SGA Minutes 12/4/16

I. Attendance
Senator Cohen and Co-Chair Pesqueira are absent.
All other Senators are present.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes
Senator Lantigua: “Motion to accept the minutes from last week.”
Motion is seconded.
12-0-3
Senators McCormick, Andrews and Schoel abstained from the vote.
The minutes from last week are accepted and recorded.

III. Announcements
President Toy reads a letter from Co-Chair Pesquira which outlines that he will be stepping down from his Co-Chair duties and wishes the Senate the best for their upcoming year. President Toy following reading the letter talks about the special election that will occur in January. An email will first be sent out January 11th and then there will be the mandatory meeting. If any of the Senators know someone who is interested but can’t make the mandatory meeting they should email Andrew Smith. By January 15th, they need 200 signatures and a statement of intent and then the election will be held January 18th- 19th. President Toy will take on the Co-Chair’s responsibility until then. President Toy asks if any Senators have any questions.

Senator McCormick asks if they will only have one week to get all the signatures and if that is enough time.

President Toy states that it will be J-Term so they will “have more time” and also they can collect 200 signatures in the Dining Hall easily.

President Toy urges Senators to take the Financial Aid and to keep sending information on it to their constituents. They are looking for a 33% response rate and the survey takes as little as 5 minutes.

Beginning next term, the Arts and Crafts room will be moved to the first floor suite of the Student Activities office. There will be a new sign and it will have the hours listed on the window.

President Toy gives an update on MiddSpeaks and talks about how they are discussing the idea of a multiple “flag dome.”

President Toy motions to form an Ad Hoc committee that will look more into ideas about MiddSpeaks and present to the trustees at the end of J-Term. This will require emails over break.
Motion is seconded.
15-0-0
Ad-Hoc committee is formed and will comprise of President Toy and Senators Duran, Wright, Schoel and Aaron.
Junior Senators talk about EatReal feedback being “majority” positive and they say there is a “60/40 divide.”

Senator Aaron asks about where she should direct her constituents if they have questions about EatReal. She is told that the best would be the clubs email.

IV. **New Business**

Larson Lovdal, a Super-Senior Feb, presents the Senate with an update about the Ian Burgin Memorial Lodge. He states that through the generous approval of the SGA, they used the forty thousand dollars allocated to the Memorial Lodge to help rebuild this space, and immortalize Burgin’s love for the outdoors. After final approvals, the Lodge started construction in August and then was finally “finished” and dedicated in November of this year. Lovdal talks about the dedication as being a touching ceremony that included Burgin’s mother, sister, best friend and where there were loving tributes given. Lovdal states that the Fire Chief is coming on December 8th and then after that it will be available through Ideal Logic for students, faculty and alum to book. There is a nominal 10 dollar fee per night to “create investment” for the space so students are reserving it and actually using it. He also states that the Lodge will be used as a warming hut and also the mountain club is looking forward to using it. He finishes the conversation by stating that there is a website for the Memorial Lodge and urges the community to get outside and enjoy it.

President Toy states that she was sent pictures of the Memorial Lodge and will put these pictures on the Senate slack.

SGA Cabinet updates.

First the Finance committee. The Finance Committee has had numerous meetings and are in a “healthy position to financial stability.” The committee has also added three new younger members. There was decrease in the amount of clubs that requested funds, 15 in total. The committee is now looking at club sports funding and how to address that framework. They are also looking at Financial Aid and how it applies to the larger community.

The Student Org committee has has about six meetings and there have been 12 new organization submissions where 3 have been approved so far. They are looking at moving the bike shop and over the last Semester oversaw and reviewed the new constitutions to the ICVF club. They plan on spending the next Semester looking at reviewing more student orgs.

The Education committee are looking into midterm course evaluations. They are also working on talking about the advising system and drafting a student/faculty expectations list. They are hoping to get faculty input soon and they are working on a database of upperclassmen that can be used as mentors to help underclassmen with majors and questions. Also they are looking at textbook prices and are looking into ways to get cheaper textbooks by using other resources.
The Publicity Committee began by putting up the profiles on the new Senators and will update again in J-Term with any replacements. They are looking into making a ACTR bus pamphlet and publicity of SGA sponsored events. Then they are looking at boosting posts on social media to have more people see SGA surveys and events.

The Institutional Affairs Committee hired people to help the SGA and made sure those people got paid. Also they are looking into 10 o’clock Ross.

Senator McCormick asks if it's possible to get more crossword puzzles from the NyTimes.

President Toy states that they looked into that possibility but the NyTimes does not offer a possibility for Institutions.

Senator Aaron asks for an update about 10 o’clock Ross.

There doesn’t seem to be any huge problems but really it can’t push the Ross Dining Staff too much because they don’t allow much.

The Institutional Committee supported Miguel Fernandez and his office. The committe also planned and put on a Student Leadership Conference and are looking to get a better turnout next semester. However, they had a good turnout for the student and faculty panel on discussing the post-election climate. They are are looking to collaborate with more students and organizations.

The Athletic Affair Committee had two big things this semester. The first was a meeting with Erin Quinn where they discussed finances and club sports. The second is the continuing efforts to interview all teams at Middlebury and compiling that information to be published in The Campus during J- Term. They are also organizing a superfan event to get more people excited about athletic events on campus. Also, they note that many athletes are upset about Dining Hall time changes especially Proctor being closed at 4 now. They also looked into a skate rental program and an intro to the gym program that will be taught over J-Term.

The Environmental Affairs committee is looking at having a carbon neutrality forum so more students can learn about carbon neutrality. Also they are working with EatReal’s petition and working on a possible native landscaping project on campus. They are also looking into having laundry detergent free zones and having the Ian Burgin Memorial Lodge as a outdoor space of healing.

The Health and Wellness Committee is welcoming a new Co-Director next semester after the previous one left the position. The Committee is looking into different techniques of mindfulness and programs like green dot and stress reduction.

The External Affairs committee is looking to just work with BMP the Better Middlebury Partnership to work on town events like the Chili Fest and Midd Night Stroll which will be this Thursday. Also looking into bike safety for around the community.
After the final reflections, President Toy asks the Senators to reflect on their positive, fun stories, and tips for next semester.

Senator Pustejovsky states that the meetings went really well and everyone was respectful and had a lot to talk about.

Senator Boyle agrees with Senator Pustejovsky and states the Senate has been very “efficient.”

Senator Duran poses a question about how he can better communicate with his constituents.

Senator Schoel states there could be a possible idea about hanging out outside of Dining Halls to talk to people.

Senator Aaron states that weekly emails work really well for her.

Other Senators state that being “informal”, adding fun facts to the end of the email, or a funny photo can be added to emails to get constituents to read them.

There is also a call to have Laurie Patton at a meeting. President Toy states that the Senate will have lunch with her next semester.

There is a motion to adjourn.

The motion is seconded.

15-0-0

The meeting is adjourned.