SGA Campus Council Minutes
Wednesday, March 8th
JRC 209, 8PM

DISCLAIMER: Please note that the minutes are a paraphrased report of Campus Council proceedings.

Start: 8:02pm

ROLL CALL
Absent- President DeWitt, VPAA Aaronson, DOC Baratta, Senator Toppeta, Senator Brindel, Senator Sheikh, Senator Tomasic, Senator Dodd, Delegate Mohr, Delegate Omura, Delegate Kricfalusi, Delegate Sun, Delegate Al-Adsani, ACESS Director Mirzakhail, ACESS Director Holmes

Substitutes- Carter Howe for Senator Bremner

Public Comment and Announcements
Senator Sachdev
● The SRC is looking for a new Programming and Outreach Coordinator, Operations Coordinator, and Library Coordinator
● There are descriptions on the facebook page
Senator Welch- There will be a candlelight vigil for Indian victims of hate crimes sponsored by SASO in the JRC Courtyard on Wednesday, March 15th @ pm.
Delegate Leuba
● This Saturday, there will be R&B Gardner featuring various student bands and rappers
● Live performances from 10-1130pm followed by DJing
ACE Chair Jones- Waltz chairs have been selected. They are Sarah Trop and Julia Hart.
Delegate Marko-Franks- There is a Grinnell Singers Concert: "Der Tod Jesu" (The Passion of Christ) on Sunday, March 12, 2:00 PM at Sebring-Lewis Hall. (No ticket required)
President-Elect White- Applications for new cabinet are out. If you are interested or know anyone that is interested, please apply and spread the word
Delegate Marko-Franks- There will be a NAMI On Campus Study Break next Wednesday, March 15, 6:00-8:00 PM in the Wellness Lounge

Upcoming Events
Delegate Marko-Franks- Once again, the Grinnell Singers concert at 2pm in Sebring Lewis on Sunday

Approval of the Minutes
Motion by Senator Schweitzer
● Seconded by Assistant Treasurer Steckel
Discussion Topic- Ken Adelman Presentation Debrief

Opening Statement by Senator Murphy

- **BACKGROUND**
  Adelman was socially expelled. He was told to leave campus for an event in which a black woman and a legally blind white man in a relationship had water balloons and eggs thrown at them, and their property stolen and destroyed. The Interim Student Court chose to expel the 5 students involved, and after faculty review some sentences were reduced. Adelman was told to leave campus, although he would receive a diploma. The court announced that this issue wasn’t only one event, but two years of physical and emotional brutalization.
  - I heard about his past less than 24 hours before the event
    - The administration heard about it at that time too. However, they decided not to disinvite. Adelman knew that we all knew as well, and he was open to be confronted

- **PLANNING THE PROTEST**
  - Our protest was NOT POLITICAL
  - We wanted to LET HIM SPEAK. We did not want to deprive others of educational opportunity
  - Our goal was to change the conversation and learn something about campus climate

- **EVENT:**
  - Andrea Conner told us we could protest and she reminded us not to interrupt
  - During the presentation, nobody interrupted
  - Adelman’s response was less than satisfactory to many people, and this sentiment has been stated by at least one member of the Grinnell College Administration
  - Adelman completed his hour and left the room to shouts of disapproval

- **ADMIN FOLLOW UP**
  An hour after the event Delegate Bohlke and I met with President Kington
  - He expressed strong disagreements with the protest
  - He also made many ad hominem attacks, and the situation became emotionally heated
  - Andrea Connor joined us at some point in the middle, though she did not speak in the discussion for the length of time that I was there
  - From my view, and Andrea’s sitting next to me, I was watching students cry outside the grill after hearing President Kington’s response
  - I left the conversation to manage my emotions and remain professional
  - I returned shortly and soon the office hours ended, little changed

**LATER**
- Andrea Connor reached out to us to meet with President Kington because he is “apologetic about the things HE said after”
- Students were hesitant to attend because of fear of personal attacks, but after this assurance many decided to attend.
● A meeting time was set for the next day, and students prepared for a productive conversation

● At the meeting in Nollen House, Angela Voos and Andrea Connor were present along with President Kington. Students were given time first to express their concerns, particularly about making students feel safe when they converse with administration

● I was not able to attend the meeting, but the students there will attest that President Kington then continued to personally insult students, not stopping when students were crying

● It was ended by Andrea Connor when she knew the conversation was in no way productive

YESTERDAY

● I met with Dean Latham to have the conversation that couldn’t occur with President Kington.

● I suggested that a small group of students in leadership positions, like SGA, could meet with speakers for an informal discussion of controversial matters. This could serve as an opportunity to learn about how campus and political climate have progressed and how their beliefs have changed over time. This way students would not be forced to redirect conversations that should be dedicated to matters that the speaker is an expert in

● Statement by Senator Benson
  ○ So Ken Adelman. What a guy. so, I participated in the protest and there was a lot of questionable things about Adelman’s presence. When the silent protest began, a lot of my peers were like “remember, we’re not attacking his politics, were interrogating him about this racist event he probably participated in.” and good, this dude was proven by a judicial body to have had some form of role in a racially motivated incident and so he should he grilled on that and people did.
  ○ But, we should not ignore the political reality of his terrible neconservatism which is also totally wack. Ken adelman was a fairly visible policy wonk for the arms and international relations apparatus of Reagan’s administration and ummm, Reagan’s admin was a neoimperialist outfit directly responsible for y’know a pretty sizable amount of our current foreign relations crises. Also, Adelman was a prominent actor in advocating for the Iraq War. He later apologized for that, but like, an apology in Vanity Fair doesn’t inoculate him from culpability for a war that has irrevocably disaffected a vast amount of people across the Middle East.
  ○ The fact that Ray K, a black gay man, stood up for a this starry eyed Reagan groupie, a president whose major legacy is the displacement and degradation of black and queer communities, I find that to be so disappointing. Like, what message are we sending our students. Managerial liberal civility towards a man who is very much the embodiment of a wing of the GOP that has ruined so many lives is more valued than taking a principled stand of protest. Of reserved protest
mind you. We were very respectful. We had to sit through a majority of that buffoon’s nonsensical performance.

- But y’know, that’s what happens when you engage in that supposedly crucial political diversity, you invite a war hawk that is oh, also is probably a racist to campus. Very concerning.
- Also, a final note. The talk was stupid. His central thesis was that Reagan was this exceptional political actor that individually motivated the fall of the USSR. Like, it was such a baseless, anecdotal, intellectually dishonest presentation, that I almost felt bad for the USSR and i am adamantly opposed to state capitalism. I am dumber for going to it and that makes me unhappy.

- **Vincent Benlloch**
  - We have an institutional memory problem
  - I think it is inadmissible that our president can say degrading comments to students in a public forum
  - There is an immediate lack of respect of student voice on this campus
  - I want to have some sort of town hall with President Kington and other members of the institution in a public, recorded forum
  - I don’t really want our president to be able to twist current events to silence our student body
  - I want support to make this happen and feedback on this idea

- **Nate Williams**
  - I want to make it clear that the Ken Adelman thing is important, but more importantly is how the administration responded
  - In the follow-up meeting, we were told that President Kington was going to apologize
  - We were invited to be really vulnerable about how we felt about the event
  - Other students didn’t even want to meet with President Kington out of fear of losing financial aid
  - President Kington didn’t deny that he would take away someone’s financial aid
  - He didn’t comment on student’s emotional state
  - He said, it is clear that we have opposing views on the topic
  - He then spent the next 40 minutes shaming us and using very hurtful language
  - This problem is related to broader problems in the world, but it was very troubling that he would talk to students in that way

- **Senator Sachdev**
  - President Kington was trying to intellectualize every situation where he seemed wrong
  - He said that students need to be comfortable enough to learn, but uncomfortable enough to grow
  - He called students narrow-minded

- **Concerts Chair Simmonds**
  - Not to defend him at all, but it seemed that President Kington was trying to defend the people who work under him
○ He tends to work differently in a public forum
○ We should press for him to put out a statement about what he can and can’t do regard situations like this
○ People have anxiety about working with administration and that is threatening to how you behave as a student

● Delegate Leuba
○ Going back to a statement by Raynard. I am not interested in a statement from Raynard. We should write an article in the S&B and take this directly to Raynard before he has time act. This was aggressive, undignified, and pisses me off
○ We need to address this in a way that gives them the chance to address this on our terms

● VPSA-Elect Epps
○ There were no black students at the protest
○ As president of CBS, I know we were completely out of the loop
○ I wonder how you decided to go about this without addressing the people who are affected, asking if they want this to happen, or if they want to be involved etc

● VPSA Dann- You’re completely right Kahlil. We need to consider that for future protests

● Unidentified Student- Something to consider is the power dynamic within administration. Some people have different opinions from Raynard that they are not in a position to voice them
  ○ Delegate Leuba- I still think it's unacceptable

● Treasurer White
○ What can we do? SGA Cabinet needs to have this conversation with President Kington
○ Right now, we are at a spot where we don’t even know what to say
○ What do we want to do as SGA as a whole?
○ Also, what is the ideal relationship between students and administration?

● Concerts Chair Simmonds
○ Kahlil- I was there at the interview with Alice. But, it felt like Ken Adelman was directing his responses to me because I was black and that was uncomfortable
○ The reason black students are not here is because they are not comfortable. We need the students who are comfortable and the voices of students who are uncomfortable to have a means to share their thoughts

● Senator Li
○ Going back to your point Justin (Delegate Leuba), we as students are here for 4 years. Administration is here for a much longer time. They have to think about their families and personal lives which is a consideration to make when judging their interactions (or lack thereof) with President Kington

● Delegate Leuba
○ I wasn’t saying that these people should address everything that President Kington does that rubs students in the wrong way
○ But to sit by while students are attacked by the most powerful person on campus for 40 minutes and called names is indefensible
- **ACE Chair Handal**
  - I agree with what Corey said.
  - It seems like we are planning to act against Raynard
  - Things to consider are that staff members like Angela and Andrea have been here a long time
  - I wasn’t even there and I am mad
  - I think we need to support each other before we make a move
  - It is completely unfair that students of color were excluded from the conversation
  - We are angry at Raynard, but we should also consider our own actions

- **Delegate Mhaidli**
  - Going back to Justin’s point, the administration is really good at waiting games
  - Seniors will be gone in less than 3 months
  - Having a town hall is playing on administration’s terms
  - Looking at Divest’s action, for example, they were able to force President Kington’s hand
  - SGA should employ plenty of outreach, use the S&B, and act

- **Senator Benson**— We have to impart to Raynard that his students’ opinions are more important than people who donate money to this campus

- **Senator Sachdev**
  - My main concern is that, in terms of being a very activist-friendly campus, what I saw last week with the March 1st movement was very the opposite of that
  - Professors somewhat participated, but it was not official
  - We had a lot of posters and stuff, but it seemed to be more for the image and anytime it’s time for real action we back off

- **VPSA Dann**
  - Let’s be sure to keep the conversation open to all opinions in the group

- **Services Coordinator Kyaruzi**
  - Going back to tenured professors. They are important because they can’t be fired the way regular professors can be. They have institutional memory
  - Getting their help is unique because they can push the administration in a way that others can't, for longer than we can
  - Raynard is not their boss
  - Also, I know that we keep saying that seniors are leaving soon, but we also can look at it from the perspective that we only have so much time for backlash for our actions
  - Let’s find out why the administration doesn’t like our actions. Maybe it’s a small reason that they keep blocking us

- **Assistant Treasurer Steckel**
  - As someone who was not at the Ken Adelman talk, but at the office hours with Raynard, I want to say that his comments were deeply upsetting.
  - The reason that we brought this to Campus Council is because we wanted to figure out what to do
- But also - a large portion of how SGA works is based on a working relationship with administration
- We want to make sure that whatever we do, it doesn't ruin the relationship
- We have to be able to work with admins
- SGA has a reputation that needs to be kept in order to represent students and hold administration accountable for their actions
- I suggest that we make a resolution. We need to ask or even demand that Raynard takes student activism seriously.
- He must release a statement that he won’t retaliate on any student for being active
- We should write it and pass it next week
- We need to make sure that whatever resolution we make does not alienate administration

- **Treasurer White**
  - For those of you who may think you’re out of the conversation after you graduate, know that the school cares deeply about alumni

- **Vincent Benlloch**
  - I agree with the concern that we need to maintain a relationship with the administration, but the very fact that our relationship is at stake is telling and it’s scary
  - We should be able to hold them accountable without them delegitimizing or disregarding SGA

- **Delegate Hill**
  - There is a certain level of respect that we need to show Raynard Kington. We can still convey what we want while being respectful
  - He is still a person and we need to meet him halfway

- **Delegate Leuba**
  - Going back to meeting President Kington halfway. I am all about acknowledging that he is human
  - But the power disparity is too great to not go forth with serious conviction about our goals.

- **VPSA Dann**
  - I have a meeting with Angela Voos & Sarah Moschenross tomorrow.
  - If there is anything that you would like me to say, please either let me know now or email me ASAP

- **Concerts Chair Simmonds**
  - Tell them to meet with not just SGA who has to be responsible for their feelings
  - Talk to people while the feelings are still raw
  - I would love to see them in a lot of different forms, especially with this issue

- **Assistant Treasurer Steckel**
  - I think that many of these things that are being mentioned are great, but I want to make sure that this doesn’t die here.
  - Please, I want to work on this, and I am sure that there are a lot of other people who want to as well
Reform Committee meets before Campus Council and can help with a resolution, but we should meet before then and iron out what we want of President Kington

- Senator Li
  - To clarify, Reform is not a place to write the resolution, but to edit

ACE Budgets
ACE Chair Handal- There is nothing to be approved

SPC Budgets
Services Coordinator Kyaruzi
- There is nothing to be approved by Campus Council
- There is about 6,000$ remaining for 7 weeks... we will see how that goes

Services Budgets
Services Coordinator Kyaruzi
- There is nothing to be approved this week
- We had one budget this week
- I want more people to come with budgets!
- There are a lot of things to be done in the community and funds to support it

Senator Report - OCCO/OCNCO
Senator Sachdev- Senator Toppeta met with Ella Williams who is leading the off-campus safety student group. They will be helping staff block party this year and it seems that ACESS will be able to help as well
  - ACE Chair Jones- I do not have confirmation on that from ACESS yet, so let’s not spread that around.

Cabinet Report - Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer Steckel
- The deadline for SGA Cabinet applications is actually 8am on Friday
- Once again, you are all encouraged to apply

Cabinet Report - Administrative Coordinator
AC Owusu
- I appreciate all of the Senator Reports that I have been getting!
- Keep up the good work and know that the reports don’t have to be elaborate. Simply having them there to spark an agenda item is good enough.
- There are lots of things going on in Reform Committee this semester, so if you are interested, please email me. [sga1]
- Planning for the Grinnellian is underway together with ACE, Freesound, and KDIC
  - If you are interested in performing or organizing, please reach out to any of us
- Lastly are some updates on Freesound and SGA’s relationship
○ Event hosts can request sound services and they will be provided by a sound worker from Freesound and/or Concerts
○ If you are interested in getting trained to provide sound services and get paid for it, please reach out to [freesound]
  ■ We will be offering Gardner training opportunities as well

Surprise Powerpoint Presentation - Concerts Chair
Concerts Chair Simmonds
  ● We have had 4 concerts so far
  ● There are many in the works
  ● There will be a lot of shows in May
  ● We are having a hip-hop showcase with the dance team who will dance us through the decades of hip-hop
  ● If anyone wants to join Concerts, we meet Tuesdays at 8

Motion to adjourn by Senator Sachdev
Seconded by AC Owusu

End 9:19pm