courses should have the label, but don't and it seems arbitrary how courses are designated as such. Michael responded that at this point, professors apply for this, not students. At the moment, it seems that all courses that apply are granted the label.

Kristen Sinicariello ’13 (Class of 2013 Rep.) asked if the Committee have a vision for the requirement. Michael responded that the program was instated 5 years ago with a stipulation that a review would be done. This is a procedural review that doesn't necessarily mean that are going to get rid of it or completely change it; the Chair wants to give it some time. They are currently collecting data and reviewing it to assess the requirement itself. They aren't going in there with the assumption that it is broken.

Hannah Hindel ’13 (proxy) asked if there was a central list that exists that determines what is EDI or if Professors just decided. Michael stated that when the EDI was created, criteria were created that would be used to determine whether or not they were EDI. The Director decides whether or not they are granted this label.
VIII. SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION WORKING GROUP
Discussion about the reporting process, investigations, and survivor satisfaction with the way it currently operates.

Krista Pickett ’13 (Co-President) welcomed and thanked Dean Bolton for attending tonight’s meeting. This discussion focuses specifically on the sexual assault prevention working group that she runs and problems surrounding sexual assault on campus.

D. Bolton began by stating that this is a group that was created over a year ago when working with improving sexual assault prevention and awareness and response. Some of those pieces also included changes for staff and administration. At that time, there were 17 clubs, organizations, and committees interested in this issue alone. Thus, they wanted a centralized piece that coordinated everyone’s efforts. Some of the goals for the Committee include the following:

One of the visions is that Williams would be a safe and supportive community so that many staff, students, and faculty would understand these experiences and have a community that shares a common language around sexual assault, a community that knows what is happening, and one that knows the prevalence of assault; they worked on a letter last year that included statistics about assaults on campus; they trained 25 members of their professional staff last year to do bystander training. Finally, it’s a committee aimed at reducing and eliminating sexual assault. Last year, they worked on building up their capacity and effectiveness. The training aspect of it was essential. They also looked at ways in which they changed the ways in which training for first years and JAs was done. Additionally, they focused a lot on awareness and prevention.

RASAN has done a lot (Project Unbreakable, Take Back the Night, etc.). But, in order to ensure this is something that is always in the minds of the community and to continue these services, they work as a committee that does not end (versus a taskforce, which has a set ending). This year, they have been thinking about these ideas and have worked with RASAN, Men for Consent, and other groups. They have also been talking about the process of reporting and investigating assaults that they want to continue working on in the spring.

Their webpage (found on dean.williams.edu) is centered on getting help instead of just information. It tries to help people respond to such incidents. As Dean of students, It’s Dean Bolton’s obligation to do everything she can to find out about these attacks and to hold people accountable (and remove them from campus if need be). It’s also really important for the campus to know that people who perpetrate assault will be treated seriously. They want people to know that they really do work hard on these issues.
A second obligation they have is supporting a survivor throughout the process. The process is not onerous, but they still want to ensure people aren't scared from reporting. One of the challenges is that sometimes, those two obligations can feel like they are in contention. The main question is how to best balance both.

Investigations are done mostly by Campus Safety, who have lots of training in sexual assault. They have extensive training with many different departments not affiliated with the College. A number of schools are also looking at the problem many students face where the adults have many positions and faces, which makes the investigation process harder (present on campus). They've looked at other schools that have outside people conducting these investigations to diverge some of the Dean's hats to others.

Jessica Bernheim '16 (Sage Hall Rep.) asked how they can balance the rights of the accused and the safety of the broader campus and victim. If a student is accused, but is difficult to prove and they come to a point where they cannot be definitively reprimanded, how do they protect the person and campus. D. Bolton responded that the standard of proof that they are required to use by the Federal Government is "preponderance of the evidence" (more likely than not, NOT beyond a reasonable doubt). This shifts a little bit about how they think about this. What students need to know if that first person stories are very important. In these situations, "evidence" includes first person accounts of the incident. As Dean, if there is a situation where there is a safety concern, she is mandated to suspend people immediately.

Ben A: What is the reason for not going straight to the police?
D. Bolton: That is a separate process that the survivor must choose. Survivor's are not required to report to the police. If they report to the police, there is a process to help them throughout the entire process.
Max: Rates of sexual assault at Williams are higher than other colleges. Is this the case?
D. Bolton: The rates at Williams are higher than peer schools (20-30% higher).
The national average data is taken from all institutions (non-resident, adult, etc.). All small residential colleges have higher total rates than larger institutions. They are high, which you can measure two different ways: surveys and the recorded rates. Goal: surveys down, but recording goes up
Lauren Bender; Does Amherst student's article rely some Williams problems?
D. Bolton: Not all. They had a hearing process where survivor presented case in front of perpetrator. Some things that happen there don't happen here.
Ryan: Are our rates higher because of our programs?
D. Bolton: Reports and surveys are higher. It seems to be anecdotal, but it is consistently true that the rates are higher with the increase in programming.
IX. HONOR AND DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE UPDATE
Update by James Elish ’13, student chair of the Honor and Discipline Committee, to discuss the increase in cases this year and the unsustainability of this current model and how to assist the Committee with this issue.

----- Meeting Notes (1/9/13 20:56) -----
Krista introduced James. Talking about challenges.
James: The Dean publishes semester reports on the action of the honor committee, but it hasn’t come out yet. To give everyone a baseline, in the last few years, they see roughly 15 cases per year. Of those cases, many of those are found guilty. This year, they’ve seen 28 cases. That has presented many issues for the community as a whole and for the students who are on the committee.
To alleviate the burden on the students on the committee, each case lasts roughly 2 hours. For students who have been on the committee this year, it’s been roughly 50 hours and is more than reasonable for someone to be working for that long. Quorum is 3/4 of who is on campus at any given time (6/8). Usually, they have 7 or 8 students there. Because they are elected, you feel real responsibility.
It’s an intense 2 hours and is a large burden to carry because the information is confidential. It’s more than been expected. Also, on the faculty side (who is the faculty chair), Shanks and James meet with Profs, where they guide profs through the process. For the Chairs, their time commitment is double that amount. P. Shanks and James have really felt the strain of this responsibility. It’s something that is not sustainable, but a heavy burden.
After speaking to members on the committee, they want to increase the number of students on the committee, but maintain a smaller proportion to meet at any given time (8, for example). The logical next step is to increase the number of students per year from 2 to 3 so that each student goes to roughly 2/3 meetings.
When looking at the chair, it makes sense to maintain a singular chair. for each case that foes in, there are additional meetings that take place. There are things that must take place, which is a large hassle when there are several cases. What would be helpful, though, is to have associate chairs to assist with meetings.
There is a trend. There is a sense amongst the faculty that professors are more vigilant now than ever before.
----- Meeting Notes (1/9/13 21:03) -----
James: In places where the Honor Code really functions, there is peer accountability. The physical signing of it would change the way it is perceived. We need to work on the preventative measure.

X. FACULTY AND STAFF APPRECIATION AWARD
Council discussion and nomination of faculty and staff members for the Staff and Faculty awards given yearly by Council.
Krista: We give this every year; def is very vague. That person could have (or not) worked with council. Increase growth at college.

Adrian: Three awards. Bylaw change.

Bylaw for Kerry’s Position:

Motion to Approve: Ben A

Second: Laura

Vote: Unanimously

XI. **STAFF APPRECIATION DAY**

Discussion on Staff Appreciation Day and initial planning for this yearly event.

XII. **OPINIONS@WSO.WILLIAMS.EDU**

(Attached)

XIII. **OPEN TIME**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT
Opinions [at] Williams [dot] edu
December 6, 2012 to January 8, 2013

1. Hey I was just thinking that it would be phenomenal if students were able to log on to the dining services website and check how many meals they have left in the week. I for one always find myself asking the swipe person how many meals I have, and it would be really nice if students had access to that number at any time.

2. Now that Snack Bar has extended hours, I hope that we can move on to extending the girth of their menu. After a lengthy evening of hard work in the deep orifices of Sawyer basement, there's nothing more enticing than the thought of a giant sausage to stimulate my mouth and get my creative juices flowing. I hope that the Dining Services Committee will consider incorporating chorizo into the Late Night menu for Spring Semester. Because there's really nothing more satisfying than a good hunk of hot meat.

3. Can y'all get Jessup a stapler? Tons of people print there and I just don't understand why we can't just supply them with one... it seems like an easy fix. I'm tired of seeing the "sorry, no stapler" sign...