

Catawba College

Student Government Association

Minutes: October 20, 2011

Cannon Student Center

Congress was called to order by President Yakir Malul on Thursday October 20th, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. We moved Congress earlier to allow students to assist with Homecoming events occurring later in the evening. Cory Klutz and D.J. Colson were not in attendance and Kyle Hendrick and Stephanie Cook were late. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Forum for Concerned Students

Leah Constan-Tatos brought to our attention the need to make business courses a part of the General Education requirement. Dr. Clapp stated that the Economics courses do meet a Gen-Ed requirement, but there is a committee that is working on a new curriculum and we can bring this to their attention. Justin Smith asked whether it would be a possibility to open up evening classes to all students at Catawba. Dr. Clapp said there have been exceptions made in the past for students who cannot possibly take a certain class any other time. Steffanie Jimenez said that evening classes are not covered under financial aid and the costs of day and evening classes are not comparable.

Emerson Thompson stated that the parking tickets are too expensive and that they are often written unfairly. Justin Smith said that he sat on a committee that wrote a recommendation to Congress about parking earlier. Nothing was ever done about it. Some things that were proposed color coding or naming the parking lots, and reducing the ticket fines. Leah suggested that we may separate the lots by grade level. Rachel Cone said that you can get tickets appealed if it was written unfairly, but we should not bend the rules. The parking tickets have legitimate reason to be written. Yakir Malul said that the parking fee is going to upkeep of the parking lots, and may potentially be used to add parking lot spaces. There will be an adhoc committee established to further discuss this issue. Emerson recommended we have a student liaison between public safety and the students.

Leah suggested we have nurses on campus 24-7. Dr. Clapp said that the fire department is permitted to do more than what our nursing staff can, and they respond quickly when called. If there is a medical problem happening the RAs need to be called as well as the appropriate medical personnel. Justin brought up that students would like to have a break down about how much the school spends for renovations and other projects and why it is beneficial to the students. Dr. Clapp recommended that if we want this information we can ask the Board of Trustees at the meeting. There is supposed to be transparency. Trevor Morrison brought up the fact that there are not very many blue lights on campus. Gail Murray agreed that there is poor lighting as well. She said that it had been brought up with the previous president, Dr. Turner, and nothing had been done. Rachel said the Student Issues Committee will take it on. Trevor also was wondering if we could put in security cameras in common spaces to reduce the amount of bad behavior in Residence Halls. Jana Burkhardt will talk to Sarah Rossini about

the policy regarding cameras. Emerson wanted to know if there would be plants going in around Abernathy Village. Sarah Moore recommended he speak with Eric Nianouris or bring it to Student Issues Committee. Emerson also wanted to bring to our attention that each print that a student makes in a school computer lab should not be worth two prints. Rachel Cone stated that other schools do not pay for their student's prints in their labs. It could be much worse. They will further look into this during Student Issues Committee. Finally, Emerson wanted to know why the laundry disappears when you leave it in the laundry room for too long. SGA's goal is to slowly change the culture of Catawba's students and make them better people. This will reduce the amount of worry about stealing, safety, and other concerns.

Justin Smith brought up concern with the 1 minute application that Catawba offers for perspectives to fill up. Steffanie explained that this application does not actually take one minute. It is just a shortened version of the application. It does not include a writing portion, because they can see a student's writing with the writing portions of the ACT/SAT. The admissions staff initially had concerns about the effectiveness of this application in finding well rounded students. They were proven wrong. Our academic standards have gone up with the current Freshman Class.

Executive Board Reports

- A. *President:*** Met with the Executive Board twice this week. Emailed Joanna about the to-go-boxes and it seems as if she did not know why it was taking so long to find a solution. We need to upgrade Black board to make the system work. The Christmas Tree Lighting will be put together by Gail and Yakir since Linda Hamilton, the President of the college's secretary, retired. The Blue Out volleyball game was a success and Wingate's coach said that our team had an unbelievable support system. The budget was increased by \$15,000. Gail and Yakir went to talk to Chuck Williams and he was able to give the SGA more money. We still need to be frugal with it, but we will be able to do more. The Board of Trustees meeting is Monday and Tuesday October 24th and 25th.
- B. *Vice President:*** Thank you to everyone who sat at the Homecoming election tables. Met with Jan Gillean about the possibility of organizations doing one event a year. This is not a good idea, because we want to increase students involvement on campus not decrease it. If it is a struggle clubs can always work with each other to put on an event.
- C. *Treasure:*** You can always ask Gail or your treasure for the breakdown of the budget. The disc golf course is up and running!
- D. *Secretary:*** I am missing minutes from a few groups. Please make sure you are meeting!

Class Reports:

- A. *Senior:*** May consider doing another community service project since everything is completed.
- B. *Junior:*** Will move their event to November. The fundraiser will be selling candy canes for students.

- C. **Sophomore:** Fundraiser will be selling apple cider outside the Book Post in Downtown Salisbury. The scary movie marathon is October 28th at 8pm. The community service at Trinity Oaks is October 27th.
- D. **Freshman:** The pirate movie night is Friday October 21st at 8pm. There will be a bonfire and s'mores and hot chocolate will be served. Wigwam will assist and there will be a homecoming give away.

Committee Reports

- A. **Student Issue Committee (SIC):** The bike racks have arrived and they are working on putting together an event to make students aware of the new racks. The smoking email went out again. Please bring concerns you have to SIC meetings.
- B. **Special Events:** Everything is ready for Homecoming. The dinner with Homecoming court happened before Congress.
- C. **Food Service:** The committee met with Cory Fischer. He is presenting at the Board of Trustees meeting ideas for a total renovation of the cafeteria planned to be completed over the summer. The intention is clear to get a contract renewal. The comments put in the box are posted on the board with the solutions to them. We need to get more people to use the box. The committee will be decorating the board and encouraging students to use it. Having a general discussion about the problems does not solve anything. If there are specific issues we need to bring those up rather than a general complaint about the food being terrible. The kitchen is serving a large number of students who all have different tastes and it is hard to please everyone.

Announcements

Fresh Faces will be put on this weekend as well as Vernaculars concerts. Come out the Homecoming game to show your pride!

Adjourned at 8:41

Rachel Cone moved to adjourn the meeting and Olivia Myers seconded.