SGA Meeting: January 30, 2014

• Nick motions to approve the minutes, motion passes
• Dr. Bonner’s Amazing Speech:
  o I appreciate the obvious professionalism of this group
  o You are a great legislative body and you look great!
  o The role of SGA:
    ▪ The most important one: represent the interests and well-being of the students at large to the administration and specifically, to me
    ▪ The most direct interaction I have with students is through my meetings with the SGA president
    ▪ Ashley has been a great representation of your interests, and she always makes our meetings
  o Projects going on on-campus to be aware of:
    ▪ On the front corner of campus at the stoplight, we are going to be installing a video screen to display events
    ▪ The bridge at the lake is definitely a go, and we have the environmental clearance now to do that
    ▪ We will be extending campus lighting all the way around Stadium Drive, as well as adding sidewalks and repaving the road, done mostly by the state of NC—will probably begin in the summer
    ▪ Planning is underway for new signs all over campus to replace the “awful looking white signs” that were never intended to be permanent
    ▪ I would like to ask your assistance with something: we are proposing to the trustees a more inclusive planning process (including a planning group of faculty, staff, and students) **SGA will be appointing 3 students to that group
  o Questions:
    ▪ Josh J: Could you clarify the focus of the planning council? They will be reviewing the University’s mission statement and modify the strategic plan and issues facing the university, such as affordability and other changes due to state and national changes in higher education. They will then submit a new plan to the board of trustees and when it is passed, it will be the new plan
    ▪ Jacob: Will campus lighting be added in the Bost/LYCC parking lot? I know there are still gaps in our lighting, and we will be working on that—we need to find a way to walk around at night to see where the trouble spots are
    ▪ Nick R: Are there any plans of paving the commuter lot by Hardees? Unfortunately, that lot belongs to Hardees—we would love to buy that Hardees plot of land, but at the current time, we can’t do anything about it. If they are losing money, the best thing they could do would be to give it to GWU and take the tax break
    ▪ Seth: Will the new sign be the same size as the current one at the LYCC entrance? No, it will be much bigger and have a brick masonry enclosure—it will be very attractive
    ▪ Rick: What is the power of SGA? The power is informal in that you are the voice of the students, which is enormously important to the board and myself. I am very interested in what the students have to say, especially what is necessary for the students’ well-being. GWU is committed to being a student-centered
university—the Tucker center was demonstrative of how important students are on this campus

- Evan: What happens to all the old memorabilia, such as signs etc.? If it is something that can still be used somewhere, we will still use it, but as much as possible, we will transition into the new look—we want to get the university more widely known
- Connor: How is the progress on the new pool? Honestly, none, I’m sorry. I want it to happen, but it just hasn’t at this point.

• The “other” President’s Report:
  - o Dr. Bonner talked about most of what I would have said
  - o Update on the poopberry trees: it was a long time coming, Christmas break was a convenient time for it to happen
  - o Plan for the next meeting: go over the student body survey in detail
  - o Dr. Bonner really is always available for students, but I meet with him every 2 weeks, so please let me know if you have anything you want me to say to him

• Treasurer’s Report:
  - o George is sick
  - o Delton says: annual budgeting is coming up really soon, don’t procrastinate on that, it’s a lot to do for those of you on the Funding Council

• Junior Senator Replacement:
  - o Mariah is appointing Christy Apisa: junior major in Sociology and she’s great and the junior class would be honored to have her as our representative
  - o Motion passes, welcome Christy!

• Faculty Committee Reports
  - o Athletics: didn’t meet
  - o Curriculum: Zach: went over a 5 year pastoral plan to lump a bachelor’s and master’s degree into one
  - o Library: Nick B: 24/7 hours during exam week was a success; initiative to go green on campus and get rid of printing or make printing charge everywhere on campus
  - o SCLC: no new business, update on bridge
  - o Academic Standards: meeting early February, gonna play catch up

• SGA Committee Reports:
  - o Student Life: Nick R: our goals:
    - automated suggestion box on webbconnect
    - getting printers in Tucker to be accessed with print cards
    - talking to financial aid about getting information out—especially about money owed on student accounts (we went and talked to them about sending it out 2 weeks in advance)
  - o Communications: Anna: our goals:
    - Directory in Tucker in elevator and on each level
    - Improve the TVs in Tucker—aren’t being used effectively, and updating them wouldn’t cost anything
    - Improve communication about student involvement, perhaps video announcements run by the Bennett twins
    - Have a GWU app for smartphones
    - Filming after next week’s meeting for: SGA Dimensions
  - o Special Events: Nancy: our goals:
    - Have a successful senior pinning—April 27th at 4pm
• Set a homecoming theme for next semester
  o Homecoming Meeting: Evan:
    ▪ Set trailer rentals
    ▪ Talked about a theme, but it will have to be voted on within SGA
    ▪ Looked at what other universities did at their homecoming
    ▪ Thinking of expanding homecoming to a week rather than a weekend to get more student involvement

• New Business: Constitution
  o Anna motions to approve, Nick R seconds
  o It’s finally finished!!!

• Announcements:
  o Stephanie Capps: Come to the faculty talent show!
    ▪ The Constitution has been worked on for the past 3 years, so this is a beautiful moment!! Great job everyone!
    ▪ Come to the Diversity and Leadership conference