COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES
April 8th, 2015
Hopkins Hall 001

I. Call to Order: 7:30 PM

II. Introductions

III. “The Mountains” by the Williams College Springstreeters

IV. Transitioning of Co-Presidential Powers
Jesús Espinoza and Marcus Christian recited and signed the Oath of Office into College Council Co-Presidency. Lia Lee and Michelle Bal returned to their VP positions of Operations and Student Affairs, respectively.

V. Approval of Funding Requests
Budget 1: Transportation needs for the Springstreeters going to Smith College ($28.76)

**Motion to approve the budget:** Alyssa
  **Second:** Mariah
  **Result:** 24:0:0

VI. SOSC Appointments
Funmi: Need to make SOSC committee: 5 people, 2 CC reps, 1 Minco, soliciting for 4th from student organizations (chosen randomly). SOSC = sanctioning committee, important that it exists. A year ago before it existed, we would go straight to the Deans and students wouldn’t have any say/representation. Please send in self-noms if interested. Rarely meets (maybe 2x a semester). Due by next Wednesday!

Henry: Isn’t that information [on sanctioning student organizations] confidential?
Funmi: Anything above formal warning, information can be released.

VII. CC Projects/Goals for ’15-‘16
Miriam: Hoping to tackle project of getting more sources of purified water; proposes to tackle this project/alternatives. Will be meeting with Facilities soon.
Henry: Is the water from our sinks safe to drink?
Miriam: Should be, but sometimes can taste metal from pipes in older buildings.
Jesus: In order to bring up a connected filter, they need to work on systems of plumbing; alternatives: Brita filters?
Annie: Would be convenient to put them in kitchens.
Caitlin: Great Ideas is on it!
Web: Working w/Zilkha for more hands-on Winter Course Study offerings (e.g. Java and HTML workshops, blacksmithing (though unfeasible). Looking for practical skills that people might be interested in. Music lounge – needs a new electric keyboard. Dining Services expanding returnable bins. Microphones need to be replaced (OSL, maybe use Great Ideas $?)
Kate: Looking for green to-go boxes option for paper cups/drinks.
Sarah: Underappreciation for Dining Services. Potluck from students for Dining Services would be a nice idea for them to make them feel more appreciated.
Chris: Goff’s is expensive, possible to subsidize purchases?
Victoria: This topic is brought up every year; there are administrative problems with Goff’s.
Web: New bookstore on Spring Street is also expecting sell apparel.
Allegra: Want to revitalize FacTrak, some classes haven’t been updated! Possibly utilizing data from course evaluations.
Michelle: Want to revamp the blue lights system.
Annie: Food gap from 2-5; we should publicize that we can use points from Lee.
Henry: CC endorsement of a CC bill of rights to adopt going forward; there’s no clarification of what security can or cannot do to us.
Allegra: What about a text or email hotline for instances where we can’t call security?
Caitlin: Already addressed this w/Great Ideas. There’s a student working in Security to work on getting this implemented.
Mariah: Good to add to the Circle of 6 App. Also, we should give the option for students that are graduating in December to walk at Graduation.
Chris: Paid position for Student run food delivery service; vending machines for faraway houses, Alyssa: Weekend alternative activities, once a month? (e.g. flashlight tag, Mafia)
Jesus: Would it be possible to coordinate a game night with Get Baked? WAD?
Mariah: Trivia (at 82 Grill) could be fun!
Alyssa: If anyone is interested, let me know.
Alex: SAC for club sports.
Caitlin: Healthier options at Snack Bar (e.g. yogurt).
Meghana: CC should work with Frosh Council. PSA: Hudson is hosting a Frosh Trivia night!
Jonathon: CC should have a part in reviewing EDI, having student inclusion but also more tangible things (e.g. what did students learn from EDI courses?). Spearheaded by me.
Web: How to tabs on CC would be useful (e.g. how to get money for FinCom).
Henry: Should address lack of Broomball.
Sarah: DR - Fairly inexpensive alternative: temporary ice sheets over rinks/quads using plastic and water. Bowdoin and other schools do this.
Annie: Paper towel dispenser in Paresky near food disposal area.
Sarah: Evaluations for Security?
Caitlin: DR - Great Ideas already on it!
Henry: Co-Presidents, what are your ideas?
Jesus: For one, wanting to introduce new VP for Sustainability, but this will require a constitutional change. Interested in creating a committee, creating dialogue with the Zilkha Center/environmental groups.
Marcus: We Are Williams campaign, reviving and changing surrounding culture. Will meet with Ferentz from the Davis Center, Erica and Emily, other appropriate administrators. Will also discuss the Entry system, encouraging discussion of diversity within groups
Victoria: New contact for Dining Services?
Michelle: Still Tyler Sparks.
Web: We should have him come in again to talk to council.
Allegra: Rani too.
Jesus: We want to reach out to a greater number of administrators to talk with CC.
Funmi: We should think about making a code of conduct before it’s instituted by the new VP.
Jesus: We should educate students about this process so miscommunication doesn’t happen.
Jonathon: w/ Prof. Thorne, talked about the idea of mediation in student discourse.
Meghana: We talked about this at a former meeting, no precedent on passing this (possibly student vote). I’m currently on the CDC (Community Diversity Committee); working on it. If interested, let me know.
Henry: We should look at other institutions like Haverford as a model.
Mariah: Lack of resources for international students (e.g. jobs).
Jesus: Christian Lunke – one of the things he’s working on in conjunction with Career Center.
Possible Community Matters discussion on this?
Michelle: Subcommittee from CC to talk directly to Career Center. Jesper tried to work with this.
Sarah: Should do better in memorializing 9/11. Sometimes students feel like they’re not best supported during this difficult time.
Kate: Suggestion: Holocaust memorialization at Paresky.
Funmi: I don’t think we’re not as far removed to do something similar to that.

Open Time

Victoria: Does blue lights work with the lighting system?
Michelle: Yes, would be interested in improving general lighting.
Jesus: Agreed, space around Science Quad is extremely dim. At one point, we considered fluorescent paint?
Henry: Is there enough data to justify implementation? Is it often used?
Miriam: I don’t think we should look at usage, just knowing that it’s an option validates the cost.
Michelle: Should also publicize the option of calling security from any building.
Funmi: Good idea for class reps to work on this to gauge interest
Meghana: We should reducing the number of CC seats and increasing campus-wide seats for the Great Ideas committee.
Henry: Should work with HC and Archives to reconstitute fraternity composite photos in buildings, important to document people who have lived there and see how buildings have been changed. Could add to the cohesive environment of housing and would be a cool thing to come back to.
Victoria: Like the frames set up in Greylock? (Response: Yes)
Annie: Should implement a Facebook, or binders within the houses.
Mariah: Should come up with more Williams traditions!
Victoria: Wanted to get fountains, but failed. Or a big giant cow statue.
Lucas: CUL is working on getting cows; individual groups can have cows from years past.
Clarification. Are not actual cows. Will be displayed across campus via cow maps.
Funmi: Is it too late to get a cow? (Response: Not yet)
Miriam: Will win an ice cream party if your cow is the best!
Ana: Hoping to move performances from basement of Sawyer library in light of recent student complaints (resounding agreement).
Kate: Could we ask tour groups to stop at the entrance?
Elizabeth: As tour guide, we are told not to talk in the library but will bring this issue up.
Caitlin: Can we bring in an actual cow?
Henry: Cows available on Stony Hill, can pet.
Lucas: (adamant) We should raise the SAT, need to work with the budget office.
Web: We currently have $37,000 left in the budget. We should discuss how to spend that money before we talk about raising the SAT.
Funmi: We’re not spending enough money on hotels, why don’t we get some data on this from Victoria?
Victoria: Will test $30/student next fiscal year. Against raising SAT.
Alyssa: In favor of raising SAT; people are scared to come into FinCom and ask for money. If we had a bigger budget, we could allow groups to plan more events and ask for more money.
Lucas: CC takes on a lot because administration pushes us; point to things like Rollover. Maybe when we spend this down, then talk about raising SAT. Note: solar panels on campus are only available in the special library. Should use rollover money to invest in a solar panel.
Victoria: We have so much because we save every year; half goes into subgroup funding. We should be educated in what Rollover is used for. Everyone’s tuition will raise if we raise SAT.
Alyssa: How useful will the solar panels be in providing an energy source?
Mariah: Actually, Williamstown is a great place for solar panels, which are more efficient in cold. Henry: How much of SAT would go into solar panels? This money came from students paying for activities.
Mariah: There’s a problem with the way we resource funding; should figure out how we can best resource this leftover subgroup money.
Victoria: Reinforcing a How To link on CC website!
Alyssa: In general, student groups should go to other sources before turning to CC as a last resort for funding.
Mariah: Groups don’t know this usually.
Michelle: Adding to “How To” spirit: addressing confusion with EComm process, note $10,000 cut in future budget (to make Senior Week free).
Web: Currently trying to make Fincom budgets more transparent.
Meghana: Can FinCom publish how much they have left in the budget every month?
Victoria: Yes.
Alyssa: Maybe this will encourage more students to come ask for money → raise SAT
Lucas: Want to get a picnic table in Greylock Quad; there’s no place to sit outside.
Christopher: Why doesn’t CC have its own endowment and grow its own money?
Lucas: Problems: need someone to manage it, no accountability unless we pay them. CC can’t offer student employment as stated in bylaws.
David: We should use this money for more fun activities, like concerts.
Funmi: Concerts are super expensive. Also, we have things like the rainy day fund in case unexpected situations happened. We also have a CC Projects account to use.
Henry: Better Q – how much surplus should we have?
Jesus: Marcus and I will send out FinCom packet to better understand funding process.
Funmi: 2 ideas about transparency: 1. CC should publicly publish news (aside from YITK) 2. CC should be more familiar with Bylaws and Rules of Order.
Jesus: State of the Council address in Baxter, or have CC meetings in Paresky once a month so that we can be more visible.
Victoria: School won’t let us “grow our own money”, we need ½ million to invest. We should create a Google Doc of things that we’ve discussed in CC.
Lucas: Yes, push for preservation of institutional memory.
Elizabeth: Can we email weekly updates to student body? Also should increase social media presence.
Meghana: Should add voice recordings of CC meetings, should redo CC logo
Annie: Should do a logo contest!
Alyssa: Can we ask the Record to publish articles for CC updates?
Web: Record does not like being a platform for institutional memory of CC.
Jesus: They don’t want to endorse certain organizations. Also do we have CC stickers? (Yes, contact Emily and Erica)
Michelle: What about a link to the minutes in Daily Messages (resounding approval)
Mariah: We should have a Facebook page (response: we have these social media platforms, just not very well publicized)
Sarah: Should let more people know who are identified as College Council (e.g. get shirts?)
Jesus: Need to update board outside of SARC.
Michelle: We tried to revamp the SARC, but Ellen ran into a lot of problems w/OSL who wasn’t in favor of this idea b/c they use it for conferences over summer (technically Paresky’s space, not ours). Still a work in progress.
Caitlin: Who has access to SARC?
Michelle: Anyone can use the open space. Other office rooms for NLT, Minco, CC.
Funmi: 1. Tried to work on printer issues, but extremely difficult to maintain; can we sell it?
2. Would like swipe access for exec board.
Annie: We should relocate it so that it’s not in a student space like OSL.
Miriam: DR - we shouldn’t put more work on OSL.
Jesus: Interest for removing printer?

**Straw poll:** 14 in favor

Victoria: Definitely should not be student responsibility, also OSL locks up at night.
Lucas: Problem is w/OIT, who isn’t willing to go to Paresky and manage it. This issue has come up repeatedly; don’t go to OSL with this problem. Several problems from OIT: Paresky is in a place that is not under surveillance/supervision, also not willing to send a person out to Paresky to fix.
Michelle: Used to be a position for person who worked in the SARC but then became a waste of $ for CC. Should go to NLT/HC for other suggestions.
Jesus: Recognize that printer maintenance has been a longstanding issue
Victoria: This goes back to administration: we should meet with Ben/Mike to see what they’re expecting of CC.
Funmi: A little bit of resentment thrown at us b/c of our predecessors; should try to repair this relationship with them.
Alyssa: We should have Ben and Mike come in and talk with us.
Meghana: Suggestion for Open Time: like Apple, we should just throw out every single idea without worrying about feasibility, then go back to the list. This could definitely be streamlined.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:29 PM**