**STHSA Meeting Minutes 9/15/12**

Those in Attendance:

Lauren Hickey, MTS

Benjamin Mead, MTS

Jessica Chicka, ThD

Kate Soules, MTS

Sam Lyon, MDiv

Ashley Anderson, MDiv/MSW

Joseph Kyser, MDiv

Kathleen Decker Szakas, MDiv

Desi Sharp, MDiv

**Discussion of Nominations:**

Open STHSA Positions Include:

MDiv Rep, Non-MDiv Rep, 1st Year Rep, International Rep, Doctoral Rep

BUSTH is also seeking representatives for the following Faculty/Staff Committees:

APPF (Academic Policies, Procedures, and Fellowships), seeking 1 MDiv and 1 Non-MDiv Rep;

Community and Spiritual Life, seeking 1 Non-MDiv Rep;

Library Committee, seeking 2 students any degree program;

CELL, seeking 1 Masters Student and 1 Doctoral Student;

Search Committee for Muelder Chair, seeking 1 Masters and 1 Doctoral Student

No student can serve on more than one committee to ensure a variety of voices can be heard in these processes.

Serving on a committee may take various forms, but one example given is the Library Committee. Last year was an accreditation year so meetings were scheduled as needed, and the students’ role was to give a student perspective when asked about various concerns throughout the process. The student must show up, be engaged in the conversation and be responsible for passing along student thoughts and opinions to the library chair.

Another example is the Faculty Search Committee. Meetings usually occur during dinnertime. Students are included in the interview process, as well as various faculty members. One faculty member is chosen as the chair, although everyone read resumes all together. Initial interviews were conducted via Skype. If a candidate is selected a campus visit would follow which would included two to three days of interviews, student representatives giving tours with an emphasis on student/candidate engagement, and communicating to the student body when the guest lectures would occur.

APPF is the body that governs policies and how we do things at BUSTH. This includes such topics as criminal background checks, new course syllabi checks, and student probationary measures. However, student representatives will not be involved in that process. APPF also handles all doctoral fellowships and masters level deans fellows.

*Nominations:*

Sam Lyon was recommended for APPF – MDiv Rep

Jessica Chica was recommended for – The search committee for the Muelder Chair

Desi Sharp will send out an email detailing open positions for committees and STHSA nominations.

**Explanation of STHSA Role and Meeting Structure:**

STHSA plays a role in many events throughout the school year. Community Lunch is the largest continuing activity. STHSA is currently waiting for a funding summary from SAO in order to determine what activities will be available.

STHSA is also responsible for helping to provide funding for student groups.

STHSA Meeting Structure: The first meeting of each month will be devoted to Administrative and Stewardship concerns. This includes financing. Tommietta requests that all organizational funding requests be submitted one week in advance in order to be assured a place in the monthly discussion. She also requests that each group’s treasurer email her to let her know who they are for the current school year.

One meeting per month will be dedicated to community service activities. Most of these activities will be in-house during meeting times, although STHSA will host one off campus activity per semester.

The remaining meetings will be dedicated to forums pertaining to issues of importance to members of the STH community. These could include societal issues, outside speakers, or curriculum. Other ideas are welcomed.

**Discussion Pertaining to Community Lunch:**

STHSA currently funds about 70% of the community lunches per year. Community lunch is currently occupying a place of priority in the STHSA budget. Molly Nason opened discussion about this topic.

Joseph Kyser – Student groups do a lot of outreach within the community, and he and would hate for us to feed ourselves to the detriment of our student groups and their missions.

Sam Lyons – Respectfully disagrees. Community lunch is one of the few places where we all gather in one place and was a great draw to her attending BU. It is a testament to BU community that people take time out there week to spend time together

Jessica Chicka – We had similar funding issues in the past. At that time we limited community lunch to once a month with brown bag fillers, did not go well.

Blended option suggested – perhaps once a month we could have a speaker and we fund the rest through STHSA?

Perhaps budget per semester for student groups; Molly – perhaps line item budget.

Jessica Chicka – in terms of student groups funding lunches – should we consider having a forum to invite students to their groups?

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph – next Wednesday is the open house in basement, we are going to have an organization fair from noon to one.

He will send out an email pertaining to this to the student body within the next week

Next week’s meeting will involve detailed discussion surrounding nominations, elections, search committees etc.