

**Minutes from the Assembly of Shimer College**  
**November 16, 2008**  
**Start: 4:05 pm**

- 1) The **minutes** of September 14, 2008 were approved.
- 2) The Heads of the Committees of the Assembly gave their **reports of the fall semester** to the body. Details are attached.
  - Academic and Planning Committee: David Shiner
  - Administrative Committee: Marc Hoffman
  - Admissions Committee: Eileen Buchanan
  - Agenda Committee: Jim Donovan
  - Budget Committee: Marc Hoffman
  - Financial Aid Committee: Don Moon, for Janet Henthorn
  - Quality of Life Committee: Lori Post
- 3) The Dean of the College David Shiner gave his annual **State of the College Address**. Issues addressed included:
  - Electives: Currently the newer students outweigh the older students; thus more cores and less electives are needed for the majority of the student body. This is why the elective offerings are slim this spring semester.
  - Two to three new faculty will be hired for next year.
  - The enrollment in Weekend College has risen, but is still low overall, and not sustainable.
  - The necessity of the shared core courses and the ideal of Shimer.
- 4) The **Grievance and Appeals Committee is undergoing changes**, which were discussed in two previous Firesides. The minutes of these Firesides were sent out to Cosmos by the Secretary.
  - Jon Timm moved the motion of the G&A changes; discussion followed. The text of the changes is attached with the current minutes.
  - Issues raised included:
    - The definition of “non-academic matter”: Cases involving grades or dismissal cannot be appealed to the committee.
    - The promulgation of channels of appeal and information
  - Proposed amendment: The limits of the elected: need at least one year at Shimer; the students on the committee in good social standing
    - Changing the Ombudsperson: not an elected member of the committee
    - The motivation of the changes: excess power of Dean of Students (prosecutor, judge, executor); Dean will bring serious or contested matters to the committee instead of deciding; minor matters still in Dean’s domain
    - The assignment of a non-faculty administrator to the role of Dean
    - Differentiation of personal grievance and rule-breaking
  - Proposed amendment: to have the second sentence of the second paragraph read: “Any Grievance and Appeals Matter may be brought...”

-Concern over the amount of cases brought to the committee without Dean as arbiter

-The first appeal to the Ombudsperson; bring the issue to the Ombudsperson, and then to committee; the Ombudsperson is not involved in judicial matters

**-The Assembly voted** on the two proposed Friendly Amendments:

-The limits of the elected: need at least one year at Shimer; the students on the committee in good social standing

- To have the second sentence of the second paragraph read: “Any Grievance and Appeals Matter may be brought...”

-The Friendly Amendments **passed**.

-The Assembly voted on the changes to the Grievance and Appeals Committee; **the constitutional changes passed** by a two-thirds majority vote.

5) As the changes to the Grievance and Appeals Committee, now replaced as the Grievances, Appeals and Judicial Committee, passed, the **committee members were elected to the new committee**.

**-Faculty:** Don Moon and Barb Stone were elected.

**-Students:** Jesus Aviña and Hillary Woods were elected.

**-Administrators and Staff:** Colleen McCarroll, Zack Hamm and Jim Ulrich were elected.

6) The Assembly closed with current announcements.

**End: 6:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg Nelson  
Secretary of the Assembly