Minutes for STHSA Meeting held on September 4, 2014

STHSA meeting held on 9/4/14 from 5:30-6:00 in the Community Space in the Basement

Attendance:

Katie Omberg

Lauren DeLano

Kaci Norman

Nico Romeijn-Stout

Johnny Gall

Ian Boley

Soren

Brian Teed

Nathan Turowsky

Dr. John Hart (advisor)

Agenda:

1. Opening prayer

2. Introductions

3. Typical meeting design/timing

4. Student group introductions

5. STHSA

6. Community goals

7. Closing

Typical Meeting Design and Timing:

Katie: What times work for the student body? Our goals are to take care of business, feedback  concerns of community, things that need actions taken quickly, etc.

Introduction of student groups in attendance:

Soren: Doctoral Student Association description

Johnny: Sacred worth description - represent interests of queer students on campus

Officer goals:

* Be community leaders
* Be responsive to Student/STH issues in a timely manner
* Make meetings meaningful, vibrant, and discerning, so that STH students are interested and enthusiastic about participating.
* Uphold community principles which are love, justice, safety, rights, responsibilities, respect

A group brainstorm to determine what is STHSA and STH as a whole doing well?

* Publicity: We did well to get the word out about this meeting
* Advocacy and faculty committees: We need to make sure we have students on committees who commit to attending the faculty committee meetings regularly.
* Community lunch is a great opportunity for students to get to know one another and to participate in community life.
* The vibrancy of worship: It allows for students, faculty, and staff to worship together
* Leading the campus in being green: In RA meetings, faculty meetings, etc. around campus people talk about STH and our commitment to being green through our community lunch space, our effort to compost, and many other areas.
* Maintaining structure of funding: Allowing students to be funded in order to attend conferences, travel seminars, etc.
* STH hosts events which are always family friendly, which allows for spouses, partners, children, etc. to feel welcome in the STH community.

Brainstorm of what STHSA and STH as a whole could be doing better at or that we would like to see more of:

* Need to do a better job of getting more bodies in the room for STHSA meetings
* Need more times for people to get in STHSA
  + Office hours hosted by STHSA offices at varied times throughout the week/month for students to talk about their concerns, dreams, excitement with officers outside of the regular weekly meeting time.
  + New weekly meeting could take place on Tuesdays because there is no long Marsh Chapel lunch
  + When are student group meetings?
  + Is there a way to have the registrar block off a time in the spring when there are no classes to have meetings designate for STHSA meetings?
* STHSA needs to do a better job participating in orientation
  + - Make sure students are committed to being there.
    - Maybe have someone on STHSA responsible for communicating with the Admissions Office abt orientation, Deans’ Fellows, etc.
* Have updates from committee members on faculty committees throughout the year
* Event collaboration between different student groups - Kaci can help work out any issues there might be with funding
* How might STH or STHSA be able to better help 3rd years and recent graduates with their job search? Often STH graduates aren’t looking for traditional jobs
  + 100 Bay State - Career Services to help students with CV and resume, as well as to provide students with skills assessments
  + Allow students to
  + Contextual ed office as well
  + Post a resource list of places to go look for jobs on the STHSA blog
  + Need to think about productive ways to talk about issues, how to not step on people's toes, to allow people to not feel like the example when a certain theology is talked about like queer, Asian-American, etc.
    - Sensitivity training
    - May be a conference at STH coming up where people can submit papers about these issues
    - MTS contextual ed site opportunity?
  + Do students have children who are in need of care during evening classes, during the day, etc.? Some sort of cooperative daycare situation

Peer Mentorship: The Office of Community Life and STHSA will make an announcement for the mentor program on Wednesday at community lunch. Mentees (1st years) and mentors (2nd and 3rd years) can sign up to be paired together.