STH Student Association

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Attendees:

Sam Needham, President (15)

Lauren Hickey (15)

Meghan Wagner (16)

Lauren Hobler (16)

Lambert Rahming (15)

Jason Weekley (16)

Anne Hillman (Doctoral)

James Lance (15)

Laura Owens (15)

Nico Romeijn-Stout, Public Relations Officer (15)

Katie Omberg, Vice President (16)

Kaci Norman, Treasurer (16)

Karin Wetmore (16)

Lauren DeLano, Secretary (16)

1. Prayer: Laura Owens
2. Non-Christian Holidays:

* Would like for there to be ways of signifying non-Christian holidays are going on. What are the outlets for this to happen? It would be great to have different festivals and holidays throughout the year at STH. Instead of absence which is policy based for it would be great for the holidays and festivals to be celebration based where there is a coming together of students to learn about the holidays and recognize them. This would be especially necessary in the fall with holidays related to Judaism.
* It was recommended that students interested contact Salma Kazmi in the RCT office. It also might be helpful to meet with the Interfaith Council at Marsh Chapel which meets on Tuesday nights.
* We would support Lauren Hobler in developing programming and scheduling events
  + AGENDA ITEM NEXT WEEK – Lauren will come with a Prospectus

1. Non-Korean International Students

* KSA is the main body on campus participating and other international students don’t often get to celebrate or participate in international events of their own.
* It is Laura Rambikur’s job to help international students of all nationalities to feel included and to find community.
  + It was suggested by a international student that if domestic students take the lead on including international students then domestic students might be able to help other international students, outside of Korean students.
* Mentee/Mentor program is not first year exclusive, it is also for international students.
* What do the different groups of international students want to share with the larger STH community about their culture or otherwise?
  + Howard Thurman Center does this – it is called “Tea Time”
* What services are needed for international students? What connections need to be made with other international or domestic students in order to form community in your first year? Some needs are best served by STHSA, by us advocating to the Administration, create a group where you can get funding or support from STHSA
* Good resource: Brittany Longsdorf and Sarah Miller who lead the international student ministry at Marsh Chapel.

1. Communication for Nico

* There isn’t a system in place for ad hoc communication or a weekly news blast.
* There is an ongoing conversation about communication in the bigger picture of STH – Facebook, social media, email. Right now there are many different platforms being used, but unsure what is most effective and it is difficult to keep track of each of these media platforms. For STHSA purposes, Facebook and Twitter might as well not exist because the vast majority of followers are alums. It was suggested that it might be best to get rid of our Facebook and Twitter pages and use the STH Facebook page as our main platform. We don’t want to repeat information or flood them with emails.
* Do people know what is going on sufficiently at STHSA? Do people have sufficient information of what people do? The consensus was no.
* Nico will put a link on the blog for the master calendar events going on.
* TV screens are up? Who controls them? Can Lambert help forward the flyers and announcements to whoever is in charge?
* Korean Translation:
  + Is it necessary to translate the minutes into Korean? Even though this is in our bylaws it might be necessary to change our bylaws next week.
  + Would it be possible for YooJin also take notes at meetings and translate them?
  + It is suppose to be a service to them, but if people it is suppose to help are having to do more work, is it even helpful?
  + BU Translation services available? Are they available for a student group to utilize?
    - Thinking about for the future – Rapid Translation Services
* We need to send out an email: If you want to be on a list that receives STHSA minutes weekly, let me know!
* Page on STH website: We need to figure out how to have access to update the website.

1. BTI: Public Service Announcement based on Email sent from the Registrar, Gina about BTI courses going from 4 to 3 credits. It has been changed in order to be in Federal Compliance for Financial aid. It is about student contact hours. There are only 3 hours of student contact in BTI courses, not 4. So now BTI courses will be 3 hours instead of 4. There are some options to make up for the loss: First year stewardship course: 1, J Term classes that are 1-2 credit, 1 credit: gym classes, 1 credit: seminary singers.
2. Christmas Party: Katie

* Room reservations – on campus vs. off-campus?
  + Legitimacy of alcohol? SAO won’t pay for alcohol
  + Alcohol can be here
  + Request for alcohol funding – SAO forms
* On campus is easiest for people to get to, on a day when there are classes
* Google doc for signs up – Potluck style

1. Ferguson: Should we have a statement of support from STHSA?

* Would it be divisive or unhelpful? Especially because we have a limited amount of time
* If you wanted to be helpful or send encouragement:
  + Letters each day
  + People can support if so desired
  + Colin: planning on doing minimal blogging – short updates about the experience

1. Meeting Adjourned