

Minutes from the Assembly of Shimer College

April 26, 2009

Start: 4:00 PM

1) The Assembly corrected and approved the minutes from the Assembly of February 8, 2009.

-Modifications were made to the description of the Academic Planning Committee report; see attached for corrected minutes.

2) Spring 2009 Committee reports were given by the heads of each committee. See attached for full committee reports.

- Academic Planning Committee
- Administrative Committee
- Admissions Committee
- Agenda Committee
- Budget Committee
- Grievance, Judicial and Appeals Committee
- Quality of Life Committee
- Financial Aid Policy Committee

3) President Tom Lindsay delivered the **State of the College address**.

-Tom said he would transcribe and send out the text of the address via Cosmos.

-Questions asked included:

- A possible Fireside to get specific numbers on the college budget and general financial situation. Tom said this would be possible, but no date has been set.
- Where the Renaissance plan fits into Shimer's current economic plan; the response was that Shimer is currently focused on getting rid of trailing debt, as opposed to building up Admissions and Advancement, the main focus of the Renaissance Plan.
- Whether there would be more internal representatives on the Board of Trustees. Tom said this had not yet been taken into consideration.

4) Spring committee elections were held.

Academic Planning Committee: David Shiner gave the **motion that faculty committee members not be elected until later** due to the APC involvement with hiring new faculty. Nominations from the community will be electronic, and faculty will elect members to the APC (by constituency vote) at a later meeting. Due to extenuating circumstances, **this does not set a precedent.**

- Staff: Jim Ulrich was elected.
- Weekday: Erik Boneff, Ari Robbins and Hillary Woods were elected.
- Weekend: Terry Baker and Eugene Lim were elected.

Administrative Committee:

- Staff/faculty: Glendalyn Booker, David Shiner, Aaron Garland, Elaine Vincent, and Heidi Angeles were elected.
- Weekday: Jonathan Timm, Peter Vincent and Katherine Martin-Seaver were elected.
- Weekend: Erik Randall and Bonnie Silverman were elected.

Budget Committee:

- Staff/faculty: Jim Ulrich and Barbara Stone were elected.
- Weekday: Emily Benedict, Eli Nelson, and Jesus Avina were elected.

Weekend: Colleen Cerny was elected.

Grievance, Appeals and Judicial Committee:

- Staff: Erik Badger and Heidi Angeles were elected.
- Faculty: Ann Dolinko and Don Moon were elected.
- Students: Hillary Woods, Jonathan Timm, and Taylor Buck were elected.

IIT Student Senate Representative:

- Allie Peluso was elected.

5) The Financial Aid Policy Committee withdrew the motion to reword its description in the Assembly Constitution. As such, from the motion of the previous Assembly, new members of the Financial Aid policy will not be elected until the Financial Aid Policy Committee resolves the duties of its members.

At this point the time limit for the Assembly was reached. The motion was moved to **extend to 6:30**, and **passed**.

6) Discussion item: A consent policy for Shimer

-Ari Robbins motivated the discussion of a drafted consent policy to be considered by the Assembly. The text of the consent policy is attached. Following are some issues brought up.

- Is this policy the responsibility of the administration? Sex education might be a better alternative.
- The policy is meant to empower those uncertain about sexual rights and behaviors.
- The response of the administration to complaints is to take them seriously; complaints made this semester have been investigated, without results.
- What implications does enforcement of the policy have?
- The policy is inspired by Antioch; however, Antioch handles things differently with different administration. Shimer cannot follow the same policies.
- What kinds of penalties are there for violations?
- The consent "policy" is a legal motion and does not constitute dialogue. Words and phrases used in the text need to be more clearly defined.
- There exists a sexual harassment policy already; examine the penalties for violations of that policy.
- General concerns with punitive measures.
- Alternatives more in line with the Shimer ethos?

At this point the time limit for the extension was reached. The motion was moved to **extend fifteen minutes**, but **failed**.

The motion was made to have a **Fireside concerning the consent policy** either before the semester ends or before the next Assembly meeting. Drafters of the consent policy agreed to go back to the drawing board.

7) Announcements:

- Friday May 1st at 1 pm is the the community potluck both to celebrate the end of classes and to commemorate Lori Post's last day at Shimer. Bring a dish, bring a friend.
- Tuesday May 5th is Writing Week Tea from 2-4 pm. Come take a break from your project/comps to relax with drinks, food and community.
- Saturday May 9th at 2 pm is Shimer Commencement in the Atrium. All are invited to see this year's graduates and celebrate.

-The winners of the 2009 Shimer Poetry Contest are Simon Creek and Eli Nelson. Their poems will be posted on the Shimer floor.

End: 6: 40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Nelson
Secretary of the Assembly