

COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25, 2012

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 PM

ROLL CALL

*Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) called the meeting to order (and not a minute too late!). She went around the room and allowed guests to introduce themselves. Aside from **Clyde Engel '15** and **Sophia Chen '14 (Record Point Person, Note Taker, Reporter, Friend)**, Krista's mom, **Mrs. Pickett**, attended our CC meeting. Welcome to CC Council!*

I. WELCOME MRS. PICKETT

A nice visit from Mrs. Pickett, Krista's mom! Let's all make her feel welcome at tonight's meeting!

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 min)

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) began by stating a few announcements. For one, Williams Day is this upcoming Saturday! She asked Council to remind all their friends to attend (who wouldn't want to see a few lemurs and a kangaroo!?). She stated it was a "Council Baby" and it's meant to be a day of celebration for all Williams has to offer. She also stated that they have received their first SuperFan request since the passage of the resolution: Men and Women's Crew. (Since these minutes are published the following week, I'd like to extend a warm congratulations to the Crew Team for winning (yet again) at their home regatta last week! Keep rowing your way to the top at nationals at the end of the semester!) **Peter Skipper '13 (Co-President)** also reminded Council that when an item comes up which directly affects them because of their involvement with the group, they must recuse themselves from voting.

Adrian Castro '14 (Secretary) also presented a short clip submitted by students who went to the Bahamas as part of an Alternative Spring Break trip. The kids featured in the video thanked Council for the funding and allowing these students to serve the kids on the island. Rock on!

For another announcement, at a recent conference **Krista** and **Peter** went to, they were asked how many students voted in the last election. Of course, because of the high standards we put on ourselves (we need to take a break...), they responded that only 59% voted. The other schools were shocked; they only received roughly 30%. To sum this up, GREAT JOB WILLIAMS! As **Krista** most excitedly pointed out, "**WE ARE DOING OKAY!**". Indeed we are.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1 min)

Motion to Approve: Katy Carrigan '14 (Spencer At-Large)

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

Vote: Unanimous

IV. BUDGETS (10 min)

Slate 1

Law Society, Photo Club, The Globalist

Slate 2

Williams Day, Story Time, Frosh Council Tent Party, Frosh Council FroYo, Accidentals, Dance Dhamaka

V. APPROVAL OF NEW STUDENT GROUPS (3 min)

The Student Organizations Committee will present the proposal for approval of Men for Consent

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) introduced the group—Men for Consent—and allowed each individual to represent himself. Present was **Matt Piltch '12**, **Tuna Christiani '13**, and **Long Dang '15**. **Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.)** then presented the recommendations of the Student Organizations Committee.

The group will focus largely on addressing sexual assault and rape on campus and will not be closed off to females. Anyone can join and be on the board. They are currently in the midst of planning an event for Thursday, May 4, 2012. Thus, they are recommended for approval with no reservations.

Motion to Approve: Henry Bergman '15 (Williams Hall Rep.)

Second: Julia Hoch '15 (Armstrong Hall Rep.)

Vote: 19-0-1 (Abs: Henry Bergman '15 (Williams Hall Rep.))

VI. TREASURER UPDATES (15 min)

Treasurer updates on two of our subgroups: Rugby and Sailing

April Jenkins '14 (Treasurer) began the conversation by stating that the 19 year dilemma with the Sailing Team has finally been resolved. She explained that, while in our bylaws CC isn't able to give groups their CIF funds ahead of time, the Controller (Susan Hogan) has given April the green light to give the group their money during the summer (as opposed to September) so that the group can get their boats. **Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President)** asked if they will have a full fleet in the fall. **April** responded that they

won't. But, they won't have to worry about boats anymore. They are now "smooth sailing", as **Krista** funnily pointed out.

In terms of the Women's Rugby Team, the ending is not so good. Because of the gross overspending that has crossed College Council and Williams College policies, they are now being investigated by Hopkins Hall. Consequently, CC is not able (yet) to directly punish the team since Hopkins is taking care of that, but is still able to act within the bylaws to censure the team, take away funding, or do anything else that is allowed per our bylaws. There is a censure process in place that allows College Council to censure teams like this one.

A censure is an act by Council that is essentially a slap on the wrist. When groups are not following the guidelines specified in the bylaws, College Council as a whole may vote to censure a group. If a subgroup, this removes them from the subgroup allocation process that takes place in the fall four up to four years. There is also more oversight in terms of how they spend their money in the future.

Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) asked what was the practicality of censuring a group if most of the malpractice cannot be attributed to the group itself. **April** responded that it is basically a wake up call. While they may not have spent the money themselves, they are still a subgroup subject to the same rules and regulations as any other group and therefore, should have maintained control of their finances. A censure has symbolic meaning that is essential to ensuring groups follow the CC bylaws. **Peter Skipper '13 (Co-President)** also added that this is more serious because of their actions not just this year but last year too. They have been in debt for two years and have not cleaned up their finances.

Benjamin Augenbraun '15 (Class of 2015 Rep.) asked if this would carry over to next year. **April** said yes. They will have to ask for money per event and will not be given money during the subgroup allocation process as every other group. **Brian McGrail '14 (Spencer Board Rep.)** asked if there were more punitive actions that could be taken. **April** stated that they would be financial, but cannot currently be taken until Hopkins figures out what they want to do. **Max Heninger '14 (Currier At-Large Rep.)** reminded Council that while Hopkins can act on this issue, we ought to act in our own accord as they are our own sub-group. Several members of Council asked about their treasurer and why he/she was not responsible. **April** stated that the team was undergoing several changes and therefore, may not have had a treasurer that was paying attention to these matters. **Peter** reminded Council that it is CC policy that all groups must have a treasurer that is treasurer trained. Not having one subjects them to actions by Council. After a few more minutes of discussion, several Council members asked about bringing in someone from the team to discuss this matter before them prior to censuring the team. Council was under the impression that many members of the team did not know that the

group was in the red and therefore, was much fairer to invite the to attend the meeting prior to censuring them.

Thus, the following motion was presented, but failed:

Motion to End and Table Discussion: Benjamin Augenbraun '15 (Class of 2015 Rep.)

Second: Benjamin Shuham '14 (Dodd At-Large Rep.)

Vote: 5-13-2 (Motion Fails)

The following motion was made right after:

Motion to Censure Rugby: Benjamin Fischberg '14 (Wood At-Large Rep.)

Second: Rani Mukherjee '15 (Dennett Hall Rep.)

Kate and two of the three Ben's (**Augenbraun '15** and **Shuham '14**) asked Council to consider waiting until the following week so that a member of the Woman's Rugby Team can attend and defend themselves. **April** also added that while Council needs to take action, this is not the appropriate time. Council still proceeded with the following vote:

Vote: 13-5-2 (Motion Passes)

(No: Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.), Max Heninger '14 (Currier At-Large Rep.), Benjamin Augenbraun '15 (Class of 2015 Rep.), Benjamin Shuham '14 (Wood At-Large Rep.), Henry Bergman '15 (Williams Hall Rep.)

(Abs: April Jenkins '14 (Treasurer) and Emily Dzieciatko '15 (Sage Hall Rep.))

Benjamin Fischberg '14 (Wood At-Large) asked if Council can reverse this decision and reinstate them (subgroup allocation process). **Peter** stated that since this is an act by Council, it can reverse its decision in the future and reinstate them.

VII. MENTAL HEALTH FORUM (15 min)

Discussion on a potential forum discussing Mental Health and how it has progressed from its inception last year to today. Discussion will allow Council to see how to best approach this topic and whether or not Council wants to continue with this.

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) introduced **Gia Recco '14**, Representative of the Mental Health Committee. She was present at tonight's meeting to talk about an idea that was presented at a Mental Health meeting that involves College Council. **Gia** stated that, following the successes of You Are Not Alone and the different forums on mental health,

the committee would like to host an end of the year forum to talk about how far they've come this year and what they can do to improve for the following year. **Katy Carrigan '14 (Spencer At-Large Rep.)** asked if this could be done in a Stressbusters environment. **Krista** responded that they (she also serves on the committee) thought of hosting the event on a Thursday night in Goodrich and have the coffee bar open (**most Council members knocked at the sound of free food). **Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.)** asked about Dodd Living Room. She also suggested that someone take notes at the event to then send out to the student body as an update of what was talked about so that students all around know about the forum, what was talked about, and ideas for the future. **Krista** asked for ways to increase the visibility of the event:

- Food at event!
- Get the College Council Communications Team to advertise
- Think of strategies that show this isn't just an informational meeting, but a meeting to update students
- Get other student groups involved

VIII. BROOKS HOUSE INCIDENT (10 min)

Quick update by Kate Flanagan, Community and Diversity Representative, and discussion on how College Council can be supportive of students in times like this.

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) began by stating that several members of Council, including herself, went to Hardy House in light of the recent homophobic slur written on a door in Brooks House. She asked **Kate Flanagan '14**, the **Community and Diversity Representative**, to elaborate on what happened and what she is currently working on. **Kate** stated that Campus Safety and Security and the Williamstown Police Department are currently investigating the incident. She reminded Council that it is important to continue showing support to this community specifically in light of what happened especially the upcoming weekend, which marks the beginning of Queer Pride Days and the celebration of the 20th year anniversary of the Dively Committee. She also stated that MinCo will be hosting a forum to talk about the incident soon. For the record, the incident occurred within the past few weeks. There were marks showing that the door had been stabbed by a knife several times, as well as a scratched in mark saying "f**". It is important to remain an ally, especially during tough times like these.

IX. COMPOSITION OF COLLEGE COUNCIL (30 min)

Discussion on what College Council wants CC to look like in the future (in terms of its composition) and solicitation of ideas for potential models

Krista Pickett '13 (Co-President) began the conversation by giving some background information on this item. She stated that since the role of College Council is dynamic and

far reaching, the hope is that the make up of CC reflects the students and interests. It needs to be a priority of allowing students to get involved. During their campaign, they consistently heard about confusion with the positions available, who is able to serve, etc. There is also a worry that CC is too insular. It seems that if you don't run initially during your freshman year, you'll never get on. They want to ensure that gets the right people in the room (an array of different people with different backgrounds and experiences). She also emphasized their belief that the Assistant to the Treasurer position is essential and will be up for review (to be included in the constitution) during this entire process of changing the composition of CC. Additionally, Krista explained that her and Peter looked into other student government associations and how they function via a senate based system and how that conflicts with our neighborhood model (which doesn't govern as it once did). **Peter Skipper '13 (Co-President)** added that what they are looking at is changing the current model in terms of who serves on CC. Currently, there are six freshman reps and the rest of Council is made up of students from the neighborhoods. The remedy to the neighborhood model is to change CC to instead include four class representatives per year. This would allow more equal representation and would also allow more students to serve on CC. Currently, if a neighborhood has a lot of great candidates, only one-two can serve. He stated this needs to change.

Krista clarified that for a constitutional amendment, one-third of the student body would have to vote in the special election. Out of those one-third, two-thirds of the students need to vote in favor of this change.

Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.) asked what the merits of a class based model are versus a senatorial based model as other schools have. **Peter** stated that he likes each student having the flexibility of working on whatever project he/she sees fit. It gives more options for students to be able to address. **Kate** also stated that she likes the cabinet model, which allows for the presidents to appoint a cabinet from within CC to work on specific projects. **Krista** stated that they haven't thought of this yet, but will when drafting up the document. **Max Heninger '14 (Currier At-Large Rep.)** reminded Council that while this mean seem to be an attack on the Neighborhood System, it cannot be painted that way when the item is presented to the student body.

Other members proposed the following ideas:

- Important not too make the positions too specific to allow more students to become involved
- We have to maintain some ties to the neighborhoods
- Reduce freshman representation and equalize the number of seats for every class year
- Add liaisons to College Council

With regards to student apathy due to lack of available positions, **Brian McGrail '14 (Spencer Board Rep.)** stated that he believed that Council should do something to limit the amount of activities that students could partake in. He believes that because too many students serve on the same committees on campus, there aren't enough spots for other students. Several students disagreed and stated that while this may be true, Council should not try to control other student organizations simply because the same students like serving as leaders on campus.

At this time, the following motion was presented:

Motion to Extend by 5 Min: Ali Magruder '15 (Mills Hall Rep.)

Second: Emily Dzieciatko '15 (Sage Hall Rep.)

Vote: 17-3-0 (Nays: Kate Flanagan '14 (Community and Diversity Rep.), Benjamin Augenbraun '15 (Class of 2015 Rep.), and Wen Han '13 (Class of 2013 Rep))

*Council members continued to agree and disagree with statements made prior to the aforementioned motion. No concrete ideas were presented. **Krista** ended the meeting by asking Council to continue thinking of ideas and that next week, a document will be presented to Council with everyone's ideas.*

X. STUDENT ID DEBIT CARD (5 min)

Update by Max Heninger '14, Currier At-Large Rep., on his semester long project trying to get a debit card and Williams student ID combined into one card!

We weren't able to get to this item and therefore, will be talking about it next week!

XI. OPEN TIME

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT