



COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 29, 2012
Hopkins Hall

CC Quote of the Day:

"I'm pretentious sometimes, subconsciously..." – Emily Calkins '14, Class of 2014 Rep.

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 PM

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) started by introducing the new CC member (**Caroline Miller '14, Currier Board Rep.**) and proxies (**Javier Mariscal '13 for Henry Bergman (Williams Rep.)** and **Alison Smith '15 for Nicole Chen '15 (Pratt Rep.)**). **Jack Fitzhenry**, representative for SAAC, was also introduced.

Peter Skipper '13 (Co-President) started the meeting off by reading the agenda for the evening.

ROLL CALL

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (2 min)

Approve the College Council minutes for **February 22, 2012**

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) talked about the copy of the minutes that **Adrian Castro '14 (Secretary)** sent out to Council and asked everyone to ensure they read them before coming to Council. She also asked if there were any necessary edits.

Motion: Emily Calkins '14 (Class of 2014 Rep.)

Second: Katy Carrigan '14 (Spencer At-Large)

Vote: Unanimous

Before moving on, **Peter** talked about the use of the Point of Information and when to use it. He wanted to ensure that Council members knew how to use the all different motions for the meetings.

II. FUNDING REQUESTS (3 min)

Approval of Finance Committee budget recommendations for the week.

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) talked about a funding request from the Communications Office for \$500 to fund more posters for the "I Am Williams" project. **Krista** stated she believed we could not fund this because it is not a student initiative. She also mentioned the upcoming "You Are Not Alone" event taking place next Thursday and how this is a great time for people to talk about everyday stresses and larger mental health issues.



There were three funding requests for the week: Appalachia ASB, Ephoria, and Purple Valley Films.

Motion: Emily Dzeciakko '15 (Sage Hall Rep.)

Second: Wen Han '13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)

Vote: 19-0-1 (Javier Mariscal, Williams Rep. (proxy))

III. FUNDING OVERVIEW – CLARIFICATION (5 min)

Answer any last questions regarding College Council funding.

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) brought up the importance of understanding funding and how confusing it could be for many people. She asked Council if they had any last minute clarification questions for their funding. **Stefan Lainovic '14 (Dodd Board Rep.)** asked how a member can go about approving certain items presented in a slate if they don't want to approve all the items presented. **April Jenkins '14 (Treasurer)** explained the process. If a person wants to vote on an item individually, they may motion to vote on a specific item separately or they may motion to vote on slate individually. **Benjamin Augenbraun '15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)** asked what Council members can do if Council members present a motion to approve and he/she wants to then vote on an item separately. **Krista** stated that they could simply present a Motion to Amend to then allow this change in voting. **Julia Hoch '15 (Pratt Rep.)** asked what if an item is not of comfort and Council proceeds to vote on the item. **Adrian Castro '14 (Secretary)** stated that discussion must proceed motions and seconds. As a result, Council members shall always have time to present a Motion to Amend. If, however, the Chair fails to allow time for discussion, a member of Council may present a Point of Procedure to address this.

IV. TEXTBOOK RESERVE PROGRAM (5 min)

Brief overview of the Textbook Reserve Program and its future on campus.

Peter Skipper '13 (Co-President) began by talking about the discussion on this item at the agenda setting meeting this past Sunday (as always, all Council members are invited to attend these meetings!). Background: When the Financial Aid Office changed their policy to give a Book Grant to students on financial aid, this program was called into question. Currently, CC has to determine whether or not to fund all the expensive textbooks that used to be for these students (Financial Aid). We also have to consider the students who are on the cusp and cannot afford expensive textbooks, although they are technically not financial aid students.

April Jenkins '14 (Treasurer) presented several numbers to Council:

The program was started in 2009, with an initial investment of \$5000. The following years, \$1286.50 was used to fund books students requested and to update obsolete books. Last year, \$3643.91 was spent to fund this program due to its success. Following this presentation, **April** presented a document with data



submitted by the Head Librarian, Helena, which documented the number of check outs for the past few semesters. According to this information, these books averaged 2000 check outs a semester. It has been used extensively, but is a little pricey.

Krista Picket '13 (Co-President) asked whether or not Council should fund this program today, seeing how there was a new financial aid policy created and if so, what funds will this money come from. **Wen Han '13 (Class of 2013 Rep.)** asked if there was any chance of looking at the percentage of Financial Aid students who use this program, even though we have the current FinAid policy that we have. **April** responded that the library is really tight about this classified information and will not release this. **Peter** stated that the library probably doesn't keep track of this and know who is Financial Aid and who isn't. **Emily Dzieciatko '15 (Sage Hall Rep.)** stated that referred back to the "cusp" kids (students who are not on financial aid, but spending hundreds of dollars on books is still a struggle) and the importance of not forgetting about them. She also mentioned the amount of books available and the current time limit. She asked if we could possibly change the time limit that students are allowed to have books checked out so that more students are able to use them. **Benjamin Augenbraun '15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)** stated that he didn't believe we should continue funding the program the way we do now because new editions constantly come out and may times, professors switch over (which requires us to buy the new ones and therefore, raises the cost). With this new financial aid policy, he doesn't believe this fills the niche it once did. **Benjamin Fischberg '14 (Wood At-Large Rep.)** agreed and stated that we should look at a more sustainable model to potentially get money back for these books.

April stated that currently, there is a CC liaison appointed to the library whose job it is to look at the stock and ask the treasurer to purchase certain books. This student gets appointed by CC and then spends money using a P-Card, which is overseen by the Treasurer. There are several measures in place to ensure that more money than need be is put into this program. **Julia Hoch '15 (Armstrong Rep.)** stated that she found this program most useful during Add/Drop, since she didn't know which classes she would end up with. Several students agreed. **Caroline Miller '14 (Currier Board Rep.)** asked if most of the books available were Div. III. Books. **Krista** said yes. **Kate Flanagan (Community and Diversity Rep.)** stated that a study needs to be done to include Div I. and Div II. Books (such as books for Art History and other language courses). **April** stated that the library cannot buy these books, which is why this issue is currently on the table for College Council. **Peter** stated we could ask other departments to help with the program. **Brian** stated that comfortability should not be the deciding factor. **Emily Calkins (Class of 2014 Rep.)** asked about the possible upcoming costs. **April** responded that she predicted Council would spend roughly \$3,000-\$5,000 within the next two years. **Emily** responded that she is concerned about the cusp kids, but doesn't believe we should fund the program if it's simply benefitting the kids with sore shoulders. **Katy Carrigan (Spencer At-Large)** asked if



we could propose a fiscal limit and what we can do to ensure this program continues seeing how books are constantly updated and we now have online textbooks. **April** stated that Helena believes textbooks will go textless in the next 5-10 years, so this program may be limited to only a few more years. **Peter** proposed the Great Ideas Committee look more into this issue.

V. COLLEGE COUNCIL GOALS FOR THE SEMESTER (10 min)

Spend a little bit of time thinking about what some of the goals of this Council are.

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) started off by asking Council to give ideas for what they want to accomplish this semester

(general list without names)

- *Equivalent of PE classes for art (like ceramics)*
- *Puppies*
- *Nighttime exercise classes (**Katy Carrigan '14 (Spencer At-Large)** responded that she has worked on this issue but there are some liability issues that the lawyer brought up. In the meantime, we can simply work on advertising what we have.)*
- *Expanding the one sandwich policy (after 1:30 take two!)*
- *Extended options at the salad bar (for vegetarians!)*
- *Composting everything (people still don't compost)*
- *CC funding clarification*
- *Evaluate Meatless Mondays*
- *Work with security for more hospital transportation*
- *Compost bins around campus*
- *Printing for all freshman dorms (and all dorms on campus)*
- *More color printing*
- *Shuttle to Stop and Shop on Friday's*
- *More copy machines on campus (and work on current one in SARC)*
- *Shades or tinting in mission dining hall*
- *Student security relations*
- *Sanitize and revitalize the SARC*
- *Punching in code for dorms when you forget your ID*
- *Online ordering for 82 grill*
- *Have a debit card function on ID cards (spring street access)*
- *Mental Health*



VI. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS (15 min) (this item was talked about before item V)

Assign committees/student-chairs and allow time for groups to ask questions, etc.

***Krista and Peter '13 (Co-Presidents)** announced the members in each committee, as well as the committee chairs. They asked everyone to break into their individual groups to discuss items for the next few weeks.*

(At this point in time, I stopped recording the meeting and taking notes to finally get to talk to students without having to follow CC Rules of Order.)

VII. ALL CAMPUS ENTERTAINMENT HOMECOMING CONCERT OVERVIEW (40 min)

Brief overview of the current relationship with All Campus Entertainment (ACE), as well as a discussion on what we see ACE's role on campus is and how to proceed in the future. We will also be discussing funding, including how much we should allocate and whether or not Council believes funding ACE in the Spring over the Fall semester is an appropriate way of managing our funds.

(Recording resumed)

Peter Skipper '13 (Co-President)** asked all the ACE guests to introduce themselves: **Gabe Stephens '15, Sam Devine '15, Quinn Pitcher '15, Thomas Daubert '13, Chris Picardo '13, Louisa Lee '14, Teal Baskerville '14, Ashley O'Connor '14, and Brad Polsky '12

***Peter** started off by reminding everyone that this meeting was simply an informational meeting, one where Council was not going to vote on an official measure and therefore, asked ACE to briefly talk about ACE, what it does, and what it needs help with*

***Chris** started off by describing the current structure of ACE and the difference between the way concerts works today and the way they worked two years ago. Prior to 2010, the big concert of the year was held in the spring time (Spring Fling). Last year, they decided to reverse the order so that the big concert was during the fall. That way, they are able to charge students to then make a profit for a spring concert.*

*This year, ACE sold 900 out of 1100 tickets for Mike Posner while last year, they completely sold out (for Kid Cudi). The hard part about planning concerts is that it begins in the spring time. **Chris** then went on to describe the way the artist is selected:*

*The Concert Committee goes to their agent and presents their budget (allotted by College Council). The agent then gives the Concert Committee (currently headed by **Thomas** and **Chris**) a list of artists, which starts the bidding process.*



Last year, they were lucky enough to get Kid Cudi to come out to Williams for our homecoming.

Thomas then spoke about creating a student wide survey to gauge student interest. He stated that it was very inefficient. Prior to 2010, they proposed a list of potential artists to the student body. Because the student body at large isn't familiar with the bidding process, they were disappointed with ACE when they weren't able to get the artists the majority of the students selected. **Chris** reminded everyone that while ACE officially decides on the artist, the agent is the one who seeks the performer and tells the committee what is feasible based on the amount of money that they have. They work very closely with the agent and trust his judgment. Alongside that, they have a faculty advisor that oversees them to ensure they are making sound judgments, which hasn't been an issue for them at all (good job!).

They next talked about Mike Posner and why he was selected as an artist. Thomas began by stating that the artists are recommended by people by on someone else's experience. Chris clarified. Mike Posner was a recommendation from their agent. While he wasn't as popular here, he sold out elsewhere (Amherst, Middlebury, etc.) Given their budget for the year, they looked for a crowd pleaser and while the crowd at homecoming wasn't as large, he gave a very professional show (the opener on the other hand...). He also gave out a lot of free stuff to people in the audience. Overall, the Concerts Committee was satisfied.

Thomas then elaborated on Kid Cudi and how they got him. He stated that they got this artist the week before he became very expensive. What people don't realize is that when ACE gets its budget, it's in the spring (which helps to plan for the fall). In terms of how much money goes to what, roughly \$30,000 goes just to set up the stage (and get Towne ready for the event); another \$5,000 goes to the agent. There are a lot of fixed costs associated with this concert that they cannot do anything about and as a result, they can only get artists from a certain tier (can't negotiate these fixed costs).

Chris also exclaimed that this year, prices for stage set-up went up. **Thomas** continued by saying that once you get to a certain price range (for the artist), you can't throw them anywhere on campus; they request a facility like Towne (gigantic stage with full production value). As a result, they are limited with regards to where they can throw the concert and how much money goes into paying for the set-up.

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) then asked about their plans for the rest of the year.

Thomas stated that they spend every dollar of their original budget in the hopes of making enough profit to pay for a smaller, but known band for Spring Fling. Right now, they have roughly \$17.5k for the spring from the fall proceeds.



Chris also mentioned that they looking into other concert ideas (such as having more than 2 big ones per year), but because of the many requirements of the school, it makes more sense to have only two. **Thomas** added that everything else would suffer if we had multiple shows.

Brad, ACE President, acknowledged that there is some concern about the current structure of concerts and the number of smaller concerts. He mentioned several concerts they plan on having this semester alone and is confused as to why many people state they there aren't enough. He also mentioned that there is only so much ACE can do with the budget that they have

Ashley, General Entertainment, reiterated that fall tickets pay for the spring concert. People are complaining about the prices, but they pay for two concerts at once. People don't realize that. As for the smaller concerts, that is something that is coming out of different budgets. She emphasized the other fixed school costs that take a chunk out of the money they have.

Peter mentioned that during a conversation he had with ACE representatives, they mentioned that there was an inflexibility with funds that makes it hard to co-sponsor events. He wanted to know what the demand is (for co-sponsorship), how much money they have in their general fund, and how often do they turn away students.

Ashley responded that they have certain things they want to do every year and while they try to fit as many students in as possible, it isn't feasible with the budget they currently have. **Chris** stated that they get occasional requests, but have to say no because people don't realize how expensive their artists are most of the time (requests from the Concerts Committee at least).

Krista mentioned that it is important to clarify this information to students so that they could be more educated on how hard it is to get artists to come to our school because of our venue.

Chris mentioned that although Towne is huge, they can't legally allow more than 1,100 people in there at a time (because if there's a fire, everyone dies!). He also mentioned that the artists set up in the log and there is no shower available for them to use. **Thomas:** The only way that we get these big artists is if they are in Boston or New York and are driving through. It's a stroke of luck. People don't understand how expensive artists are. There is a lot that goes into getting them.

Louisa spoke up: The way we get concerts is by lumping them together with bigger schools that they actually want to go to. In terms of a big student body vote, it seems attractive to solve the problem, but student believe it is a promise that many times, they cannot actually keep.



At this time, the floor opened up to Council members to ask questions.

Benjamin Augenbraun '15 (Class of 2015 Rep.) asked if ACE talks to other schools to see who is around. **Chris** responded that an outside firm does this. They handle almost all New England colleges or they find out elsewhere for them.

Rani Mukherjee '15 (Dennett Rep.) asked if other schools get artists before we do. **Thomas** stated that Williams plans early, so we're usually first and have a better chance of getting a good artist. **Chris** stated that ACE gets the artist usually based on where the artist wants to go. If someone is around, they tend to lower the prices

Max Heninger '14 (Currier At-Large Rep.) asked what is reasonable to charge students to attend a big concert. **Thomas** stated \$20-\$25. **Chris** stated that they cannot go under a certain price. It depends on the contract that they sign. When artists make money from ticket sales, they set a minimum. They agree not to set it lower than the amount in the contract (even though this doesn't go to profits). It may simply be an image thing. **Schuyler Hall '10 (Student Centers Coordinator)** responded that a lot of times what happens is that other schools contact Williams to inquire about the artists we get and the ticket price information. If we do not charge a lot, it screws other schools over. We have a better system in place.

Brian McGrail (Spencer Board Rep.) asked about the capacity and fixed costs associated with LaSalle vs. Towne. **Chris** responded that Towne holds roughly 1,100 people and is \$30,000 for set up while LaSalle holds 800 people is costs roughly \$5,000.

Ben Shuham asked what the downside was if Council did not fund them \$80,000 again. **Thomas** responded that this would mean they would have to plan more. **Chris** reiterated the fact that they need a bigger team. He stated that they stay really late to help with these concerts due to the lack of manpower. Lastly, he stated that while it seems easy to get smaller artists, it's sometimes harder because they aren't on the road as often as other groups are and therefore, they may not be able to even book them.

Krista asked how Council can help Concerts and what can be done to increase manpower. **Brad** stated that this has been an issue with ACE for a while now. He claimed that they are working on advertising. He also stated that currently, there is no set process in ACE; people come in and take responsibility. Next year, though, there will be a training session for ACE members so that people will become more involved. **Chris** stated that they'd be happy to extend positions to CC (perks include free admissions to concerts and a t-shirt!).



Norman Walczak '12, member of the student body, stated that he believed Williams is being made into something that it is not. As a venue, it caters to a certain type of artist more easily. The likelihood of smaller concerts disappointing students is less. Chris said that we should just look at our size and completely disregard certain type of artists. It is as unreasonable as simply looking at smaller models.

Katy Carrigan '14 (Spencer At-Large Rep.) asked about the feasibility of a student survey to inquire about student genre preference. **Brad** stated that he and Chris have talked about homecoming and asked if we believed that we lost something essential if the concert was taken away. People don't want to go when they don't know the artist. People in general are not happy. If you have many small ones, it'll still be really expensive; you'll just get small groups to attend as well.

Teal stated that they are working to hype up homecoming with a spirit week. General Entertainment (GE) is committed to this. In terms of ticket prices, they even try to raffle or give out tickets to encourage people to participate. This is a way to engage the community to get excited for the concert. We know everyone isn't comfortable, but in terms of a smaller concert, we shouldn't underestimate that they are huge productions for the people putting them on. The bigger the artist, the more help that is available.

Schuyler stated that when he sent the survey out, he ensured that there was a disclaimer that stated the vote was not official. People still didn't get it. Secondly, Goodrich can't always be utilized because we have to be fair to other groups who want to use it as well.

Benjamin Augenbraun asked if there was some sort of way to get an artist without paying the ticket price. **Chris** stated that the spring concert is free, but for the big concert, it is written in the contract; it's simply a nuance of the concert planning world

Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) stated that she recognized that a lot of what goes into picking the artists includes time constraints, but setting that aside, she asked how they select the genre based to accommodate the diversity at Williams. **Thomas** stated that they bring the person who would sell the most amount of tickets. **Chris** stated that when they received the list last year, they didn't recognize many of the names. As a result, they decided to ask the agent to look for other people, which resulted in who we got. The agent is informed about Williams, so he doesn't recommend any random person

Javier Mariscal '13 (Williams Hall (proxy)) stated that he felt there was a polarization between an \$80,000 and \$6000 show. He asked if there was anything in between. **Thomas** stated that once you hit a threshold price, you're basically forced to use the state, which results in the non-negotiable fixed costs.



Max asked about the feasibility of having an outdoor concert. **Chris** stated that the administration is against it because of noise complaints. The Town of Williamstown will not allow it. **Max** responded that he inquired about noise permits that may allow them to do this. **Schuyler** responded that while you may get a permit, it simply takes a few phone calls for WPD to show up and end the show. Low sound waves travel far (since Williams is at the top of the town). The noise is so loud it may even travel to North Adams. **Peter** responded that we should get some physics majors to look into the issue (why not **Ben A.**? He's good at math!).

Emily Dzieciatko '15 (Sage Hall Rep.) asked about the feasibility of getting busses to transport students to concerts at other schools. **Chris** stated that he would talk to their agent about this. **Thomas** also mentioned that sometimes this may be an issue because schools do not want to sell to students from outside schools. **Rani** asked if ACE knew who other schools hired for their concerts. **Chris** stated that Amherst and Middlebury basically have the same (we've all had Mike Posner and Kid Cudi).

Ashley asked about the relationship between the Neighborhoods and All-Campus Entertainment. She asked for a clarification between students have talked about ACE asking for co-sponsorship from the Neighborhoods, but they are under the belief that they are not allowed to ask neighborhoods for money. **Peter** stated that technically, neighborhoods cannot co-sponsor unless all the neighborhoods are in favor of it. **Brian** asked about the process of neighborhood co-sponsorship. **Jackie Milian '13 (Wood Board Rep.)** responded that this year, the neighborhoods have been lenient with regards to funding events, as long as they benefit in some way (for ex. free tickets for students in their neighborhood). She also exclaimed that neighborhoods are definitely willing to work with ACE. **April Jenkins (Treasurer)** added in that the Finance Committee only needs to give money; neighborhoods have to be involved in the planning stages of it.

And finally, **Peter** thank everyone who attended. **Krista** reminded everyone to continue thinking about ways to communicate more effectively with the student body.

VIII. OPINIONS@WSO (5 min)

We had 6 opinions this week!

-1 student asked about opening the gym earlier on Sundays because 1PM is too inconvenient for most students who are trying to get their work done and work out as well.

-1 student asked about healthier drinking options at Grab-N-Go because currently, the only items available are full of sugar

-1 student asked about fixing the vending machines on campus because some only take IDs, change, or bills.



- 2 students asked about the Student Activities Resource Center (SARC) and working on improving the computers and the general area
- 1 student asked about Bike Share and when Council was going to finally finish this program.

At this time, Adrian Castro (Secretary) presented a motion to extend meeting by 5 minutes:

Motion: Adrian Castro '14 (Secretary)

Second: Ali Magruder '15 (Mills Rep.)

Vote: Motion Passes (13-3-4)

(Nay: Kate F., Wen H., Ben/Abstain: Emily D., Javier M., Ben A., Emily C.)

Rani Mukherjee '15 (Dennett Hall Rep.) asked how opinions@wso was advertised.

Adrian responded that this is put on WSO, the College Council website, and all correspondence from CC. **Rani** also asked about getting this straight onto WSO. **Adrian** said he will work on that. **Emily Calkins '14 (Class of 2014 Rep.)** asked about getting a printing card to advertise. **Krista** responded that the College Council Communications Team will work on it.

IX. OPEN TIME (5 min)

Peter Skipper '13 (Co-President) opened Open Time and explained that this would be the time for students to talk about their projects and ideas for Council.

Brian McGrail '14 (Spencer Board Rep.) asked what the relationship between WCFM and ACE was. He wants to explore it and use them for parties if they may be better.

Javier Mariscal '13 (Williams Hall (proxy)) stated that he agreed with this sentiment wholeheartedly. He stated that his job on the board of WCFM is to talk to record labels and agencies on a weekly basis. He stated that it is difficult to plan events like ACE said, but that WCFM has over 80 DJs that are interested in what ACE does and believes they should form some sort of relationship.

Ben Shuham '14 (Dodd At-Large Rep.) stated that he believed ACE's main argument was 1. Tradition and 2. Manpower. He expressed his agreement that WCFM should get involved because of the many people available to plan these events. **Caroline Miller '14 (Currier Board Rep.)**, a member of ACE, responded that people do not get involved. She said WCFM should send their DJs to ACE to volunteer. **Norman Walczak '12** stated that they have sent people over before, but that they were turned away. **Emily Calkins '14 (Class of 2014 Rep.)** responded that she agreed with **Caroline** and acknowledged that Thomas and Chris do a lot of work. She added that they aren't trying to hog their work, but there is no one who wants to help. She also stated that she expressed the comment about not trying to make Williams into something it's not, but that it is one big weekend where we could act as though this is within our capacity.



Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) directly responded and ended by saying that she believed the best way to get a wide appeal may be to appoint a WCFM liaison, a neighborhood liaison, and a Minco liaison.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget to read these minutes! Look for any mistakes!!!

XI. ADJOURNMENT :

And with the plethora of conversation that occurred today, I finally shut down my computer at 9:07 PM. Off to fight for my hot chocolate in Goodrich! Good luck to everyone who applied to be JAs!!!

No Shows:

NONE

As always, send your opinions our way! opinions@wso.williams.edu is the way to go!

Until next time,

**Adrian Castro '14
College Council Secretary**