SGA Minutes 4/17/17

I. Attendance
   Senator Waddell has sent a proxy.
   Senator Wright, Duran, Ou, Fleischer, Cohen, Lantigua and Co-Chair Sanderson are not present and have not sent a proxy in their place.
   All other senators are present for today’s meeting.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes
   Senator Pustejovsky motions to accept the minutes from last week.
   The motion is seconded.
   8-0-1
   Senator Waddell’s proxy abstains from the vote.
   The motion passes and the minutes from the previous week are recorded.

III. Announcements
   President Toy reminds the senators to check their emails and possibly RSVP to a lunch with President Patton at her house if they can make it. President Toy also reminds the body that Staff Appreciation Day is Thursday and to urge people to volunteer for the video they are making. She also reminds the body about the upcoming election and to urge people to vote because there are a lot of positions open for next year’s senate. President Toy defers to Jin Sohn.
   Sohn reminds the body that there is an event at Redfield Proctor for Preview Days from 6 to 7 pm. Hopefully this event will help senators connect with high schoolers who are interested in Middlebury and SGA.

IV. Old Business
   President Toy introduces the Constitutional Reform bill. She admits that she does feel “kinda weird” about voting on the bill with such little people present at the meeting but she would like to move forward on the discussion of the bill. She states that people have had enough time to read it and she has not heard any negative feedback. She reiterates that the bill is mostly “rephrasing stuff” and making it more coherent. The bill iterates that the body will not meet on holidays and the inter-house senator is removed. President Toy asks if there are any questions.
   The proxy for Senator Waddell, Charles Rainey, states that he has a problem with the decision regarding the Co-Chair position and how the decision did not include input from those on community council. He states that he would just like to “give agency” to the Community Council body since it affects them too.
   President Toy defers to Doug Adams who discusses the election process and the role of the SGA. He states that it is an important conversation to have about the role of the SGA and Community Council but that it is the role of the SGA to have the power to discuss and vote on topics like the Co-Chair position.
Rainey agrees that it is an important conversation to have but he just wants to make the point about where the agency lies when it comes to decisions like this.

Senator Pustejovsky states that the Co-Chair was here during the meetings and this was never brought up as an issue.

Rainey states that he would just like to have had “a full conversation” regarding the issue of the Co-Chair and the decision making. He confronts a “grey area” that lies between the SGA and the Community Council. He finishes by stating that he just wants to make sure all conversations are beneficial and inclusive.

President Toy asks Rainey if there is anything specific in the bill on the table “that alarms you.”

Rainey states that his comments might “not necessarily be relevant” to the bill on the table but it is an important conversation to be had.

President Toy agrees and then shifts the conversation towards any more questions regarding the bill.

Senator McCormick questions the ratification and process and what the bill states about that.

President Toy states that the ratification will apply be the same rules just eliminating redundancies in language.

Rainey questions the ratification of the cabinet positions of the president and remembers how “quickly” it is and if this should be continued. He proposes maybe a two week period for cabinet members to be ratified so senators can make sure they agree with the cabinet choices.

President Toy states that she thinks it is an important conversation to have but that she does not want to put it into this bill. However, she does think it would be an important conversation to have. She continues to talk about the bill on the table and states that the bill now says that bills need to be submitted at least 48 hours before the meeting so the agenda can be set too.

Senator Wilson asks about being absent for two meetings and the way that would influence a junior senator position for one semester.

President Toy states that the policy is reflective over a senator's term in office so it would only be for a semester.

Senator Aaron motions to vote.  
Motion is seconded.  
All in favor of voting.  
9-0-0  
The motion passes and President Toy reminds the body that it will be in the upcoming election.

Senator Pustejovsky motions to table the Protest Policy Reform bill.  
The motion is seconded.  
8-1-0
Senator Waddell's proxy votes against.
The motion passes and the bill is tabled.

President Toy introduces the Bylaws Amendment bill and states that it does not have to be passed urgently. It is pretty much looking at cabinet positions and making sure they are consistent with the way things actually run. She states that two roles in the cabinet will be moved in favor of a paid position hired by the Director of Institutional Affairs. It also gets rid of a clause about the SAF and the CPI number.

Senator Pustejovsky asks a clarifying question about the Student Health and Wellness positions.
President Toy clarifies that there is a Sexual Health and Relationship Director and a Student Health and Wellness Director.

Senator Pustejovsky motions to table.
The motion is seconded.
9-0-0
The bill is tabled.

There is a motion to adjourn.
The motion is seconded.
9-0-0
The motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.