STHSA Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2011

Attendance

Micah C., Soren H., Molly N., Allison B., Sara Beth G., Joseph K., Cassie H., Andrew T.

Library Committee Update:

* Joseph Kyser, student representative for Library Committee
* Talked to Amy, the librarian, about having the library open longer during exam periods. STHSA has agreed to pay for the extra hours during this period.
* Request made to ask the Dean of Students to extend library hours during exam periods in the future rather than having STHSA pay for the extended hours.
* STHSA executive officer agree to bring this issue up in the next meeting with the deans.

Emergency Funding

* Dean Lightsey has requested to establish an emergency fund for students in need (ex. Students who need groceries, flight home due to a loss in the family, etc.). Funding would be given confidentially.
* Conversation on this issue:
  + Concern that $100 grants as suggested by Dean Lightsey will not sufficiently cover an emergency.
  + The fund should not fall solely on STHSA.
  + The student fees, which make up STHSA’s budget, can only be used for certain things according to SAO policy. This funding may not fall under the parameters of university policy as it pertains to student group budgets.
  + Suggested solution would be to have a type of love offering to create the fund. Funding would be anonymously received and anonymously given.
  + Concern about having these request going through STHSA. Many think that the allocation of this type of fund should go through the Dean of Students.
  + After reviewing the SAO policy, the rule for student group funding restrictions only pertains to undergraduate student groups. Therefore, as a graduate student organization, STHSA should be able to transfer funds to the Dean of Student’s Office in order to set up an Emergency Fund
* Motion to give $2,000 to the Dean of Students to create an Emergency Fund, to establish a donation/love offering system so that people can donate money to the fund, and to advertise that the fund is available to students in need: (Seconded) Vote: 7-0-0.
* Motion to not allow a cap to be placed on student request and that the amount allocated is left to the discretion of the Dean, who assumes all responsibility for the selection process and will report back to STHSA on the amount distributed and number of recipients: 7-0-0

Thanksgiving update:

* Micah would like to set up a meeting with people who will be around during Thanksgiving to talk about linguistics.
* Meeting will be Wednesday, November 16th at 12:30pm in the Spiritual Life Office.

Graduation Celebration Update:

* Micah, Soren, Allison, and Molly met with Ted Karf to discuss the Graduation Celebration this morning. Alumni Relations has agreed to contribute $3000 to the event.
* Originally scheduled for May 2nd, but the General Conference class will be in Tampa, Florida on that day.
* Days available for the Trustee’s ballroom: May 3rd, May 4th, May 7th, May 8th, May 9th.
* Motion to have Soren find other dates and locations for the Graduation Celebrate and that a committee be formed to authorize said dates and place: (Seconded) Vote: 5-0-0
* Currently, the committee consists of Sara Beth and Soren, but they are recruiting other members of the community to sit on the committee.
* Ted Karpf has suggested a closing ritual (similar to rites of passage) in the form of a worship service that takes place before the Graduation Celebration.
* Motion to have the Graduation Celebration committee to implement a closing ritual service. (Seconded) Vote: 5-0-0.

Next Week’s Meeting

* Motion to not meet next week: (Seconded) Vote: 5-0-0

Town Hall Concerns Debriefed

* One student at the Town Hall expressed concern about the hospitality and inclusivity offered by student groups.
* Conversation on Robert’s Rule of Order.
* Suggested a Robert’s Rules of Order primer be offered at the beginning of the year.
* Suggestion that the ways in which meetings are conducted other than Robert’s Rule of Order.

Motion to adjourn: (Seconded) Vote: 5-0-0