

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for February 2, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“Most activism is brought about by us ordinary people.”

-Patricia Hill Collins

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 AttendanceOperations
- 3 Consent Agenda

- a. SJP (Pre Org).....(\$25/\$25)
- b. VARC (Speakers).....(\$495/\$595)
- c. Quizbowl (Pre Org).....(\$90/\$90)
- d. YDS (Pre Org).....(\$200/\$199.63)
- e. Poder Latino (Discretionary).....(\$3000/\$5000)
- f. Wordsmiths (Speakers).....(\$3060/\$3208)
- g. Ski Team (Discretionary).....(\$1500/\$2000)
- h. NSO (Speakers)..... tabled
- i. VHP (Collaboration) (\$93.75)
- j. Minutes from 1/26/14

Socos - Like to remove E from the consent agenda. I wanted to have a discussion because I was concerned with some details. It sounds great but a few things I wanted to discuss... 2 students are already funded to go [through other] grant, and I feel like some of that [money] was already being met. There are [many students] going ~ 13. I feel like it is a lot when you think about the benefit of the entire community. I'm also concerned about the precedence this sets [for other organizations].

At large, Jeremy - those 2 people who are going... I am one... we are seniors, so we are not applying for [this - this application is for underclassmen]. The research grant is for seniors... This is not a conference... It's a pride week where they have a campaign against homophobia... It's a 13-day trip... I wanted to clarify [this information]...

Joss - can you list me some ways you guys are fundraising?

Jeremy - selling _____{didn't hear}, an online fundraising campaign, so they (students who are going) can get to greater networks... we're applying for a grant that gives money for these events, and also soliciting from various [other resources].

Finance - this is a fund app that wasn't a unanimous decision [at the finance committee]. This is a really exciting opportunity. Correct me if I'm wrong, but this [idea] came from a speaker that came from last semester. Our commitment was to help sponsor underclassmen to go. As a student body, we are very interested. The app did mention lecture series that would be a product of this trip.

Jeremy - beyond lectures, there are lots of collaboration events...

Ops - in the agenda, it's mentioned that the average allocation was \$1,840- can you explain how the number [got to] \$3000?

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Finance – averages are shady math. We decided that was a thought exercise just to see how comfortable as individuals we were [willing] to donate. Once we decided this was something that we were interested in supporting, we settled on \$2,500. I think the cost is \$2,700 per person. The idea was to fund underclassmen.

Socos – it sounds wonderful and I love the stuff you’re going to do. I’m wondering why you think that many people need to go.

Jeremy - this is an opportunity that came from a speaker that we invited to Vassar last semester. He said if you want to organize a Vassar delegation to do it, please do. We would be traveling with ____, next in line to be president... we thought about it a lot. 90-95 percent are done from our personal fund efforts. We thought we could fundraise for that amount of people. We want to bring as many people as we can. We wanted to make that available. Another great thing is that each one of the members in the coalition is involved in other orgs, so [they can also bring something back for the other organizations].

Ops – motion to extend conversation with limit speaking time of 1 min.

Royal – [to Finance] based on the way you came to the decision, would it affect it if more / less people went?

Finance – usually, the way to think about it is that how an org wants to internally allocate the money is up to them. We try to give the orgs flexibility. {No, the number would not affect the decision}.

2015 – finance committee is one of those committees that with that group of people you debate and eventually come out with something. We spend a lot of time and energy. So conversation is great but I think it’s unnecessary. Going over this, in the past, it’s been bad for the council. Certain groups would jockey the agenda. So, we had a vote [to see how much to donate] and some people wrote 0, so that’s why the average was lower. After learning about the refundable deposit... that’s how we came to the amount. This was a really long conversation. If someone doesn’t think finance is making good decisions, come [to the meetings].

Pres.- Nonetheless we shouldn’t discourage people from [talking about it].

2016 – I think perhaps this would be a little less confusing if we had the fund app in front of us. But the original fund app was for 45000 for the entire event. So I was uncomfortable with the fund app initially because it’s really big, so we should be a little uncomfortable.

But PL came in and gave a really good speech as to why they’re going. We’re only contributing to a bit of this. I share your initial concern about sending the people, but if you look at it from that way maybe its more clear that we’re [only contributing a small

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part]. I'm happy were talking about it in council. If we're uncomfortable about something, there's no reason not to discuss it.

Socos - I think we have a consent agenda because we are the checks and balances. I totally respect what finance does.

Strong - ... if you want more information you should express that. You shouldn't just approve things because you feel you can't speak.

2015- like Max alluded to, we had a long conversation with PL, It's a complicated process, I just want to say finance does do lot of work in committee.

Jeremy - if I hadn't been in the vicinity it would have been very difficult to get someone here {referring to current meeting}. I would suggest having [VSA contact an org in order to have a rep from that org present.

Motion to approve the \$3,000 allocation - motion passes

4 POSSE Forum.....Jon Wood (15 min)

Jon - {PowerPoint} here to try to make this as painless as possible

POSSE is a big deal, foundation to promote higher education. The posse plus retreat, is a weekend long, where we discuss some relevant issues. Last year's was around gender and sex. Over 39 universities participated. They drew together a report that was submitted to the white house. This is a tool that Vassar hasn't had before. I'm hoping this can be promoted and attended. This year's is "Revolt, Rethink, and Reform." This could not possibly get broader. This year's retreat, we're going to start broad then move into subjects that matter to Vassar specifically. Since we've never done this before, I'm hoping we can take this and translate it into something on campus so we can have immediate benefits from it. I have just some pictures of you guys there {referring to PPT} when Westboro came. Since [these are] social and political movements, I feel this is something at the heart and soul of Vassar. We're going to have 100 students this year and that is the limit. Vanderbilt has had about 500, Amherst has had about 400 people attend... As a side benefit, since we're the first Veteran Posse, we're probably going to get some _____. March 28-30, at a resort, it's free. I think anything extra are not comped, besides the normal amenities, but we're trying to fix that. You must register through one of us {referring to picture in PPT}. First come first serve. Takes 3 seconds. Alumni are coming, they don't count towards attendance. Questions - {curious George picture on PPT}.

Activities - how many people are allowed to attend?

Jon- 100 max. You can email me, you can speak to Ben Lotto, or Cappy, and I think DB can point you towards us. Literally when you sign up, you just sign your name.

5 Executive Board Reports

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a. President(7 min)

President – to summarize what we did earlier today in our pre-council dinner, basically, we had a conversation as a council about a couple different things, but largely talking about shared governance, what ways to communicate [unknown] things to students, and creating a students bill of rights to send to the college administration. Shared governance is an ongoing conversation that we have to continue to have. For the recognition that our information is not available, we’re going to be looking at specific resources they have available, from our end, doing a better job about making that known. Cushing has offered to have a task force that will look at this bill of rights. I think it’s safe to say that we can open [this] up to students. All students have rights to safe spaces... That will be a project to look forward to.

SL – I just wanted to make sure there would be some advertisements to the students about this.

Cushing – I was going to ask people from council to email their constituencies

b. Operations(7 min)

Ops – the first tasty Tuesday is this Tuesday. [Referring to a problem with Saturday shuttles] – I have been I contact with them [company that runs shuttle] and they should run every Saturday for which there are classes in session on Monday. The schedule will be updated online shortly. We’re still working on a time to have a vsark student life ops open meeting to discuss the audit. We will publicize to the entire campus. Hopefully it’ll be sometime next week; we really want to get moving on this. We’ve been working on continuing a proposal to divide elections and apps from the other business ops handles. So other things can be given a larger time, especially at the beginning of the year. We’re talking about potentially making another exec board position, recognizing that these positions are very time consuming. Spreading out the work may be a better way to get more done. The goal would be to get an amendment passed.

TA – last semester the resolution on publicizing election results was passed to ops.

Where have they gone and where can we expect to see__...?

Ops – we’ve only had one meeting so far this semester, so we will discuss it in the next one. I want to have at least one more conversation about it. The results to the special election will be put online.

2016 – the subcommittee that had written that resolution has written another one, which will be emailed to you (ops).

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Socos – you should have a letter in your agenda. Since we heard concerns about the availability of apps at Metcalf, I thought it was something worth looking into. I would like the help of ops committee to draft this... The statistics speak for themselves {higher usage of certain facilities}. Right now, Wendy has sent a letter to the dean, acting dean, vp finance, dean of students, saying they would like to request a post doctoral fellow.

Pres. – at the end of last semester we spoke about things we were hoping to do this semester and this was one that we decided was important. I’m glad Socos took initiative- this is wonderful.

Finance – I can’t remember the difference between what a post doc would do that a regular counselor wouldn’t?

Socos = the difference is that you would only hire them for a year so the college would be more willing

Ops – we talked about having a good follow up. We’re going to send this letter and see what response we get.

Cushing – is there some place this is going to be available to the larger student body?

President- typically all documents we pass go on our website.

Motion - to endorse this letter- motion passes

7 Spring Elections Timeline Operations (10 min)

Ops = the way elections work you have ten days for filing, then time for campaigning then voting. In the middle, you have to have a meeting saying what you can and can’t do during campaigning. Elections have been pushed back the Wednesday after spring break. We like to have them after the house team positions have been chosen.

Noyes – if we adopt this then that means if someone wants to have two positions on council... there’s no way they can have another position?

Ops – we can’t not adopt a timeline because we have to hold off on positions. We have to work with the computing services we need to have one.

Finance – Sunday march 2nd is correct?

Ops – Sunday march 2nd is just an interest meeting. The idea is that people will know more before they decide whether they want to run for positions or not. There will be food.

Pres – it’s not that the dates are wrong, but filing is supposed to be 11 days.

Ops – move to suspend the bylaw that filing should be 11 days.

Pres – to be fair it’s worded very poorly.

Motion to suspend the bylaw saying that – motion passes

Motion passes

8 Annual Budgeting Timeline Finance (5 min)

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Finance – this had a little bit of a make over since it was in finance committee to correspond with the elections timeline. We need to have a new exec already elected. Basically these souls are going to be elected on Wednesday and go to an appeal meeting on Saturday. The key thing here, I’m going to ask you, is to send this to your houses- you must submit an annual budget allocation otherwise you won’t receive it. The important dates are April 6th app due, April 17-18 mandated 48 hour appeal window.

Ops – I’m going to add April 19 to the elections time so people running for exec will know [to attend]

Raymond – you said the appeal process needs to happen after our election so we have new people; do orgs know they should also have new exec boards?

Finance- it’s the outgoing exec, but theoretically they should be in communication with someone else. The idea being, hopefully, this is something to plan for next year. This is to talk about what we want to change.

Timeline passes

9 Declaration of Open Positions Operations (5 min)

Ops – 2016 secretary and Jewett VP. I would like to declare both positions open with timeline that is all apps will be due by Thursday afternoon [reviewed] by Sunday... expedited timeline because sec 2016 position has already been open {since last semester} and some people have already applied. The reasons for appointing quickly is, they have their all campus party in like a week {Jewett}.

POI 2016 are freshmen not eligible?

Ops –they can run for vp.

Noyes – in terms of 2016 position, if there were people who applied already, wouldn’t it be unfair to have it open for other people to apply?

Ops – we didn’t bring that up as an issue. It’s probably not going to be much of a factor

Noyes – isn’t it not extended if it’s already been closed once?

2016 – I requested that it was extended because the position opened up suddenly at the end of last semester and I was worried people didn’t have enough time to apply [during finals].

2015 – this is unrelated, but the position of joss 2015 class rep has been open. We need people in class council

Motion passes

10 Open Discussion

2014 – I could the town student president’s [Dione...] name in 2.25 seconds. If I were to continually his name until commencement I would have said it 71,466 times, which is less than I thought. Its 111 days away. In 2 weeks we have 100 nights at the alumni house. 8-10 for

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seniors. 11-2 for the rest of the school in the villiard. The senior class is playing on the fact were the 150th class to graduate, we compiled a bucket list and we're sending it out every week and seniors are encouraged to do it and then tweet us pictures of them [in exchange for some kind of merch]. I've already followed a bunch of you [on twitter]. I encourage you all to follow it.

SL - I wanted to give a shout out to activities for a flawless concert.

Act - I want to thank everyone who came. We had a larger turn out than expected. I'm going to be emailing all the orgs and all of you. The activities fair is the same day as 2014s event 11-2 in the morning in the villiard room. If you're interested in joining any of our committees for founders day, [contact us].

Finance - I'm getting so much better at ordering food for large amounts of people. I want to applaud Socos for giving us an opportunity to talk about this [fund app] in council.

Main - {unheard question to activities}

Act - {unheard answer}

2017 - all college day is from February 17-20, it's un-silencing voices, Monday to Wednesday

Joss - joss is having an event in the Shiva on Friday. Also I'd like to wish everyone a happy black history month.

2016 - this is self-promotion that is shameless but also important, we're {debate} having an event on divestment, a public debate where people can make a decision [on Vassar's divestment(s)]. There's going to be twisted soul, I think it's important that we're all informed of the schools investments... The council could have more information on finance committees; we could include the fund apps over email and not just the agenda. Sometimes paragraphs don't give enough in depth perspective.

SL - I want to remind you all that the gender neutral bathroom discussion is February 19 5:30 - 6:30 in Rocky 200, VSA support would be great.

TA - I'm sort of working on a project with Stephanie George, to look at options to subsidize costs for commencements options and family traveling especially since this is the first graduating class for transitions students.

2014 - I would actually say his name 4,2__,__ million times until graduation.

Joss- I want to be like Estello when I grow up {Not sure if this is exact, but a compliment to Estello was certainly given}

Academics - motion to adjourn