Opening Devotions led by Brian Tarpy

Sara Chun on International Friends: the need for, reason for it stopping, reasons for trying again.

Decorated Student Center for Christmas Around the World (1pm-2:15pm)

Committee Reports

a. CCP (Academics - Erin Zoutendam): Robert: MTS and MDiv create own concentrations within programs as soon as next year. Skills courses for people interested in taking PhD classes. Issue of non-inclusive language use in the classroom -- new proposals for syllabus. 1 credit course on Worship and Culture for next semester. Discussing creating a visiting lectureship program to increase faculty diversity and allow people to get to know others.

b. CCC (Community and Culture - Emily Colledge) Robert: Title IX training, policy for maternity leave -- meeting again soon.

c. CCR (Church Relations - Kyle Kooyers): Report from Robert: Only had one meeting this year -- talking about relationships between churches and pastors (looking at reasons for pastors leaving churches, etc). Minutes to come from Kyle

d. Mentored Ministries/ Vocational Formation Committee (Tim Sipol and Hannah Ryou): Robert reports they met Oct. 28 and discussed cross-cultural internships, added new mentoring group leaders, the new director of mentored ministries called Director of Vocational Formation, discussed ideal size for mentoring group

e. Distance Learning Committee (Kizzy) - no meetings scheduled. Brian: questions about whether distance students can vote, etc - how are they represented. Kizzy: They have their own Senate. Conversation about whether there should be some sort of connection / bridge, avenue to collaborate. Brian said the student he talked about expressed uncertainty / lack of clarity about who does what.

f. Assessment Committee (Kat and Jan): Nothing to report, have been in contact with Prof. Feenstra - they are on the list but haven’t had a meeting yet. Likely comes after student evaluations.

g. Community Life Team (Ivan and Dean Sajdak): Met Dec. 7, reports on events in the past and upcoming events from Korean SA, Student Senate, President’s office, town halls, other events. They are brainstorming regarding questions from international students about being more intentional about coordinating and planning with international students - eg: how interested are international students in Medenblik Stik? International students want more orientation
regarding things North American students already know. Prof. Gibson also expressed an interest in conversations about the purpose of the seminary and interests, so that more trust is built on their perspectives, leading chapels and town halls on other interests. Suggests prioritizing these perspectives over other options. Some international students want more faculty leading chapels, and also more attendance at J-series.

h. Enrollment Management Task Force (Sam): 8 met Thursday, Dec. 10 - discussed internal changes to make CTS more attractive to prospective students and raise the retention rate. Current students need more vocational support. MDiv does not always = pastor. Knowing that students are interested in non-traditional callings as well, are there better ways to connect other programs with vocational resources. Also discussed topics for 1 credit classes offered. Also discussed potential growth markets - for example, lay people -> possibility of urban CPE; an urban ministry setting. Prof. Gibson is passionate about that as a possibility. Other discussed how to make CTS more attractive to non-traditional career paths. Discussion about how pervasive and obnoxious the constant assumption that everyone will be pastors is. Brian suggests that they stop using market language to refer to people (market, resources, etc.) - would prefer a more person-centered approach.

i. Website Updater with Dean Sajdak (Fabiano): Added emails to the webpage - a great change. Also worked with communications committee on improving the website. By the end of the month, would like to add a link to a calendar.

j. Hekman Library Team (Michael): Electronic resources question (whether to continue to pay large amount for those resources) still open - both Kizzy and Robert feel they are genuinely helpful in addition to hard copies. Conversation about being more selective with who they work with if they have stupid policies for checking out (eg: electronic issues not being available about 365 “days” even if those “days” happen within a month from 50 students accessing resource at the same time). Michael states that to some extent they are being selective with who they will work with and it sounds like the Library Team is thinking along similar lines - some resources are a lot more helpful in electronic format, such as topic-specific articles or searchable dictionaries, etc. Michael has emphasized that PDFS are the most helpful.

Bathrooms and water dispenser question: Pretty pessimistic about changes happening. There’s also no men’s bathroom on the 3rd floor. Plans about adjusting
infrastructure/renovation are in process, but will be done the road. The water fountain might be a possibility earlier.

Document being given to the college about where the library ranks compared to other small, liberal arts colleges.

- **Fellowship Committee** (Christanne, Christa, Kizzy, Ivan): Senate congratulated them on a great job planning Christmas Around the World. Kizzy shared the ideas and schedule for the evening. Requesting help with monitoring coloring table: Brian volunteered. Blessing Ornaments Table: Monica signed up. Word in Due Season Table: Could just be setting up as the responsibility - Emily Sajdak signed up.

- **Communications Committee** (Robert, Fabiano, Jan, Monica): Have met a couple times and discussed better use of social media. Created a new facebook group, encouraging students to make use of it so that it catches on. Kizzy suggests making a video.

- **Town Hall Committee** (President Tarpy, Christa): Not much to report - Katrina Olson per Women’s Advocacy Committee requesting a slot for late February. President Tarpy encouraging input from students on what is being received well.

- **Student Affairs Committee** (President, Kat): Nothing new to report - are meeting in spring semester when board of trustees meet.

- **Hospitality Committee** (Fabiano, Christianne, Anthony): Have not met since last meeting - but expressed interest in being involved in promoting International Friends Program.

- **Race Committee** (Nathan, Daeeun Im, Robert): Have met a couple times, decided to have meetings with all of those suggested, are still working on finding more people and select from that.

- **Women’s Committee**: Katrina reported that Grant Hofman and Kyle Kooyers and Joella Ranaivoson have joined as the non-Senate representatives. Have met twice, and are planning meeting twice per month. One meeting dedicated for women sharing - will advertise hard in January. Are also planning for the February town hall. Second meeting per month will be just the 6, more “work”/administrative driven meetings. January 20 next meeting. Women’s Advocacy Committee proposed as the name change and was approved by Senate. The committee is going well.

- **Student Appeals Committee** (President and VP): No appeals.

5. **Intramural Jersey Proposal**: Emily Sajdak presented on the issue - almost out of jerseys, in the process of ordering more. 10-15, based on a survey from the past, are interested
in purchasing their own jersey, but will also purchase 20-30 as seminary jerseys. Proposal for funds to come from Senate from “slush fund.” Max order would be 48, about $750. Emily proposing designating funds for this. Discussion about getting more feedback about student interest more widely in buying some more - Anthony gave feedback of some students -> would only be interested if they can have some input into what they look like. Clarification that the amount of money spent will be less than $750 once students pay for their own jerseys. Further amendment to be sure to contact the entire study body passed.

6. See Something, Say Something: Brian presenting as an idea -> discussing shifting to publicizing it as an initiative but not formally structured - also Executive Team able to hear complaints. More a focus on spreading the word that people can say something when something happens. Conversation: Kizzy says she thinks simply an attractive poster will help create a sense of safer space and convicting engagement from the community.

8. Vision Statement: Motion to not formally adopt a statement.

7. Agenda Approvals: Reminder to please approve even if you don’t have time to thoroughly review them. Reminder for secretary to put a line in the email clarifying a request to sign off on them.

8. Round Table Discussion for New Business: discussions regarding preserving institutional memory.


10. President’s Report: Discussed various things he’s working on, including meeting with President Medenblik.

Dates of future meetings:

2016: 2/12, 3/11, 4/1, 5/6 (evening meeting 5:30pm)