

# With Thanks to the Dean

College Council's Minutes for the

7:30 P.M., 28 January 2004, Regular Meeting in Hopkins 1964 Classroom  
New Baxter Plans, Health Center Reduced Hours

## Dealing with Vacancies

The secretary was late to the meeting due to a Go game that ran long. The first two sections of these minutes are based on notes graciously taken by Gerry Lindo.

Five members were expelled for absences or retired by preemptive resignations. One was Thomas Kunjappu, whom a substitute petitioned Council to reinstate. The substitute explained that he had been supposed to sub for Thomas last meeting, but had missed it and was petitioning because he did not want Thomas punished for his error. Without discussion, Council voted to overturn the expulsion and reinstate Thomas, which requires a 2/3 vote.

Overturning Thomas's expulsion **PASSED, 23-1-0.**

Bill Ference was also expelled for lateness last meeting. **Phoebe Rockwood**, a freshman who had acted as Bill's sub three times during his office, was present to request to serve in his place. As per the constitution, it fell to Council to fill the vacancy left by Bill, by a 2/3 vote.

Welcome to Council, Phoebe.

Instating Phoebe Rockwood to Frosh Council representative **PASSED, 24-0-0.**

## Budgets

**Federico Sosa** treasurer made the usual presentation of the Financial Committee's budget recommendations. The Rape and Sexual Assault Network requested 1,500 but was recommended 1,000, the 500 for tee shirts being cut. Model United Nations requested and was recommended 850. Fede commented that their budget was reasonable, and they are covering most of their expenses themselves. Rap Enthusiasts requested 1299 and was recommended 600. 100 of the money cut was requested for Mothers Day, apparently since rappers sing a lot about their mothers. "So we thought that was really funny, and we cut that out," explained Fede, to a roar of laughter. Finally, there was a request from W.O.R.D. for 3,000 for Ralph Nader, for which the committee recommended 1,000. That is discussed in greater depth later.

"Those jumpsuits are College Council property."

I love you, Fede.

**Peter McManmon** Williams inquired about FinCom's policy on uniforms. Fede answered that a group that can use its uniforms for the whole year can get funding. "What happens if a group folds? So what happens to the jumpsuits?" pressed Peter, referring to a past meeting's funding of jumpsuits for Gymnastics Club. "Those jumpsuits are College Council property," replied Fede, ". . . so we actually need to think of a way to put to use all our equipment, because we own a lot water polo goals, Frisbees, et cetera."

Fede now spoke to W.O.R.D.'s 3,000 request, which FinCom had answered by recommending 1,000. He said they were covering the cost of Nader's speech with diverse sources, including 1500 from various departments and an expected 5,000 from the Lecture Committee, but they had not yet asked for money from the Dean's office.

400 for food . . .  
If I didn't know better, I'd think Nader was planning on eating an endangered species.

**Chin Ho** co pres a "self proclaimed member of W.O.R.D.," spoke on their behalf. He said the group was estimating Nader's expense to be "8,000 for the contract and 1,500 for things that are not very solidified yet." These other details included his accommodations and travel, the latter of which is hard to determine "because he's busy" and the former of which is easy to determine because he's "very particular: two rooms at the Williams Inn on the second floor." Food costs are currently estimated to be 400 . . . for his assistant, students, et cetera," said Chin, and "are controversial." He then went into the list of sources from which W.O.R.D. had requested money. The President's Office had given 2,000 of a requested 3,000. They requested from student groups like the Democrats and the Garfield Republicans, and had gotten turned away from groups from whom they had expected money, like the Gaudino Forum. **Fede** explained FinCom's decision to reduce the request, saying that the committee had originally wanted to give nothing, but then decided to give funding to set an encouraging precedent for the Dean's office, when W.O.R.D. went to them.

**Mike Greenberg** East, Fayerweather moved to amend the amount allocated to W.O.R.D. from 1,000 to 2,000. "I think Nader is a great speaker to have," he said.

## Highlights

• Dean Roseman runs the week's marathon with us.

Lots of goodie quotes from the dean, but you'll have to read the text to find them.

**Aaron Wilson** all campus and **Godfrey Bakuli** Sage spoke against the amendment on the grounds that the lower allocation would not prevent Nader from coming and that it was important for FinCom to “stick to its guns” on funding, the latter citing his experience and position on FinCom.

Amending W.O.R.D.'s allocation from 1,000 to 3,000 **FAILED, 5-19-0.**

Ratifying the Financial Committee's recommendations **PASSED, 23-1-0.**

If this section is not detailed enough for you, you may go to osjl's public folder and access the document containing the raw notes taken by the secretary.

You can actually do this for any meeting's minutes. The right file always has the word "Notes" in the title.

When should the pub start serving alcohol?

Chin suggested noon. Dean Roseman was lukewarm.

It would probably be overstepping my bounds to advertise here the Valentine's Day Contradance that will take place in Goodrich Hall, this Friday at 8:30 pm.

## **New Baxter Plans** *Dean Roseman favors us with an in depth look*

**Dean Roseman** came to Council with a very detailed PowerPoint presentation on the new Baxter, both to inform the student body on what was final and to seek guidance on what still needed input. Her presentation was extensive and lengthy, and is impossible to reproduce informatively in these minutes due to its heavy strong usage of blueprints, artists' renderings, and other visuals that cannot be replicated in this medium. What follows is a very abbreviated selection of the points brought to Council by Dean Roseman, and Council members' responses.

The first plans centered around the history of the student center, most specifically the traffic flow dynamics of campus and how the building fit into that, and would not once the Adams Memorial Theatre and Stetson Sawyer complexes were built. A lot of attention was given to the “porousness” of the New Baxter.

*The First Floor:* Two entrances to Baxter off Baxter Lawn will be bridges over an opening to the basement level, and be a major east west circulation route to the mailroom. A marketplace servery would be “a better version of what they're doing at Mission.” There are two meeting rooms, some officers, and a version of the current snack bar.

*The Second Floor:* Most is offices for student groups and services. There is a large 50 60 person lounge, which Roseman envisioned as a great place for forums “when the shit hits the fan on this campus.” A reading room and kitchen to serve the offices were present. Roseman commented that a lot had been learned from Goodrich, and the intent was to ensure that the building did not become primarily a study space.

*The Lower Level:* A performance space for student use only, seating 125 and complete with a green room and digital projection, was a major feature. Grab and go still exists, on Robert Volpi's insistence that it is necessary. WCFM is to move to Prospect.

A pub located in the space directly below the snack bar, 30' smaller than the current snack bar, was the most discussed feature. Roseman wanted input on it above all other parts of the plans, specifically on whether the bar should be linear and placed in a corner, or a large oval to occupy more space but more efficiently use the space, according to the architects' claim. Her worry about the circular bar was the visual obstacle it provided, and the reduction of space for events like dances.

What time of day to start serving beer was mentioned as an issue that needed discussion. **Andrew Nathenson** co op, off campus asked how the pub would impact the log. Roseman said that, in her years here, she has seen a lot of resources thrown into the Log, implying that it was already on its way down. Andrew made a suggestion that the room favored: that if the Log is shut down, we salvage a lot of the things from it to “give the new thing a feel of history.”

**Philipp Huy** all campus asked about the marketplace servery, and about student who cannot afford it. Roseman responded that, “Student and I have beat on him Robert Volpi, Director of Dining Services not to price this out of students' range. If we have to subsidize that so students can afford it, we will do that.”

**Peter Tosirisuk** Morgan, Lehman asked about using dinner points to buy beer. “No, I don't think so,” said Roseman.

*The Loading Level:* “Scott Lewis gets his dream world,” was the subtitle Roseman provided as she pulled up the plan. A large storage space right near the loading dock was the main feature, all of it for the Outing Club.

*The Living Room:* Roseman now pulled up a rendering of the new Baxter living room, which drew oohs from Council. An intimate and lush space, the room featured wood pillars, a slate fireplace, and large windows to the outside. **Chin Ho** co pres commented that the Polshek forum is “known for its interiors.” Council members were generally impressed with the living room.

*Baxter Exterior:* “The idea is to build a contemporary building that fits the site. To fit the site, you use the same material as the surrounding buildings.” The mockup shown employed the same limestone as Chapin's columns, and the same brick as Sage. A large overhang was suspended over the main entrances from Baxter Lawn. The snack bar windows were of straight panels of glass, and Roseman commented that “Everyone currently hates the windows.” They are trying to work out a more aesthetic solution, but

New Baxter ETA:  
two years.  
New name:  
still up for grabs.

This was best  
heard in person,  
but still very  
worth the read.  
If you applauded  
Council's letter,  
hear an earnest  
rebuttal.

That day, she  
was amazed to  
discover that  
when he was  
saying, "I'll sue,"  
what he meant  
was, "I love you."

The above  
sidebar and the  
title of these  
minutes both  
derive from  
obscure sources.  
Can you identify  
them? 05jl for  
the answers,  
and my personal  
admiration if  
you are right.

Ever been in  
Roseman's hot  
seat? She  
recreated the  
effect  
admirably, and  
scarily, well in  
Council.

curved glass is too expensive to be an option. A major intent of the facade plan was to provide a lot of ways to see into the building, to see what is going on inside.

Dean Roseman closed her presentation by honoring the committee that has been working very hard on this project, specifically singling out **Mike Henry** co pres for his participation on it.

### **Fraternities** *Dean Roseman rebuts the letter sent by Council*

The room received Dean Roseman's following words in perfect silence.

"I just wanted to express something to this body that I think is really important for you to understand. . . . I frankly was personally insulted by the letter you sent to me see minutes, 21 January 2004 . I felt that it was not very subtly suggested that I was a liar, wasn't telling the truth. It not so subtly suggested that I was a person of no integrity and can be manipulated by members of dark forces even though I'm not and couldn't be.

"If it went on the border, I think it crossed the line of mudslinging and made accusations on no evidence. . . . Morty said in a speech, 'The plural of anecdote is not evidence.' In this case, the plural of fiction isn't fact. . . . It might not have stunk so much if I were some faceless bureaucrat that nobody knew, but I would like to think you know me and Morty better than that.

"People are always so good at saying, 'The Administration.' I always say 'me.' That's me."

Dean Roseman then opened the floor to questions. A while passed before any ventured to break the silence that had endured during her speech.

**Philipp Huy** all campus asked when a group on campus qualifies as a frat. Roseman said it was actually a legal question, and laid out the specifications, as specified by court cases. Fraternities are defined as secretive, exclusive, affiliated with national Greek organizations, financially supported by them, and answer to them in specific ways.

Huy followed up to ask about the allegation of a request by a frat to reclaim the goatroom in the Center for Developmental Economics CDE . "Jack Shaw is like the grand poohbah of this frat," said Roseman. "Shaw came to campus with a couple of other brothers and wanted exclusive use of the goatroom. That conversation is when he told us things like 'We have about 25 members.' He made comments like 'I'm gonna buy a house in Williamstown and take you guys to court. Not permitting frats is illegal' which is wrong. We said, 'No, forget it.' The he asked if he could have the wood, the infrastructure. We said no. . . . He also said he loves Williams College."

**Jim Irving** Class of 2005 asked Roseman if she'd heard rumors of any other secret frats and how much would she put behind them. Roseman answered that all she's heard, "every now and then," is there's a football frat, and that's about all she gets.

**Mike Henry** co pres asked if Roseman felt the frats were a threat to the student body. "No, I think the student body is a lot stronger than these 25 people. What has really struck me is the number of people I've heard saying 'This doesn't affect me.' "

In response **Federico Sosa's** treasurer raising the topic, Roseman addressed the amnesty that she and others empowered to decide such things decided to offer fraternity members. "What Jack Shaw represented was, 'This is a group of students that Williams College should be proud of. They are the cream of the crop. It's not a frat like Williams thinks about' So Cappy Catherine Hill, Provost looked at him and said, 'So why wouldn't we want that? If that's true, we would love to embrace them and stop all this secrecy.' And I would describe that as calling someone's bluff," finished Roseman. "What he described sounded like it would be a positive thing." Fede pressed by saying that that story was not the impression he had gotten from reading the *Record*. Roseman answered, "We've placed this group in a box because they are telling us something that isn't true because they are not willing to come out into the light of day."

**Aaron Wilson** all campus asked, "Going forward, would you describe yours and Morty's position as welcoming more knowledge about the situation?" Roseman answered that she has never had any problem taking disciplinary action against a student who was violating community standards, and said she would do so if she knew of a student who was a member of a frat.

**Chin Ho** co pres now prodded Roseman to reenact what she had earlier that day done to the officers, to demonstrate why she did not favor an aggressive investigation into fraternities. Singling out Gerry Lindo, who wrote the fraternity letter sent by Council, she conducted an interview of him on fraternities that, though mock, was serious enough in feeling that the room felt its weight. As Roseman prodded Gerry for any information, he fended her off by insisting of ignorance. Dean Roseman summarized the point with, "It's a pretty horrific experience to put a student in a room with me. . . . When they say they won't tell me, all I've got left is you are not telling me and I am the dean of the College and something bad is happening. . . . I don't want to that again and again, for what?"

No one's gonna tell me anything. . . . If I had different information and heard that this group is really a danger to the community, or putting people's lives at risk in rituals . . . If I thought that was true, I think I'd take a more aggressive approach."

**Mark Orłowski** suggested Roseman have her own blog, **Philipp Huy** all campus suggested publish a weekly note in the *Record*. "That's an interesting suggestion; it sounds like I'd have to write a paper, like you're giving me homework. I remember when Peter Murphy was dean of the college and every so often he'd write an op ed to the *Record* when he got really pissed about something and I used to think, 'Oh, that poor bastard.' Now it's me."

Next year, the Health Center will close between 8 and 9 pm

## **Impending Reduced Hours at the Health Center**

Roseman explained why Williamstown Medical Associates WMA has told the College that, come next fall, it will have to close the Health Center at night or lose its medical coverage with them. It's an issue of their liability, and their great concern over the beds at the Health Center, where students they fear are in need of better care may stay overnight.

WMA wanted to pull night coverage this year, but the efforts of Ruth Harrison and Susan Yates convinced them to hold off until next fall. In their contract, they may pull coverage with 30 days' notice.

A lot about what to do about alcohol, the reduced hours, and policy change is yet unwritten. Roseman's answer to every other question was, "We haven't talked about that yet."

This has been happening all over the country, said Roseman, and the trend is expected to continue to any other colleges with 24 hour health centers. "It is the fallout of a litigious society," she opined. Alcohol poisoning fears are the major concern. the fact that an inebriated student sleeps it off at the Health Center "is very worrisome because the way alcohol poisoning works, you can be fine and then your body absorbs more and you're not fine later, and it's dangerous if the Health Center is not equipped to monitor all the time."

**Veronica Mendiola** Gladden said that kids would not want to go to the hospital because an ambulance is 500 bucks. Your insurance covers it, said Roseman, but the copay will vary. "The provost will say to you, if you're there because of alcohol, you shouldn't have had so much to drink."

This issue is young. Keep an eye out for a forum or two on the matter that is upon us.

**Philipp Huy** all campus asked about a possible hard alcohol ban, and the lack of transportation to hospitals if there are only two ambulances and security is cutting down on transportation. "No one in their right mind is going to put anyone who's having a serious medical emergency into a campus vehicle. Our lawyers would quit." She said the college has not increased its liability, and has none. "Students are adults and responsible for their own actions."

Roseman said she believed a "community wide discussion" was needed about alcohol and the new situation to, among other things, get people to understand the need to send a drunk friend to the emergency room. She also said she believed in some kind of administrative response to a student's getting himself seriously sick a second time.

## **Absentees** *Two absences in a row or three in a term result in a members' expulsion, unless overridden by the secretary's discretion or petition to the Council*

Pawing through the paper recycling: not my finest moment.

Due to the secretary's inability to locate the attendance records for this meeting, no one is marked absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jonathan Landsman,**  
Secretary of College Council