

WILLIAMS COLLEGE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:31 PM

I. Introduction/Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Last Week's Minutes		
Motion By:	Alyssa	
Seconded	Ashish	
18	0	0

II. Budgets

Alyssa: Asian Club hoped to go make a trip that they usually do, but they haven't secured any funding yet. So we recommended tabling them as their numbers were a little fuzzy. Water Polo women requested funding for a tournament, and what we've approved reflects that. Eminence – we approved funding for their website but not their print costs, as those were very expensive and they're just getting started. We approved website and photo costs that they incurred.

Web: We should have a discussion as to if we let them charge us for photos, that's kind of an intrinsic part of a fashion magazine.

Allegra: I agree.

Motion to Table Eminence Funding Until Further Discussion		
Motion By:	Allegra	
Seconded	Ashish	
18	0	0

Allysa: Williams Environmental Club is going to a conference in Yale and they charged for transport and maps, so we approved. Law Society needed transportation to get to a competition with zipcars, so we approved. Haystack asked for three issues worth of their magazine, and we just allocated for one issue. We did provide the full 1500 copies for that issue, though. We also wanted to see if they could get a different, local printing place.

Motion to Approve Budget In Full, Excluding Eminence (the latter is tabled)	
Motion By:	Web
Seconded	Ashish

**Motion to Approve Budget In Full,
Excluding Eminence (the latter is
tabled)**

18	0	0
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III. Visit From Ben Lamb

Ben: I'm here just for a monthly visit to keep you updated on what's going on, and reach out to see if you want any help. One thing we are working on is looking at long-distance travel with student organizations outside of 250 miles.

Michelle: We had spoken about putting student art in the SARC – could we do that?

Ben: There's been some stuff like that in the past and we'd love to see it happen,;it's a great idea but I think anything that happens in the SARC should be in your formal documentation as an organization so nothing falls through when one generation of students that really cares graduates.

Alyssa: Could you touch on the traveling thing you mentioned?

Ben: A huge part of your budgets is spent on long-distance travel for sports organizations. NCAA tournaments get paid for, but any tournaments on the side are paid for by CC. When people drive themselves for long distances, that can be dangerous or a liability. If we set a radius in which students can travel, then we make sure everyone is being safe so we can get charter buses or something like that to take people outside of certain distances.

Web: I think if people had the option not to drive themselves and pay for gas themselves they would definitely do that.

Ben: This is definitely not the end of any conversation, but something that CC ultimately has control over is money (not safety or vehicles or insurance), but money. We also need to collect certain incident reports if something bad happens at those far-away locations, and we really need those reports for safety and regulatory reasons.

Ava: Could you discuss the imbalance that often gets place between varsity and club sports?

Ben: I definitely see where you're coming from, of course varsity sports are a huge part of the campus – a whole department here, but club sports can definitely find equal value in trips that are a little bit closer. We need to get to the core reason that people want to travel to these regions and find a really good one; it's often just better weather.

Michelle: Is senior week fully subsidized now?

Ben: OSL's budget did not increase, but we're looking at a lot of senior events (last chance dance, the senior brunch, etc.) and trying to do what we can within the absolute budget we have. However, they may need to be some fundraising to pay for peripheral costs.

Michelle: What about First Fridays?

Ben: First and last First Fridays are pretty expensive – 5000 dollars each, and the rest of First Fridays firts within a smaller budget. Some First Fridays did get canceled, but the money that is leftover from those got spent toward other events by ACE.

Marcus: Could we discuss the possibility of class t-shirts or apparel?

Ben: We don't have any extra money for that, but CC could absolutely take it on. It'd probably be around a \$10,000 cost.

Allegra: We can probably speak to admissions, they provided shirts during previews.

Ben: Definitely worth inquiring with admissions.

IV. Visit From Max Harmon

Max: During January, we got 300 signatures on a beef petition and had an event for those skeptical of the change, and it had around 100 people. We opened up a forum with those people and generally speaking there was not a lot of dissent regarding the beef change. We did a lot of due diligence and put out the conversation, but there has not been conclusive discourse from an oppositional force. We'd love to have College Council make a resolution and take a stance on the issue, as I think that sets a great precedent regarding action.

Web: I think a resolution would be great, but we could absolutely do a referendum.

Michael: I think a referendum would really help us as CC be is totally and indisputably in alignment with student opinion.

Max: I'd be afraid of putting weight on a referendum in case it sets false precedent due to it not getting enough turnout to pass even if students are in favor.

Marcus: I'd definitely be in support of a resolution.

Katherine: So are we including anything beef-related on the CC ballot?

Michelle: If we decided there should be a referendum at all, it'll be on that ballot. But we're deciding between a resolution and referendum now.

Marcus: We ultimately don't have any fiscal power, so I think a resolution is the best answer. What we say will not have a direct controlling impact on the school's budget, but if make this statement it can have a very actionable rhetorical impact.

Tyrone: I'm in support of a referendum still – it's a minority of the student body, and this really affects the entire student body. Plus, we don't need to rush it to meet this date of the upcoming ballot.

Ned: I agree, we need to keep it very democratic and direct with a digital poll or something like that.

Yasick: I think there's a root cause of lack of voter turnout that we should address rather than trying to work around that – we should put it out there.

Annika: Having something like this might actually attract people to vote.

V. Votes on Amendment Proposals

Motion to Approve Gender Pronoun Amendment for Student Body Vote		
Motion By:	Ben	
Seconded	Ashish	
18	0	0

Motion to Approve Executive Board Amendment for Student Body Vote		
Motion By:	Michael	
Seconded	Allegra	
18	0	0

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:31 PM
(EARLY FOR TOWN HALL EVENT)**