Student Senate Meeting
February 25, 2013
12:00 p.m. in C201

Call to Order at: 12:04 by President Lee

Senators: President Lee, Vice President Carlton, Senator Burton-McLaughlin, Senator McCaughey, Senator Murray, Senator Cushing, Trustee Lewis, Secretary Sears, and Advisor Eich-Richardson

Motion: Secretary Sears made a motion to excuse Senator Lamontagne from today’s meeting.
Second: Trustee Lewis
Vote: Unanimous

Guests: Michael Fitzgibbon, Todd Goulston, Lindsay Jakows, Shane Hammond, Alicia Hathaway, Bob LaPalme, Regina Curtis, Andrea Carlin, Lexi Atsalus-Gogel, and Charlotte Gifford

Review and approve minutes from previous February 4, 2013 meeting

Motion: Senator Burton-McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes, with the year changed from 2012 to 2013.
Second: Trustee Lewis
Vote: Unanimous

Internal reports

a) Budget Update: There has not been much change in the current operating budget, which was previously $14,106.89.

b) Advisor Report: The BHE Student Leadership Conference will be held this Friday. The student senators attending will be able to get a chance to see Governor Deval Patrick speak. Also applications for becoming a senator are still being accepted. Everyone is encouraged to seek out potential leaders on campus and see if they would be interested in running. At our next meeting, we will be going over the plan and outline for the selection process of the student speaker at this year’s graduation ceremony. They are looking for student senate input on the process.

Committee Reports

a) College Council: As Senator Lamontagne was not present today; we do not have any further updates.

b) Diversity Council: Senator Burton-McLaughlin reported that several topics were discussed in their last meeting. One of which was about the ½ day in January, as well as the Brown Bag being hosted, both involving the staff. The one-credit diversity source for ETP students is still up in the air. They are still looking into a potential quiet space for students to be able to meditate, pray, or sleep. Bob LaPalme suggested the McLeish room, where he has held a couple of mediation classes previously. Another topic of discussion was of trying to think of who should be responsible for the upkeep of the lactation room for mothers.

c) Student Development: Senator McCaughey several new topics as well. They are looking into new ways of helping students’ transition easier in their first year at GCC. Also looking into helping students who are on their way out of the door, by using what would be an E-portfolio. Student senate thinks that this would be a great idea. This way instead of having to keep track of your accomplishments at GCC, we would be able to use an electronic template that we can access from anywhere, to keep track of this. Another idea discussed was creating an online new student orientation. This way, students who were not able to attend will be able to get all of the information from their homes.
Old Business

a) Fitness Center Update: Bob LaPalme came in to let us know how the Fitness Center renovation was coming along. As of now there is no start date set, which has been delayed due to the recent flood damage in other areas of campus. They first need to have some engineers come and take a look at the structural elements, before this process can begin. This will be open to the engineering students who are interested in watching this process.

Special Orders

a) Engineering Club Funding Request: Todd Goulston, the president, joined us and shared with us his clubs project in restoring a rototiller. They have been working on it, and have already personally invested over $300. They asked for $240.23 to finish their project. Once they are done, they hope to either donate it to the Permaculture Club or work with the Business Club in order to sell it.

   Motion: Trustee Lewis made a motion to provide the Engineering Club with $240.23 out of our operating budget to finish this restoration project.
   Second: Senator Burton-McLaughlin
   Vote: Unanimous

b) Permaculture Club Funding Request: Michael Fitzgibbon from the Permaculture Club came in to discuss a field trip that they are going on to the house of Eric Toensmeier, in order to go on a tour of his gardens, which encompass over 171 species including bananas, and kiwis, right in Holyoke. He is also the author of their textbook, Paradise Lot. They requested $100 in order to cover the entrance fee. This trip is open to students who are interested. Although there is limited seating.

   Motion: Senator Burton-McLaughlin made a motion to provide them with the $100, out of our operating budget.
   Second: Senator Murray
   Vote: Unanimous

c) GCC Foundation: Regina Curtis joined us came to share a few things with us. The first being that scholarships are now all up online, and will be accepted until March 11th. The winners will know by the first week of April if they have been selected. The award ceremony will take place in the dining commons on Sunday, May 5th. The other reason she came to see us was about the Annual Fund Campaign that will be held on March 13th. This year GCC is looking for a new voice to be able to collect donations for the college. She is looking for students to volunteer to the voice in getting donations. They want to set up online students pages where they can collect donations from anyone. We are the best voice to help get money. Every participant will get a T-Shirt, and the student who has the most number of donors, will win a tablet.

d) Study Abroad Committee: Charlotte Gifford first wanted to thank the senate for the funding that they provide every year, along with the President Bob Pura, so that students can be selected to go on a study abroad trip. She also came to see if there was a student senator who would be interested in serving on the Study Abroad Committee, who will be involved in the selection process for the Study Abroad trip. Senator Murray agreed, and will now be helping throughout the process. Good luck to applicants!
Announcements

Next meeting: March 4th, 2013 @ 12pm in C201
Next All College Meeting: March 11, 2013 @ 12pm in Stinchfield

Adjourn at: 12:55

Motion: Senator McCaughey made a motion to adjourn.
Second: Senator Cushing
Vote: Unanimous