Associated Students of Claremont McKenna College

Senate
February 9th, 2014

Highlights: *(Find the matching color within the minutes for more information)*

- **Dean Huang & Dean Spellman – Events of January 31st**
  - Discussion of admission statistics
  - Discussion of decisions made on January 31st
- **ASCMC Restructure Proposal**
  - Considering changing the event planning branch of the executive board

Call to Order: 9:02pm

1. Approval of Minutes
   A. Approved

2. **Dean Huang & Dean Spellman – Events of January 31st**
   A. Admissions Statistics
      i. Big increase in applications
      ii. SAT Scores increased
      iii. Success of college overall, people understand how great this college is.
      iv. Lower and lower admission rate. Worried that high school counselors will discourage people from applying because of the difficulty and unpredictability.
         - Different from Stanford and Ivies, because in liberal arts colleges we’re lumped between military academies. They lump us differently in U.S. World & News report
      v. Applications Received, not Applications – not all components are always here
      vi. Applications have only been “certified” back to 2004
      vii. Freshmen only, not transfers
      viii. Financial Aid: $65M imperative out of $100M
         - Includes funds & pledges
         - How much? Dean Huang does not totally know, usually from individual donors who are enthusiastic about giving
      ix. How much of incoming class is ED?
         - 165ish ED admits, similar to last year. Not sure for sure because ED2 coming out this week, and have to decide the size of the freshman class.
      x. Has there been any talk of changing the numbers of admits for RD/ED based on yield?
         - Admit about 9.5% of applicants overall. Recently, yield rate is much higher than expected. Background of model has previous yield rate models.
      xi. Can you talk about those 8 theories about why we’re doing so well and the plans for keeping it that way?
         - The good hard work of the people who care so much about this institution
         - Campus looks a lot better than it did a few years ago
         - While the supply of domestic high school graduates is the same, the supply of international students who want to come to CMC goes up. That said, still have domestic increased
         - 2015 HS seniors and parents expect measurable outcomes for cost and effort you put in, CMC good at that
         - International students when looking at 5Cs look at CMC and Mudd because they focus on specific programs that are very strong in
         - Claremont colleges in general are doing very well
People are tired of winter

What percentage of applications are international?

1000ish applications this year were international

Aside the structural facilities that hold us from growing, is there any plan to increase student numbers because of interest?

The competing factors against growth

- Distilling of unique experience with more students
- Ramp up endowment support, ratios of faculty/student, dollars/student, have to build more
- Claremont colleges have a constitutional limit for how many they can enroll at the colleges. Not there yet, but close to it. Claremont presidents can vote to increase that.
- What is the optimal size? Worry that once you go past it, hard to go back down.

1226 Undergraduates is the predicted

How much higher is ED rate than RD rate?

- A lot... in the 30s. Those EDing here have done a lot of homework on us, they know they’re a good fit. Self-select in that they really know they want CMC.
- Some will be pushed to regular decision because it’s too close – but we try to avoid that.

Is there a difference in the admit rate of domestic vs. international, and how’s financial aid?

- Admit rates are similar, international students are currently 19% of student population.
- If you come from a country where English is not your first language, have to take the TOEFL. CMC likes 100+ as a score, and the application goes through the writing center and we find out if we can or cannot work with them.
- Many of the sources of financial aid that domestic students use, international students are not eligible for because of tax forms and such. We do not guarantee financial aid to international applicants. We still try to fund them if possible, sometimes use the merit scholarships for international students. Most of them are full-paying.
- Only about 40% of student population is currently receiving financial aid. It used to be 50%, people asking questions.

Why did I get into CMC and not Pomona, when the acceptance rate was so much lower?

- You could also ask it the other way around!
- Pomona’s rate is about 12% (not confirmed). They have a bigger entering class and more spots. Really it’s about the fit of the college.
- Dean of Admission does meet with the deans of the other colleges and sharing numbers and how they’re doing, but don’t talk a lot about strategy. Do partner up on Claremont colleges receptions and some international travel.

Number of applications received/accepted for students that identify as African-American

Information is online – if it’s not there, talk to Jennifer Sandoval-Dancs

Applications of CA vs. West Coast vs. East Coast

- Get a lot for CA. Doing exceptionally well in certain urban/surburban pockets, not so well in rural areas. It’s becoming a hot school in some places like Connecticut.

B. January 31st

- Sent email out with information to students. Included explanation of what we saw and the steps that we took.
- We had a clustering of students, some driven by alumni reunion events, some not. RA’s were checking in on event, saw it wasn’t following all the interim guidelines. Sent this out to students 2 days before event. Explain concerns, no one thing triggers actions, but watching momentum of events on campus. Paying attention to number of students, alcohol presence, rowdiness. When enough symptoms are going together to create a large uncontrolled event, we try to separate it. Bauer steps were having a party, RA’s trying to disperse people amongst different lounges. Asked Kari for help, who then called Dean Spellman. Used campus safety to help
disperse. Nothing was happening. At that point, Chodosh and Huang were alerted. If CPD needs to be called, then let's have them gently help disperse. Came up with a plan to disperse the students, mostly it caught students off guard.

iii There was an allegation that police had some interactions with students regarding why they were being on campus, some regarding racial comments, and as much as the Deans try to find out the details of the information, no one is coming forward. No way to verify the information because no one is coming forward about it.

iv I get that many of you are concerned that what you want to do is stand around, socialize, talk to others. It's not about the few that night who got out of control. Totally get it. The danger is that it's not always that clean. As you know, there's people who bring hard alcohol and do dangerous and dark things. You may have seen people taken advantage of. What I've been doing for a long period of time is look out for the safety of our students. At the end of the day, it's the 300+ students hanging out. I've had people crying in my office on a Monday from being sexually assaulted or humiliated in other ways. These things are preventable which is why we have the interim guidelines.

v The interim guidelines were built to allow these casual gatherings. It's okay to have small groups of informal gatherings. But once it gets to a point that it's unsafe, we have to step in. Most of what you do on a regular basis is not okay, but the interim guidelines make it okay. Once you push these guidelines we have to do something it makes it not okay.

vi Questions
▷ On Saturday, when you were observing the situation, how much input did you get from the RA's on duty, and did they give you any feedback or advice on police, and ultimately agree or disagree?
  • They agreed because they were getting zero cooperation from the crowd. They may individually have different opinions but they were frustrated with what was going on, they acknowledge that some people weren't doing anything wrong, but the few disrupting.
▷ It seemed like a big part of what was going on had to do with alumni that were there. That was a point of contention because they felt like the RA's didn't have jurisdiction over them. Do you have action plans to deal with non-students, like townie's or alum that become variables in events like this? Since they were a part of the danger.
  • We were close to calling the police the first Thursday of the semester. There were both alums and students that were problematic. It's true, we don't have a conduct process for alums, but their behavior is a lot more severe if they get arrested, they can be banned from campus, there are a lot of options that we don't want to encounter.
  • On the one hand they went to school here, want to connect, some know current students. We have to give them a little bit of room, but also hope they'll play along nicely. We'll have them arrested if necessary. No patient for townies! They have no real expectation of ownership of this college.
▷ What about people's actions were obnoxious or belligerent?
  • Interim guidelines ask for small and manageable groups. RA's were trying to disperse and no one was cooperating, asked camp sec for help. We were hoping just having police present would help and slow things down. In the 10 minutes that the police were sitting on the quad, the gathering grew by about 100 people.
  • The email did say some specifics about actions
▷ Interim guidelines: In terms of sexual assault, it can be easier to happen in smaller groups. What are some of the other dangers besides not being able to walk through the group?
  • Worry about amount of people we can fit into spaces. Worry about medical problems for people drinking a lot of alcohol. Your best friend is the most sober person who can take care of you.
• There are less than 100 people in this room. One person cannot keep an eye on what’s going on in this one room. Like smaller social gatherings. On that Saturday night, at first the RA's said it followed the guidelines, and 10 minutes later they said it was growing and they couldn't get it under control.
• Other complication is no light.
▷ First Thursday camp sec went through with lights to disperse the people. What can the police do that camp sec cannot?
• Camp sec was trying to disperse the crowd for an hour before police came.
▷ Mention of ASCMC party that no one came to. Sometimes it's very difficult with the fencing and such that while we understand it's necessary, students don't want to go.
• When I got here, the same rules about fencing existed, and they had hundreds of people at the Bauer steps. I don't actually know what happened evolution wise to make people not go. The only difference is that students decided that they can't have fun in the main party.
• The only change was that we have controlled access and checked the other entrances to the lounge. I get that it's a change around the dorm and res life parties.
• We are looking for good ideas though! Helps the college, ASCMC, and the students.
• We created the Party Zone space to provide a better place to have parties that would be easy. Didn't have time over the summer to do it as fully as we wanted to. Several students working with Devon and Kari to get ideas and make it more of a space that you'd actually want to use.
▷ What else can we do to be more effective at dispersing the crowd?
• Students should think about it – because it's your friends!
▷ We think that there's a lot that could have been done before calling the police to help disperse. A lot of students did not interact with RA's or camp sec, a lot of people's first interaction was the police megaphone. A lot of people also heard “go to your dorm” rather than “disperse”, and it's not a very effective tool to communicate.
▷ Hypothetically, if everyone did attend the Bauer party, but after the party ended, and people were just hanging out in NQ, would you have called the police again?
• Apply the interim guidelines – if it's a crowd that's overall chilling without all the issues, then we can still watch that and let it be.
▷ When you say someone called you, did you wake up in the middle of the night, is someone on duty?
• Kari was on campus on duty. There's always a Dean on call when the office is closed. Dean Spellman was on call and she oversees all on call deans. She came to campus, and she called Dean Huang. Not on call to be on party patrol, the main issue is to be there when there's a crisis involving a student.
▷ “The interim guidelines were established with input from students”, what was the extent of that input? Did anyone besides RA's and Exec Board have a say?
• Eric Vos did it over the summer and worked with Exec and RA's, not sure to what extent or how other students were involved. November-December 2013 w/ Exec Board. We never intended for these interim guidelines to be present a year and a half later. Mirza summit and personal & social responsibility made this take longer.
▷ Some frustration as students, we see the deans and RA's enforcing a lot on crowds. And anecdotally don't see people injured standing in north quad, but more people get hurt by glass in NQ when alone with a few friends.
• A lot of broken glass comes from the crowds, and we don't see it until later when someone gets injured.
▷ We obviously worry about broken glass, but personally we've had experiences calling camp sec or story house will clean up broken glass. Even Monday and Friday mornings.
• If you find that experience again email Spellman or Vos and we'll follow up

▷ Is there any plan going forward to review the guidelines before finalizing them, in terms of police and such?
• The guidelines are the protocol, and we call the police when you get to that level.

▷ One of the things that concerns me the most is the fact that camp sec is inefficient and doesn't seem to be doing their job at all. If they can't break up a party, what happens when there's a real emergency on campus and they can't do anything?
• CMC oversees 1/7th of centralized services like campus safety. Hard time adjusting to collegiate environment. Went through period of time where we found an interim director from La Verne and he's only been with us since November. He's a candidate for a permanent one. It's a tough job getting someone who wants to work here. Have 7 bosses who don't always agree. Dealing with a lot of alcohol and people who do own the campus. Culture of disrespect to campus safety. Multitude of problems, feeling better in improvement on campus safety. We're all trying to get this better

▷ Feels a little hypocritical when a lot of us are trying to not cause a problem, that's when actions are taken, but when real safety is harmed – like a suite broken into – no one hears back and nothing is done.

▷ What we want most is to have more liberty at parties. We need to build a stronger relationship of trust between students and DOS. Would like to start a student initiative to promote responsible drinking and partying. A lot of times in big groups that mentality takes over and everything we know goes out the window. Want responsible decision making to be apparent and prevalent in every day life all 4 years. We have to show the administration that we are responsible.

• President Chodosh, when he built the Social and Personal Responsibility project, trying to build in to that. Try not to create your own track because then it becomes complicated. Try to click in, there's a specific committee for alcohol. Separate from ASCMC's social responsibility pledge. Talk to Dean Weyman.

• Not all students lose all self control in group settings. Students do hold on to important responsible parts of themselves. Not everyone knows how to party responsibly because some don't

▷ CPD tried to disperse the crowd, is there anything that can better be done rather than floodlights and loud speakers?
• Dean Spellman thinks this is better because they didn't have to go into the actual crowd and arrest people. Trying to get the crowd to disperse non-confrontational. Gently disperse.

C. Mid-Quad Construction
  i You're going to have a kitchen in the new residence hall “Claremont Hall” between Benson and Berger. Decompressing the occupancy of Stark to give back some lounge space. Moving one of the 2 Stark RA's into Claremont Hall. No bathrooms in Claremont Hall, have to go to Berger and Benson. Open air courtyard!

D. Athenaeum
  i Director retired last year, have committee starting to meet and review applications and find a new director.

E. Career Services
  i Have people in Heggblade and a few in RDS. Starting to have some conversation to merge and blend the services by having them work a little more together and efficiently than they have in the past.

F. Working to create Sexual Assault resource center
  i Dean Spellman to be sending Will a survey, that's quick and easy survey about some aspects of the new center. Dean Spellman will be back next week to get more specific input. All Deans of
different colleges meeting with student governments to get inputs. If you have a group that you’d like Dean to come to in order to gather feedback please reach out, trying to reach out to more people.

3. **Wigo Application**
   A. Dispensed

4. **Board Updates**
   A. Dispensed

5. **ASCMC Restructure Proposal**
   A. Executive board considering proposal to change event-planning branch.
   B. Proposing VP of Student Life, generally elected position
      i. Under them, 4 event commissioners (likely appointed to have diversity among event commissioners), DAC, and director of event security.
         ▷ DAC will now focus only on dorm life rather than TNCs. Dedicated to ensuring that dorm presidents were well-equipped for throwing events.
         ▷ Event commissioners would replace social chairs, they would all be responsible for all types of events, wet and dry. Very difficult as full time student to throw parties every week.
   C. Event commissioners would go through the process of elections committee just like CFO and exec sec
   D. The current SLC works to plan dry events,

6. **Open Forum**
   A. Dispensed

7. **Closing Remarks**

Adjourn: 10:29pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mica Laber
Secretary of the Senate