**SGA Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2015**

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

Ree introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Briggs, President of the College.

Dr. Briggs began his State of the College address by discussing the college’s strategic plan. President Briggs outlined the main goals of Berry’s strategic plan – to make Berry a residential college, to make the college a learning classroom, to provide students with a vibrant community that promotes success, to provide purposeful education, and to provide opportunities for leadership, life, etc. Dr. Briggs outlined the college’s plan to enrich its facilities, beginning with the new Valhalla Stadium, which is now fully constructed and being used for athletic games and practices. President Briggs reminded the body that Berry and its administration are constantly working on how to make Berry even more vibrant. He mentioned that several of the projects Berry is working on all have separate timelines, from 1 year to 5 years, Berry will continue to grow at a different pace. President Briggs then announced that there will be a theatre addition and Renovation of Blackstone Hall taking place this summer at Berry. The college plans to turn the first floor of Blackstone into a classroom, workshop, and office area, while the theater will be recreated in a separate building next door. The next building up for renovation, President Briggs said, is Ford Auditorium. The college plans to replace the HVAC system and to improve the curvature of the ceiling to better reflect sound. The project will begin as soon as funding is available. As far as academic buildings, Dr. Briggs discussed adding a wing to the McAlister building to house the Animal Science Department. The wing would be added to the Hermann Hall-side of McAlister. He talked about the construction of an animal research lab around the Rollins dairy area. This facility would be able to house large animals in a lab setting, and construction will hopefully begin the year. He briefly informed the body on the construction on the Berry Farm store that will located across the street by campus safety. Construction will begin this year. President Briggs also discussed the construction of the Oak Hill Pavilion. He stated that it’s being built for wedding receptions, alumni relations, and that it can hold around 250 people. President Briggs concluded his presentation with talking about the construction of the Berry Tennis Center and Retirement Center. Dr. Briggs stated that the tennis center was being built right behind the mall and it will be the 2nd largest tennis center in the United States. Administration is hoping the center will attract tournaments and it could possibly open up a USTA certification for professional tennis management for the school. Lastly, he discussed the Retirement Center. Dr. Briggs reminded the body that this center doesn’t have a specific location yet and that Berry is looking at several places around the property. He stated that the purpose of the center is to provide Berry with long-term revenue and support for the college. The center would be a critical care center, memory care center, and it would have several apartments/cottages for buyers. President Briggs stated that the retirement center will hopefully open in August 2019 and that the costs would come from Berry’s endowment. Julie Adkins asked Dr. Briggs if there would be any advantages for faculty or alumni at the retirement center. President Briggs responded that alumni and faculty would be informed of the project first and that if they would like to purchase an apartment then they could. John Catton asked if the McAllister addition would interfere with parking. Dr. Briggs answered that administration was aware of the addition taking up parking and that the school was looking at adding additional parking behind Herman. Saif Sarfani asked President Briggs if there were any plans to renovate the Moon or Laughlin buildings sometime soon. President Briggs responded that the school needed more funding in order to do renovations and that residence halls were going to be renovated before Moon and Laughlin would be. He also stated that although the buildings were older, they are still safe and operating very well. Brooke Culbertson asked where the retirement center was going to be built. Dr. Briggs stated that the college had not picked a location yet and that they were looking at several areas around the college property. Zach Lemcke asked if the nursing staff at the retirement center would have certified nurses or if Berry College student nurses would help. President Briggs stated that there would be certified medical nurses on staff but that the nursing program may look to collaborate with the center.

President Briggs concluded his presentation by thanking the students for their attention. He stated that if any students had any questions they could contact him through email or email SGA.

**Officer Reports:**

**Jessica Gross, Treasurer**

Jessica reported proposed allocations from BFC. BFC voted to allocate $100 per semester to LISTEN for food and operating expenses, $100 to CAC for food, and $125 for Fall and $575 to SAVE for food, operating expenses, and events.

Jessica announced that the BFC Representative Social would be on October 22nd, from 6PM to 7PM in Krannert 324.

Jessica informed the body that the SGA Account Balance is $4,408.34

**Kassie Jones, Secretary**

Kassie asked the body to review the minutes. The minutes passed as typed.

Kassie reminded the body that clubs should get their events or volunteer credits approved in advance to ensure that they will receive credit.

Anderson Carter won the SGA Prize of the Week.

**Jessica Wolinsky, Vice President of Service**

Jessica announced that Housekeeping will be getting Dunkin’ Donuts and coffee this Friday as the Monthly Campus Service for all their hard work and dedication to Berry.

Jessica then informed the body that this year she would be leading the Special Projects Committee and that if any students had any ideas or questions to please come talk to her after the meeting or email the SGA account.

**Matthew Murphy, Vice President of Administration**

Matthew gave his weekly weather report. There is a 20% chance of rain on Wednesday, with a high of 86 degrees and a low of 67 degrees.

Matthew announced that polls for Freshman Class and Sophomore Class Special Elections will open as soon as SGA ends and that an email will be sent out to remind students to vote.

**Ree Palmer, President**

Ree announced that she was talking with the Music Department about creating a Fight Song for athletics. Ree said that she had found an old fight song from the 1930’s and that the Music Department was interested in using that one. Ree informed the body that if they had ideas for the song to please email her or the SGA account.

Ree informed the body that the Office of First Year Experience was hosting a speaker on September 29th at 7:30 and that because SGA does not want to conflict with FYE, the SGA meeting on that day will begin at 6 pm.

**Old Business**

Ree announced that she was meeting with Michael McElveen on Thursday to talk about opening Ford Gym during the week and on the weekends.

Ree also announced that the Office of Advancement got a snapchat filter approved and there is now a filter for all students to use.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Class President Reports**

Senior Class President Alex Moon, Junior Class President Rebekah Sweatt, and Sophomore Class President John Delf had nothing to report.

**Committee Reports**

Joey Miller, a representative from the Council of Student Scholarship, reported on grants for research and other scholarly activities available at Berry College.

Joey discussed the first scholarship, Richards Scholar Award, which awards $5,000 to a student and $1,000 to their faculty sponsor. The award is designed for juniors and seniors, must be a 2 year project, and the recipient must present at the Symposium on Student Scholarship in the form of a presentation. The deadline for this award is March 21, 2016.

The second scholarship discussed was the Sophomore Synovus Award, which awards up to $2,000 to a rising sophomore student and $500 to their faculty sponsor. The recipient must present at the Symposium on Student Scholarship in the form of either a paper or poster. The deadline for this award is March 21, 2016.

The third scholarship announced was the Kirbo Scholar Award, which awards up to $1,250 to a student. The award is designed for students who have completed 24 credit hours at Berry College, must be a 1 year project, and the recipient must present at the Symposium on Student Scholarship in the form of a presentation. The deadline for this award is November 16, 2015.

The fourth scholarship announced was the Student Research Development Fund Grant, which awards students with up to $500. The money from the grant is meant for professional development through conference presentation/travel. The deadlines for this grant is November 16, January 18, and April 18.

The last scholarship discussed was the Richards Undergraduate Research Grant, which awards students up to $1,500. The grant should be used for the purchase of supplies, expenses for travel and/or publication costs. The recipient must be completing a 1 year project to qualify for the grant. The deadlines for this grant are November 16, January 18, and April 18.

Joey finished her presentation by discussing the Symposium on Student Scholarship. She explained to the body that anyone can present project results or creative works. Applications for the Symposium are due on February 29, 2016. The Symposium is on April 12, 2016 and there will be no classes that day.

Joey announced that if anyone had any questions to email Dr. Hoyt, the chair of the council.

**Announcements**

Krista Zalewski announced that KCAB and the Recreation department will be hosting Bubble Soccer and Kickball on Saturday from 3PM to 6PM on the Ford Fields.

Alex Moon, with a second from Phoebe Wilborn, moved to adjourn at 8:07PM.