Student Assembly Minutes  
September 23, 2013

1. Call to Order—9:05
2. Amit Taneja, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, to discuss the Real Talk series, and next steps
   - This event has revealed tensions that pre-existed
   - Internalized racism is when people start to believe racist stereotypes about themselves
   - When we talk about race it’s usually an “us against them” sort of discussion and students of color rarely get an opportunity to talk about internalized racism.
   - Amit also talked to a few white students who felt uncomfortable voicing their opinions in front of mixed race crowds and requested some space to talk things through with other white students first before going in to a mixed race dialogue.
   - How do we create a space for white students who have an experience with race, especially when some are asking for that space?
   - The plan was to eventually to bring all the groups together for discussion, but some students are not ready yet and wanted a pre-cursor “in group” discussion
   - The idea was to give people of color space to talk about what internalized racism feels like, and what would be needed for them to feel comfortable having a discussion across racial boundaries
   - Spacing it out over time allows time to fully address issues
   - This series was modeled after the Intergroup Dialogue Program, used at 40+ top universities for cross-boundary conversations about such topics race and gender, and research shows it to be the most effective way to talk about these issues
   - The three part series idea was vetted though conversations with many white students, and students of color, Amit received positive feedback for this format.
   - Messaging about the event may not have conveyed the intention
     - Not everyone realized that there was going to be a discussion for white students and community members and a third discussion bringing both groups together
     - If there was never going to be any discussion beyond the first one, we would clearly have been missing an essential part of the conversation
   - We need to decide what kind of community we want to be and how to best serve our members
     - No one knows how to deal with this perfectly
     - What does a safe space look like?
   - Many discussion groups for survivors of sexual assault are segregated by gender
The separation exists for a reason
• Dean Ball to talk about the email he sent
  o Apologizes for the way he talked about safe space and recognizes its importance
  o However, safe space cannot justify segregation
  o Safe space itself is a problematic term
• Need a community of people like you to talk about the experiences you had
  o Hamilton is a home and everyone here deserves to share the things they need to safely
• “Segregation” is not really a fair term to use, discussion was not intended to keep anyone out
• People have complained about using school money for this, but it is being used to improve the community, this is the purpose of the DMC
• What is a safe space? Some of us lack a true understanding or have different understandings
  o DMC was thinking in terms of a dialogue, discussing experiences
    ▪ No winner, no one is right or wrong
  o AHI was thinking in terms of a debate, discussing opinions
    ▪ A debate can be a way of learning and reevaluating one’s stance
• This is the only time DMC has ever placed any restrictions on audience
• Lack of explanation about what is happening between discussions, especially over so much time
• Not a lot of discussion across boundaries goes on, more discussion amongst groups happens
• People are upset because of the implication that white people make the space unsafe
• We don’t have safe spaces in the real world, which is why we need a safe space for these issues
• There is a great deal of value to be had in talking to people whose experiences are different from your own
  o Groupthink is a possibility, the controversy surrounding this is an example
    ▪ There is no consensus, only reinforced viewpoints
• The goal was to educate the rest of the campus about the experience people of color have after talking to people with similar experiences and coming to understand them better
• A safe space is really about being comfortable, whatever the circumstances need to be for that
• Anthony posted on Facebook that he didn’t like the format but he agreed about the need for a safe space
  o Even knowing that there would be a safe space it was hard to think that anyone would be denied entry
Things will be uncomfortable, that’s why the safe space is necessary
  ▪ Progress is made by pushing the comfort zone
People have been making assumptions instead of carefully considering
The side controversy has become more important than the issues at hand; the discussion has gone to a place that it was never intended to
  ▪ Things have gotten weird when they shouldn’t have

• Please come on Thursday with an open mind, willing to ask the tough questions but being respectful and open-minded
• The worst thing that can happen is to let this issue divide us and not talk about it because we’re afraid
  ▪ The plan for Thursday is now open, needs to be decided
• 4:15, Thursday, currently Dwight Lounge but will move to a larger space, likely the Barn, email will go out on Wednesday

3. Old Business

• Revisit last week’s decision on Paintball Club’s funding
  o They followed all the rules we set
    ▪ Basic Training, Funding submission, planning out their semester ahead of time (which we encourage)
  o Our funding is first come, first served; we discussed last week whether groups who plan their whole semester should get the most funding and if that’s fair
  o The Funding Committee stands by their allocation, they did nothing wrong, we just voted against them because the amount seemed high
  o Should we decide funding based on the merits of an event or whether they follow the guidelines?
    ▪ Our policies are constructed to avoid judging the merits of activities
    ▪ Our funds come from the Student Activities fee which every student pays
  o There was a concern last week about how cost-effectively a club funds activities
  o Peter from Paintball: 112 people on Listserv, they have funding for 12 people per trip, go to a certified park in Syracuse, have to reserve the park to go on a Saturday or Sunday when students have the time, had 3 very successful trips last semester
    ▪ Waitlist system for deciding who goes, in their constitution
  o Debate over how our funding process works
  o Is the amount of funding per student proportionate? Are they choosing the most cost effective method?
    ▪ These are not really questions we can address
• Nonetheless, Paintball Club has looked at the best and cheapest places to go
  o Very rare that we have a funding shortage
    ▪ When it does, it usually comes down to one large funding proposal vs. several smaller proposals and we usually choose to fund several smaller proposals
  o Revote on Paintball Club funding passes

4. New Business
   • Request from alums to get minutes sent out to registered alums every week
     o We will look into it
     o We’re so glad alumni want to know what we’re doing!
   • Community Event: Fall Sports Tailgate
     o Cassie and Anthony have been meeting with Keri Fagan and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) for an Alumni Weekend event (this Saturday)
       ▪ Football, men’s and women’s soccer, field hockey, volleyball all have games
     o Sites: Green just before Steuben Field (Main), Turf Field (Periphery), Love Field (P), Field House (P)
       ▪ Set up main area in the middle with periphery sites
       ▪ Provide food instead of each family providing their own
       ▪ Cost of food estimated based on 800 people
     o Range in estimate because Bon Appetit has not gotten back to us about specific pricing yet
     o We will probably be under budget for both food and posters
     o May get additional funding from Athletics
     o There is a tailgate for football families that has to be separate due to alcohol but they will be encouraged to participate in this

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price:</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$2,000-$2,500</td>
<td>Bon Appetit Menu: Burgers, hot dogs, coffee, tea, chips, cookies, soda, water, and hot cider.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doughnuts</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>40 doz. from Clinton Cider Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posters</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>Hamilton Print Shop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total requesting from SA Discretionary Fund: $2,960
Amount remaining if Community Event passes: $2,040

Discretionary Funding Passes
NEED VOLUNTEERS, sports teams who are not playing have agreed to help out

5. Funding

Amount remaining prior to Student Assembly meeting 9/23: $43,091.97
Rollback from Mock Trial of $353.46

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Requesting</th>
<th>Recommending</th>
<th>Resubmit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Cultural Society</td>
<td>$800.76</td>
<td>$648.76</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Club</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAVOC</td>
<td>$942.07</td>
<td>$942.07</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paintball</td>
<td>$2,590.53</td>
<td>$2,590.53</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Who Do Fun Things</td>
<td>$146.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>$100.90</td>
<td>$63.94</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Club Teams</td>
<td>$843.65</td>
<td>$843.65</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Athlete Advisory Committee</td>
<td>$2,599.28</td>
<td>$2,499.38</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young People's Project</td>
<td>$521.04</td>
<td>$521.04</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOLDS=HOLDS**

Total requested: $7,644.16
Total suggesting: $7,217.30

Amount remaining if funding passes 9/23: $36,228.13
Funding passes in full
  - $11,630 passed in full out of the movie channel hold separately after the funding vote

6. Committee Reports
   - Social Traditions
     - Sports Tailgate on Saturday!
   - Food
     - Meet the Managers went well
     - Eat Local Challenge 11-2 McEwen courtyard tomorrow, Commons and McEwen will be closed and no meal swipe will be required
   - Technology
     - Movie channel will hopefully up by October
     - Survey on dead zones in cell service will go out this week
     - Wireless printing cards have been put on all printers ([https://printx.hamilton.edu:9192](https://printx.hamilton.edu:9192))
   - Cultural Affairs
     - International Food Festival this Friday at 5:00 outside Sadove
   - Philanthropy
     - Meeting 7 p.m. on Thursday on the 3rd floor of Sadove
     - Cerebral Palsy Walk on October 6 in Utica
     - Annual Haunted House

7. Announcements
• During contentious discussions like the one tonight, it is not always positive to have people applauding. In the future we will clarify our expectations for all present parties.
  o Responses like clapping after comments is distracting and can discourage people from sharing divergent opinions
• If you took two (2) tickets to for the Great Names lecture and won’t need the second, please return the spare to the Sadove Desk.
• Be sure to download the new funding form from the Student Activities website!