Associated Students of Claremont McKenna College

Senate
October 5th, 2015

Call to Order: 9:05 pm

Meeting Overview:

Sign in

1. Senate Committee Chair Updates
   a. Campus Improvements: Gender Inclusive Housing
   b. Tech and Innovation: Senate Communication

2. Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable 2 Update

3. Open Forum

Adjourn

1. Senate Committee Chair Update
   A. Campus Improvements: Gender Inclusive Housing
      i. Thomas: "We assume most housing on CMC is going to be gendered, but this might not be the case. Reached out to a Dean at HMC and talked about the way that they do it."
         ▶ All housing for people who aren't first years is gender neutral. You can ask for gendered housing but by default it's all gender inclusive.
            • This flips the norm.
            • Creates a more open environment
         ▶ If you asked for gendered housing, you would have a gendered room and a gendered bathroom.
         ▶ We don't have specific data on how many people want gender neutral, but also there are issues with asking for this information.
            • Problems with a survey
            • This year's data cannot be used to determine a long term solution.
         ▶ Any issues they had encountered?
            • Had been some cases where two people had asked to live together who had been dating, and then had broken up etc
            • But this could happened with gendered rooms too
            • Bathrooms?
            • People can request gender-neutral housing but ask for gendered bathrooms.
            • Technically, HMC could deny the request for gendered bathrooms
             • But we feel this should be an automatic yes
         ▶ How does this work for first years?
            • Parents concerns are more prevalent here
            • Automatically placed in gendered housing.
            • Does this clash with CMC's 20% freshman in each dorm rule?
         ▶ Combined spaces like NQ could be gender neutral.
            • This could alleviate the “Sophomore boys in NQ” problem.
            • This could also create problems with the 20% rule too.
            • But also need to keep our campus diverse by age groups.
            • CMC’s current system does still give a lot of weight to seniority, which inherently creates clusters of different classes.
            • “There is data that shows that when a dorm is male heavy, there’s higher rate of dorm damages etc”
         ▶ Let's keep this conversation about what we want to see ideally, and not worry so much about the logistics
3. Open Forum

A. Can we send out the D&I notes?
   i  These conversations are very nuanced and are very candid and sending these notes out dilutes the conversation.
   ii Out of respect for people who come to the meetings, we can’t change the protocol and makes these open notes.

2. Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable 2 Update

A. Met 10/4, around 15 people showed up.
B. Concrete discussion of what the next steps were
   i What do we envision for this position?
   ii The traits that the position requires?
   iii Up Next: How do you screen for those traits? //Application questions
C. These meetings are open: Email Iris if you want to get involved!
D. Goal: Have this finalized by appointments in the Spring/next Exec Board.

B. Tech and Innovation: Senate Communication

i After discussing communication tools, we decided that we liked a program called Glip.
   ▶ Similar to Slack
   • Different groups (committees!) that you can set up in addition to a public forum
   • Private messaging
   • Assign tasks which then appear on a schedule
   • Creates accountability
   • Transparency
   • Where do we want to go from here?
   • Aman: “Senate Cabinet has been communicating using Slack. We're trying to get one communication platform so that senators, committee leaders, etc can stay engaged and informed. Facilitate communication outside of Senate. Do an opt in beta run, and then discuss next week again. Send out an email with more information.”

2. Student Engagement: Attitudes on AOD Policy Survey

i Most people had read at least some or all of the FAQs and full policy.
ii Campbell: “The survey presented a mixed collection of results. Roughly 90% of respondents had read the policy of FAQs, and answered as well informed participants. The majority of participants fell in the moderate range of answers (a step in the right or wrong direction), with 62% of the entire participant pool having negative feelings about the survey, both moderate and extreme. In spite of mostly negative responses, the majority of students expressed support on the idea of promoting responsibility at parties and as a result, plans on attending event host training.
   ▶ We don’t want to publish this as an informal poll, but rather create a full-fledged report that takes into account the caveats.
iii This survey gives us some backup and gives us hard numbers in our arsenal when communicating to the administration.
   ▶ Let's not talk about NQ because it's a different scenario.
iv Student Engagement is talking about ways to inform other people about Senate
   ▶ “Private Reddit”
   • Upvote/Downvotes

Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable 2 Update

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Logistical issues: not all bathrooms have full length doors.
   • If this is proposal that people agree with, there could be a move towards renovation, but we could switch the dorms with the full length doors right now.
   • All Mid Quad dorms could currently do this except Crown.
   • Lets not talk about NQ because it’s a different scenario.
   • Marks only has one bathroom per floor.
   • We could also make all of Marks Gender Inclusive.

We can’t have a vote per hall because it overpowers the choices of the minorities.
iii  Any proposed mission statements and semi-formalized thoughts will be presented to the student body before being set in stone.
iv  Even if we black out peoples names, we don’t want to have people speculate over who said what.
v  Productivity of meeting depends on people who are dedicated to the cause and not people who are vaguely interested.
vi  Limiting of the notes to the people who are really involved and engaged.
vii  Anyone can be a part of this roundtable if you email Iris and ask to be involved.

▷ You will then be responsible to being a part of the conversation and being sensitive to all of the other opinions that are being expressed.

Meeting adjourned 10:03 pm
Submitted Respectfully,
Tanvi Gandham
Secretary of the Senate