Student Senate Meeting  
March 4, 2013  
12:00 p.m. in C201

Call to Order at: 12:05 by Vice President Carlton

Senators: 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 President Lee and Senator Lamontagne from todays meeting.
Second: Senator Murray  
Vote: Unanimous

Guests: Cindi Curtis, Lindsay Jakows, Shane Hammond, Alicia Hathaway, and Amy Proietti.

Review and approve minutes from previous February 25, 2013 meeting

Motion: Senator Burton-McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes with minor adjustments.
Second: Senator Cushing  
Vote: Unanimous

Internal reports

a) Budget Update: As of Friday, March 1st, we have $12,615.62 in our operating budget. This does not include catering for February, the senate BHE Conference on Friday March 1st, nor does it include the budget approvals from last week.

b) Advisor Report: There were only two submissions for the Spring Week T-shirts. Student senators suggested that we also look at silver screens for a design.

Special Order

a) Reappointment of Senator Sears  
Motion: Senator Burton-McLaughlin made a motion to reappoint Senator Sears until her June graduation.
Second: Senator Cushing  
Vote: Unanimous with an abstention from Senator Sears

b) MassPIRG Updates  
Discussion: MASSPIRG is an independent statewide student organization that works on issues like environmental protection, consumer protection, and hunger and homelessness. Each semester GCC students pay a $9 fee to keep this chapter going. Most of this goes to the cost of an advisor and advocates on our campus. Our current MassPIRG chapter meets on Thursday at 12:15. They have 3 major campaigns in which they are working with on our campus, Zero Waste, Hunger & Homelessness, and to improve public transit. Zero Waste is a statewide campaign to encourage Governor Patrick to vote against a proposition to lift a previous 20 year ban against building new incinerators. MassPIRG is collecting public comments in order to bring them to the state house. The Hunger and Homelessness is another statewide campaign in order to raise money to help various food. It is an online fundraiser where each student can set up a page to encourage people to donate. The goal for the campus is $300. They are encouraging all students to make a team of 6 to 8 people to form a team. To improve public transit they are looking into designing a survey for students about FRTA and their thoughts for improvement. During the upcoming elections the MassPIRG referendum will be voted on by students. A yes vote will keep MassPIRG on our campus for another two years whereas a no vote will result in MassPIRG no longer collecting the $9/student voluntary contribution.
c) STIR-ALL Budget Request: Senator Cushing, who is the president of STIR-ALL, submitted a budget request of $610. This total includes the expenses for ground coffee, food for their mid-semester and end of semester gatherings, as well as for printing pictures and frames for them, and for a lock box to store coffee donations in.

Motion: Senator McCaughey made a motion to grant this budget request of $610 out of our operating budget.

Second: Senator Burton-McLaughlin

Vote: Unanimous with an abstention from Senator Cushing.

d) Student speaker process for graduation: In previous years, the selection of the student speaker for the graduation Commencement has not been a set process. This year we are hoping to do something new, and to establish a procedure. In this process, students will be able to nominate as well as self-nominate which would include an application and short written statement about why they would be a good Commencement speaker. Then a review committee, will narrow down the list. Once there is a potential student to be selected, the review committee will bring this recommendation to the President or Chief in order to extend this invitation to speak. Once selected the speaker will work with a faculty or staff member, as well as the Coordinator of Student Life to work on their speech.

Update from Senators

a) BHE Conference: Some of the Student Senators got the privilege to be able to go to the BHE Leadership Conference on March 1st at Fitchburg State College. While we were there, we were able to take different workshops on empowerment and leadership. They were also able to give a preview of Advocacy Day. We also got to hear the several speakers, one including the Massachusetts Secretary of Education, Matthew Malone. In his speech, he talked about visiting towns in Western Mass! We are hoping to be in touch with Secretary Malone soon, in order to invite him on to our campus.

New Business

a) Amy Proietti, from the Financial Aid Department, came in to talk with us about the upcoming Advising Day. Typically on this day students do not have classes, but there are workshops that are put on for the benefit of the students.

Announcements

Next meeting: March 25th, 2013 @ 12pm in C201
Next All College Meeting: March 11, 2013 @ 12pm in Stinchfield
Pizza with the Prez – March 13th @ 12pm in C208
Student Senate Election Applications Due – March 15th 2013 by 4pm in Student Life
Student Senate Elections – March 25-27th 2013 via Moodle

Adjourn at: 1:00

Motion: Trustee Lewis made a motion to adjourn.
Second: Senator Burton-McLaughlin

Vote: Unanimous