



COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES

Hopkins 001
January 13, 2015

Meeting called to order: 7:32 PM

I. Introductions + Approval of the Minutes

Absences:

Proxies/Guests:

Mia Dana for Alyssa Epstein

Mia for Ned

Alex for Yasick

Josemaria for Michael

Luke for Katherine

Devin for Alex

Bryan for Allegra

Motion to approve the minutes from last week: Ben

Second: Bum Shik

Result: 20-0-0

II. Budgets

Victoria: We had four groups come in to request budgets. The first was the Griffins Society, they requested some from individuals and some from CLIA and some from us, but the math was a little off and the treasurer wasn't totally aware of the numbers, so we tabled it. I'll message the treasurer to clear it up later. The next is Williams for Life, and they're going to a conference in D.C. and seven students are going. They're renting a van because they couldn't secure a van with the school, and then there's some money for distributing candy to all the SU mailboxes. We recommended that in full. Valerie is coming in pretty soon, has been working with OSL and is drafting a letter to Falk, and is doing baked goods for the event for all the workers. We cut some from the budget because she could secure some from Get Baked or dining services. Next, we have trivia, and we actually increased their requested amount.

Motion to approve the minutes from last week: Web

Second: Ashish

Result: 20-0-0

III. Valerie Oyakhilome and Workers Day

Valerie: We want to make an event to thank the workers and let students meet the staff, so we're going to send out notecards to as many people as possible and hopefully get a lot of personal thank you notes. I feel like we take people for granted a lot, and mistreat the staff sometimes; at



my old school the staff was a lot less friendly and fantastic, and we should appreciate what we have. We can switch up the project every year.

Alex: A couple years ago we got hot chocolate for the staff, maybe we could do something like that again?

Valerie: We should submit a letter to Adam Falk to make it an annual event.

Michelle: We were talking about CC's staff appreciation day, so we're happy to combine efforts.

Valerie: If anyone has idea, we'd love them. As many people as possible involved is great.

Allegra: What else can we do to help?

Valerie: I'd love help distributing resources to different programs through CC.

Michelle: Yes, or entry snacks.

Valerie: We'd love it to be a surprise too. My unix is vio1 if you want to reach out to me.

IV. Dean Bolton and Alcohol Awareness

Dean Bolton: Marcus and I had talked about a couple different things, including alcohol awareness. I know you got the alcohol email at the beginning of winter study, all the JAs got calendars making it easy to take frosh to healthier activities and trying to get the message out about how to get help if we need it. Also, did everyone see the board of trustees is coming on the 23rd of January? If anyone has questions about the board's function/purpose before going to that open forum, that'd be great.

Josemaria: Where was the memo about that?

Dean Bolton: It was in the daily messages, it's 1-2:30 in Griffin 3. It's just students and much of the board (the committee on student experience) because I know a lot of students had said they wanted more direct discussion with the board. If it goes well, perhaps we could do it more than one time. We want a lot of turnout so we have good demonstrated interest.

Victoria: Who's facilitating the discussion?

Dean Bolton: The chair of the board's committee on student experience, a chemistry professor at smith. She's been the director of a group at Smith College.

Elizabeth: We'll be addressing this a little later, but the student leadership group is having a forum before to organize/inform for that, who can I contact that would be in charge of that?

Dean Bolton: Can you elaborate on the forum?



Elizabeth: The leadership council is student leaders and wanted to have a unified message about what the board does so we can make the most impact out of the meeting. We thought we could generate a starting list of questions which could be supplemented by a live twitter discussion.

Dean Bolton: I can certainly talk with her, I just want to make sure that everyone feels they have an opportunity to talk and isn't worried about being constrained by an initial list of questions. I think the board was excited that this was really open to whoever wanted to come.

Michelle: Is anyone sending an all-campus email about this?

Elizabeth: Marcus is going to.

Dean Bolton: Great, that'd probably be even better coming from you.

Tobias: Do faculty feel they have access to the board?

Dean Bolton: Usually, some members of the board meet with some faculty and some students about different topics. Sometimes those are more open conversations, sometimes they're a little more closed. That varies from year to year, but we try to pull it together as much as possible.

Allegra: Let's switch over to alcohol awareness.

Dean Bolton: I just wanted to see if there were any particular questions about the new party standards or regulations. We wanted to communicate that at the beginning of winter study because that tends to be a dangerous time for students here.

Elizabeth: Just to recap on the last meeting, it was positive outlooks for the most part. people mostly agree that alcohol is dangerous but thought it was too soon to see if the rules would have an effect. Also, the policy doesn't mention age – what's your perspective toward age at parties?

Dean Bolton: Responsible party standards do require compliance with Massachusetts law. Almost exclusively transports are related to hard alcohol, sometimes people hurt themselves or each other when drinking hard alcohol, and there are very real concerns related to dangerous drinking. The other thing is a broad concern that the college reacted to both parties very dangerous and very safe but both in violation of the rules. We wanted to align the rules a little bit so regulations are more proportional to parties so people would be more in compliance with rules and more likely to appreciate the meaningfulness of rules, while addressing serious threats more significantly. We haven't really started sanctioning people any tougher yet, but we need to start talking really seriously about both how CSS can have a good relationship with students and vice versa: i.e. what does "more seriously" really look like? What are appropriate responses? If all the responsible party standards are met, we won't shut it down unless it's in a frosh entry. We need to have a conversation to check up and make sure everything is reasonable, and is ultimately a call up to CSS.



Ashish: Does this apply to off-campus housing?

Dean Bolton: No, but they are bound by Massachusetts state law. However, it's definitely true that if there's a harmful off campus party, they're liable for putting people at risk.

Ashish: Does CSS look for "illegal" events?

Dean Bolton: They haven't too often in the past, but we could start – however, that hasn't been too popular of an idea in the past.

Tobias: Kind of a nitpicky question, would you use a neighborhood cluster as an organization when registering a party if you don't have an organization?

Dean Bolton: I can ask about that, but the idea is that individuals can register events.

Victoria: I've just put a random organization, like the Dean's Office.

Dean Bolton: How do you think we could increase education about making sure friends are kept safe in situations with alcohol? We've done a lot of education about sexual assault and hookups, but want to extend that to alcohol dangers.

Tyrone: Transport statistics or statistics on certain drink dangers could educate really well.

Dean Bolton: Good idea, it's sometimes difficult for people to have a sense of what "normal" is with regards to parties.

Web: a lot of people expressed concern to me after the discussion last week that both this policy targets parties rather than the often-dangerous pregame culture, and would just scare a lot of people away from registering parties at all in fear that security will come through. Not sure what "addressing pregame culture" would look like, but that's often the bigger concern when parties get shut down too-early or in compliance.

Dean Bolton: I haven't heard of any parties getting shut down in compliance, often there are room capacity issues.

Ben: extending on the point of pregame culture, there has been some concern that limiting alcohol access at parties will drive more alcohol into pregames to a dangerous level. Was that considered at all when forming this policy?

Dean Bolton: Yes, it did, but we knew we had to do something – we have a transport every week and sometimes more. We need to make sure everyone is safe, and seeing the strong correlation between hard alcohol and transports that exists here and at peer schools suggested that we could make a positive impact by decreasing access to hard alcohol.



Michael: What if we tried to educate leaders from peers about alcohol dangers at trainings?

Dean Bolton: Often students will understand things more through experience and peer education, so that could definitely work.

Tyrone: I agree with the alcohol education ideas. How effective has the new policy been so far during winter study?

Dean Bolton: we usually only get part of the information from our own database, oftentimes we talk to JAs for a more general sentiment about safety and experience.

Tyrone: I feel like we should develop some JA long-term statistics as I've definitely seen an increase in alcohol use, but I'm not sure if that's just this year or if it's a trend.

Ava: Are freshman dorm policies new?

Dean Bolton: there's not new policy there, but what we've been trying to do is be more predictable. we used to hear a lot of inconsistency in student experiences with CSS reactions to alcohol, and students want to have more consistency and understanding of "what is ok." So what we were largely trying to do here is lay out when things are ok and when things are not ok, and what "not ok" even means.

Ava: I've heard there has been stricter enforcement, and I think in freshman dorms there's actually the least pressure to drink just because of the entry-as-family and JA positive mentality that exists.

Dean Bolton: CSS doesn't usually walk through freshmen dorms, and we're trying to get very clear communication as to what goes on. We don't want people to be terrified of CSS.

Alex: Has there been any communication about when these rules can be articulated during the year? Or any clear access about where people can check the rules before seeing them?

Dean Bolton: That's a large part of the educational aspect we're trying to create.

Jason: First-years tend to have more transports, do you think the special prohibitions in freshman dorms worsen that problem?

Dean Bolton: It's not as broadly disproportionate as you might expect, so that may be largely related to lack of experience with alcohol.

Michelle: I think the pregame mentality within freshmen rooms can be an issue, maybe pushing that into a common space could help. or past campaigns about healthy drinking habits could work, the previous homecoming one seemed to work in my entry at least.



Dean Bolton: And we've talked a lot about social acceptability where "is it ok to approach a friend who was in a dangerous situation" even in broader lights outside of "my friend is currently passed out," like on the Monday after a transport. We're hoping to encourage that positive support.

Josemaria: Could we lessen the drinking culture by increasing activities available at night?

Dean Bolton: Yes, but I think it makes more sense for CC or the students to organize that rather than the administration.

V. Student Leadership Delegation

Elizabeth: We want to bring this group together as a very unified leadership for the student body. Marcus is going to send out a campus-wide email encouraging students to come to a Baxter Hall educational meeting about the board of trustees. It'll be open mic and largely create a base set of questions for the board of trustees.

Tobias: I think it's a good idea to have a few questions prepared, but in the past students were concerned about having particular students chosen not really randomly, and we don't want to create a similar effect here.

Web: It's definitely a good idea to have people get out their thoughts beforehand, but would the student leadership delegation ask the questions?

Elizabeth: We would have Marcus read the questions that the student leadership group reads.

Michelle: People already have some frustrations with leaders and I think there's a risk that people's voice are being silenced with regard to what may or may not be productive.

Tyrone: Could this just be a bigger open forum in general, not just about the board of trustees.

Josemaria: I agree with tyrone that this event will set precedent, so maybe if we just form 3-5 key talking points for the end of the meeting, then the beginning is a little more spontaneous and less orchestrated.

Michelle: I agree, it's really important that people who just show up are the ones asking the first questions.

Elizabeth: Definitely, I'd be interested to hear the thoughts of the mediating professor on what she envisioned.

tyrone: i know that it's mostly the students who will be talking, but i think it'd be good if we kept it so there is lots of constructive, platform-based, directed questions.



Josemaria: We should maybe just give our key points to the moderator so she, rather than the students consciously, make sure the points get covered.

Tyrone: There should be a big brief introduction of purpose and then we can open it up to the student body.

VI. CDC Questions

Elizabeth: I wasn't at the meeting this Monday so I can't give you committee for diversity and community updates on that, but we're trying to get a poll out about classroom environment and thoughts on that. If anyone has a student group that would be interested in having a focus group on that, or we're also having individual interviews.

I. Logo Concept Discussion

Web: does the first font clarify to their marketing materials?

Ben: I like the top-right and all the left shapes.

Ashish: It should look like a concentric circle within a square within a circle.

Josemaria: It should look like a more old-fashioned crest shape.

Victoria: What if we combine the emblem with the top-right photo?

Web: What if we do it like the winter carnival drawings from last year?

Ben: And if we do combine the emblem, they don't necessarily need to be attached to each other

VII. Project Updates and Open Time

Allegra: I wanted to touch a little bit on winter study workshops: it's just an opportunity for all clubs to get involved. Right now we only have two signed up, so please everyone talk to your organizations so we can get as many clubs involved as possible.

Tyrone: Marcus and I have been working on an honor code project, would anyone be interested? We're hoping to present a revamped honor code. Who's interested?

Ashish: I am.

Josemaria and Tobias: Can we be added to the [CC] GroupMe?

Michelle: We need to add Elizabeth, Josemaria, Devin, and Web to the email list.



Katherine: I made progress on my project.

Elizabeth: We made progress on the “mindfulness space:” it’s going to be in the quiet room.

Ashish: What if it was in the Thompson Memorial Chapel? The quiet room is used.

Elizabeth: Yes, but we want to keep it central to campus and make sure people feel comfortable.

Grant: People are very passionate about the quiet room.

Ben: What if we used the CC suite?

Elizabeth: We looked at that, the rooms like that are already taken and would require swipe access.

Jason: What makes you think the mindfulness room would be more in-demand than a quiet room?

Elizabeth: We don’t think people would miss it unless they already went, and the quiet room is all about stress.

Jason: Maybe we do a referendum?

Tobias: A few of us were talking about snow-clearing and other workers, so we’re going to work on making a card or another activity for workers. We’ll likely combine efforts with the workers day to make that happen.

Ben: During the chili day today, we got the idea to have volunteer students shovel to help out facilities on campus or around Williamstown.

Josemaria: There’s an overarching group of environmental organizations meeting, green ephs, and they met today.

Michael: i’m looking for volunteers for the video project.

[Video Volunteers:

Josemaria

Bum Shik

Allegra

Ben

Victoria]

Ben: Who has control over listservs? I had a problem sending out mine where it labeled it as spam.

Michelle: I think that’s largely OSL, but there’s a manager of each listserv too.



Alex: There's some on WSO too.

Michael: Also, I'll be making You're in the Know emails.

Elizabeth: We've got a three college consortium together with Williams and Wesleyan and one other school for our collective college councils.

**See project spreadsheet for related project update discussion.

Victoria: I'll also make CC swag. We'll get a long-sleeve t-shirt designed by next week.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM