Westmont College Student Association
Meeting Minutes
3-17-2013

Present: David Dry, Sarah Mull, Elizabeth Grossman, Annaliese Yukawa, Angela D’Amour, Robyn Bickerton, Melissa Caputo, Riley Svikhart, Michael Deiana, Nicole Birkholz, Ryan Council, Ky Kocur, Kyle Phipps

Meeting began at 7:18

- Lightning Round
  - Annaliese - RA appreciation day
  - Nicole - sophomore events to celebrate being halfway through undergrad
  - Angela - please ask before borrowing WAC supplies
  - Kyle - Restructuring video in the works
  - Melissa - creating folders with all information for new positions for next year

- Prayer - Nicole

- Funding Proposals
  - Westmont Polo Team - $240 for Feb. 14 competition
    - Melissa motions to fund, Annaliese seconds, all aye
  - Citadel - $1800 to finish adding video to the yearbook
    - $400 for one-semester stipend (video)
    - $800 for one-year Academic editor
    - $400 for one-semester Business Manager
    - 10 more Academic stories
    - Sarah moves to fund, Kyle seconds, all aye

- Angela Updates
  - Tables approved for balcony outside PC office: do we want same as DC tables?
    - Difficult to write on those tables
  - WASC accreditation team wants input from us
    - Sarah and Elizabeth

- Strategic Planning
What do you see as key strengths of Westmont we can build on?
  a. Strong, valuable teacher-student relationships
  b. People/population, sense of community
c. Reputation within Christian community
   i. Connections abroad, with prominent Christian figures

d. Intellectual rigor

e. Community within the liberal arts – surrounded by people who do entirely different things

f. Facilities and natural beauty of the campus

g. Executive leadership

h. Culture of involvement
   i. Undergraduate institution – lots of opportunities, intellectual rigor, teacher-student relationships

j. Networking opportunities

k. Passion for Residence Life

l. Christian integration within the classroom and in the community

m. Interdenominational practices, relationships, exposure

n. Focus on on-campus activities

o. Westmont-run abroad opportunities

p. Global emphasis from abroad and Santa Barbara

q. Connecting with Santa Barbara community – administrative level

r. Chapel setup – weekly, mandatory

s. Small means four-year graduation amidst state schools that take 5+ years

What do you see as weaknesses/areas of improvement that Westmont needs to address?

a. Reputation outside Christian community – people just don’t know about us
   i. Train students to more articulately explain Westmont’s value
   ii. National reach isn’t readily available

b. Connecting with Santa Barbara community – student level

c. Lack of communication/discussion on world and Christian issues

d. Integration of non-Christian students

e. Diversifying class offerings/extend the reach of classes

f. Transitioning back from abroad/re-entry experience

g. Culture of over-commitment

h. Cost of attendance (affordability)
   i. Need to cultivate an alumni culture that feels a tie to be involved, to return
      i. Something to unify them (other schools have football teams, etc.)

j. Emphasis on clubs (this could change with integration to WAC next year)

k. Business Department (Ifland is working on a facelift, adjuncts are great, but needs more work)

l. Anthropology and Sociology, Languages other than Spanish – few professors

m. Office of Life Planning is amazing: needs more support, publicity – underused

n. Need campus hub (like KSC in process)

o. Coffee shop

p. Availability of options besides the DC
i. Hours
q. Pool, Library, Fitness Center have insufficient hours
r. Teach faith as an intellectual, not relational component – lopsided education
   i. Class covering current Christianity, spiritual development, missions, etc.
s. Capax Dei is great, but we could do more – dorm-based, separate apparatus
t. Encouraging church commitment beyond chapel
   i. Not just church shopping, but not eliminating curiosity
u. Do OT, NT, etc. replicate what a lot of students already have had?
   i. Very difficult for GE courses
v. Chemistry integration of faith and learning is forced
w. Encourage diversity of faculty, in backgrounds, opinions, etc.
x. Encourage more international students
y. Student involvement in chapel planning
z. Dorm facilities: air conditioning, etc.
   i. Other schools have TV options, etc.

What are the critical issues the college will face over the next three to five years?
a. Tuition cost vs. cost of expenses
   i. Other schools are raising their prices too
b. Parking
c. New dorm will make off-campus living and parking MUCH more complex
d. National recognition
   i. Competitive opportunities for graduates
   ii. Build on the successes of alumni
e. Sustainability – environmental, food/allergy issues
f. Office of Life Planning is doing great things but is undervalued
   i. Placement, and helping us believe we can compete for these positions
g. Not compromising faith for anything: to attract the best and brightest, etc.
h. Re-entry – complete the cycle of global education
i. Abroad opportunities for all majors
   i. BUT we have the flexibility and opportunity for blazing your own trail
j. MOOCs: they would capitalize on a lot of our strengths but go against some tenets of Westmont
   i. Opportunity and a threat
k. Integrating ministry & mission with academics
l. Campus-wide integration of academics, student organizations, and administration
m. An increasingly secular society

What are the key priorities the college should set as it creates its next strategic map?
a. National reputation/recognition/”secular appeal”
i. To begin: Access to a wider network of alumni
ii. Be willing to push Westmont into the realm of bigger secular names
iii. Internships and jobs
   1. Office of Life Planning support/use
   2. Networking
b. Environmental responsibility and sustainability
   i. Anthony has started some awesome projects, but we need more
c. Integrating Christianity into cultural, international context through conversation
d. Affordability
e. Gathering space/hub, like a student center, coffee shop, etc.
f. Chapel: student involvement in planning and participation
   i. Possibly other avenues for spiritual education/discussion/etc. – conferences?
   ii. Possibility for student leadership in spiritual development
l. Possibly through dorms
g. Technology: Internet and Verizon service

● Meeting adjourned