

Catawba College
Student Government Association
Minutes: January 31, 2013
Cannon Student Center

A regularly scheduled Congress Meeting was called to order by President Jana Burkhardt
on Thursday January

Forum for concerned students: Woodson bathrooms unclean

I. Executive Board Reports

- A. President: Smoking forum on Tuesday, the majority of the eight students who showed up were in favor of going smoke-free. Board of trustees meeting on Tuesday. March 23rd High School workshop on campus. Everyone should be involved in planning or recruiting students.
- B. Vice President: Executive board elections coming up soon. Election packets distributed on February 25th. Campaigning starts March 13th, Election packets officially due March 15th. March 20th-21st Executive board elections. Class elections April 3rd and 4th.
- C. Treasurer: \$1,599 approved after the first budget hearing, 29 applications for SGA scholarship
- D. Secretary: Minutes

II. Class Reports

- A. Senior: Faithful friends community service planned, St. Patrick's Day event possibility
- B. Junior: Nicolas Sparks Movie Marathon planned for Feb 23rd; Birthday cake fundraiser is going well, faculty and staff to be added to the fundraiser. Community service ideas in the works.
- C. Sophomore: Did not meet since the last congress.
- D. Freshman: Sold concessions at the Edwin McCain concert, brainstorming event ideas.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Student Issues: Nothing new
- B. Food Service: Discussed the possibility of distributing \$50 tuition charge for commuters for the new Starbucks to all students. Corey Fisher didn't think that it would be a possibility.
- C. Parking: No news
- D. Movie Library: No news

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

- A. Report to the Board of Trustees: Smoke- Free Campus
 - i. Explain to board of trustees that we are taking away a right for people in their place of residence at the college. Spelling and grammar corrections were made.

Smoke Free Campus

Student Affairs asked for our help to survey the campus about going smoke free or tobacco free. We helped to survey the students asking how they felt about either scenario. There were 410 respondents to these questions. 76% of the students supported going smoke free and 70% of the students supported going tobacco free. Students who supported this were concerned mostly for the health of the student body. They felt that we would be an overall healthy and green campus. Those who opposed the change were concerned with retention and the fact that it takes away their personal choice. There are not many people who will argue that using tobacco products are healthy, but they are free to make that decision if they choose.

SGA has some concern about the results and the decision to go smoke or tobacco free. The first concern is the way the survey was conducted. At the table next to the survey was black lung and examples of tar build up in the body from smoking. Many members of the SGA believed these votes were coerced and those who smoked would not feel comfortable taking the survey. The second concern is that it would be really hard to enforce. The College currently does not enforce the smoking zones well. This does not encourage Congress, that if we made the transition, that these new regulations will be enforced. It is especially a concern if we went tobacco free, because there is a lack of odor and students could use smokeless tobacco in their room. The last concern was centered on the students' rights to use tobacco products. Members felt that because the use of tobacco products is legal, the College does not have the right to tell them not to use the products. The SGA Congress voted (12 to 7) to oppose going smoke or tobacco free. These concerns outweighed the positives of making this change.

B. Report to the Board of Trustees: Starbucks

- i. Possibility of visiting Queen's University in Charlotte to observe their Starbucks on campus. Faculty and Staff may be included in the \$50 surcharge for the new Starbucks.

Starbucks on Campus

The SGA supports the addition of a Starbucks on campus, which would add fifty dollars to commuter students each semester. There were 417 respondents to the survey questions asking about Starbucks. As expected, 80% of people would like to see the Starbucks, but only 56% of students are supportive of the addition of a declining balance. Many students are weary when the talk of additional costs is the topic of discussion. However, the SGA feels that the addition of the fifty dollars is not too much to add. It is a clear benefit for commuter students, because they are given the basic beginning of a meal plan; something they have to purchase on their own if they want to eat on campus. We feel this may also help to keep students on campus longer that would normally only be there for class and then leave.

VI. Announcements

- A. Next Congress Feb. 7th
- B. Board of Trustees Meeting February 18th and 19th