



COLLEGE COUNCIL MINUTES

Hopkins 001
January 6, 2015

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

I. Introductions + Approval of the Minutes

Absences:

Tardy: Alyssa Epstein

Proxies/Guests:

Alex Stone for Annika Trappness

Devon Valley for Alex Besser

Mia for Ned

Web for Funmi

Michael for Lia

Meghana for Michael

Guest: Nathaniel

Motion to approve the minutes from last week: *Victoria*

Second: Michelle

Result: 22-0-0

II. Budgets (and a Funding Bylaw Discussion)

Victoria: We should cut ballroom dancing because they requested an additional speaker, and we need to be fair to all free university classes. Also, we don't need to fund laptop mats or a paper cutter from great ideas because the library will approve that.

Allegra: I agree with the ballroom dancing but the budget approval is so complicated for the library that they've probably already decided funding for next year. We should have a bigger conversation with the library about what we should fund.

Ben: Yes, the library is supportive of us having these items, but I'm not sure anyone would fund them if we didn't.

Web: Some questions on how projects work: do CC projects exist outside of other CC funding? And when CC acts on a great idea does that come out of the projects fund?

Victoria: Yes and yes. But we're funding a chili bar (for the Great Ideas lottery winner) and that's expensive. We'll have around \$5000 on top of the number you're seeing [on the screen].

Michelle: Can we move funds into projects?

Victoria: We can but generally don't, we tend to move projects funds into other areas.



Allegra: Sidebar: I also sent you a \$25 gift card charge for a chili bar challenge too. Background info: in exchange for the best “great idea” suggested during Winter Study, we give out gift cards for the chili bar.

Motion to approve free university funding, plus the \$25 gift card: Michelle

Second: Ashish

Result: 22-0-0

III. Update From Elizabeth Curtis

Marcus: It is my pleasure to introduce Elizabeth Curtis, she’s continuing Jonathan’s work as his position.

Elizabeth: I can’t wait to keep working with the EDI requirement, and am excited to continue conversations about diversity in classrooms. If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to me.

Marcus: While we’re waiting, let’s discuss new office hours [listed on new website].

Tobias: Regarding office hours, we also made a sign with our class schedule.

Marcus: Others should do that as well.

IV. Update from Max Harmon and Food Committee

Max: I’m actually not here for food committee, it’s just a small thing that I personally wanted to talk about. Some context: I had a lot of conversations with the dining services director and head chef trying to reduce beef consumption and use. What I came up with (not on the committee) is a pilot program that reduced beef use and dining services are interested. They tried it the first 9-ish days in November and it was going to conclude with a conversation with CC or with the student body. It ran for 9 days and beef was in one of three dining halls any given week. A record article sort of miscommunicated the situation and I published an op-ed to try to clear it up. The dining services food committee implements most changes to menus – it was meant to make students happier with food options, but i think it can have a bigger impact/purpose.

Tobias: would your next step be doing a long pilot or switching to a new method? What would that look like?

Max: That’s really flexible. a previous schedule had been built and followed, but we can change that.

Web: Are you the only student on that committee?

Max: no, it’s maybe ten students and four show up to any given. there’s the chefs and the head of dining services.



Web: So you want CC to be a liaison?

Max: We just want a better system that can be legitimated through CC rather than just this negative stuff.

Tyrone: If you pushed out a press release, that would create an uproar but we should get some level of transparency.

Marcus: Suggestion boxes are good, but we need to really implement them. there's already some present, and we can improve that.

Josemaria: why are we eliminating beef in the first place?

Max: Industrial cattle, and those operations are destructive in a variety of ways: for the people involved and for the environment. after i published the article in the alternative, i was contacted by students from Bates, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, etc.

Josemaria: What was the general student reaction to your article?

Max: I was surprised, but had no attacks on me.

Ashish: Can we incorporate changes to existing items, just add completely new ones? Do they take student suggestions?

Max: That's exactly what the food committee is here for.

Ashish: But how do we contact them?

Max: I come to CC meetings, and CC could distribute my email cause people can just contact me.

Michelle: CC can definitely distribute your email, and we can put it in the daily messages. With regard to the beef thing, what does dining services do in the face of backlash?

Max: There's different ways to frame it, but we weigh student opinion: i.e. if 51% of students don't approve of a change, then we don't do it.

Michelle: There's also a lot of groups that could be interested based on the issues that food presents, but we could take a more extended campaign. we want people to have positive ideas not just negative ones.

Michael: We should also have menu review once a semester, through online polling or a similar mechanism.



Katherine: Suggestions boxes and CC meeting visits are good, but I don't think that it'll garner a big response. I'm not sure how that stuff works, but we could do a big email or referendum where people are aware of the food committee and changes possibly being made.

Max: We've been trying to send an email for like a year-and-a-half to the whole student body.

Marcus: I can do that. Or, we could have it sent to smaller groups like via class reps. I don't love to send them directly from me, but I've got the power and we can use that to disseminate it through delegation and things like that.

Jason: WSO has a list of every listserv, we could use that.

Ava: Dining services is really receptive, so we should get a digital or real-life forum that we can use. We just need to show the positivity that exists alongside the negative opinions that come out when big scandals like the beef thing understand.

Jason: One of the biggest problems with beef may exist, but what if we just change our beef sourcing?

Max: It would be really expensive, like orders of magnitude more. It would be a reduction in volume of beef if we want to keep costs the same.

Alyssa: Is beef the most destructive meat? Could we get rid of other stuff instead?

Max: Yes, I just thought getting rid of more would be received even more poorly.

Victoria: We need a referendum, this could be a slippery slope about eliminating menu items.

Tobias: This conversation is nice, but the referendum could be construed/framed a number of different ways. We need to be really aware of the different variables that exist. We could provide a number of options in the poll that could be extreme or moderate or not take action.

Hudson: You should adopt the methods of great ideas committee and really reach out to the student body even if it's through something like a Google form. Also, we should be aware of food waste in how the food is served.

Web: Definitely a publicity campaign is key. CC could help disseminate your polls and draft resolutions in support of your goals, but I think the onus of this should be on the food committee.

Ben: We need to just get specific proposals, online would be good. Right now, Great Ideas gets a lot of ideas through our online poll. Also, maybe post-meal rating systems?



Tyrone: We could align the polls with campaigns so people have the most context to understand everything that brought about the poll in the first place. Divest Williams made a huge impact even though it didn't totally get success with us, but they made a difference in the community.

Josemaria: Beef is a big methane problem. but more importantly, we could maybe consider the consortium of colleges that we were thinking about for increasing purchasing power. And, healthy options at snack bar!

Michelle: As College Council, we can't do a ton without more information from you guys. So we should be able to get information from you and then pass you student feedback. CC could also solicit recipes from the student body (that don't include beef) to replace meals and make it a positive experience. Also, that means it's not just more of the same meals.

Ava: Polling came up a lot, but at the same time we shouldn't rush the process and do polling too soon or else we'll get uninformed feedback.

Marcus: We're all for helping you, so let's see the support and direct goals from you so we can make it happen. there should definitely be an educational component.

Alyssa: Let's get a straw poll to test interest in beef plan [19-3-0 in favor of beef reduction].

V. Winter Study Workshops

Allegra: I wanted to tell you guys about this and would love your help if you want to. We wanted to make more options for learning different things in WSP other than just "going out." All CC groups could work a function i.e. get baked could teach a cooking lesson, dance group could teach dance, etc. We would ideally have one every night, and that'd be good for groups that recruit in the spring too. We'd like to get 10 groups and do it the last couple weeks of winter study, and if it's successful next year we could do one every week.

Ben: how's that different from free university?

Allegra: Those are extended courses, these are one-off workshops less based on a curriculum.

Michelle: Great idea, this should be pretty expected of every CC group.

Allegra: yeah, and this could be better than just speaker series that exist now.

Web: maybe incentivize this at first for groups before we mandate anything.

Jason: this could be more difficult for some groups rather than others.

Allegra: absolutely, and we can worry about that later. This year it's only ten groups, and we should definitely consider that.



Alyssa: Maybe we can extend hours to afternoons or later in January to open up options

Allegra: We should probably keep it weekdays too.

VI. Winter Study Project Brainstorming

Marcus: You've all got projects.

[See spreadsheet for ideas.]

Marcus: Let's get Mt. Greylock student government to come. We can reach out to CLIA, and that seems in the same vein as Allegra's suggestion to connect with other CCs at other colleges.

VI. Conversation on Night with CC

Marcus: We want to communicate as to what exactly cc is for. I'll speak, others can speak, and we'll plan on it being in Goodrich.

Ben: That could be the first winter study workshop to kick off the programming.

VII. Marcus on Stress/Speaker Series

Marcus: This should really be a two-way conversation, and we could work on getting a three-part speaker series started

Michelle: Could that be a part of Claiming Williams day?

VIII. Announcements and Open Time

Josemaria: College reps should get out entrepreneurship information through emails/Facebook.

Ben: We should compile a list of things we want to update/send out to classes.

Marcus: Some of you came to the diversity conversation, those will continue. We're still trying to figure out how many members there will be on the committee, but only ten people actually sent in emails. We spoke about the involvement from the board of trustees, and there's some misconceptions about who exactly they are. President Falk has organized an open forum with the board for next time they're on campus. There are misconceptions on both sides, but we really just want to talk. that's a great opportunity, and we need to get that information out. That email will go out from falk, but we need to publicize too. It needs to be respectful and informed.

Tyrone: For the video series, we should do a Jimmy Kimmel-style candid on the street responses

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM