

Catawba College

Student Government Association

Minutes: February 2, 2012

Cannon Student Center

A regularly scheduled Congress was called to order by President Yakir Malul on Thursday February 2, 2012 at 9:02 p.m. in the Student Government Room in the Cannon Student Center. Quorum was present. Rachel Cone moved to approve the minutes without corrections, and Sarah Devlin seconded.

Forum for Concerned Students: Justin Smith raised a concern about the direction the word “opportunities” was placed on the new banners around school. DJ Colson stated that this is a design used by the campus in the form of bumper stickers. Christian Crifasi asked if the silver rings, that hold the banners on the light posts, can be painted black so they don’t stand out. Olivia Myers recommended that more be placed along the road, because they are to attract attention to the school. DJ said that they got 10 to try, and the school can add more if they wish. Yakir thanked DJ for pursuing his idea for the banners, and successfully carrying out the process.

Executive Board Reports

A. President:

- a. The survey regarding the bookstore was started at 12 pm today, and there are already 115 responses. Yakir met with Ben Smith on Monday to discuss this issue. It is not acceptable that the students were not kept in the loop. It is even more unacceptable that the faculty do not know that this cost will go towards renting books and not buying them. Ben had a draft of a survey to present us. The executive board met to review this, and found leading questions. Yakir and Jana Burkhardt met with the president on Wednesday. Dr. Oxendine made it sound like the bookstore proposal is in the final stages of being instated. He said that there will be a 5% increase in tuition, and that the bookstore fee would be included in that raise.
- b. The executive board had dinner with Dr. Oxendine, Mrs. Oxendine, their son, and Dr. Clapp on Wednesday. Dr. Oxendine is really interested in expanding the college. He would like to change the name to Catawba University. There will be an addition of a graduate nursing program voted on at the next Board of Trustees meeting (February 20, 2012). If this passes than we will be able to make this name change.
- c. There is a really good chance that Winterfest will not take place next year, because of the bad behavior. There is no way to control the entire campus.

B. Vice President: The Mr. and Ms. Catawba committee will be meeting after the February 23rd Congress to make nominations. The Executive Board packets will be available on February 27th.

C. Treasure: The next budgets are due on February 20th.

- D. **Secretary:** Parking Committee met on Wednesday to begin the process. Jana met with Ben Smith about the bookstore proposal. He wants the SGA and Student Affairs to collaborate on this survey. We made the survey and will gather the data. Student Affairs will provide the prizes.

Class Reports

- A. **Senior:** The class gift has been decided on, but will be kept a secret. The birthday cake fundraiser is doing well. They are working on a community service and project and the event together.
- B. **Junior:** Interested in doing lip sync for an event. The brick fundraiser is going well. There are discussions about what to do with Volunteer Catawba.
- C. **Sophomore:** A Super Bowl party will not work. May do an event for the Championship game on April 14th.
- D. **Freshman:** May do Krispe Kreme donuts again as a fundraiser at Catawba-poloza. There is an interest in cleaning up the high way as a community service.

Committee Reports

- A. **Student Issues:** Found a good solution to get the bike racks mounted. They are waiting to meet with facilities, because it does require machinery. There will be a sustainability survey that we should support. March 26th SIC will show a movie about how women are used as sexual objects, and have a discussion board afterwards.
- B. **Food Service:** They are waiting on the Board of Trustees to make a decision about the renovations. Henry “the omelet man” is the baker and he cannot be both effectively. There is an ad out to fill either one of these positions. They will be addressing the cleanliness of the cafeteria during the meal times. The to-go-box system seems to be very effective. Bowls are on the way. The comment box is being used more and more, and there have been solutions to the comments. Justin Smith let Congress know that there will be less lemon juice on the cut up fruits.

New Business

- A. **Recommendation “Potential Book Fee”-** Jana read the recommendation for Congress. Olivia Myers stated that if tuition goes up no matter what then we should keep the fee. Yakir responded to this by saying that we would ask for only a 4% increase in tuition if we go to the Board asking them not to accept this proposal. Rachel Cone said that she did not like the school make the decision to use the bookstore for her. Yakir mentioned that the other materials, like workbooks, online homework, etc., will not be covered in this proposal. This proposal does not benefit the students, but Follet and the school. Christian asked where the money would go if we did not get the books. Dr. Clapp said that we would not want the increase to be there as significantly if we were asking for no books. Leah Constan-Tatos asked if this was a way to increase Follet’s income. Dr. Clapp said that this is a strategy to offset the deficit they suffer from students not using the bookstore. Currently only 37% of the student body use the bookstore. Emerson Thompson wondered whether we have connection to Follet, because the decisions are made on a corporate level. Sarah Devlin eloquently stated that the Board of

Trustees are our advocates. They will be the ones who make the final decision. Our focus on the Board is much more productive than trying to talk to the corporate Follet. Rachel really does not appreciate that you have to pay the difference on books that you would like to keep. Being a science major a book for rent and to buy can be \$100 difference in most cases. Yakir urged people to take the survey and include comments. Rachel moved to previous question and Sarah Moore seconded. The recommendation **passed** with no corrections.

- B. Recommendation “Allowing academic student organizations to request funding in order to present research at academic conferences”**- Justin Smith read this recommendation to Congress. Gail Murray talked to Jan Gillean who recommended that we set out a portion of our budget for scholarships. This would need an application process. Yakir said that it should take place two times a year. He also recommended we set a percent of the budget that goes to scholarships, and not a number. This accounts for any changes in our budget. The committee will need to be unbiased and have Dr. Clapp helping with the decision process. We also need to set a maximum number that we are willing to spend on each student. It will need to be consistently spent on registration fees. Sarah Moore said that the student would need to indicate who was taking people on this trip to make sure that the student did not directly spend the money. Dr. Clapp stated that he supported the concept, but that we should support the department and not the student. If we give the money to the department that goes then they can spend the money how they see fit. Christian reminded Congress those students who go to conferences help to represent the school. Justin recommended that their also be a research advisor who sits on the committee. Rachel said that it was necessary to present research to graduate with the degree she is pursuing. James Everidge wanted to know if this was limited to those who presented research or could it be for other academic related topics. Autumn Hamilton said that the Theater department is different, because they are not aware if they are going to be conferences. These are audition based and people can go and stay a day or end up staying a week. We will need to think about how to help everyone and not just those who do research. Sarah Devlin stated that she supports this recommendation, but that we need to be careful. The money is to be spent to benefit the entire student body, and not just an individual person. Sarah Moore said that this helps to show that we support the student body growth that Dr. Oxendine desires. Justin said that research supports the school, but other conferences are just for personal growth. Dr. Clapp said that the wording “advancement in field” means that it cannot be for personal growth. Jana said that it will be important for the committee to make this decision when they have all of the applications. We cannot limit people before we even begin. Gail Murray changed the wording in the second whereas and the therefore. There was a consensus on the corrections. Sarah Moore reminded people that the SG AFC and ICC rules will be added to the Constitution soon and this can be a part of the changes. Gail moved to previous question and Rachel Cone seconded. This recommendation was **passed**.

Announcements

Dead Man's Cell Phone will open Tuesday February 7th in the FBC. There are men's and women's basketball games on February 8th. Chapel, beginning on February 7th, will take place at 9 p.m., and the Praise Band will be playing. Please take the bookstore survey. Next Congress is February 9th!