

## **Full Council Meeting Minutes 10/9/2014**

Roll Call

Introduction of Rochelle Mason

### **Committee Updates:**

**Outreach:** CC Night on the town

**Student Concerns:** working with Outreach. Having a collection of groups meet to discuss issues and concerns on campus. We just received a list of student athletes on campus who are interested in participating. The ball pit will be introduced in upstairs Worner next week. We would like to see more student-admin town halls on campus. We are in the process of discussing the best way to do this. The Committee is also working on the best way to create a student concerns publications.

**Finance:** Approved budgets for four events - FemCO and QCC (week of women in comedy), Siam Cool Science Fair (UCCS), SOMOS (Latino Campaign Panel), and Courageous Conversations. CC EMS Squad - \$3500 from Jill which CC will match. Good Food Club and Carnivore Club "Winter Food Festival" featuring the band the Generationals. Frisbee Golf Club, J-Street U, and Catering Club have all been met with. Met with Glass House to discuss large speaker event - Kevin Pierce and physical/mental health (Screen Showing of Crash Reel). Met with QCC - "National Coming Out Day" outside of Worner with Carnivore Club and T-shirts.

**Internal Affairs:** First-Year Election Campaigning officially began at 6:30pm this evening. This is the biggest turnout for elections we have had in years.

**President's Committee:** Courageous Conversations is happening next week. Master Plan Committee presented the other day with plans for the future of CC. Included in this plan is the creation of a student space on campus - possibly by athletic field. Met with Budget Committee yesterday to discuss budgeting the Butler Center.

### **Soup Kitchen Discussion:**

Soup Kitchen has been under review the last couple of years. Last year the Board of Trustees created a new committee to oversee the Soup Kitchen - as a result of safety concerns about the Soup Kitchen. Over the summer there were particular areas of safety that raised concern. Some students claimed feeling unsafe. One incident included the assault of a Campus Safety officer. A lack of student participation in the Soup Kitchen has also been raised as an issue.

Response: A concern has been increasing student participation in the Soup Kitchen. Andy Post had been in the process of creating an adjunct to create an educational component of the Soup Kitchen. There was a problem with the model of the Soup

Kitchen - however this is a problem that could have been addressed had students known about the issue beforehand. There has been a lack of student involvement in this entire process. Safety concerns were not addressed as a problem until the Kitchen was publicized to close. The decision to close the Kitchen on November 16th has been unclear. There is also the issue of looking at a small number of people as "dangerous" and claiming that this is an issue related to the entire group.

The Kitchen model does not follow a specific policy (like other soup kitchens). It is really a matter of making a better screening process and a specific code of conduct -- which is fully within our capacity at CC.

There was no public statement made about the Soup Kitchen until last Friday. We wanted to discuss the issue with the campus to gain a better understanding of how the community felt. We received contact from the Gazette with an interview - an hour later (6:30pm on Friday) the campus received a Communications email from CC -- the first that the community had received wind of the issue.

The only reason given for why the Soup Kitchen was closing is because the Marion House was going to start opening on Sunday. (There is the potential for the Marion House to close down too).

The school had still kept the stance that the Soup Kitchen should be moved off-campus. This is spelling a huge problem for the homeless population in the city.

We held a demonstration at Shove about this issue. The message sent that day -- the students wanted to keep the kitchen on campus - there are reasons why it shouldn't be kept in Shove -- the campus should be inclusive (open to all socioeconomic backgrounds).

The closing of the Kitchen was an opportunity to do something else to have more of an impact on the community -- while it is not "saving the world" it is still an opportunity to provide a meal to those in need.

The CC kitchen is not only needed by members of the Colorado Springs community, but has been one of the most unique dining experiences patrons have had.

(Other kitchens in the area include: The Springs Dining Kitchen (religiously based). The Marion House - an intense and regimented procedure.)

The Kitchen is about community - more important than just feeding people. We do need to go out to the community and address the problem, but the Soup Kitchen provides a way to attempt to address this problem.

Talked to Jill -- in the meeting we established that the Kitchen could stay on campus and serve the amount of food it has been. This was a very successful conversation. We came to the conclusion that we could keep the Soup Kitchen on campus - and

find a way to “rebuild” the kitchen and attack poverty while also providing a meal to those in need.

It seemed from the demonstration that the students want to see the Soup Kitchen stay on campus. This is also a means of exposing students to a reality that they may not be exposed to. After meeting with Patrick and Addison - they don't necessarily want to have the kitchen on campus; they want to see something down town. This would be difficult, it could be many years down the line before things are implemented - we could lose the argument that we want to keep this kitchen on campus. How strongly do students want to keep the Soup Kitchen on campus?

Soup Kitchen would stay open until an alternative was set into place. The school would make a public apology about the lack of transparency regarding the closing of the Soup Kitchen (CCSGA and the Student Trustee should have been informed about such issues like this).

Outlining an “Impact Hub” - arts for social change, food coalition, mental health. A new highly accessible building (where the Kitchen could preside). Don't see this as entirely relevant to the issue of the Kitchen. First let's only talk about the Kitchen and its continued existence.

Once \$20,000 was provided, other ideas were put on the table (including a space downtown that could possibly act as a satellite campus).

Ultimate desire: the Kitchen should be on campus. A possible temporary space is the Seeds Community Cafe. In the interim however, there is a fear of losing student involvement (as students may not be willing to walk to the cafe).

There is a possible building on campus that could be used as a Kitchen space/food coalition space. It could be refurbished with an appropriate kitchen. There are still concerns about securing this building.

We have to make sure that those capable of implementing our goals follow through with implementing them.

We are holding an alumni forum this weekend to discuss the Soup Kitchen and where it could go from here.

Reponse: the community impact seems to be the most profound aspect of the Soup Kitchen. One thing that disturbed me was seeing the caution tape around the community members eating food. I think it would be great to see students more involved (even if it is not serving food).

We should assume best intentions with regards to the administration. These are not evil people, they are here to do good for our community. Let's not look at this as a

bluffing game, but rather as collaboration in order to move forward with this issue. It seems like a couple people made some mistakes and that has reflected poorly on the entirety of the community.

Wanted to increase student participation - have been having an overflow of volunteers. Wanted to get student organizations involved in the Kitchen (SOSS, the arts, etc.). Might not be able to fulfill those expectations if we are not given adequate time.

Response: I believe that the Soup Kitchen is not a sustainable model - it is a problem of space. It will be hard to get some open space. I look forward to students coming up with better alternatives to the Soup Kitchen model. What if we create a model like the CC Farm? Allow people to come and interact rather than just come and eat food.

Question: What would you like to see CCSGA do to help in the cause?

The purpose is to vet ideas - we've succeeded in knowing that this can be on campus. Now the question is, how many students want to see this on campus?

Increase student involvement, implement collaborations, convince the administration that this is important.

Response: It is important to assess how often students volunteer at the Soup Kitchen when asking for student's opinions on the Soup Kitchen. There are many opportunities for how this could move forward.

Response: I asked if this issue was brought to the Board, and then was told that it was actually brought up to the Board in February. Stakeholders should be able to know issues about the Soup Kitchen. This leads to the overall idea of Board transparency.

Jill agreed to include the Board and CCSGA Student Body President on campus-wide changes.