**SGA Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016**

At 7:00PM, the meeting commenced. John Catton led the invocation, and Ree Palmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ree introduced the guest speakers, Ellen Hearn and Lindsay Norman from Residence Life.

Ellen Hearn, the Assistant Director to Residence Life, introduced the online room selection process to the body. She stated that the online process will run like course selection. Students will log on to housing.berry.edu on their selected day and choose a room with their roommate. Ellen informed the body that all students would need to fill out the housing contract, pay the $200 prepayment due on March 20th, and preregister for fall classes. Ellen said that all rooms, besides singles, will require a roommate. If you do not have a roommate, the online system will not let you select a room. Residence Life will provide mingling sessions for those that need to find a roommate for the next school year. Ellen stated that once you and your roommate have selected the room you find available, you’re done with the housing selection. Room selection will be on April 12th, 13th, 14th, at 5 PM. A student from the body inquired about the order of students choosing rooms. Ellen responded that order will depend on hour’s classification. The more credit hours a student has, the earlier they can select a room. She also informed that body that residence life will have staff in Krannert helping students if they have any problems. Ellen announced to the body that when selecting a room, students will be given the option to type in their roommate’s name. Their roommate will have a limited amount of time on the housing website to accept or decline the invitation. Jessica Gross asked how classification would work with roommates. Ellen responded that if your roommate had lower hours, then you and your roommate would have to wait for the lower credit hour time. Ellen announced to the body that on April 11th, all students will be allowed to see what exact time they have for housing selection. She said that each student’s VikingWeb page will have an individual countdown time. She also announced that themed housing applications are due February 19th and that individuals will be notified before room selection if they have been accepted into the program. Jessica Gross asked what students should do if their roommates played a sport and were playing a game during the selection process. Dean Heida commented that a proxy set-up should be possible for students. Lindsay Norman responded that Residence Life will look into it. Tori Thiessen asked if floor planes for dorms would be available before housing selection. Ellen responded that floor planes would be available online and in Krannert. Before finishing, Ellen announced that all housing selection will take place during the evening. Lindsay Norman, the Director of Residence Life, introduced room reclaim and the living-learning community pilot program. She explained that room reclaim is where students would be allowed to come to Residence Life and request to stay in the room they have now. Lindsay stated that if students wish to reclaim their room, there could be a possibility of consolidating. For example: residence life does not want 1 upperclassmen room on a freshman hall, so there could be a possibility of moving the upperclassmen to an upperclassmen hall in that dorm. She explained to the body that they decided to offer room reclaim after having a focus group with a positive response. Serena Kargbo asked how room reclaim would work online. Lindsay responded that room reclaim would not be online and would go through the office of residence life. Ethan Hawkland inquired about RA’s room reclaiming. Lindsay stated that after going through the reapplying process, returning RA’s should speak with their boss and ask to be placed in the same room. Lindsay went on to announce to the body that a living-learning community would be placed in Morgan-Deerfield dorms next year. She stated that there was a large amount of research behind the program and that residence life was excited to pilot the experience at Berry College. Caroline Stiles inquired about the definition of a living-learning community. Lindsay responded that it would be a program that 1st year students participate in through their BCC class. All the students would live together on the same hall in Morgan- Deerfield with their mentor and classmates. She said that students would be able to participate in more activities together and create a unique community with one another. Alexi Bell stated that the program is good idea but not in Morgan-Deerfield. The community among freshman would be more fragmented and harder to keep. Brittany Jones commented that residence life would completely change the community of Morgan-Deerfield. It is a dorm made for upperclassmen, who waited their turn to get into the dorm. Tori Thiessen stated that if residence life moved the program to Dana, the classes could use the knuckles and game room for an area of community. Lindsay responded that the Jewelbox and study rooms in Morgan-Deerfield could be used for the same opportunity. Michael Dunn inquired about the requirements of the program. Lindsay responded that she did not know specific requirements but that there would be an application process. Valerie DeWandel stated that there was already a set community at Morgan-Deerfield and that no students wanted to change it. A student from the body commented that the program could disrupt the day to day lives of students is they were having class in the dorm. John Catton asked which BCC classes would be involved with the program. Lindsay Norman responded that it would involve students with a broad range of majors. Ree Palmer announced to the body that SGA was running low on time and that if they had any additional comments, to please email SGA or Residence Life.

**Officer Reports:**

**Jessica Gross, Treasurer**

Jessica informed the body that all club 2016-2017 budget allocations are due on March 1st. She stated that the allocation form was online and available on the Viking web page.

Jessica reported proposed allocations from BFC. Society of Physics Student with $100 for food, $300 for a speaker, $200 for a Cloud Chamber, and $400 for a Magic Show event. Exercise Science with $100 for food. Young Democrats with $100 for food.

Jessica also reported BFC approved reallocations. Berry International Club with $300 for a Coffee Tasting, Omicron Delta Epsilon with $100 for food, and Colleges Against Cancer with $80 towards Thank You Notes.

Jessica informed the body that the SGA Account Balance is $1,875.37

**Kassie Jones, Secretary**

Kassie asked the body to review the minutes. The minutes passed with minor corrections

Kassie informed the body of an SGA volunteer credit for clubs. She stated that organizations could receive credit if they created a team and participated in the Freshman Lead Fellows Dodgeball Tournament on Friday, March 18th. She announced that if there were any questions regarding the event to please email her.

Ally Smith won the SGA Prize of the Week.

**Jessica Wolinsky, Vice President of Service**

Jessica informed the body that the blood drive on February 3rd had 69 donors, supplied 51 units of blood, and saved 153 lives. She announced the next SGA blood drive will be on April 4th.

**Matthew Murphy, Vice President of Administration**

Matthew went over the nominations for executive office for 2015 -2016. Teddy Palmer and Daniel Boddie were nominated for President. Jessica Gross and Preston Putnam were nominated for Vice President of Administration. Valerie DeWandel was nominated for Vice President of Service. Kassie Jones was nominated for Secretary. Matthew “Scott” Harry was nominated for Treasurer. He informed the body that nominations would close at the end of SGA and candidates would have a week to campaign. Voting will open on February 16th.

Matthew gave his weekly weather report. He announced that the high should be 39 degrees with a low of 24 degrees and 0% chance of precipitation.

**Ree Palmer, President**

Ree informed the body that she would be out of the office for a majority of the month of February due to graduate school interviews. She will be missing the February 16th SGA meeting and Matthew Murphy will step in to fill her position while she is gone. She also informed the body that SGA executive officer 2015-2016 candidates will be giving speeches at the February 16th meeting.

Ree announced that Mr. Berry will take place on April 2nd and that if any students would like to volunteer for the event please email SGA@vikings.berry.edu.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Joey Miller inquired about the possibility of putting lights by the new football field entrance gate. She stated that it was extremely dark and hard to see. Ree responded that she would contact Physical Plant.

**Class President Reports**

Senior Class Treasurer Brittany Jones announced that the officers would be creating a Relay for Life team. She stated that if anyone would like to volunteer or be a part of their team to please contact the senior class officers. Junior Class President Rebekah Sweatt and Sophomore Class President Adrian Lopez had nothing to report. Freshman Class President Dominic Miller announced that the Freshman Class would be hosting a viewing of *50 First Dates* with a reflection by Dr. Bissonnette in the Evans Auditorium on Thursday, February 11th at 6 PM. CE Credit will be offered.

**Committee Reports**

None.

**Announcements**

Krista Zalewski announced that KCAB will be hosting a Backlight Game Night on Friday, February 12th in Krannert ballroom from 9 PM to 12 AM. KCAB will also be hosting Skate Night on Saturday, February 13th at Fun Wheels in Rome from 11 PM to 1 AM.

Lainey Battles announced that the Young Democrats will be hosting a debate watching party on Thursday, February 11th in the Krannert lobby starting at 8:30. There will be pizza and drinks available.

Elischa Pierre announced that the Black Student Alliance will be hosting a Spelling Bee. The registration fee for all teams is 12 dollars and signups end on February 12th. The event itself will be on February 26 in the Krannert ballroom at 6 PM.

Daniel Boddie announced that a speaker from the government department will be speaking in the chapel on Thursday, February 11 at 8 PM. CE Credit will be offered.

Leslie Bowen announced that SOLE will be hosting a film festival on February 24th in the McAllister auditorium.

Tori Thiessen announced that Baptist Collegiate Ministries will be hosting the Mural Project February 17th on the Krannert lawn. All students can participate by drawing or painting what they please on the mural.

Brittany Jones, with a second from Krista Zalewski, moved to adjourn at 8:03 PM