**SGA Meeting Minutes
January 23rd, 2018**

At 6:02PM, the meeting commenced. Nate Maiwald led the invocation, and Kassie Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kassie introduced the guest speaker, Caroline Stiles, Academic Council.

Caroline presented the topics discussed by the Academic Council. First, she shared the concept of creating a History Plus major. It would be a flexible and adaptive major including a history major as well as a concentration, and a senior capstone. This concept has already been approved by the Academic Council. Momo Abdellatif asked if it could be a minor. Caroline said it was only offered as a major. A member of the body asked if this concept was being introduced at other schools. Caroline replied that it was a new concept.

Caroline informed the body that the Business School would be introducing an entrepreneurship minor. There will be three variations of the minor: general, social, and intrapreneurship. Suleima Millan-Salinas asked when the change would go into effect. Caroline said fall semester.

Caroline shared that the Business School was considering requiring international business majors to study abroad. Additionally, the Foreign Language department was considering implementing a study abroad requirement, as well as splitting the German major into German language and German Studies, which would focus more on culture. Rachel Caldwell asked if the study abroad requirement would apply to Foreign Language minors as well. Caroline said no. Ellen Summerlin asked if this would be required of all majors as soon as it was implemented, or if it would phase in with new majors. Caroline said it would phase in. Kassie Jones shared her concerns with the financial possibility of studying abroad. Emma Chambers asked for clarification on the required amount of time for study abroad, and Caroline said it could be a semester or a summer abroad program. Hayley Edmondson shared that financial aid transfers for semesters abroad, while summers abroad are paid for out of pocket. Olivia Vasquez asked if this had been finalized yet. Caroline said no. Olivia responded that though she is a Spanish major, she does not see a need to study abroad because she finds fulfillment in her learning process in the Rome community. Kassie Jones added that some scholarship programs do not allow students to study abroad. Reverting back to the discussion of the German major being separated, a member of the body asked if the German Studies major would still learn the language as well. Caroline said yes, but that upper level courses would shift focus to culture.

Caroline addressed the Academic Council’s consideration of allowing juniors to register for the academic year instead of by semester, therefore making sure they get all of the classes within their majors as well as completing all foundations courses in time. Will Kenworthy added that the Council was still debating this idea, and that nothing was set in stone yet. Emma Chambers asked if this would be decided based on credit hours or by year. Caroline replied that credit hours would decide. A member of the body said that this change would be more confusing than useful. Olivia Vasquez added that many people change majors junior year, so there would not be a lot of value in signing up for classes early if you change your mind before the next semester arrives. Brook Davis-Brown agreed, saying that lower classmen would lose spots in classes to juniors who would end up dropping the class. Rachel Caldwell asked if it could be optional for juniors. Caroline thought it would be difficult to make it optional, but said she would ask for more information. Kassie Jones said that registering for the entire year was seen as a senior privilege.

Caroline brought her final topic to the attention of the body, which was the idea of adding introductions to research seminars for science students. Prototype courses would exist in the Chemistry and possibly Economics department, and would allow rigorous first year students to begin pursuing their major field. JW Perry asked if this would be required for science majors. Caroline said no. Brook Davis-Brown asked if these courses would be particularly challenging. Caroline said the courses would target freshmen with impeccable academic drive, and would possibly be labeled as 300 level courses. Momo Abdellatif asked if these seminars would be paired with BCC 100 courses, much like special topics courses. Caroline shared that the courses would take place second semester so that students have time to settle in and professors can get to know the students a bit better.

**Officer Reports:**

**Anna Katherine Drew, Secretary**

Anna Katherine presented the minutes. The minutes passed as typed.

Anna Katherine reminded the body to continue submitting credits.

The SGA Prize of the Week went to Ellen Summerlin.

**Marc McLendon, Vice President of Service**

Marc told the body that the Counseling Center greatly appreciated their cookie cake as recipients of the Giving Back Project.

Marc shared that the first blood drive of this semester would be with Blood Assurance on February 21st.

**Will Kenworthy, Vice President of Administration**

Will informed the body that class officer elections for Senior Treasurer and Freshman Secretary open tonight. Additionally, Will shared that nominations for executive positions open next week.

Will announced that the deadline for Mr. Berry applications is January 26th. The event is February 9th at 7:30PM in the Ford Auditorium.

Will Kenworthy gave his weekly weather report. Wednesday will have a high of 53 degrees and a low of 28 degrees with a 10% chance of rain.

**Kassie Jones, President**

Kassie told the body that SGA was still looking to hire an Accountant during the transition period between Treasurers.

Kassie shared that the reallocation deadline is January 31st.

Kassie informed the body that the SGA Account Balance is $11,334.93. Brook Davis-Brown asked Kassie if the special projects budget comes out of the SGA Account Balance. Kassie said yes, $10,000 would be removed for special projects. Emanuel Hill asked if recommendations were taken for the special projects committee. Kassie said yes, and invited Emanuel to talk to Marc McLendon after the meeting.

Kassie shared that a 2nd Annual Groundhog Day celebration would be taking place on February 2nd at 8:30AM, including prizes, games, coffee, etc.

Kassie asked if anyone had any questions or concerns with the new class bus. A member of the body asked where to find the route for the bus. Kassie said to ask the Student Activities Office.

**Old Business**

Marcus Ghee shared that Chick-Fil-A was not willing to remove the bleu cheese from their salads. Kassie said she would talk to Fraser Pearson, Director of Dining Services.

**New Business**

Olivia Leviton asked if having printers in residence halls was a possibility. Kassie said that no one on campus is willing to be responsible for the printers. Marc McLendon added that special projects had considered it, but printers are not a one-time project.

**Class President Reports**

Senior Class President Anna Walker had nothing to report.

Junior Class President Dominic Miller invited the body to join the Junior Class Officers February 1st for their event, Cereal and Speed Dating in Krannert 324.

Sophomore Class President Bailey Dingley and Freshman Class President Noah Beck had nothing to report.

**Committee Reports**

Will Kenworthy presented on behalf of the Learning Management Software Committee. LMS is considering using alternative software for VikingWeb. Noah Beck asked what kind of timeline this change was on. Will said that the transition would be implemented in the fall, and would phase out the old format for the new.

**Announcements**

Karolyn Olsen announced that KCAB would be hosting Vegas Weekend Friday and Saturday night. Mentalist Jonny L would be performing in Krannert Ballroom January 26th at 9PM, and Casino Night would be held in Krannert from 9PM-11PM January 27th. Karolyn informed the body that KCAB was still looking for blackjack dealers and to email KCAB if interested.

Matt Smith invited the body to American Chemical Society’s Valentine’s Day Dinner on February 14th.

JW Perry announced that David Alfred would be participating in a BCTC reading on Friday in Evans Auditorium. This event counts as a CE Credit.

Anna Walker, with a second from Ellen Summerlin, moved to adjourn at 6:52PM.