Today was an auspicious day in the history of Student Caucus meetings. Though the minutes of weeks past have begun with tradition, with sarcasm, and with irrefutable style, on this day of days, the meeting did not begin with committee reports. No, my fellow students – it began with Cathy Kramer.

Due to time constraints, Cathy gave a brief update on the status of the new permanent smoking structures. Because Caucus has not decided on a location, no materials have been ordered, and no structures will be built over winter break. The options that Cathy provided to Larry include building a structure between Dodge and Sunderland, relocating the exercise park to build one there, or building one structure in front of Sunderland and another in back. Cathy also spoke to the supervisor of the Landscaping Crew, who was of the opinion that building a shelter between Dodge and Sunderland would be the worst option from a landscaping viewpoint. Cathy asked that any questions or suggestions be sent to her as soon as possible.

Having been usurped by the might of true oration, the committee reports followed like the cowed thralls of a ruthless thane. The First Year Experience Committee, its tail between its legs, immediately forfeited the right to speak, shameful of its uninteresting agenda. But then the Student Life Committee stepped forth, brandishing a revised smoking sanctions proposal like a fiery blade of justice, golden armor gleaming in the light of heated debate. Though the previous proposal focused on cessation, this new and righteous document focused on the evils of secondhand smoke, elevating the virtues of respect and the observation of the law. The Committee noted that the fines have nothing to do with the substance in question, and shall be levied only upon failure to comply with the sanctions.

Hold the phone! Kate Ziegler has advanced to the status of voting member, do not pass go, do not collect $200! Kate wants to get involved with the community of Warren Wilson and hopes that voting membership will guide her way – but nevermind that, because her favorite dinosaur is the pterodactyl. This is a hard word to spell – it took me three tries. But was it worth it?

The word “pterodactyl” is a generic term given in reference to any member of the order Pterosauria, which existed from the late Triassic to the end of the Cretaceous Period, and constituted the first order of vertebrates to evolve true flight. Though often referred to in popular media as a dinosaur, this term is properly restricted to a certain group of terrestrial reptiles with a unique upright stance (superorder Dinosauria), and therefore excludes the pterosaurs, as well as various groups of extinct aquatic reptiles such as the ichthyosaur, plesiosaur, and mosasaur. What’s more, the traditional image of the pterodactyl, as seen in children’s toys and media, never actually existed, but is instead a fictionalized hybrid of several species of pterosaur, most notably Pteranodon and Rhamphorhynchus.

You fail, Kate. Better luck next time.

Despite her grievous inability to favor a true and worthy dinosaur (such as parasaurolophus, for instance) Kate was readily accepted into the Student Caucus fold with a unanimous vote. What the world is coming to these days…

Back to the subject at hand, if the smoking sanctions proposal were to be rejected again, temporary sanctions would be put in place until a new proposal could be approved. Though there were not enough voting members present to satisfy quorum (we know who you are and we have Santa on speed dial), an informal vote of all students present was taken instead. The sanctions
passed. Some people abstained, but they were just being looser-faces. I emoticon in their general direction. :P

Student Caucus then went on to yip for over an hour about proper locations for permanent smoking structures. Though I would love to give you a summary of this, I’m getting a headache and, quite frankly, I’m getting tired of the subject. Suffice to say that no one agrees. On anything. Including whether or not they agree. Honestly, people, we gave you cookies.

Despite this, Caucus nabbed a passing voting member and managed to vote on two of the Smoking Committee’s proposals before people began to disapperate in great purple puffs of indignation. The first proposal, which suggested that the smoking policy should be limited to business hours, was changed from 8:00am – 6:00pm to 7:00am – 7:00pm by friendly amendment and passed. The second proposal, which suggested that central campus should be limited to Kitteridge, therefore excluding the art buildings, parking lot, and the Village from the smoking policy, also passed. The third proposal, which moved on to such complex topics as rain shelters, official nomenclature, and the inevitability of the future, soon grew confused and longwinded and generally ignored by the typist. Which didn’t matter much in the end as quorum had almost immediately gone to snuff, and the whole shebang will return next semester, when I will no longer have to deal with it. All three proposals are attached.

Oh, and in case you didn’t know, Gideon Burdick and Rachel Peacock are your new co-conveners for next semester. Sadly, Lindsy and I are moving on, and ya’ll will have to deal with sensical (why isn’t that a word? nonsensical is a word…) minutes and Caucus updates. I know – my life is also cold and meaningless. I’ll never forget you.

When given the chance to reflect on the past semester, those few remaining students who managed to survive the smoking structure conversation motioned to adjourn. Before they could fully achieve absquatulation, however, Candace soliloquized her pride in Caucus’s growth and its achievements. This was very cute, and I cannot, in good faith, allow it to be the last thing I write on my last minute summary for my last Student Caucus meeting.

Therefore, I choose to reflect on the fact that I have drawn some AWESOME dinosaurs while ya’ll were jabbering away. Put that in your juice box and suck it, hippies!
These pictures suck.

I had to use my digital camera!

But... Parasauralophus...

You were supposed to be waiting minutes.

STOP JUDGING ME!!!!!

That one isn't even a dinosaur!