

Minutes for the Meeting of the Shimer College Assembly
April 10, 2011 – 4:05 PM

1) Speaker David Shiner gave the welcome

2) Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 27, 2011 (prepared by Secretary Neel Rana)

- **The minutes were approved** as submitted with minor corrections made by Sam Henderson, Alumni

3) Committee Report Updates and Questions

- APC - Eileen Buchanan, Faculty, asked how many of the people interviewed for the teaching positions were to be hired. David Shiner, Speaker, responded that it was expected that two would be hired, though three are possible.
- Admissions Committee and Office – Rebecca Noble, Student, asked when a new Admissions Director was to be hired. Cassie Sherman, Admissions Staff, responded that a new hire would be made when candidates had applied. The search process will not begin until May, but one should be hired by the fall semester. Albert Fernandez, Faculty, asked questions regarding the 'withdrawal' section of the Admissions report, as well as questioning the seeming decline of net deposits this year compared to last. Cassie Sherman responded that 'withdrawal' constituted those who were admitted but chose not to attend Shimer. And in regard to the second question, Cassie added that until the end of April, the number of deposits is relatively arbitrary, because May 1st is the start of the period when schools start to require decisions, and May 15th would be a more telling date to compare year by year deposits. Further, many deposits are on the way. The official number of deposits now is 6.
- Agenda: The Agenda Committee commented that this was the last expected Assembly of the academic year.
- QLC: Stephanie Fong, Student, asked what the remaining 30% of the QLC budget was going to be used for. B David Galt, Staff, responded that Solidarity would be a major part of that spending, as well as the three remaining Community Tuesdays, and other small commitments. Further, by the end of the year about 97-98% of the budget will have been used.
- Advancement Office: Albert Fernandez asked for a clarification on the report that, given the current figures, \$143,000 must still be raised to meet the \$750,000 goal. Noah Kippley-Ogman, Staff, responded in the affirmative.

4) President Noonan's "State of the College" Address:

- President Noonan gave the address.

- Albert Fernandez asked what was going to be done with the Shimer documentary. Hopefully, by May 6th a trailer will be released, and the documentary will be finished by early June. It is planned to be used by admissions, advancement, etc.
- Gail Beck, student, asked if the film crew would be shooting footage of the weekend students. The answer given was that they are coming back to shoot footage of both the weekend and the weekday at a later date.

5) Elections for Assembly Committees:

a. Academic Planning Committee

The APC is an 11 person committee. Barbara Stone, faculty, is the chair because she will be Dean, and David Shiner is also on the committee because he will be the Associate Dean. Voting takes place by constituency, and for that reason, the faculty will be voted in at the faculty meeting.

- Weekday Students:
 - Rebecca Noble, Kieran Kelley, Eli Nelson
- Weekend Students:
 - Kate Burke, Sarah Walls-Rosenberg
- Staff:
 - Heidi Angeles

b. Administrative Committee

The Administrative Committee contains 6 Staff, and 5 Students of which 3 come from Weekday and 2 from Weekend. Chair of the committee is Marc Hoffman, Staff. The voting is not constituency based.

- Staff:
 - B David Galt, Janet Henthorn, Colleen McCarroll, Cassie Sherman, Jim Donovan
- Weekday Students:
 - Erik Boneff, Stephanie Fong, Allison Savage
- Weekend Students
 - Katherine Williams, Kate Burke

c. Budget Committee

The budget committee consists of at least 1 Weekday Student, 1 Weekend Student, and 2 Staff.

- Weekday Students:
 - Adam Bechtol, Eli Nelson, Netiya Shiner
- Staff:
 - Matt Altman, Harold Stone
- Weekend Students:
 - Sarah Walls-Rosenberg

6) Discussion of Number of Members on upcoming Presidential Search Committee:

- a. David Shiner, Speaker, explained that the Assembly will recommend to the Board of Trustees the number of members appropriate to the Presidential Search Committee, which has suggested 6 to 8 preferring 8. Constitutionally, there need to be at least 3 faculty members, and furthermore the number of Board members must match the number of Assembly members. In the last search, there was a 10 person committee made up of 5 Assembly members: 2 faculty, 1 weekday student, 1 weekend student, 1 administrator, and 5 Board members.
- b. Taylor Buck asked, how effective was the committee at 10 members? Albert Fernandez responded that 10 members, that year, was a very good number and further it seems to be a fair representation for the committee.
- c. Barbara Stone raised her belief that the Board suggested not 6 or 8, but 8 to 10. Erik Boneff agreed with this interpretation of the Board's recommendation.
- d. Katelynn DeLavan asked when the committee would be elected, and when would they start work? Barbara Stone responded that the hope was that much of the preliminary work would start sooner rather than later, hopefully in the summer, and beginning the screening of applications in the fall. David Shiner added that the Board did not have a voting meeting, but rather a discussion-based meeting. The Board may elect their members in next meeting, but there is no guarantee. The Assembly simply wants to have the right timing in making its recommendation to the Board. Nothing is going to happen in the next month, but perhaps it will be the next 2-4 months. Taylor Buck added that the general hope of the Board was to hire someone for the spring or summer of 2012.
- e. Ed Noonan, President, brought up the notion of having not only a mechanical discussion of the search committee, but also a spiritual discussion as to what kind of President the Assembly believes is appropriate for Shimer now. He expressed his wish for a natural leader, who is knowledgeable and accepting of the current Shimer culture and academia. David Shiner responded that this is a purely mechanical meeting and though input in such areas is greatly appreciated, there will be other time set aside for a more 'spiritual' discussion. Barbara Stone added that we will try to commit time to firesides, etc. to discuss the qualities Shimer believes the president should have.
- f. Eileen Buchanan moved that the Assembly recommend that there be 10 members in the committee, five from the Assembly, constituting two faculty members, one Weekday student, one Weekend student, and one administrative member. Katelynn DeLavan seconded the motion. The motion will require that the faculty suspend their constitutional right to at least three faculty members, as they did the last time this committee was constituted.
- g. Harold Stone asked if elections for the committee would need to be held online, and if so would some sort of motion to that effect be in order? David Shiner responded that it seemed as though some of the elections would have to be online, but that no motion is necessary for that to happen.
- h. Mohini Lal asked if the faculty needed to approve this motion separately. David Shiner responded in the negative, and further commented that since it's only a recommendation he does not see it encountering much difficulty.

- i. Albert Fernandez proposed a friendly amendment to the motion, namely changing the phrasing of the motion to 'The Assembly recommends'. Eileen Buchanan accepted the change.
 - j. The **motion**, motivated by Eileen Buchanan and seconded by Katelynn DeLavan, at this point read: "The Assembly recommends that the Presidential Search Committee consist of ten members. The five internal members will be two faculty members, one weekday student, one weekend student, and one administrative member." **Motion carries unanimously.**
- 7) **Proposed Amendment to the Assembly Constitution:** The proposed Amendment to the Assembly Constitution, motivated by David Shiner on behalf of the Academic Planning Committee (APC) reads: *The description of the APC should be amended to include the clause, "the APC is responsible for setting salary policy for the faculty."*
- a. David Shiner spoke first, explaining that he believed this was a very simple motion because it has been the de facto case for years, and the motion was simply making the Constitution consistent with what was already practiced.
 - b. Eli Nelson commented on the fact that the motion only addressed the structure of salary rather than actual amount of compensation that keeps it from overreaching into the Budget Committee's responsibilities.
 - c. B David Galt asked if the motion required a second, to which David Shiner responded that it did not as it came from the Agenda Committee.
 - d. Albert Fernandez pointed out that since it is a constitutional amendment it would require a two-thirds majority as opposed to a simple majority.
 - e. **Motion carries.**
- 8) **Proposed Amendment to the Assembly Constitution:** The amendment motivated by David Shiner reads: *All instances of "committees of the College" should be amended to "committees of the Assembly."*
- a. David Shiner spoke on the amendment, stating it was a largely a clarification issue, and further that it could be useful at a later point in time for a committee or perhaps a sub-committee to go through the Assembly Constitution and make sure it is consistent. Further, since David Shiner is moving the motion, it requires others to propose and second it. Cassie Sherman proposes the amendment and Rebecca Noble seconds.
- Harold Stone questioned why this is being proposed as an amendment rather than a block change. David Shiner responded that the amendment is being proposed as a block change, and would not simply be tacked on to the end of the Assembly Constitution. He also pointed out that the motion was an amendment to the constitution and thus required a two-thirds majority. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- 9) **Discussion of a proposal:** This proposal was forwarded to the Assembly by the Agenda Committee on behalf of its author, alum Sam Henderson (Class of '98). It reads:

[That] the Assembly establishes a temporary ad-hoc committee on external relations. The committee is to consist of at least one student, at least one faculty or staff member, and at least one alum, and may expand its membership (to no more than 10) by unanimous consent of the members. The committee will seek suggestions and feedback from both the internal and external communities, and will report back to the Assembly with its proposals no later than the second meeting of the fall 2011 semester. The purpose of the committee will be to explore ways of establishing stronger ties between the Assembly and the external community, and particularly to find better ways of communicating the actions and significance of the Assembly and its committees to groups outside of the internal community, including alumni, friends of the college, and the general public.

- a. Sam Henderson motivated the motion, stating that it was his hope that such a committee could provide some way for the alumni to reach the Assembly and vice versa; and further, he hoped that it would be possible to bring the alumni into the committees at least in an advisory context.
- b. Katelynn DeLavan as Parliamentarian thought this was interesting, so she looked up how it might be done. Since Alumni are non-voting members, the Assembly would have to suspend the rules or change the constitution to allow for the sort of changes proposed. Sam Henderson responded with a clarification that the proposal was not meant to be an immediate motion or amendment, but simply a springboard for discussion.
- c. Albert Fernandez stated that he was in favor of the general intention of what was being proposed. He cited the substantial amount of help alumni have contributed to the college, especially last year. It is clear the alumni are devoted and it would be detrimental for all that to disappear. Also, from a practical point of view it would be great if the college could still receive financial support from the alumni, and a committee is a good idea.
- d. Eileen Buchanan stated that every three years or so the Alumni Association is reconfigured. She wondered how viable it would be to connect the two groups.
- e. Barbara Stone added that she had interpreted the importance of the proposal in terms of PR. She stated her hope that the committee not overreach itself onto other committees' responsibilities, and that it would work consistently with other organizations already in place.
- f. B David Galt stated that he really liked the idea behind this, and that this group could look at the relationship between Assembly and Alumni.
- g. David Shiner wondered if something could be done informally in terms of a meeting between a group of students, Sam Henderson, and Aaron Garland. Eli Nelson stated that he works for advancement and could attempt to get a meeting done. Barbara said that she was interested in being involved as well. Netiya Shiner stated her belief that whoever is president of the Alumni Association should also be involved in any meetings.

10) Announcements:

- a. Allison Savage stated that next Monday, April 18th there is going to be a screening of the documentary "Living Without Money" in Cinderella.

- b. Eileen Buchanan said that this weekend “The Importance of Being Ernest” is playing in the Tower Theater at 7:30 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, plus a Sunday matinee.
- c. Netiya Shiner said that planning for Solidarity is underway, and if the weather is good it will be outside. It is planned for Saturday, May 30th.
- d. David Shiner said Writing Week Tea will be on Tuesday of Writing Week as usual.
- e. Jasmine Houston-Burns stated that a group of students are working on a community garden in Bronzeville, and if interested to come talk to her.
- f. David Shiner also stated that Graduation is May 7th at two in the afternoon, and as many students as possible should attend. He thanked Rebecca Noble, Albert Fernandez, and Christin Smith for their work on the Agenda Committee.

11) Adjournment 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Neel Rana
Secretary of the Assembly