

College Council Report 10/20/08
Evan Rowe

- President Oden discussed the College's budget problems. He suggested that our endowment isn't suffering as badly as some schools, but that compared with Grinnell, Amherst *et al* we aren't doing so hot. He suggested that this is due to how relatively recent we professionalized our endowment management (about five years ago, compared with twenty+ at our peers). Mentioned the Arts Union being put on hold, but didn't really address implications for financial aid.
- I introduced a resolution on College Council transparency, which would have involved compiling the minutes from all College committees (i.e. the ones that are supposed to report directly to the College Council) and sending them straight to the Council. I wasn't expecting a huge outcry, as this seemed to be a common-sense action for greater transparency and to ensure that College Council members stayed informed.

I was mistaken, and a number of objections ensued. Mary Savina, President of the Faculty, argued that the committees selected were inadequate, and that there were "cultural issues" I hadn't considered. Not sure about that, but no action ended up being taken, and I'll try to fix the problems for next time.

- College Budget Committee (distinct from CSA Budget Committee) reported on the upcoming budget process for the entire college. Ben Barclay is the student representative on CBC, and will be the one keeping the student eye on the process.
- The EAC talked about its 7 main priorities for the coming year. One point made was that the SRF (Sustainability Revolving Fund) is having difficulty finding projects, and needs an overhaul. CSA is a major stakeholder in the SRF, having invested around \$20,000, so care should be taken that our investment remains productive.