Minutes from 2/19/08

Co-Co’s: New voting member, Nina Otter and Geneva Bierce-Wilson why and what is your favorite dinosaur?
Nina: Want to hear about the internal workings, have a voice and create a better place. Also want to work to connect students, faculty and staff and have those types of conversations. Favorite dinosaur: Long neck. 0 No’s, 0 Abstain.
Geneva: like to be a part of the discussion. Favorite dinosaur is the teradachtyl. 0 No’s 0 Abstain.

Co-Co’s: Call for committee reports.
Dining Services: Local food movement got money donated to explore more options here at Wilson. Sustainability with Sodexho was addressed. On the 29th there will be a soul food dinner. There will also be a dish roundup next Tuesday after caucus. Finally there will be a Sustainable Agriculture conference this weekend here at Wilson. It would be nice if you signed up before hand with local foods, Ellie or Meredith.

Buildings and Grounds: Sean and Dave from forestry spoke about the hemlocks and campus efforts to save them. Talk to Tom Lomb or Forestry for more details. College View Dr. residents want to spray nearby hemlocks. The college is talking directly with the residents and right now it’s looking like they will spray. It’s a successful low impact soap.

Student Life: Affinity housing was discussed, right now the only affinity is Shepherd, but Eco, Wellness and Ballfield B are could be considered as well. There looking to revise the current policy so that affinity housing “founders” would have to report back to the committee with updates as to how they were following there charter/contract each term. It would add accountability

PAC: Debrief from the Board of Trustee’s meeting. There was discussion around Residence Halls and their capacity as well as the size of the school. There were no concrete ideas that will be enacted as policy.

Geoffrey: What is capacity?

PAC: We have 778 beds for on campus housing, our capacity is 900 with day students. How many mailboxes do we have??

PAC: Unknown, might be good to find out. This is part of what PAC was talking about, what parts of campus are maxed out and how adding students would challenge existing services and what it would mean on all services if growth did happen.

Kayleigh: What is the size cap?
PAC: were committed to an average of 800 students per year. This was a three-year agreement made by PAC and we’re in our second year. There’s going to be a long-term discussion that will have to be had at some point. In addition PAC talking about the smoking policy and how the recommendations didn’t even really need to go to buildings and grounds because the policy was already implemented. In addition PAC talked about hiring another full time athletics person because the BB coaches contract is up. PAC decided that they would hire another person to work as a BB coach as well as a sports information person in DeVries.

Griffin: How many people are there in the dorms now?

PAC: 668.

Mandy: The 3rd candidate in the CFO search will be on campus Thursday at 4 (open session for students). Also there will be a VPAA candidate on campus at the end of the week as well. Both have open sessions for students and people should go to them.

Paige: What’s the status of the Dean/VPAA search?

Co-Co’s: The school offered employment to two of the three final candidates but those two individuals had already moved on. So they re-opened the search asked for new applicants and looked at some of the previous applicants.

Cathy: The search process for both is hopefully going to be completed by Spring Break. In addition its important that students go to the student open sessions. Not only is it a chance to hear these people and lend your input but it also helps the candidates get to know the school.

Co-Co’s: Introduction of Margo Flood, Director of the Environmental Leadership Center

Margo: The ELC helps the college live into their commitments, especially around sustainability. Global warming is multi-disciplinary and has measurably community impacts. PAC has a sustainable decision process where they look at local impacts of, for instance, growth. There would be economic, energy, community issues. Global warming is not only on a Micro but a Macro level as well. Sustainability has applicability.

The ELC also runs the EcoTeam ho reaches 70% of the third graders in Buncombe County. We also do paid internships with various organizations. The application this year is closed and it would be very difficult to submit and application now. The main focus of the ELC right now is climate change and efficiency on campus. There will be a proposal coming soon to challenge the community and push them on energy commitments. Also the ELC does public walkabouts every two weeks as well as the Swannanoa Journal, which is aired bi-weekly on WNCW and WEVM.

Alex: Asked if the ELC was addressing diversity and its effects on community.
**Margo:** The ELC doesn’t typically get into social justice however they’re starting to acknowledge the need to change. Hopefully the college will raise scholarship funds for outreach. We do have a Cherokee tribal leader coming but the ELC is aware that there is work that needs to be done.

**Paige:** Is water use a priority in the ELC, especially because there’s a drought?

**Margo:** Except for teaching about it isn’t addressed as a community challenge. Land use is starting to talk water but the ELC. Perhaps its time for campus greening to start. There will be a curriculum next year about water as part of the Arthur Inning Davis Grant that will be offering electives.

**Co-Co’s:** Could you give a quick summery of what agreements Wilson has?

**Margo:** Wilson is one of the founding signatory of the Presidential Commitment to Climate that aims to be carbon neutral by “end point” and certain other pledges. For example PAC passed a commitment that all new construction on campus had to be at least LEED Silver, in addition to continuing to offset energy use and subsidize public transportation. Were also members of the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, which has developed a rating system that Wilson will be piloting. Unfortunately we don’t really have the manpower to implement it fully. Finally Wilson is part of a Climate Partnership with the City of Asheville. They meet every two weeks to share information, collaborate and talk about what their doing. Next year there hoping to have students doing energy audits in Swannanoa on trailers and possibly do renovations as well.

The ELC is located in upper Carson, stop by.

**Co-Co’s Call** for committee members to help figure out where to allocate the 5,000 dollars that Sandy pledged as part of Focus the Nation. Ben, Kayleigh and Rachel agreed to be a part of the team in addition to EAC members. Introduced the Queer Resource Center

**Nathan:** The QRC will become a crew again in the fall. They had an old office space in Vining C but it was turned into a study hall. The old band room will be used instead. The QRC has some contacts already and donors/funds, especially for a resource library.

**Earnest:** What will happen to the bands that use the space.

**Cathy:** There’s a new band room in progress in Kitteredge that will be done soon.

**Candace:** Perhaps its best to wait until next semester before you take over the space in Glad?

**Julie:** yes, that’s what’s going to happen.

**Clancy:** What will the crew do?
Julie: We’ll have a voice on campus, space to discuss issues as well as more say in what the administration is doing. In addition we’ll look to have events.

Nathan: We’ll also have a resource library and contact with Asheville for gay rights and activism. May also look into funding for conferences.

Candace: Has any thought been given to combining Gender and sexuality resources and bringing everyone together?

Julie: Women’s resource center will merge somewhat with the QRC and the space that the women’s resource center currently uses may be turned into a community space.

Ryan: Offered Peace and Justice assistance.

Kayleigh: All the centers appear to be scattered. Do they get lost in space?

Ryan: Sometimes this helps because there’s then one specific place to go to find something.

Nina: Would like to see anti-oppression trainings and offered that the Environmental Action Coalition would like to be involved.

Co-Co’s: Segway into discussion about Lower Glad.

Ryan: Needs a decorator

Alex: Needs to have news access all the time.

Ryan: The ping-pong table takes up a lot of room, not suggesting it should be taken away but just bringing it to the attention.

Paige: This isn’t enough space down here

Griffin: The building also closes around 11.

Co-Co’s and Earnest: The building closes due to the fact that it holds a Federal post office, there are legal issues around that. That is also where the fire started several years ago.

Ryan: Can Sage Café be used to enhance student/community space.

Cathy: there will be a proposal coming from Sage Café to remodel/expand and upgrade the space.

Helen: weren’t there issues around the allowability of Sage with Sodexho?
Cathy: No, it’s more with the Health Dept and Fire Marshall. There are some issues around using commercial grade equipment and the capacity of the space.

Earnest: Is there advertising for events that aren’t really going on?

Nina: Having a whiteboard open for all to use, maybe on a wall down here may be beneficial.

Alex: Raises the issue of a T.V. w/news.

Ben: More firm understanding of what the space in lower Glad is used for

Lauren: Expired posters, does student activities take them down? Perhaps have a weekly poster board to differentiate between one time and reoccurring events.

Geoffery: This discussion happens regularly but maybe we’re talking about this space like something it isn’t. It’s a high traffic wide spot in the hallway and it works well as that. It isn’t really a meeting space, there’s constant traffic, people going to their mailboxes etc.

Helen: Leave flyers only up for a month, maybe date them with the day they were posted?

Discourse about table tents on dining tables ensues. It is resolved that student activities could maybe put out a weekly table tent to reduce the number?

Franklin: In somewhat favor of a news T.V. as it’s hard to reserve the TV’s in dorm.

Somewhere in here someone mentions a newspaper rack. It gets props. It’s brought up that the library has newspapers.

Alex: there’s a sort of awareness around getting news. It’s hard to do unless you seek it out on your own and spend a decent amount of time reading online.

Kayleigh: Having a T.V. takes away individuals seeking out the news. It may result in the news being pushed upon people if it’s always present.

Ryan: If it’s in the corner it’s out of the way, if you want to see the news then you can go but it isn’t exactly pushed.

Franklin: agrees, put it in the back on quiet or muted with captions. May actually encourage people to seek out more news because they may just catch half the story between classes.

Straw poll: 11 For, 9 oppose, 7 have no strong opinion.
Griffin: What if there was a news board, something along the lines of what Peace and Justice have.

Co-Co’s: Announcements. Thursday Feb. 28th in Sage Café Sandy will be talking about a whole host of issues you should come because it’s sponsored by Peace and Justice as well as Caucus. Free cookies by the baking crew.

Kate: The food Co-op had 13 pounds of ground beef stolen from the freezer in Dorland. If you know anything please let her know.

Cathy: Boys Basketball game, senior night, lets go!

7:26

Thoughts on Glad from the Whiteboard

Music?
Television that is silent w/captions. Some sort of electronic device with news.
Ping-pong room?
Not enough space in general
Whiteboards for general use
Developing ideas for types of community space, more information
Restructuring advertising for community events.
Newspaper rack and/or news board.

Praises and Concern

Yeah Margo, thanks for getting her and climate/energy/environment on the table

Why do you ask what a voting members fave dinosaur is? It just assumes we like dinosaurs!!
Its tradition. Maybe we can (?) and distribute dino chocolate to new members!

Chris agrees
Someone else wrote exactly

Wow, I am excited about a compost magnate contraption to prevent silverware from being thrown away?

We need to talk about water use on campus!

What about having a poll or open sheet for students to list what things they think need changing? Wait…do they even care?
Keep working on the website and making the minutes available online. Also, I didn’t think the minutes are reaching everyone when they are sent out weekly. Please check on this.

Minutes and the caucus weekly update are sent out in an All-L

Let’s get some mud and have a caucus mud slinging…get some real progressivism going.