School of Theology Student Association Weekly Meeting Minutes
15 September 2010

Attendees
Officers: Dan Kim, Soren Hessler, Insung Ko, Debbie Brubaker
Student Representatives: N/A – will not be elected for another 2 weeks
Student Group Leaders: N/A – will not be selected for another week
Students: Cecilia Woodworth, Blake Huggins, Jeffrey Rickman, Katie Cole, Maya Dietz, Molly Nason, Jen Quigley and two other students who had to leave early for class
Faculty Advisor: Anastasia Kidd

1) General Introduction of Officers
   a. Commitment to 45 minute meeting

2) Discussion of Student Group Registration and Representatives
   a. Student groups will be registered through Student Activities Office (SAO)
   b. STHSA council will facilitate this registration this fall only
   c. Student groups to submit following to STHSA board
      i. Budget
      ii. Officer list
      iii. SAO registration form
      iv. Constitution and/or bylaws
   d. Student group budgets and other information to be submitted before October 1st
   e. Board will vote on budgets the first week of October
   f. Budget can be submitted for semester/year – preferably for year
      i. up to $200/year for NEW student groups
      ii. typically $1000/year for returning groups
      iii. STHSA wants to be flexible with funds – large budget
   g. STHSA will place approved funds in separate account for each student group
   h. Constitution/bylaws should be a 2 page summary – “what you do and how you do it”
      i. Instructions will be emailed to all students by end of week
   j. Question about posting flyers around school
   k. Students groups guided to find information, guidelines, and codes of conduct for all student groups must comply with university standards. Please see SAO website for all information: www.bu.edu/sao

3) Nominations and Elections
   a. Student representatives for first year, MDIV, non-MDIV, and doctoral representatives will be electronically nominated
   b. Students will be instructed to email nominations to sthsa@bu.edu
   c. Nominations will be taken until Wednesday, September 22 at 1:30pm
d. Process of elections will be emailed to STH community by end of the week (Friday Sept. 17th)

e. Group discussed decision by board to conduct online elections
   i. need for confidentiality
   ii. need to make elections more efficient – maximize time and place where students are able to vote
   iii. need to be in tune with university wide programming – all other departments at BU host elections online

f. Nominations will be made public and ballot posted by end of next week

4) Dan Kim discusses request by Alumni board for student volunteers to cover lunch shift on Monday/Tuesday
   a. Katie Cole (kmhcole@bu.edu) and Dan are listed as contact persons

5) Proposal from CAUSE brought to the floor by Debbie. Request for funds not to exceed $121.25 for purposes of event on 9.15.10 for movie tickets and snacks
   a. Proposal is temporarily tabled for discussion of voting processes

6) Students at meeting raise concerns about voting process and quorum, as stated in existing constitution
   a. Student voices that quorum, as stated in constitution is not met when student representatives and student group representatives not present at meeting
   b. Another student raises questions about financial decisions made over summer, requests information regarding how quorum and voting were handled over summer break - notes the $1100 allotted for yoga – concern over size of approval – concern of availability of class to all STH students
      i. student assured that class will be available to ALL STH students
      ii. student notified that requests granted prior to the start of school year were assessed as they were received, in accordance with precedent set by previous governing actions of student government
   c. Board explains that executive board established quorum as 3 out of 4 persons from executive board in order to facilitate decision making and planning over summer – this is in compliance with constitution’s stipulations regarding decisions made by the “e-board” where online consent of 3 out of 4 persons on executive board is required to make decisions
   d. Board explains that because nominations/elections were postponed by last year’s student government until this fall (instead of taking place in the spring), and because many of the returning student groups have not elected their officers to represent their groups at meetings making decisions have been problematic
   e. Board allows students to make suggestions about decision making process until student representatives and group representatives are chosen
      i. Suggestion to review constitution rules regarding quorum
      ii. Suggestion is tabled until meeting can be held regarding constitutional changes
f. Board then proposes to allow quorum to consist of 3 out of 4 council members until representatives selected – in order to facilitate decision making and to insure student groups are able to receive funds until fully registered and budgets approved

7) “Budgets” are discussed in light of CAUSE proposal on the table
   a. Students in attendance wish to know the total budget for 2010-2011 year
   b. Soren unable to access financial records from website (website down)
   c. Approximate budget:
      i. approx. $40,000 surplus from previous years
      ii. approx. $27,000 anticipated from university
   d. Students discuss desire to make sure student groups are making use of available funds
   e. Students discuss need to conserve a percentage of surplus for upcoming years so that future classes are not “bankrupt”
   f. Board in support of all student discussion

8) Proposal for CAUSE is re-investigated
   a. Students suggest approved funds should be counted against proposed budgets when student groups submit budgets
   b. Funds for CAUSE event are unanimously approved, but with stipulation that they must be accounted for on CAUSE’s budget in Oct.

9) Constitution Revisions discussed
   a. Students discuss various needs for revision of constitution
      i. voting
      ii. quorum
      iii. student representation
      iv. management of budget
      v. transparency
      vi. efficiency
   b. Student meetings to be organized by Soren
   c. Information to be sent to students about how to participate in revision process by end of week

10) Students propose to set deadline to establish voters at meetings (i.e. student representatives and group leaders) **Board sets deadline no later than October 6th, 2010 to establish voters – all in favor**

11) **Students raise concerns about time of weekly meeting**
    a. First year students have class at 1pm
    b. Proposal to move meetings to 12:30-1:15
    c. Student discussion approves
    d. Board unanimously approves

12) Proposal by Dan to start meetings with “centering moment”
a. Student discussion warns that this may use up too much time
b. Proposal to try “centering moment” on trial basis for two weeks and then review
c. Proposal accepted by board unanimously

13) Students discuss need to “cap” funds per student, per year on available money for conference attendance and participation
   a. Proposal by board to cap available funds
   b. Proposal tabled until next meeting
   c. Board agrees to hold all requests for conference funds until next meeting when cap can be established

14) Meeting ends at 1:30 pm.