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Student Association Executive Council Meeting Minutes, 03-12-1968

Student Association

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Student Association Minutes

All the SA Executive Council was present for its weekly meeting, Tuesday, March 12, 1968, at 6:00 P.M., at the Student Association Office. Dr. Gilliam led the group in a prayer.

Business

Petition to SA

Gerald Miles and Jim Cook presented to SA a petition signed by 164 Harding students. The petition requested SA action in recommendation to the administration that there be enforcement of the dress and conduct rules. Following are discussion summaries:

Judy - asked how girls' hemlines can be controlled
Richard - asked if true purpose of petition is to get skirts lowered or to enforce rules on skirt-lengths
Gerald - stated purpose was to get skirts lowered, for the short skirts affect some men students; since school has rule that skirts are to reach knee, it should be enforced.
Richard - asked if he was satisfied just to change rule for shorter skirts
Gerald - said purpose of petition is to keep skirts a decent length
Jim - stated that school atmosphere would improve if rules were obeyed
Dave - asked where knee-length is
Gerald - stated knee-length covers the knee to extent the wearer is not conspicuous in show of her legs
Jim - reminded that administration who set knee-length rule should define the rule
Dave - said that there is a definite difference in dress of Harding girls and state school girls. Has debated at around 10 state schools this year.
GVR - asked if legislative enforcement of modesty rule would teach modesty
Gerald - agreed some students refused to sign petition because they felt this was not the best approach to the modesty problem. However, action in this manner is a start toward improvement of the problem and the eventual improvement of campus spirituality.
Mike - said that dress lengths concern him. He had seen too many undergarments on girls in regular streetwear, walking.
Dave - asked if petitioners were the only students requested to sign and if their concern was with the minority or majority of students
Gerald - stated concern was to have rules enforced
Dr. Gilliam - stated three points:
1) Wrong to believe that morality or decent dress is synonymous with dress length for immorality includes tight and scanty clothes.
2) Over generalization for petitioners to state Harding has lost its Christianity because a few girls wear short dresses. Such an alienating statement would negate the petition's effort.
3) Concern about short skirts but usually worn in rebellion or for fashion to please mothers.
Sam - stated God-fearing men are still at Harding
Richard - asked what affect Allen's speech to the girls on dress had?
Mike - said those who needed speech were resentful; those who did not need it were made more conscious.
Mary K - stated that girls need to be told plainly before entering Harding about campus dress; way hems are today, there is very little to let out.
Lynn - stated that Harding should not be considered a haven from the world
GVR - stated that petition revealed a need; asked who signed the petition
Gerald - revealed that both sexes randomly signed the petition
Mary K - asked reasons that students did not sign the petition
Gerald - Gave reasons from non-signers as:
"I wear short skirts,"
"Petition not the way to get action,"
"Enforcement of dress rule would mean school would enforce its other rules."
Sam - Made following suggestions:
1. Big Sisters relay to incoming freshmen the appropriate length of dresses.
2. Teachers be notified to enforce rule in the classroom.
3. SA representatives meet with the faculty at Camp Tahkoda at fall meeting to discuss problem.
Lynn - said teachers would cooperate in enforcing modesty for some already have
Mike - agreed some girls can be modest in wearing skirts above knees, others cannot; but where is the stopping place.
Richard - asked what the administration could do about the problem
Mike - said they could send the immodest girls back to the dorm
GVR - asked Gerald what he thought should be done
Gerald - said length rule should be enforced as any other rules, having a punishment for its violation
Jim - said problem could not be solved in a short period; asked something be done now and more planned for incoming students
Mike - asked how far could administration go in legislating modesty
GVR - stated that force is only a temporary action which makes for poor attitudes; favored idea of Big Sisters influencing freshmen before entering Harding
Mary K - suggested that rules be sent freshmen before entering school
Mike - suggested sending the Handbook
Carol - suggested a pictorial fashion pamphlet of Harding dress be sent incoming students
Richard - said modesty changes with times; legislature is needed, but how? In a Christian atmosphere as at Harding, dress should automatically so characterize.
Sam - defended that the letter without the spirit can cause animosity as also in the reverse
Dave - thinks problem been overestimated; dress is a value judgement which is usually judged by the Dean
Ron - only practical way is to have deans enforce the rule for it is not a teacher's job; recommend to suggest to deans that the dress rules be enforced more strictly
Sam - said such problems belong to welfare committees at smaller sister schools; asked girl representatives if concerned about skirt lengths.

GVR - confessed the situation is more of a problem for the boys.

Mary K - relayed one of biggest keys to problem is the way a girl sits.

Sam - suggested referring problem to Dorm Councils for in this problem the students have the more power in their actions.

Richard - said make more progress through student support as in dorm council; main enforcement would have to be influence and punishment for extremes.

Sam - stated that some Christians need more influence.

Judy - relayed that students see problem but their definitions of modesty are varied.

Dr. Gilliam - stated that some girls are too naive to realize immodesty affects boys; however, enforcing skirt length will not teach modesty nor promote the reason for it.

Richard - suggested to turn problem over to Dorm Council to get their reaction since they are a cross section of students.

Jim - stated that enforcement of the skirt length may be crude, but:
1. Arkansas has its laws to abide by as Harding.
2. Students need to adapt to rules of their residence.
3. Reasons for rules are necessary for effectiveness in their purpose.

Sam - suggested a card to sign upon reading rules be sent applicants for their returning to campus.

Judy - preferred to talk to girls in dorm before acting on problem.

Dr. Gilliam - asked if dorm councils had power in misdemeanors.

Mike - said now they are student voices to SA.

Judy - moved to suggest to the administration that a fashion pamphlet and Handbook be sent to students with their application forms; Carol seconded and Council passed the motion.

Sam - moved that Big Sisters be instructed to write their little sisters that the dress lengths are to be as the Handbook relates; Carol seconded and council passed the motion.

Mike - revealed his intention to suggest to the deans that they enforce the rules more on the extremely short skirts.

Lynn - said deans would get reputations; skirt length is student responsibility.

Rich - reminded group this problem would still exist after measures taken.

Jim - said need to start a program to provide students a way to show concern in matter.

Dave - moved to refer the "behavior matter" to the Dorm Council for their reaction; after Richard seconded the motion, it carried.

Mike - said problem was how to refer problem to the Dorm Council.

Dr. Gilliam - said arm-in-arm behavior and gluttony are prevalent problems among students.

Mike - confessed some boys' dress has not been modest; topics in behavior problem are:
1. Skirt lengths
2. Arm-in-arm
3. Boys' dress

Sam - said campus behavior could be discussed in the bi-annual SA-administration meeting.
Richard thanked Gerald and Jim for approaching the SA first about the campus problem; assured students that SA would strive to do something toward solving the problem.

Gerald thanked the SA for their work in representing the students.

Mike suggested arranging the SA-administration meeting after nine weeks.

Chapel

Mike mentioned changing chapel to a devotional-oriented program. It was pointed out that many of the programs are not worth hearing. Musical groups who perform from Harding can usually be heard during the year in one of their evening concerts.

Judy moved that SA recommend to the Bible department to send a copy of the week's scriptures to the music department to correlate the songs of chapel with the scriptures. Sam seconded the motion and council passed it.

Ron mentioned the problem in chapel is not the short devotionals, but the lack of eliminating irrelevant programs. Faculty feels the same dislike for poor chapel programs. Dave pointed out that many of the superfluous programs appear often because visitors are on campus. Ron suggested the only way to act on chapel is through Dr. Ganus who approves all the programs. Mike expressed the need for students and faculty to back the devotional-oriented chapel to impress Dr. Ganus. It was suggested that a letter of request of chapel program improvements be sent to Dr. Ganus. Using hymn oldies in chapel service was also mentioned. Dave expressed the need for the chapel chairmen to let students know in advance the days of hymn sings so the students will have the opportunity to make suggestions in the student center box.

It was decided to invite Dr. Ganus to SA's next week's meeting to be abbreviated due to mid-term exams.

Insight-Out

Richard was reminded to be on this week's SA program. A manuscript is to be turned in after each program for the files.

Youth Forum

Judy asked for volunteers from SA to help serve and clean-up at the welcome party for the visiting students.
Fire Prevention

Mike read a letter from Mr. Tucker of appreciation for the extensive fire prevention equipment needs on campus. After checking with Little Rock fire department authorities, $953.32 of equipment was ordered. Fire escape doors are to be installed at the ends of Cathcart during the summer. Fire alarms will be practiced in the dormitories. Richard Davis was commended for his extensive work on the effective report submitted to the administration.

Farbook Drive

The second promotional drive has not been successful, largely due to the unavailability of the record sounds, lack of enthusiasm, and poor advertising. Helen moved that Judy and Lynn take charge of the final chapel announcement tomorrow about the sale. After Sam seconded the motion, the motion carried. Mike agreed to bring his record player to the Student Center booth for some background sounds.

Lily Pool Project

Dave reported to Council his investigation into the types of could be obtained for the lily pool. The spout type of water spray was selected over the bowl type already in the pool. The cost would be over $2,000 with the lighting effect. Council preferred the inward spray from three layers of spouts. This project for the students must first pass in the Building and Grounds Committee before student action.

American Heritage Trophy Case

The Student Personnel Office has reminded SA that they last year volunteered to drape the Am. Heritage Trophy Case. Carol agreed to take this responsibility to work with Angie Watts in the Personnel Office.

Belles and Beau

Council decided to pay the expenses on giving the Belles and Beaux a reception after their program Sunday. A Capella will be asked to take charge of reception.
Emerald Room

After discussion, Council decided to leave the Emerald Room open all day, unsupervised, trusting the students' honesty. Council also passed clubs' use of the Emerald Room upon a week's notice of reservation. Clubs will pay for damages.

Later Business

Mike announced that the Council will soon be discussing the prayer breakfast for April 6 and the Dorm Council suggestions:

- Unlimited cuts
- Full-time counselor
- Visiting hours in boys' lobbies

Boys' Club Size

In a meeting with boys' club presidents held last week, the idea of limiting boys' club size was rejected. Reasons were:

1. Clubs too large split naturally.
2. Small clubs not desire left-overs from big clubs.
3. No problems in present club size.
4. Closeness not lost in large clubs.
5. Intramurals provide sports for all boys.
6. B teams allow more members to participate in sports.

Though the Student Affairs Committee limiting boys' club size to more easily be accommodated for club functions, Council was undecided. Ron stated that Little Rock could feed in some restaurants as many as 250. Clubs would not have to go to Memphis as the Affairs Committee seconded. It was decided to send a report of the SA feelings and a report of the club presidents' feelings on the topic to the Student Affairs Committee. Ron is to work on composing these reports.

Suggestions Box

Suggestions mentioned for future discussion are library hours on Sunday, Student Inn hours at night, and social rules.

Adjournment

Due to the hour, Mike adjourned the SA Executive Council at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Howell, SA Secretary