

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 15, 2013

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“When the dog bites, when the bee stings, when I’m feeling sad, I simply remember my favorite things and then I don’t feel so bad.”

-The Sound of Music

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 AttendanceOperations
Starts off: What animal are you feeling like?
- 3 Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes from 9/8/13
- 4 Forum with ViCE..... ViCE (15 min)
T. representing ViCE explains ViCE:
-Vassar’s main entertainment source, weekly programming
-Main focus- social consciousness, collaboration, show films, unknown acts, jazz, finance chair.
Finance- Congratulates on the concert... asks about how someone can be involved
ViCE: email, come to office, talk to people in VICE.
Main “how do you see yourselves providing social consciousness?”
ViCE: “I want to make sure that no one is offended.” I want to collaborate” ... goal to make it a positive experience.
Finance “operations, can you explain the [ViCE’s] relationship with the VSA?”
Ops: org [VSA] collaborates with students as well, and helps students connect with vice
2017 proxy says he did research on VICE and believes this to be the best type of group because it is independent and it is [a group of] responsible and interested students providing this.
Main “how soon do you look for acts?”
ViCE: 3-4 months in advance
T: wonders if houses have idea about starting relationships with VICE
Jewett- would like to do a silent rave
Davison- looking for collaboration for Harvest Festival
- 5 Forum with Evan Seltzer, Judicial Board ChairEvan Seltzer (30 min)
Evan seltzer – chair of judicial board
Senior, “I have prepared a twenty slide power point presentation starting with the inception of the board...I’m just kidding”
Description of board- 4 reps from each grade and chairman/woman elected at large
Covers academic panels, 3 students 3 professors, student conduct 6 judicial members, college regulations 2:2, interpersonal violence panels 2 admin + 1jv rep though often there is a request that no jv rep there.
Panels for these hearings differ depending on which hearing
Students volunteer for serving on panel- goal this year- that everyone commits to it.
Finance: “could you talk about the preparation that students go through to face the panel?”
Evan: “Admin. doesn’t like us to act like advisors, so if a student faces a panel, they will be informed of the accusations by the admin and a panel will materialize about 72 hours afterwards. In that time the student will be aware of charges but the student won’t know who is on the panel. They can form their own defense, get witnesses etc.; then they all meet. Often DB will consult with the student, but there aren’t many resources.”
Have made a website in part to offer resources to students: faq documents etc

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TA: “How often does the board meet and what do they look like?”

Evan; does not meet on a regular basis, intentional because if a rep ever faces them, they don’t want it to be too personal.

President: Can you talk about conflict of interest?

Evan: When a hearing arises, they say, “This is the nature of the violation-“. I email the board and I say who can serve on this panel. 3 people volunteer. Those people check in with the person to give the details about the panel. Simply knowing someone doesn’t warrant a recusal. The person can request to have rep recused.

2017: When someone reports a violation, does the person who comes in front of the board know who accuses him/her?

Evan: Not necessarily.

Finance: Are students found guilty vs. not guilty

Evan: there is a more nuanced, response instead of accuses proper language. But there is guilty and not guilty

Q: is there any sort of preventative thing moving forward?

Evan: Commonly issued sanction is education, whatever the infraction is, you will get educated about it. So punishment + edu.

Academics: What is the point at which the school decides it won’t be presented to the board?

Evan: mostly the administration [decides]

Ops.: How do they decide when an issue is something that will not go through student conduct?

Evan: Alternative dispute resolutions- that’s almost entirely the discretion and recommendation of admin.

President: additional context- judicial board has more over sight and is more entwined with admin. than VSA.

2017: are you/board involved in what repercussions to take policies?

Evan: We’re not involved in policy, guilty / not guilty.

6 Executive Board Reports

a. Activities.....(7 min)

22 org applications,

We’ll be looking how functional, feasible it is and how to handle it financially. Also see what makes them different from other orgs. Will be certifying one org. Event app for student orgs will be going out tomorrow morning. Student registration will happen some time next week. Schedule will go out after that.

b. Finance.....(7 min)

Finance did not meet last week because of convocation, haven’t allocated that much of funds social consciousness 10, a capella 4,00 discretionary 30,000, capital etc 40, speakers 45,000 conference 12,000. All surpluses are dumped into discretionary funds. If orgs saw more membership, they can apply for more money. There is no set amount for the discretionary fund, but it also depends who applies for more money.

Ops. asks about the tax in a new amount of discretionary money.

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Answer: higher amount, perhaps higher burden for the money. Discretionary is going down. I would imagine that it would be at around 32,000.

- 7 Special Meeting Rules Operations (10 min)
Ops: rules are specific interpretations of Robert’s rules. – decided not to make any changes to them.

President: This doc is subordinate to our bylaws and constitution, it allows for a better flow.
Motion passes. All pro, 2017 abstains (out of room)

- 8 Appointment of South Commons Treasurer Operations (5 min)

Ops: regarding last week’s intro to the topic of one applicant – Jennifer Barone – review of her experience and ideas. Motion to appoint her to be the socio treasurer. Motion passes south commons and 2017 abstain

- 9 Open Discussion

Special discussion with 2014

Talks about parks and rec. Thanks hard work from presidents that they put in serenading, congratulations to strong.

President: thanks to 2014 for serenading, thanks for people that went to convocation, talks about fundraiser through TLC raise awareness about suicide and mental health issues, funds for prevention education and research sat 11-12:30 walk over Hudson. Tabling on Thursday and Friday. It’s much less about the funds, and a lot more about talking about it.

Activities: Arlington Street fair Saturday.

Ops: talking about working on a new format for freshmen debate. – Wednesday 18th at 6:15 in a new location. Need one rep from activities and for finance for Tuesday from 5-6 – debate prep. Davison and 2017 volunteer.

Noyse discusses serenading – not a very positive experience because I feel like the concept behind was vey good and it encouraged freshman and seniors to have a better relationship, but unfortunately, when we sang our song, the seniors told us to stop singing towards the end of it and some wanted to leave. It’s unfortunate that that had to happen.

2014: sorry that that happened to dorms, I think this was a positive

TA; should reconsider event that promotes drinking culture, “we’re changing it into something that’s not positive”

Raymond: I feel like I had a lot of fun personally at serenading, but I think it put a lot of pressure on our house team.

2014: It has been a strain on the house team.

Joss- is over attending it... “mostly because this weekend was packed. Having to make them go through it was like, I’m sorry kids, I’m sorry. We didn’t want to come off as disrespectful.”

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Sorry about any behavior. Concern about Terry because we were told to take sound equipment back to main from the top of the hill

Strong: felt a lot of the same concerns. Serenading can be very positive but can see the two sides that we need to figure out how to create a positive event

Noyes: congrats to strong. Suggestions: upperclassmen participation and exhibition + banner competition, but in the future it would be better if there was a more clear way of judging the banner- felt kind of arbitrary.

Finance - can someone give 30 sec history of serenading

TA- tradition started in 20s/30s, happened every other week where all classes would go on steps of rocky and strong then that changed in the 70s/80s

President- for a while, professors and admin used to be part of it. Then it started to get messy/bad mostly in the last 20 or so years. Then it turned into a water fight - food fight - water fight. It used to be much more about all of the classes being there. In the past ten years it kind of turned into this hazing event.

2014 - no idea about Joss trick thing A: Joss tradition, originally stopped going because it felt like a hazing thing. But senior house council threatened last year to take money from budget if they didn’t go, so Joss went. Now they just show up and say what’s up and then leave. This time, they were called last instead of first so they had to wait for other houses. Ketchup on walls [presumably by seniors] also. 2014: thanks for information and sorry, and future senior class president is likely in this room, so pay attention. In defense it is our “trial by fire” we just showed up and it was like “wrangling drunk cats” just like serenading was.

Main - wanted to applaud senior class council, it is hard for it to evolve in one year “senior house council is consistently doing a good job at improving it”

Raymond- speak to something that Joss said about Terry and speakers - 2014 jumps in and said explanation was that people who wanted pizza needed to “work for it” quote by woman - in guardian principles, made it our point to get rid of stereotypes of dorms. Also thanks VSA leaders

TA - personally apologized for peers’ behaviors

Jewett- loved it, but the time at which it happens, if it can happen closer to orientation time instead of two weeks after because people have work to do. Just having a normal water balloon fight day would be great for the house team.

2014- is usually earlier during the year, moved it to Sunday because of Yom Kippur.

Experimented with time in the day also

Academics - suggestion, a lot of people have work to do. You guys were trying to make it different and you did succeed... the difference, you could sense it. Everybody was cheering for everyone.

Noyse: wanted to praise at the very beginning, Natalie hyde came over and spoke to Noyse and other seniors actually came to talk.

2014- in the future, if you have something to say about it, just say it to me so it would be a better use of time

President - no time limit for this so everyone could express his or her thoughts. Reiterated that this is not 2014’s fault. There were 10 seniors who were mean and 300 seniors who were great and sweet.

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Back to the speaker’s list

2017: house council had its first meeting this past week. Another topic spoken of was representation, visa/transitions reps perhaps?

Academics: Committee in curricular policy – if anyone is interested in it, ask me about it.
Need another proxy for CEU committee evaluation, some are at 9am, meet 1 in 3 weeks/months