

Senate Agenda
March 12, 2007
Academic Council Room- 4th Green Hall
6:00 PM

I. Roll Call

II. Old Business

- A. Yang Qiu – CGVP: Spring New Organizations Approval Vote (3 min, 2 min ?s)
- B. Paola Reyes – SPEC Chair: SPEC Constitutional Changes Vote (3 min, 2 min ?s)

III. New Business

- A. Cortni Jones, Student Bursar – Lecture Funding #5 Presentation (5 min, 5 min ?s)
- B. Yang Qiu, CGVP and Krysland Filippi – Every Campus Nation Ministries Trial Org presentation (7 min, 3 min ?s)

IV. Open Discussion

- A. Kris Niendorf, Director of Res Life – Housing Concerns on Campus (10 min, 10 min?s)
- B. Victoria Starrett, Financial Aid SOAC Student Representative (10 min, 5 min ?s)
- C. Katie O'Hara, Alumnae Association – placeReunion Weekend (3 min, 2 min ?s)

V. Dean's Corner: Dean Michelle Lepore and Dean Kim Goff-Crews (5 min, 5 min?s)

VI. Beyond the Bubble: Malina Swiatek – CPLA Chair. (5 min)

VII. Adjourn

Emily Oxford, CGP: Thanks for everyone for being here! We are on the edge of getting constitutional quorum – we are short by one senator. We will move old business to after

New Business. We did reach constitutional quorum for lecture funding number quarto and it was passed so thank you for sending in your online votes. Now we have Cortni Jones and some SOFC members with Lecture Funding # 5.

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Cortni Jones, Student Bursar: SOFC had Lecture Funding #5. It was due on March 5th, 2007. It says Lecture # 4, but it is supposed to be # 5. We are done with Lecture Funding for this year, but there will be an additional deadline for the following year with the new bursar.

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Sarah Dickhaus, Claflin: We had 9.33% for lectures, which is a little over \$11,000. We didn't allow late applications. We can't fund the same event numerous times, but the same organizations can apply for funding for several events. We can only fund organizations SOAC constituted for two semesters. We only funded \$500 or 60% of the request. We looked at the budgets and discussed issues as a group.

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Cortni Jones: I will only be discussing what deductions there were for certain organizations. To see more detailed information, see the minutes. There were constitutional deductions for 60% or \$500, whichever was greater, and the difference between requested and granted is anywhere the treasurer messed up. You have to provide a quote for an honorarium stating how much the speaker will be. Also, some didn't have transportation documents. Phi Sigma is not a SOFC organization because they charge dues. They are ineligible for this deadline and are ineligible to receive SOFC funding period. Also, it wasn't a lecture or performance, it was a trip to go somewhere, and SOFC deemed it not a lecture or performance. If someone doesn't ask for an honorarium and doesn't give you a quote, we won't give a gift to the speaker. There is a maximum of \$100 for reception and \$15 for meal for a speaker. Also, custodial miscalculation – an organization didn't add and we corrected it for them. In general, it was a great deadline – we had a lot of good apps and we are pretty proud of how it wasn't a huge deduction for everyone, and again, they can always use profits to give a gift to the speaker.

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Victoria Starret, Severance: Just to clarify, for WZLY for Mirah and the Blow, why didn't they receive \$500?

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Cortni Jones: They didn't apply for \$500 and they don't get more than they apply for. They didn't get a deduction because it is less than \$500, and then we cut everyone's budget by the same percentage – so all organizations were funded with the same size of cut. I hope people are going to these events because some of these events are really expensive, and when you realize how much you are paying for them, maybe you should be going out, taking friends to these places. Also, the whole SOFC constitution is being looked at, including lecture funding, in order for more flexibility, but if you have any comments on Lecture Funding, speak now or hold your peace, so shoot an email to Student Bursar or to any SOFC members. We will have a vote on this. You have to take this to your House Council and bring it back after Spring Break on the 26th because you will forget – so write it down.

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Rebecca Gold, SAL: I just wanted to clarify – if an organization that charges dues cosponsors with an organization that doesn't charge dues, can they apply?

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Cortni Jones: You can't charge dues and apply for Lecture Funding. So co-sponsorship usually means giving money to the cause. For example, if WZLY applied for lecture funding, and Phi Sigma is cosponsoring – WZLY applies for the money and Phi Sigma gives money. So the one applying can't charge dues.

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Emily Oxford: Next we have Yang Qiu and Krysland Filippi.

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Yang Qiu, College Government Vice President: We are here to hear from Every Nation Campus Ministries – they are a trial organization and you are an expert on voting on trial organizations. I just wanted to go over the process to become a fully recognized organization again. Basically, there are two deadlines per year for any organization that is interested in being constituted. When they meet the deadline and fill out appropriate documents they will be reviewed by SOAC, and if they are approved, they go into a two semester trial period. At the end of the trial period, they must present to student Senate regarding their progress. You are going to vote now on whether or not this organization has followed the entire constitutional process to reach its final stage. You will be voting on whether your constituency endorses this process.

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Krysland Filippi: I am here with the purpose of the organization and some activities that we have performed and some future plans we have. There are three basic purposes: it is a Christian organization, so one is sharing about the knowledge of Christ on campus. Another, is a community and relationship building aspect through small groups, mentoring, weekly Bible studies, and times of getting together and building opportunities for Christians to grow in their faith and have an open atmosphere to do that. And the third part is to serve the community through service projects and contemporary issues. Last semester we had an intelligence design lecture with a PHD physics professor from Duke. He presented some interesting issues on evolution vs. creation and a biblical world view on the sciences. We wanted to have Linette Lews come this semester, but we might have to wait. She is the author of *Climbing the Corporate Ladder in Stilettos* and we want her to talk about a woman working in the corporate world, from a female and Christian perspective of working in that world. She will be a great inspirational speaker for the entire Wellesley community. That is the basic purpose of the organization and some activities we've done. Last semester we had a multicultural potluck with dishes from other cultures and sitting and talking about culture and Christianity and that was interesting because we had members that were Christians, but also people who were searching or curious and it was really interesting to have that dynamic. Other things we're excited about – we're hoping to do more community service focused on women and we're hoping to align with the center for women to do more community service projects. Another element that is cool is that it does not encompass just Wellesley's Christian community, but we have affiliations with other campuses – BU, Harvard, MIT, and also an outside group gathering which is a great opportunity to network with other Christians in Boston. We have fall retreats with them when we go for a weekend and build relationship with the Wellesley community and with other Christians in the Boston

area. What makes every nation different? There is an emphasis on multiculturalism and nationalism – most members are international students and it is emphasized in the group. And also, we have a dance ministry as well and we performed at Fall Fling. It is very exciting – it started last year and we are slowly growing. We are excited because there isn't a group where one can express one's faith through dance, an artistic form and we're excited about how that will develop.

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Cortni Jones, Student Bursar: My question – in light of some organizations who are going defunct because they don't have any sophomore or freshmen people to take over leadership – what freshmen or sophomore membership do you have and what tools do you use to get underclasswomen interested in something that you and a few of other upperclasswomen thought of?

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Krysland Filippi: Our treasurer is a sophomore, and we have two juniors and another sophomore. There is a lot of interest to be involved in the dance ministry. And most of our events are very much open – there is not classification whatsoever – from Bible studies to the potluck, and I don't think it will be a problem.

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Jeanne Amy, DOOCA: What is your membership number and what are your flyers used for and how did you get the money to print them?

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Krysland Filippi: We used the flyers at the beginning of the year at Fall Fling and we used them last semester – there was a group collaboration with other Christian groups – it was different organizations from the Wellesley town that got together for an event and we gave it out. We raised money to print them from fundraising.

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Yang Qui, CGVP: Her organization uses the flyers multiple times a year, so please pass the flyers back to the middle.

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Emily Oxford, College Government President: This was interesting, especially in light of the community thread last week. Now we can go back to old business, but just a reminder, please get here at 6:00 and it really messes with us and the agenda if we can't start with old business. And now that I'm in a better mood cause we can vote – the social life forum was great last week, and I think a lot of people were really glad we were taking up this issue. Now back to Yang with new organizations.

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Yang Qiu, College Government Vice President: If you remember this handout from two weeks ago – I would like to refresh your memory. So the spring deadline for new orgs to apply for constitutional status was Feb 9 and SOAC received five apps. We reviewed all apps, the orgs came and presented during the review, and we reviewed all orgs separately and voted whether or not they should be allowed to go into trial periods. Out of the five, four orgs were approved: EMT, Korean Lit club, ski club, and snowboard club. You should have voted on this so any more questions?

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Cortni Jones, Student Bursar: I was wondering if when people go through the process, do you solicit feedback from them to gauge their satisfaction with SOAC and the process.

And I'm concerned about the snowboard and ski club being constituted separately – can SOAC force orgs to combine and be one org?

– **Yang Qiu, College Government Vice President:** When an org goes into trial progress – they file a progress report at the end of the first semester. We also ask orgs to send information to us with comments or questions or anything. We are very open for new orgs to contact us and prior to the review process; we ask all the interested orgs to contact us with questions. Last semester there was a feedback form that was sent to all orgs reviewed in 2006 and orgs were asked to give us feedback. Of course, it is up to them whether or not they fill out the form, but we tried to take initiative to ask them what we can do better. Also, for many student leaders at the president's tea this spring, there was talk of how SOAC and OSA can help orgs better. The best way for orgs to give SOAC feedback, is for them to send us questions or comments. And secondly, about telling orgs to merge, SOAC does not have the power to force orgs to merge. We kindly suggest that they work together, and since they are in the trial process, they are in their trial period, so they cannot apply for SOFC funding, so they have to work on their own. So we suggest to them that if they work together, it will be more efficient and you'll have a larger membership. We try to check up on them through the progress report and see if they can collaborate eventually.

– **Cordelia Chansler, Shafer:** It's beyond the scope of our constitution – we have to look at all orgs that apply. The ski club and the snowboard club met our qualifications, so we couldn't do anything. We introduced them, asked them if they could get together but we have no power to make them do this. They were actually working together before they applied separately. It speaks to the need for club sports on campus, also.

– **Yang Qiu, College Government Vice President:** If ski club were already constituted, we could have denied one, but if they applied at the same time, we have to review each app separately. And I want to make a point about club sports. As you have seen, SOAC is currently in charge of constituting club sports, there is a committee that is reviewing club sports and recreation in general, and that is chaired by Kris Niendorf and we are hoping to review the current process of constituting club sports because these sports involve a lot of different things: going off campus, risk management. And hopefully this review committee will change the process and in the near future, there should be some revision to the constitution process for club sports. If you have any more questions, just contact me or Cordelia.

– **Kelly Tialiou:** I move to approve the process.

– **Emily Oxford, College Government President:** The motion carries and we have Paola Reyes to present about constitutional changes next.

– **Paola Reyes, SPEC Chair:** A few weeks ago, SPEC members and I came to talk to you about constitutional changes that SPEC made. The biggest changes were formatting changes and updating information that was outdated, we created a procedure handbook and move ad-hoc and appeals procedure from our constitution into this handbook, and

then we expanded on these procedures and inserted templates. We also created the handbook and stipulated how to maintain and update it. We want to make SEPC more transparent and make our role more concrete.

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Victoria Starrett, Severance: I motion to approve SPEC's constitutional changes.

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Emily Oxford, College Government President: Congratulations – your changes are approved. So those of you who were at eh forum last week, probably noticed that housing came up a lot and it kind of caught us off-guard to be honest. And we invited Dr. Kris Niendorf to talk about housing. We also have Dana, the HP in Severance, and the Beebe RD here – so thanks for coming!!

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Kris Niendorf, Director of Residential Life: I also invited Peter Eastman and Diane O'Leary here as well. Here at Wellesley, ResLife and housing are different. I don't have a formal presentation – I thought I would help answer any questions tonight – it is lottery season for those of you thinking about where you want to live next year. We didn't give lottery information sheets to seniors, and there is only one per room – we are saving the environment.

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Cortni Jones: When will the housing policy be under review - such as choosing to stay in your same dorm or room from year to year, or in general to build community, or having only first year floors – will a review happen, or what was the outcome of the last review?

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Kris: ResLife will be reviewed as a department next year – it will be an external review, but that is separate from Housing. I think one of the things Diane and I talk about, and we talk daily because of our relationship, and we are always open for new suggestions and new ideas. Everywhere else I've worked, we've had squatting privileges which allows people to stay in their room for the next year. I know that first year floors – it is hard here because of the design of our buildings because singles will go to first-years so I think there may be ways to still mix and make it work. Every year we try to redesign the building a little bit to cluster better. And we are also talking about 21+ halls, for seniors or transfers that could live in that space, and have some privileges that we already give to Davis Scholars. Again, it won't happen in 07-08, but we can have those conversations for the 08-09 academic year.

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Lena Glaser, McAfee: At the Social Life Forum, two points were brought up. One was first years choosing to room together – and using MyWellesley portal to help people room together – you don't know people until you get here and you have the room freeze – if you aren't living with them you don't know them. And second of all, I live on the East Side and is there an idea about not having first-years on the East side of campus because it is so isolated and I know that a lot of first-years in McAfee feel really isolated and it is kind of a really bad emotional place to be living in because you're so far away from everyone. I know predominantly, all of McAfee as a first-year and I didn't know if maybe less first years on the East side and more living on the West side in a more community oriented space to help you move into college better.

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Kris: With the first-years, there are some buildings that become predominantly first year – McAfee, and Pomeroy is another one. As far as the East side, with the campus center opening, we are judging how that is changing the climate of campus. It was pretty popular before, and we've always had a number of first years there, and I challenge my RDs to make community better. But I'm on the East side too and I don't hear people either.

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Diane O'Leary, Housing: Each year I contact RDs to see how they can make changes in buildings to better distribute first-years sophomores, juniors and seniors. Each year we try to switch and shuffle rooms. The housing office works directly with ResLife to make equitable distribution among each res hall – until student life decides we need first-year or upperclass buildings, we'll follow that same procedure.

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Sabina Khan, Stone: Because the meal plan is done by housing, I was wondering what the reasoning is behind that – if you live in Lake House, you don't have to be on it, but if you live in Munger or Dower, you still have to be on the meal plan. And if someone wants to be off the meal-plan, how can they do it?

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Kris: There are a few exceptions for the meal plan. But at Lake House, we have a contract with Sodexo, there are 20 students on a co-op – there are 55 meals per semester for those students, and we leave the monitoring of that to dining services. And they must work on an honor system. It is a different cost to be on that meal plan. If you live in one of the houses or apartments on campus - Casa Cervantes, French House, Instead, Hemlock, Orchid, Simpson West – you can opt off, but are automatically put off. This year there were less than 10 off the meal plan. If you have a dietary meal plan we can't meet, then you can go through Disability Services and get off the meal plan that way.

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Jeanne Amy, Student-at-Large: There is a rumor that there is going to be a severe housing crunch, and that seniors might not get singles and juniors most likely won't.

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Diane O'Leary: Although the rising class of '08 and '09 are all eligible, singles are not guaranteed. We can't put juniors and seniors in spaces that aren't for singles. There are only a certain number of singles on campus, and if the number of seniors exceeds the number of singles, they will go into suite lottery.

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Kris: It is true, not a myth. If the class is over 600, it is difficult.

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Claudia Jin, Tower: I know at some colleges, you room with someone for orientation, and then you pick your roommate and move your room to where you want after that.

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Kris: Only MIT does that because it is a housing nightmare to do that – we have the option of changing rooms. The question about the room freeze came up at social life senate – and we use this to ascertain who has arrived and we don't know who is here right away – some don't come. Also, some people make some judgments about their

roommate without meeting them. And we ask you to live with them and get to know them. And also, the first two weeks gives you a better opportunity to meet other people.

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Emily, CGP: Natalie reminded me we had a Unity meeting and we talked about the first year experience and one thing that was on there was first year floors for Claflin and Severance – is that true? And I heard that RAs might be getting more funding after the Social Life Forum.

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Kris: They aren't, but we're working on it. What we did in Tower, Claflin, and Severance – Tower has a huge number cause it's big. And Claflin and Severance have a smaller number – we didn't condense to make a first year floor, but we have clustered them differently to make a mass of them living together. We try to steal away rooms to put first years in other space. I have requested additional funding for next year, but that information isn't out yet, but I'll cross my fingers.

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Rebecca Gold, Student-at-Large: I know that people don't really want to live on the East side because it is so far away for parking, but maybe there could be a way to get more parking on the East Side.

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Victoria Starrett, Severance: I was wondering, are the RDs for each res halls responsible for distributing what is a single and double – and how often do you look at that?

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Kris: The housing office does that in conjunction with RDs – RDs can make recommendations and talk to Diane to move specific rooms. We try to rearrange and make it the best we can and every year we re-look at it again.

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Diane O'Leary: Especially the buildings in the quad, there are a lot of singles that are bigger than doubles – we can make a double room a single, but we can't make what is currently a single a double without pulling in telecommunications to add phone and data jacks, which is expensive.

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Amy Wang, Beebe: That is how singles are determined, but it's not that inflexible, and I know my room is the same size as a junior single, so is there a possibility if we willing? Also, is there a way to make the East side like Harvard yard? Also, if people could stay in the same halls, that would make more community and make it more like a place you want to be.

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Diane: I think it is a student life concern.

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Kris: We have to coordinate how to answer questions. There are real advantages of residential colleges – and I've gone to conferences who talk about residential colleges. Places like Yale, UMass Amherst, Ohio State, they are creating super small communities where you live and study with the same people and that's what we have. What about themed housing – do bio majors already live together in McAfee, Bates, Freeman? We

can try different things – I’ve done fine arts floors at different schools. We’ve tried a quiet floor here and we are just trying to figure out a way to address community.

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Tiffany Sirc, Chief Justice: I know when I came, I was given the option to live in Davis Scholar housing and traditional housing. I know that is no longer an option in the fall, which can be an impediment to becoming a part of the Wellesley community, as opposed to the Davis scholar community.

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Kris: We have held 38 spaces for Davis scholars for on-campus housing and that’s never been enough to house the entire community. And there are always four at-large positions that we can’t house in Cedar, Simpson West, and Homestead. And now that we have such large classes, we need all the beds we can in the traditional hall, and this year we have the smallest groups of residential Davis scholars and Simpson West is traditional housing. And we are playing a game at juggling people all summer long until we get a bed for everyone, so can Davis possibly live there? We don’t know the numbers, but we haven’t decided whether Simpson will be traditional or Davis scholars for next year.

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Aileen Hagerman, Davis: I brought up themed floors at the social life forum. Can we seriously bring that back – maybe not quiet or substance free floors but maybe when you make your options, but have an extra question for students to put in their preference – do you prefer quiet or loud neighbors, or something, which may be more successful.

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Kris: I think what might work well, is that we do the whole lottery process so early in advance. If there is a group that you want to call themed housing, let someone know and we will try it and see if it works.

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Natalie Ross, Student-at-large: I know I’m concerned about how people who came back from abroad for the spring are isolated from their friends because they have little control over where they live. Also, there aren’t a lot of welcome back to Wellesley events, so housing is even worse for juniors who might not feel like coming back was the right decision if they are really lonely and don’t feel welcomed back.

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Kris: What we can do, is that Diane works individually with students and she knows so many students – where you lived, what you like, what you don’t like, your roommate, and more. And I value that. So if you are wanting to room with a group of your friends, and you know where they’re living, let her know and she’ll try to coordinate the best that she can to meet everyone’s requests. Are there options to keep moving and be on a wait list? Do not give up hope – yang waited so long, talked to me about once a day, and it finally worked – you have to be patient. I usually don’t know where openings will come or where they will be, but there will be more beds open spring semester.

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Jessica, RD Beebe: Some juniors returning chose to live with a roommate so they could be with their friends in the space they wanted - it is a route to take and it solved their problems.

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Kelley Tialiou, Freeman: Could juniors switch if they are abroad opposite semesters?

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Kris: We can't guarantee that, but put a bug in Diane's ear.

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Yang Qiu, CGVP: Thanks for being open to options from the student body. I have a question about the ResLife review for next year – what aspects will be reviewed?

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Kris: I don't know the exact specifics, but my guess is everything that we do – our staffing structures, RAs paid or not, types of housing and themed housing, how we coordinate with housing office, on-call system: I'm calling it my second dissertation.

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Yang: Will students be included in that?

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Dean Kim Goff-Crews: We always have a section when the external committee comes and students can meet with them – we'll have them meet with HPs and RAs and an open student forum. And let us know what you want us to cover –and we're going to start planning for that, so let us know.

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Tiffany Sirc, Chief Justice: Is Res Judic part of that review?

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Kris: We haven't done a satisfaction survey in a while in the res halls and it might be time to include one. Keep the lines of communication open – let me know what you need and why. We love to help you.

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Emily Oxford: Thanks so much Kris. Onto our next agenda item, we have Victoria Starrett who is here as the SOAC rep to the financial aid committee and is here for her annual check-in.

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Victoria Starett: I am here to talk about the financial aid committee. Obviously financial aid is going out soon, but I'm here for a specific reason – I would rather hear from you than talk. We are looking at evaluating how much work students are doing and whether it is interfering with academics. What is going on with work? If I could open it up for open discussion and hear what you have to say, that would be great.

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Jeanne Amy: I am on work-study and I don't have a job because I couldn't find one first year because I was denied because older people had them. I think the problem is the number of jobs on campus, the availability, and the pressure to find a job so quickly.

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Aileen Hagerman: I'm also on work-study and I think that for first years, there was a big scramble at the beginning of the year to find a job, and in general, there is pressure to work despite academic loads, but I don't know if I want to work next year, because it influences if I can go to office hours or be in certain organizations. I think that wages need to be looked at – I work at the Wellesley Centers for women – I feel that a lot of jobs pay more highly and I know that babysitting is an option, but there are hassles with that versus having a stable job.

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Victoria Starrett: Massachusetts has passed a law that the minimum wage is increasing – it is increased now, and then it will keep increasing. So the wage issue is sort of being addressed.

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Cortni Jones: I actually had to quit my job because of my student bursar position – I couldn't go in ten hours a week. It is something that is hard for my family and it is also hard to justify yourself when you're trying to talk to the financial aid office about unpaid positions that take up 30-40 hours a week. While I had a job, it was hard when they were inflexible about the hours, and it hurt me. I'm flexible with my employees, but they didn't reciprocate that. And it's hard because what is defined as work on campus is difficult. I think students can be less focused because they are trying to do work at their job and it often is judgmental in general – others can't and shouldn't be doing their work, but they are.

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Tiffany Sirc: I know that I have a work-study job, and during reading period and finals, you have to show up and if you don't, you risk not having a job the following semester. And because I'm on cabinet, I've had to cancel work for cabinet and chief justice things, and it has been a major problem for work-study because I haven't been able to reach the number of hours.

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Emily Oxford: I'm so glad you've brought this up because we've heard about it from all kinds of students on this campus – and thanks for doing your job. One thing I'm aware of is that you can get paid for community service if you have federal work-study, if you fill out a ton of paper in the CWS. So I know there are alternative ways to get your work-study money – and I think they could better publicize those options and/or increase the pool or money. And I know one pre-med student who volunteers at Brigham Young Hospital and she gets her federal work-study that way – she is doing something great for her, and she gets paid. We should look at improving that – even if we don't spend money, it can be better publicized.

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Sabina Khan: Along the lines of publicizing, one job I got was online, and one I just stumbled upon. I was wondering if there is a way to have more job options online, especially about research opportunities.

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Victoria Starrett: I will take all of this back to the financial aid committee, and Dean Kim and I are both here to listen. Would it be helpful to extend time to find jobs? Where does it need to be publicized – personal emails, employment website, what?

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Mona Minkara: The first semester that I came here, it was really difficult because I'm legally blind, but also finding a job that I can physically do really impeded me. These are supposed to be equal opportunity jobs, but in reality that doesn't happen. I can't do paperwork or file, which a lot of jobs you have to do, but I happened to find my niche, but for others who are coming in who are disabled, can't see, deaf, or any other disability, what kind of things does the financial aid office do to make sure these people are getting the right services.

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Emily Oxford: One thing that I thought about was that maybe the financial aid office, and how these things aren't well known, but if the financial aid could compile a list of students who are work-study and send them updates about opportunities, a work-study mailing list, like the CWS mailing list. And when Mona brought up the tutoring – my experience is that professors have to nominate students to be potential tutors – which is great, but we may be overlooking some students. If the financial aid office could work with the PLTC to make tutor applications public, it might open up the jobs to more students because students who are nominated aren't necessarily on work-study. Next we have Miss Amy Wang who is here representing the Academic Review Board.

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Amy Wang: I am one of the student reps on Academic Review board – the other two reps couldn't make it today. A brief overview – we meet monthly for about an hour and we discuss and approve requests for credit/non, add/drop, abnormal scheduling requests – adding and dropping after the deadline, etc. Other things we've done is help draft a proposal to consider removal of first years honor distinction and for the next meeting we will be discussing credit/non, as we talked about with Anne Hamilton.

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Emily Oxford: Do you also hear appeals about incompletes – what is the process the student would go through to have an incomplete excused?

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Amy Wang: We do that – you can go to your dean, your Professor can write on your behalf. And then your dean presents your case and it is voted on case by case.

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Sabina Kahn: Can you explain the removal of first year honors distinction.

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Amy Wang: The arguments for and against – first year distinction is a B+ average or above and the idea behind it is that it discourages exploration in your first year. Also, 50% of the class gets it, so if you don't get it, you feel stupid. Also, these grades don't factor into Latin honors, so does this paper mean very much? There weren't very many reasons to keep it – the negative effects seemed more important than positive reasons to keep it.

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Cortni Jones, Student Bursar: What if someone got a grade they don't agree with and their professor left the college – what do they do?

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Dean Kim: Usually the class deans will take it to the board. They will ask the student to get in touch with the faculty to deal with grade changes – students don't hear those cases and the request must come from the professor not the student, so there will need to be a note from them. If they aren't around anymore, she should talk to her class dean and the chair for the department to figure out how to address the issue and then the chair can do that for her, perhaps.

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Anna Gerstmyer, Tower: I was wondering what the process is for continuing the first year distinctions – what happens after you draft a proposal.

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Amy Wang: We gave it to Academic Council and they will approve or deny it.

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Ayesha Gregory, Ethos: If a student goes to their dean, and say they accidentally didn't do credit/non, and their dean goes to Academic Review Board, how likely it is that it will be overturned?

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Amy Wang: For the most part, the policy is that if you forgot, it is your own carelessness and it isn't our job to excuse carelessness. But if you accidentally dropped the wrong class because they are next to each other and you went to your Professor and you confused the two numbers, that's an actual mistake and we'll deal with that.

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Helen Park, Munger: I was actually wondering, I don't know if Academic Council is the right place to go for this, but is there a more systematic way to find out how our final grades are determine to make that more transparent – it might be much lower or higher than you expected. Is there a way to standardize that so we know how they process it?

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Amy Wang: That might be discussed with Dean Shennan and I'll pass that on to him.

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Aileen Hagerman: I feel that it's not that publicized – but how does the publicity of what courses are credit/non work? I had a friend who found out too late that what she thought was credit/non is actually a graded course, and how should professors tell you a course is credit/non – and it's not very clear.

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Amy Wang: That is up to the discretion of the professor – it is usually in the course catalog and it should be on your registration, and maybe on the syllabus, but always check with the registrar. Also, when you add or drop something, print it out and check it twice – you can change your fate by just printing – it could be so helpful.

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Emily Oxford: Thanks for your work on Academic Council. Next we have Katie O'Hara with the Alumnae Association.

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Katie O'Hara, Alumnae Association: I am here to tell you about plenty of open positions to work for reunion weekend this summer. This is exciting for the Wellesley community and I hope you see it at least once. It will be June 8 – 10 and it will be all 2 and 7 classes – 1927 through 2002. We are looking to hire between 120 and 140 students – central check-in assistants, who help people register, general helpers: face painters, decorating, bell desk, etc. Campus guides help transport alums around campus. We have at least one resident hostess here – she would work with one class and each class is assigned to a dorm and a residential hostess is assigned to a particular class. You need to be available Friday morning through Sunday evening. We have housing for that weekend and for the week before – you can check the reunion conference – you can get to it through Wellesley conferences. ~There is a lot of info there about housing. The info session dates are on the flyers – you just have to attend one. So it would be great if y'all could post a poster somewhere or hand it in your residence hall – it is a paid position.

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Amy Wang, Beebe: What about people who don't know if they'll be available for this weekend – is there any way to deal with that?

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Katie: Go to a session, apply, and then if you can't attend, send me an email.

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Paola Reyes, Munger: If students are interested in working at graduation, is that through you?

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Katie: Not through me.

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Kris Niendorf, Residential Life: Your RD will nominate 5 people, so contact your RD – preference is given to juniors. ~And I have 5 positions also so I get the left-overs.

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Cortni Jones, Student Bursar: I did res host for two years and I did a really young class and the 50th class the second house. I met the Newhouses and they were in my class- they are so down to earth, and Mrs. Newhouse taught me how to open wine bottles. Basically, it is the best time ever- if you like people, you should do it. It's worth it – much more than being paid for a weekend- it's a powerful weekend and you get engrossed in a great place –and it's such a pretty time to be at Wellesley.

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Emily Oxford, CGP: I hope a lot of you can go to the info sessions and work. Now we have Dean's corner.

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Dean Kim: First of all, I wanted to congratulate you on a wonderful social life forum – I learned a lot. And also, we had two great events at lunch – the General Judiciary lecture with the judge, which was awesome and congratulations on that. We have the infirmery consultation and we have had some brief discussions with the student life advisory committee and Michelle will talk to Unity and we will then start to talk about what we're thinking about. We're also doing a lot of programming around suicide prevention this month. We had a national suicide expert talk to faculty last weekend - about 100 faculty members came to lunch. He also talked to the student life department. Robin Cook Nobles talked administrative council today as well. And we will have programming for students coming up too. In early April, probably about April 10, an attorney who has suffered with severe depression has written a book about it, and she will be coming to campus to talk about depression on campus. We have admissions spring open campus coming – April 18, 19, 20. They have been accepted and we want them to accept us – hopefully you can host. Also – have a fabulous spring break and we will see you the Monday after next.

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Cortni Jones: I've been thinking about this and why certain areas of the college rely so heavily on outside consultants – do we really need to verify things that we've already decided – it costs a lot of money, I know how much they pay, and it seems like it is done a lot.

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Dean Kim:~ Should we do it or who we should talk to – and the people who would be most responsible are the people doing the work now. So it would be hard to have Robin Cook Nobles be in these conversations trying to assess the cost, who we should talk to, etc. So it is a practical aspect- it is hard to do it by ourselves to get the best information as

quickly as we can. If we do make these decisions, it will be a huge cultural shift for this campus, and we want to be outside for that decision, because it's hard. We also think it's helpful to have someone help us with what we are doing, especially with what we have been doing. Kris has worked at six different institutions, but most people have not and they don't know as much about what other people are doing so we need experts to help us think about what we're doing, but we also put our Wellesley spin on it. It is big bucks, but I think it's worth it because we'll have a better decision.~

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Emily Oxford, CG President: Now we have beyond the bubble.

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Malina Swiatek, CPLA Chair: Who here has a mid-term this week? YES! In celebration of midterms this week, I shortened it to three articles. So here we go!

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In International News This Week...

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Swiss Accidentally Invade Liechtenstein

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By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Filed at 11:13 p.m. ET

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ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) -- What began as a routine training exercise almost ended in an embarrassing diplomatic incident after a company of Swiss soldiers got lost at night and marched into neighboring Liechtenstein.

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According to Swiss daily Blick, the 170 infantry soldiers wandered just over a mile across an unmarked border into the tiny principality early Thursday before realizing their mistake and turning back.

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A spokesman for the Swiss army confirmed the story but said that there were unlikely to be any serious repercussions for the mistaken invasion.

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"We've spoken to the authorities in Liechtenstein and it's not a problem," Daniel Reist told The Associated Press.

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Officials in Liechtenstein also played down the incident.

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Interior ministry spokesman Markus Amman said nobody in Liechtenstein had even noticed the soldiers, who were carrying assault rifles but no ammunition. "It's not like they stormed over here with attack helicopters or something," he said.

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Liechtenstein, which has about 34,000 inhabitants and is slightly smaller than Washington DC, doesn't have an army.

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Iran says Baghdad conference was constructive

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Associated Press

— TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Sunday an international conference in Baghdad where it held direct talks with the United States for the first time in four years was a constructive "first step" toward restoring stability to the neighboring country.

Mohammad Ali Hosseini, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, also said his country hoped a proposed follow-up meeting on Iraq would be successful.

— "If such a conference to be held at the foreign minister level happens in the near future in Baghdad, then it is possible to expect success," Hosseini said. He did not say if the Iranian foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, would attend.

— The spokesman said Saturday's meeting in Baghdad included "constructive negotiations" among the delegations and could be considered a "first step" in promoting security and stability in Iraq. Hosseini also said Iran was ready to support any plan that would help end the bloodshed in its neighboring country.

— "Leaving security affairs to the Iraqi government, arranging a timetable for the departure of foreign forces, and taking an indiscriminate approach to all terrorist groups can bring peace and security in Iraq," Hosseini said.

— Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, however, expressed skepticism, saying the Iranians "need to match their statement of support for the Iraqi government with actions and words on the ground."

— Zebari said intelligence reports indicated weapons were flowing into Iraq from Iran. He acknowledged Iran's denials but told CNN that "their fingerprints are there, definitely."

— Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, also questioned whether Iran would support an American-backed plan for stability in Iran.

— "I hope we can bring better security to Iraq," Graham said. "But I don't believe Iran shares our goal of creating a democracy in Iraq and we'll never have unity there."

— Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, pointed out that even though he welcomed talks about restoring security in Iraq there's "no specific discussion of what the nature of that political solution" would be.

— In National News This Week...

— Woman's bones found next to her cane in New York

— Associated Press

— NEW YORK — The remains of a woman reported missing four years ago were found in her home after the new owner sent a cleaning crew to the house.

Until last week, no one apparently knew what happened to 83-year-old Florence Bock. She was found on Friday, said police Sgt. Carlos Nieves.

— The house in the Bronx was purchased recently by a developer after the missing woman was declared dead, police said.

— The cleaning crew found Bock's remains — a pile of bones, including a skull, lying next to a cane.

— The medical examiner's office was expected to examine the bones Sunday for clues to how she may have died. Investigators said they don't believe Bock's death was suspicious.

— FBI head takes blame for Patriot Act abuses
Lawmakers blast the bureau for the violations, vowing investigations and possible punitive action.

— By Greg Gordon, McClatchy News Service

— WASHINGTON - FBI Director Robert Mueller took responsibility on Friday for a watchdog's findings that the bureau had abused its expanded, post-9/11 powers to secretly obtain Americans' bank, phone, credit and e-mail records in counterterrorism investigations.

The report by the Justice Department's inspector general said the FBI itself had identified 26 intelligence violations and that his auditors found many other privacy infringements in reviewing some of the 143,074 National Security Letters the bureau issued between 2003 and 2005. The letters give the FBI power to obtain private business and personal records without court review.

— "I am the person responsible. I am the person accountable," Mueller said at a news briefing.

— In more than 700 cases, the investigators found, the bureau issued emergency or "exigent" letters demanding telephone records and promising that subpoenas would follow, but none did. The FBI also under-reported its use of the National Security Letters to Congress, the report said.

— The report prompted an outpouring of harsh criticism from Congress.

— "It is time to place meaningful checks on the Bush administration's ability to misuse the Patriot Act by overusing national security letters," said Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, the Democratic majority leader.

— Sen. Patrick Leahy, the Vermont Democrat who heads the Senate Judiciary Committee, said: "National security letters are a powerful tool, and when they are misused they can

do great harm to innocent people." He said his panel would hold "extensive hearings" on the report's findings.

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In the House, Rep. Silvestre Reyes, the Texas Democrat who heads the Intelligence Committee, said that the inspector general had painted "a highly troubling picture of mismanagement," and that it was up to Congress to "conduct vigorous oversight of this situation."

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Among the Republicans voicing anger was Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "When it comes to national security, sloppiness should be reserved for the hog lot, not the FBI," said Grassley, a farmer.

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In State News This Week..

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BU poised to alter dorm rules
By James Vaznis and Marcella Bombardieri | March 11, 2007

—
After years of heated student opposition, Boston University appears poised to relax the unusually strict rules that prohibit students from hosting overnight guests of the opposite sex.

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Under the new proposal from the dean of students, dorm residents will be able to host other BU students of either gender and, on a more limited basis, non-BU students. (The school will continue to preach respect for roommates.)

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In 1988, BU enacted a complex set of rules governing all evening guests (residents could have guests from 8 p.m. to midnight, but they had to sign in and out). The rules were approved amid concerns that parties, sex, and a free-for-all atmosphere were driving some students out of the dorms, and their enactment was one of the biggest student gripes against former president John Silber. Silber wrote to the student newspaper in 2002 that BU was not "in the business of providing weekend love nests."

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The new rules would give students more freedom while also maintaining the security needed in large urban dorms, said Brooke Feldman, the student government president, who helped draft the proposal.

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Students, she said, frequently joke that "if you are smart enough to get into BU, you are smart enough to get around the guest policy."

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Elizabeth Marlow, CG Parliamentarian: Why did you pick the dead woman story?

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Malina Swiatek, CPLA Chair: I think it provides an important lesson to all of us – we need to promote a campus community, and if we work together we won't be found a year later with just our bones and midterm materials because someone will notice.

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Yang Qiu, CGVP: I wanted to let you know – thanks for taking all the things I present back to your constituencies – and if you have any questions or comments, send them my way and I will answer the questions and take their comments into consideration in reviewing the process. We want to make this process work for students and student organizations. Have a wonderful spring break. March 26th will be our senate after spring break, and I encourage you all to come because we are having a special guest – you will be learning about lots of opportunities for student representative positions, but Cortni is really excited for this senate, and if you want, bring a friend, and I will see you there.

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Tiffany Sirc, Chief Justice: I just want to thank you all for coming to the lecture on Monday – we totally used the SOFC money very well – thanks for being financially responsible. You should have all gotten an email survey in your inbox from Dean Kim, so please take the survey – it is up to you to type anything in. We have gotten 710 responses – and ask your professors if they have submitted their surveys as well.

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Cortni Jones, Student Bursor: I really like Cheetos; I was eating them earlier today, and I was preparing for spring budgeting, which will begin tonight, and everyone was bummed out about the whole spring forward thing, but I knew it was due on that day. And SOFC will start tonight and go into the deep dark future. We had really good turnout for the help sessions last week. We hired Yo-Jud as our last bookkeeper – she has a super fun name to say. We’ve added new hours with these new people and we will present constitutional changes after break – look at how excited all the SOFC people are.

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Malina Swiatek, CPLA Chair: I am excited to see myself – I’m back. Tuesday is now Pizza Lunch day – well tomorrow is. WE have a hot topic for tomorrow – Global warming – with Professor Turner and Jones – 12:30 in the Anderson Forum – we will be serving pizza. Free drinks (non-alcoholic). In addition, our spring lecture will be April 27, and it involves nuclear weapons – maybe I’m bringing one, maybe someone will talk about one, maybe I have one right now, so you’ll just have to wait to find out, if you’re all still around by then.

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Jeanne Amy, DOOCA: I too hope you’re all looking forward to spring break. Clearly we all ate a big bowl full of crazy before senate today. When we get back, you can go to the Decemberists concert March 29. I hope all of you reserved your tickets because we’ve reached capacity for the venue. Your off-campus guests can purchase tickets if they would like a guaranteed ticket. But we will give plenty of time for those tickets to be picked up, and we will release all the remaining tickets to the public a couple days before the show. It is free for Wellesley students, \$25 for off campus. We will be announcing this Wednesday at 9:00 in Punch’s Alley (?).

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Malina Swiatek, CPLA Chair: Also, CPLA is having a Democrats-Republicans' social this Wednesday from 10-12 pm in Punch’s Alley – it will be civil with ice cream and snacks. Come at night and stay for the whole night.

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Natalie Ross, CG Secretary/Treasurer: Senators' banquet March 30, and spam training – Thursday at 6:30, PNE 130.

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Emily Oxford, CG President: This week is Love Your Lulu Week. A lot of people want us to take ownership of the campus center, so this is an organized campaign to do that – the one I’m looking forward to is Thursday at 7:30 pm. Come do karaoke with all of us. A lot of cabinet members are going to be there and we hope to see you too. By general consent, I move we adjourn this meeting. Are there any objections? Seeing none, we are adjourned.

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