

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for February 23, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“I don’t care what people think of me. You’ve got to own who you are and keep moving.”

– Janet Mock

- 1 Call to Order
Start 7:05 pm
Joss proxy
- 2 Attendance.....Operations
- 3 Consent Agenda
 - a. Business Club (Disc).....(\$90/\$90)
 - b. Slow Foods (Conf;).....(tabled)
 - c. Misc (Capital).....(\$114.3/\$114.3)
 - d. Operation Donation (Collab).....(\$650/\$650)
 - e. VCTV (Disc; Capital).....(\$600/\$600; \$3359.04/\$3359.04)
 - f. VARC (Speakers).....(\$970/\$1270)
 - g. Minutes from 2/16/14
- 4 Forum on IME..... Professor Rebecca Edwards (45 min)
Exploring the possibility of requirement for intensive mentor exploration [IME]. It may be in effect for class of 2019. We can’t say “surprise”... to this year’s sophomores. The students might see more opportunities for IME but it wouldn’t be a requirement. We’re looking for pros and cons now from students. There are a lot of campuses that have implemented capstones. At a university, it may mean to get every senior in 20-person class... It doesn’t really fit what we’re thinking about, but there are benefits to a kind of intensive work for a faculty member. We’ve been looking at some of the national studies and different practices at other schools. Students who have an IME that might be a senior thesis, drama production, some other kind of work, report increased intellectual self confidence, skills in research, time management, enhanced capacity to think creatively, report significant post graduate _____. It becomes an extended sort of project. There are certain aspects of IME that contribute. One is sustained and serious student engagement and the opportunity to meet with faculty members individually, sometimes the possibility of carving out your own topic. Aspects of this work include substantive interactions, opportunities for real world application... and to present the result and significance. One of the things we have figured out is that students who currently complete what we would call independent senior process... research... related, about three quarters of white pursued independent senior projects... whereas the number of Latino, Hispanic, and African-American was smaller. About 80% of men are completing these projects with a less amount of women. So there are differences. We’re not seeking to add more during senior year but the idea would be to reorient the work. The proposed tentative frameworks would be offered by different departments. You might do a thesis, curricular materials, a creative project... a number of different flavors. Most students would probably complete them

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in a major. A one unit one could be joint _____. Or we’re looking at sort of Plus models, perhaps JYA plus, and interpret or reflect on experiences. It would really be up to the departments. There’d be a four to five year implementation period. In the meantime we’d try to _____ the offerings. About 60% seniors do some kind of IME. We’d set up a campus wide advisee system. We’d have advisees and advisors at the end of the year, before the start of the senior year. If you were doing a JYA, you’d have to start earlier. An important part is that faculty would receive a workload for this... contributes to teaching. That means faculty would be assessed and recognized. That’s an important piece making sure this would be central. We would also need to identify funds for this. It would need to be a collective effort. That’s where we are right now. We talked with VSA academic affairs. We came tonight to get your thoughts. We also wanted to spend a little time asking you to work in little groups and I brought a sort of feedback form about pluses and minuses. We put a place to put ideas for creative form, if you could envision it more broadly. The goal is to think about what kinds of intensive work [can be offered], whatever kinds of other projects and benefits, or Concerns, questions, needs. You’re in a very good position to see if Vassar is ready to implement these things, what do we need..._____, we may take some questions here then we could break up into groups.

Pres – maybe if we could break up into small groups but maybe making it vocal...? My biggest concern initially [regarding funding] would be the fundraising... would it go into adding more faculty?

Answer – that’s one of the needs, not the only. Certainly means money for student research... it may mean a lot of other things. We have a massive chart on places that can handle this. You know where the crunch places are. Those are the places where we’re looking, going okay what research or staff can we add. There are departments that are receptive but crunched.

At large, Michael – my first initial thought is that the methodology is almost preemptive. What needs to be considered... [is to] implement what things are already here. I think this can be a beneficial project to encourage students to reach academic potential... it almost seems a little late. I would like to see people who complete senior thesis across socio-economic status.

Answer - one of the first things we’d have to think about is... some of the things we’ve been discussing... The faculty hasn’t had a discussion about curriculum for quite a long time, so this is a kind of implement point. Think back on [the] scaffolding project. How are we preparing to have a range of skills? We don’t have any requirements beyond things. Mostly done in the freshmen year. It would help you think about how a student moves [through] a curriculum.

At large, Josh – [is] the accessibility and focus in perspective to non-seniors? An example is... I recently applied to a grant project. How is this addressing the fact.... non-senior students who might want to do these projects?

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Answer - Ideally students ought to be having a range of academic experiences. If you’re going to be doing senior academic research in biology..._____.

2017 - are these classes that are geared [towards] a specific research project or are these independent projects?

Answer - they might take both forms. We don’t envision this as a classroom experience. There are things in the borderline. It’s very intensive. Part of it includes public presentations. There might be a range of collaborative, some more group settings, and some that are more independent. I think it could be a variety of different flavors and it would depend on the department in the range of options.

2017- how many students would be assigned to a faculty member?

Answer - we would cap it at 6. There [may be exceptions]. 6 points worth, which may mean more. We really don’t think a faculty [member] should be trying to advise 20 members. - I think at this point we don’t know how diverse your opinions will be. It’s hard for us to predict some staffing issues until we know - a lot of faculty has asked for input - this is just the beginning of a large discussion. We’re going to take these very seriously... and our emails are at the bottom

Ferry - we were wondering how this would effect admissions.

Jewett - also how we would be graded, pretty much how the professor feels about the project

TA - can we ask you how you grade?

Answer - they vary. They’re often graded by a first and second _____. We have talked with admission but they feel like it’s a positive thing. If you have thoughts on whether it should be graded or not... it would be great.

Socos- we are concerned how it would affect course availability... especially [since] it’s already a struggle in some departments. We wanted to make sure all courses were staffed.

THs - if indeed this increased accessibility, that may be a good trade off I guess. There’s more academic equality.

Cushing -we were thinking about creative writing, also musical performances that seniors do don’t often get credit for.

Answer - we’ve been talking about senior recitals as one of many forms

Finance - I’ve heard the experience senior thesis can be very isolating. Not all of us are going to become PHD professors and I think requiring this work is going to further isolate people that aren’t interested in that.

Activities - addition to performance recitals

President - one other idea is if you could work in extra curricular activities into this. For example, the Misc. ... One concern I had about the data... who participate in the experience,

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I’m also wondering maybe major choices, where there are in majors that don’t require it. I wonder how that factors in as a variable.

Answer – It’s very hard to get at. There are people that offer it to honors. For our program, ___ would need to be offered to all.

Ops – I thought one of the benefits is that it gives students an opportunity to form a strong bond with the faculty, to further mentor you in your career.

SL – ideas for creative forms – media, film, TV, or curricular development for high schools.

One of my concerns for also benefit... ___ the curriculum ___ is overwhelming the theory based... I think it’s a great way to apply your work. It ends up affecting you in ___ careers.

Academics – I had a chance to talk to some committees, people wondered how it would work if they wanted to work out of their major... if there are departments that offer for honors, if departments would have to develop a new way for honors.

Answer – doing a thesis could no longer be a criteria for honors. It’d have to be another criteria. It can be done... it just requires... develops to rethink over the next few years.

Main – this seems like something very structured between student and professor, how would it translate outside of IME?

2015 – a concern I have, on the one hand, is about collaboration and exploration, but I’m worried it might be seen as instrumental, very career and grad school driven. I just don’t want to lay down suffocating academic routes.

Answer – that’s been a concern from faculty also. There are colleges that have very intensive capstones. For the most part, there may be departments that want to offer this. It could be called... swerving... ___ to make changes.

At large, Michael – do you have data on the student body that have completed something that could be reworked as part of IME just because I feel like if anything can be turned into an IME are we then not just renaming a process that already happens thereby putting a drain on faculty to support this? It’s a process that’s still already happening. I just think it’s a strange thing to tax faculty ___ projects ___?

Answer - we don’t have the data. We have our emails on there so... write us if there are more ideas.

5 Forum on Student GiftStudent Gift Chairs (15 min)

Michael- [I am] Michael Renner {Jessica Tarantine next to him}... Brian Evans [another] co-chair isn’t here. Our committee includes at least two members from each class. The gift is a one-time gift to the student body that doesn’t require funds from [ops] budget. [The] point is to be student-lead philanthropy... also giving back to the college in a way that goes back to the student body. In that way, it’s more about student participation. Our goals aren’t completely

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set but the idea is to get as much participation as possible, as opposed to getting money. Even students who are paying full tuition are still _____. We have a lot of endowment but much of it comes from gifts. It’s important that students understand and are a part of the gift project. It tends to be that administration and alumni really get behind the student gift. They like to see the students active. Hopefully, it shows what students are interested in terms of changing the atmosphere on campus.

Jessica – the gift this year is the internship grant fund. In that way it really helps students get employment after Vassar. It acts for all students. Normally each year about \$40-50,000 is given. ... Only generally half of the students are able to receive the grants, so in this way it will explain the number of students who are able to get funding. It’s also open to graduating seniors so that they can also pursue internships after graduation.

Michael - we’re hoping you see a gift that’s different than past years. We think it needs an overhaul in terms of advertising. Traditionally an appeal letter is sent... We think that’s pretty flat. In the next two weeks, expect postcards... We’re moving to a crowd-funding site to keep track of gifts given. It allows you to connect with social media. We’re hoping for a renewed social media presence. Students are always on Facebook. We’re hoping they’re more inspired to give. We’ll still be going door-to-door and tabling in the college center. We’ll have iPads so we can take credit card information. We’ll still accept cash. Something new this year is that we’re not accepting change. It’s incredibly difficult for people on the back end. The minimum we’re asking is a dollar, in dollar form. We’re hoping that won’t be a deterrent. We’re hoping most students are able to give that amount of money.

Jessica – ___ hoping from you {speaking to student leaders} to serve as a good will ambassador. Because it’s a gift given by the entire student body. It’s not about how much you give... posting it on your wall, Facebook groups. Also, this year, we have some really exciting changes.

Normally there’s an alumni donation that serves as a challenger; this year we have four. It’s like a 75% increase. So the class with the highest participation... [a kind of credit] will be [given] to that class. This is exciting because since we’ve moved it to an all-student gift, we now can tabulate how much each class has given. It can be a source of class pride. We also have the dorm challenges as we have done in the past years. We would love if you let your constituencies [know] we are coming door to door. We think it’s a really important cause and are super excited about [giving].

Michael- if you or your constituents have questions, studentgift@vassar.edu

Ops – I think everyone on council should know over thanksgiving break, there was a real fear that Valerie was going to die but Michael [fed him]. We should help Michael... we should donate.

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Main – how much have you fundraised in the past and how much do you predict?

Michael – we only have participation goals. Each class is different... then [there is] an overall rate. The alumni donations are concrete. They won’t go away. The three of us have to stand up at commencement and give a speech. It reflects poorly on the institution in general, especially the offices. It’s not a good message to alumni when students don’t give back to the school they go to. Hopefully something like not getting to a goal won’t be an issue.

Jessica – normally, with an extra amount of money, we [can] probably raise more.

Raymond – do you do study breaks?

Jessica – we do... email [us].

Michael – if any bodies would like us to come and explain the gift to the group, we’re more than happy to do that. We’re also doing the Limit show this weekend. Were trying to integrate the gift into anything happening, so it doesn’t seem stand alone, and it becomes engrained

2015 – in terms of success, I think I have \$4 in my bank account. It might be worth noting that not everyone may be able to give that much.

Michael - that’s why our goals are not monetary because we do acknowledge that a lot of students may not even be able to give a lot and that’s understandable. We do think some students may not be buying a coke one day and give [the dollar].

Jewett – an idea... maybe there can be a kind of performance or dinner [where one can donate money].

Michael – in response to that, that is what the Student-Faculty Basketball game has been. Your ticket counts as a contribution. We’re exploring new ideas. It’s been quite a process. I’m not sure we’ll be able to do things like those this year. Hopefully, they’ll be passed on to the next gift committee. The development office has been exploring it. It’s been different since it’s no longer a specific grade gift.

At large, Josh – you mentioned \$10,000 but also participation. Have you looked into ways that people can give time? Not everyone can give money but people can give time.

Jessica – to clarify, we don’t have a monetary goal at all. I was just using \$10,000 as an example. We would welcome volunteering, going door to door, [and working] at the basketball game.

Michael – we definitely appreciate feedback. We’re definitely open, email us. But also the unfortunate reality is that a gift to the college is almost always monetary and that idea of giving back in monetary is something that’s going to follow you even after your graduate. It’s preparing students to want to be a part of that philanthropy. It’s messy, money is money, but we try to do as much to educate students. Maybe [you won’t want to give to Vassar], but you’ll want to give to another institution and be critical to who you’re giving to.

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President – if you don’t want to donate, no one’s going to be mad at you. But even just honestly making a Facebook status is going to make a difference. It will help people. Figure out how you want to contribute and we will still love you.

Michael – even if you can’t give monetarily, its important that the gift is big because it will help people you know.

Finance – I’m sure Shruti would appreciate it if you taught a student seminar.

Socos - the crowd funding sounds cool, but I don’t know how it’s set up... But some are more participation and some display how much you give... It may leave a bad taste in peoples’ mouths; it may be something worth considering.

President – the college listed people who gave and a running total ____.

Michael – I think that’s a valid point, and probably something that _____. Website- vassar.launcht.com No mater how you give your gift, it will end up on the crowd funding page. It shows the class totals.

Main – how inappropriate would it be for student orgs to contribute?

Finance – very.

Michael – the class branded media will take you to the class

TAs – can you explain how ____ factors financial aid?

Michael – when you apply to IGF, you have to release records from financial office or you can declare on your own. The fund is need based. Once they’ve given out, fulfilled all the need they see, they will continue funding students who have less of a need. They follow typical rules with their own endowment. They’ll give that percent. So it immediately will go to students seeking opportunities this semester and the [remainder] is rolled over to next semester.

6 Executive Board Reports

a. President.....(7 min)

President – Late Night at the Deece has been a thing. Please send me any feedback from your constituencies. If you hear anything... some people have emailed me. The only complaint I’ve heard is that people would like to use their meal swipes. Also I sit on the search committee for the new dean of admissions and financial aid. If you have additional input on what we should be looking for, tell me. I’ve received concerns about how slippery it is. I’m working on it. There are union issues... I did sit down with Bob. We’re looking on how we can provide shovels to students. Bob and Cappy have been responding to student labor dialogue issues. The goal is to move the bookstore into the Juliet over the summer, moved with the apple store and Burger Fi. [Burger Fi] is all organic. I’ts going to be a public space. It’ll be run by independent ____ by all the bookstores instead of Barnes and Noble, and hopefully get cheaper textbooks. They still

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want to make it staffed by the same people. Definitely student space is the top priority. There’s a board meeting this weekend. Get excited to see trustees like Meryl. Dunbar will be coming in next council. We had all written on index cards [from a previous meeting]... she and interns made a chart of them so we can talk about it. We had a campaign. Basically the school asks for money to its alumni. Third appeal of the year, but it’s not always cohesive. This year they did a thirty-hour challenge. The goal was to get 500 people to participate. We asked for 500 people to donate- we got 1,200. We raised almost \$150,000. That’s the kind of thing they encourage us to do. When 1,200 people do it, you get so much [even if it’s only a dollar]. I received emails from old VSA people. Email from... Ross, president of student government ‘78-’79, reached out to me to tell me he was part of that and he was proud. It was nice. It was funny because [I wrote] a P.S. is anyone hiring and development ran with it. So ten people emailed back saying I’m hiring. It started a great dialogue between Stacy and other alumni... So moral of the story, you should ask if someone is hiring and [tell them] to email Stacy. Yay, progress!

2015 – first, complaint, if we could go to the bathroom on the first floor {referring to Late Night at the Deece}. 3 flights of stairs aren’t worth it unless you know... The guy who runs the cash register has been described as creepy, mean, {etc}, just something worth noting.

Royal – you said the textbooks would be cheaper so I was wondering [why].

President – Barnes and Noble can do things that they want to.

2016- have you found out whether 2 people are replacing or not {referring to last week’s additions of counselors}.

President – last year they were allowed to hire two new temp people. This is effectively replacing people. Nothing has changed yet, but that doesn’t mean it won’t.

Finance – one thing to note about the bookstore- they’re going to look into what the role is... If it’s about making textbooks cheaper... “I want a place [where] the sales are more than just overpriced chap-sticks.”

Socos- we should look into that [list of books for classes]

Academics – the other thing he said it may not be a bookstore in the way it is, but they’ll help you find cheaper books. I’m pretty sure B&N website is jointly run with Vassar website so we might will be able to use it.

Raymond – will they still take vcash?

President – I assume so.

2016 – I mean, Tokyo Express takes it.

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b. Operations.....(7 min)

Ops - Ray, Cushing and Activities presented an amendment, which has been a big source of conversation. Last week, a lot of conversations occurred in committees. If you want to participate any further, I’m just going to volunteer ___ but we will also talk about it today. There are three other amendments. We’re about to consider them now. After months of uncertainty with Tasty Tuesday, ___ company that provides [compostable things] to us is going to offer 10% off to Tasty Tuesday vendors. It will be written into next year’s contract. If they want to serve next year, they need to use compostable. Once we start using this, we can start setting up compostable bins. Just about every Tuesday, our compost is so mixed that we can’t compost it. We are working on making the bulletin boards downstairs more useful. It’s going to have all contacts for VSA, etc. there will be a space where orgs and committees can advertise their events and committees. At pre-council dinner, we talked about information campaign. We’re going to also coopt another area and start putting up folders with information. I would encourage anyone who has ideas or resources that should be accessible, that they mention them to me. Facebook and Twitter should be a little more active.

Royal – [do you have a] new vegan vendor information?

Ops – a woman from a vegan restaurant emailed me. She has a delicious sounding menu. She should be here next Tuesday if she gets me her paperwork in time.

Motion for five 5-minute break - All in favor except TAs

Ops – been working to change the academic misconduct and... That there is a way to distinguish a little wrong vs. more wrong. They’re making two rules.

Finance – you can make the rules?

Ops – No but Joan can; we’re recommending a change of rules. So far everyone we’ve talked to is in favor of it.

2016 – I’m confused, if the judicial board determined someone has committed academic dishonesty is it all the same?

Ops – for example, if students broke a rule, not committed plagiarism... Example- [students working together when they were explicitly told not to], even though it’s not plagiarism [will be confronted as if it were].

At large, Chris – speaking as judicial board, there’s such a broad definition and there’s a ___ list of plagiarism. What we were doing when recommending this was trying to come up for more fluid ___ forms of punishment so we can kind of be fairer.

Jewett – I know its not plagiarism but its cheating, so...

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Ops – we’re meeting with Joan to get faculty information to see how they define conduct. At this point it’s a judicial board proposal.

Activities – no pre-orgs are supposed to have budget numbers (in the bylaws), but there are some that do need budget numbers for putting money into an account. So 2015 on activities committee is saying that that the discretion of activities and finance. It has not changed from last week.

All in favor of passing amendment.

President – we’re saying at the discretion of finance, there may be circumstances when orgs need a budget number.

Fin – some orgs revolve around money

Noyes- but this doesn’t change anything about 200 dollars?

Fin – no

All in favor, motion passes (ops not in room)

7 Preliminary Org Budget Amendment..... Activities (5 min)

Cushing – in ops committee, we spend a lot of time doing appointments and it’s kind of a drain. We see it reasonable for board of elections to make appointments also.

2016- it also restructures board to include more representatives of each class. So it’s a structure where outside people where will be appointing. It doesn’t say it in the amendments, but if the position that is vacant is a member of house team, that’s not a grade rep, the two people will be a house president. If they are a ____ member, there will be one... ____

TAs- I’m uncomfortable with section ____ {including rational}. I think that’s possibly ostracizing. Maybe if that could be changed, and if the people who wrote this could explain the rationale for it...?

President – maybe we’ll change that in ops committee.

Fin – I was wondering if ops discussed using the consent agenda. Only it’s not the best use for us to be voting on every appointment.

2016 – we talked about how it would come to be approved. There was a consensus that we would have a kind of consent agenda to deal with this. There were people opposed to that because they didn’t want to treat people like _____. I think there should be a separate process... that was just my opinion.

Royal – one of the reasons why we went back and forth was Max saying that since we interview and we get more information, that’s one of the reasons why ____ it came down to give information from interviews, or it shouldn’t come to council at all...

2014 – I just wanted to point out one thing. If this amendment passes, it’s important if people want to serve in that board... ____ they wouldn’t be able to run in the subsequent elections.

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Noyes – I was wondering, for example, if you had position of TA programing director, which two people would be in charge?

Ops – 2 senior housing residents

Raymond – one thing we talked about in ops committee, was that council was sort of the appeal for who we appoint/don’t. This would make it so ops deals with appeals.

Pres – we can vote on this next week.

8 Board of Elections and Appointments Amendment.....Operations (5 min)

Ops – Jonathon, will you present your amendment?

Jonathon – the purpose of this amendment is that it stands by a strict reading of the constitution... We don’t have the power to replace people who have resigned or left. Article 10, section 12 says if no one runs no one wins, then that’s vacant. It didn’t say anything if anyone resigned. So section 1 of this amendment is expanding that. The next part is basically the same. Section d is completely new – saying if for whatever reason board of elections reviews candidates and doesn’t think any of them is what is needed, it gives the board power to close the position until the next regularly scheduled election. Section 2 is striking ___ because everything in there is a repeat. Section 3 is clarifying the ___ of vp of classes and houses by saying they will only execute the powers of the presidencies until office filled. Previously, it was open-ended and implied vp kind of becomes president.

Fin – I had a question about, if we cant fill a position shouldn’t there be a conversation whether that position should exist?

Ops - we do say positions can be not filled, but for the most part, there aren’t that many positions that don’t get filled ever. But if they are constantly not being filled, then yes.

Jewett – for ex. Our vp position [wasn’t filled], but it doesn’t necessarily mean we should cancel that position.

2015 – I was wondering, is there anything that’s supposed to follow section 2? Oh, there’s the other page, never mind.

Pres – this will come up again next week when we’ll vote on it.

9 Vacant Positions Amendment.....Operations (5 min)

Raymond – the amendment is not totally finished because we didn’t have a chance to talk about it. The purpose is to make joint committee reps more accountable. Basically, we’ve stipulated that joint committee reps will be standing on _____.

Ops – we also got rid of Arlington events committees because it’s not a thing

2016 – I think this is really great. It’s something we sort of did last year. I didn’t read through the entire thing, but I see in a lot of places we’re replacing grade reps to at large. I think we

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should ask each grade rep to sit in class council if they’re going to be representative of their grade.

SL – should we clarify a member or anybody, forcing too much presence of VP?

Ops – it can be any of us.

Pres – I think it’s better that it’s vague, so it allows for more delegation to happen.

Ops – I think you’re point about grade reps is really well taken. To 2016... to try to work in some of class council restructuring.

TAs- do you think members will hinder its efficiency because you’re adding ten people?

Ops – I think this is a place where the policies are really a great tool for hammering out what the policies mean.

Pres- or they can sit on a subcommittee

Raymond – all joint committees under ops and his also spreads it out

10 Joint Committees Amendment.....Operations (5 min)

Ops – you have all of the notes from the Google docs... then it’s the amendment. We’ve gotten a lot of feedback of different types and it seems like it was a good time to revisit the conversation. I can give you logistical answers as operations.

TAs – I asked this in the beginning of the school year during training, but which committees do you all sit on?

Fin – sarc etc... I think part of this conversation is that I can send a proxy.

Act – founders day, sarc etc...

Pres – priorities planning committee, student observer etc...

Ops – Priorities planning committee, tobacco free task force etc...

SL – this would be easier if I saw this beforehand, birt, dec, savp, cie, etc {many of these acronyms may be inaccurate} etc... Orientation committee meets about once a month, ccl once, dec once, savp once (subcommittee more often), cie once a month, [then there are others].

Pres – all that matters is that we have VSA reps. In the college governance it just says a student. It’s just our job to make sure someone’s on it.

SL – vp for student life should also be having meetings with Alana center

Academics – ___ curricular policy, I have proxies on capstone committee, _____, curricular policy committee, ccp, mountain grant, ceq committee, library committee last year etc...

Pres – we all have administration reps. I usually meet with dean of college. As exec board, we meet with senior level admin. Those are things that don’t have to be done by us. We just don’t know how to delegate.

Aca – well, I have four proxies and I sit on 5 of them and 4 people from my committee proxy for me.

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“I don’t care what people think of me. You’ve got to own who you are and keep moving.”

– Janet Mock

2015 – this is more so a question of feasibility, the way I understand it, _____ not possible to get this through before elections. I want to understand what’s still on the table.

Op - feasibility, terry did not believe me, so he sat there with a calendar... referendum isn’t possible. We need a signed petition with 330 signatures that has exact language that’s going to be voted on at the top of the page, then submitted to board of elections to be validated then that would go to CIS. CIS has told us they’d like a two-week window to set up the elections. Maybe we can ask Alicia to rush that, but she’s an adult with a job. If you look at the calendar, we wouldn’t be able to do it [referendum] until after spring break until the time that elections would have started. There are a lot of time issues the alternative is that we as a council- it is just an amendment- we can take a 2/3rds vote. We can vote 2/3rds and pass it. There are questions about that. Then there’s the other logistics. There have been a bunch of suggestions about how this could be adopted. [Suggestion to have] A referendum later in the year, then period for old council and new council [to have a] joint meeting where [they] pass things. [These would be] changes during that period, which would allow the [new] council to have ownership. Other logistical questionable positions... if new positions should exist for fall next year or spring. There’s a concern for voting and turn out. Then how we would deal with the fact that two positions from spring had just had job descriptions changed. Those are, I think, all the logistics Cushing – basically, we’ve had lots of conversations about this. And the consensus is that it’s not possible to do a referendum. It is an internal change. It’s something that directly affects the VSA. The student forums... we got some good student feedback. Thank you for those of you who showed up. We found students are very much in favor of this. If we don’t do a referendum, there are other things _____ the student feedback on this. Maybe, more forums, survey... So, we would really like it if we still considered this as a feasible option. I think the changes proposed are really good. They can make things a lot easier. I want to open that up to get more student voices.

Raymond – to add to that, maybe people could be comfortable of doing a poll? Then second thing, changes that happened to the amendment. In Student Life committee, we changed campus resources to college resources because that kind of involved people in JYA [who are off campus]. In SL committee, we talked about how it might be hard for college resources to find identity... to make it with two chairs instead. There were mixed feelings about that, so the language was changed. Then I assumed that if this were to affect ____, they would start meeting jointly. I changed the wording for ____ to not exclude straight white males. We also struck the Halloween committee because we don’t want to force it to happen if people don’t want it to happen in its current form. In activities committee, we talked about how program committees

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would like to determine which events they’d like to look at. Last thing, was the line added under ops committee that says ops committee will review ____.

Jewett - when are spring elections?

Pres - immediately after spring break, filing 10-11 days, then days for campaigning, I think, will be over by the 16th.

Jewett - when does Alicia make the whole elections voting thing?

Ops - publicity starts the 2nd of March, when we put out fliers. In terms of Alicia and what she does, board of election puts in all of the names of the candidates and sets up the ballots and they determine which elections are occurring and who can vote. Then Alicia manually inserts names that can vote.

Pres - we have all of the positions for her before spring break

Jewett - so in order to give her time to do it, it’d have to be voted on this week?

Ops - yes, tonight.

Jewett- can I call it to question later, so she can have time ____

Cushing - we were emailing earlier about voting on it next week

Pers - I think that’s fair, and there are proxies here. But again, we can make a vote happen.

Ops - okay, we can vote on it next week

2016 - first off, I really would like to commend the people who worked on this. I’m happy to see we’re moving towards making large structural changes. I have a few issues. My main issue, I think our VSA is very top heavy. Lot of work is done by vp and not us. We’re supposed to all do our own operating things. And you guys do other things we’re not a part of. For example, Danny’s workload seems absurd, and I commend you. All of you really. Stephanie - happy birthday. By splitting up the work among the vp _____. We need to consider moving to a more centralized government and to examine those before we move this board. I take the point that this is internal change, but I feel that large structures need to be brought to the students. I feel strongly we should have a referendum. If 5% of VSA, 120 people object to this, then it has to go to referendum, I feel strongly that more than that amount would like to be involved. I think it’s outside of our authority to make changes to the bodies we’re a part of. We have to find a way to engage our constituencies. I admire the work and understand the urgency. I sent Ali an email about how we haven’t implemented this. I think it needs to be done in an appropriate way. That’s what the student government is about... we need to give them a chance to say yes or no.

At large, Michael - who is this amendment for? From an outsider perspective, I found it in _____ with atmospheric jargon and vague language. I don’t know what this is doing. Especially given the lack of institutional memory. By further deluding the spaces in with which these

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conversations take place, we weaken the dialogue where these should be taking place. I can’t speak ___ it seems like it’s making more bureaucracy for the sake of more bureaucracy... for yourselves.

Motion to extend this – 20:4, motion passes

Pres - I wrote out my thoughts, I don’t usually take an opinion, but I had kind of strong opinions. I apologize in advance if I insult anyone. I’m glad you reached out to people, but I don’t think this is as universally supported as we think it is. I looked through the Misc archives and... intent of positions. We have discussed restructuring. To me, that suggests a problem with how we’re managing our time. We spend all of our time talking about structure and not things we could be doing. The problem with institutional memory is that we don’t listen to what came before us. It is much easier to blame the structure than blame ourselves. We say positions are ineffective because we decided what they should be doing. We should be delegating better. They can... effective. We have committees. We could be putting more effort into supporting groups. I think part of that... on how I’m communicating __ you. People are listening to us. Look at the NY Times and chicken fingers, conferences and large-scale events; look at progress for gender-neutral bathrooms. Not all [change is] immediate, but don’t lose sight that its people like us who [do it]. Not everything gets done quickly. It’s fucking government. Adding positions will just create more of a divide. If you’re upset with the audit, ___ about it. Write your own letter to... about counseling. If you don’t think we should be planning certain programs, brainstorm [with] other committees. Again, adding new positions won’t make it better on its own. We need to change our attitudes. Create a subcommittee. The VSA is inaccessible because we spend all our time talking about ourselves. If you don’t know how to respond to ____, come [talk to others]. New positions... ___ all we did was waste 30 years. I challenge you all to look critically at yourselves. Figure out what you want to change and change it. I appreciate how much time you put into it. I see need for change. I don’t think its fixing things that can be fixed.

Noyes- if we end up voting for this, can we vote for this separately?

Pres – just like ___ table half of it

2016 - vote on it separately

THS – as much as we want to get students opinions, a lot of people don’t care. We do a lot. It’s important to get everyone’s opinions.

At large, Michael - as that someone who doesn’t really care [about] vsa, the vsa seems inaccessible because of issues of transparency... will not be solved by creating more positions that are more vague. I don’t have the answer to how transparency is going to be established. All you guys do is talk about yourselves. It almost feels as though you don’t care what students want. Part of the student body and in part from all of you ____. Internal and external dialogues

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need to start happening. Again, lovely job, but this isn’t what I or future students need for transparency.

Cushing – thank you Deb and Michael. At this pint, this is the conversation I’ve been wanting to have since training. I am so glad that finally something I have said feels like it’s been heard even though at this point it’s something I’m not that passionate I’m about. This is the conversation I wanted to have. I want to make it clear that this doesn’t end with the amendment.

SL – absolutely, I’m very glad you’re here as an at large member {referring to At large, Michael} because I understand the student lack of caring. But still, even a lack of caring should be conveyed when there’s the opportunity to. It means so much more coming from an at large member. That being said, to respond, I am disillusioned. Why have there been so many white men in this position (SL), socially unconscious white men? I’m still concerned about that. That’s just my 2 cents. I still feel uncomfortable for the future of this position.

2017 – looking forward, what steps are we going to take to fix the workload for these two positions if we’re not doing this?

Pres – I would love to see... basically there are certain committees that it’d make sense to have vps sent on, most of them not. I think most should be other representatives. I also think every semester [committees/groups] should sit down, order pizza, and reflect on what they’re doing instead of making amendments. I’ve written a letter to my successor every year... The problem is that it has to come from the committee.

2015 – just on the workload, I resent the idea that vps always have to do all the work. Last year... I disagreed with exec so I went behind their backs, which was a little messed up... We should spread out the work... Move to question ____

Pres – voting on whether this amendment should be voted on, or table it. Motion fails.

Ops – I think we should reach out to constituents. The student government isn’t just a body that speaks to ourselves. Theoretically it’s something we should do for students. It’s about giving to every committee, and consider what we’re doing. It’s something you can do with your constituencies. Ask them what they wish to have on campus. [That can be the start.]

Pres – [in a] meeting with Bob, one thing he makes them do [when he holds meetings] is [ask what they would do] if they were President of Vassar for one day. Can we put that on the election?

Motion to table the amendment... all in favor 22:2- motion passes

- 11 Resolution on VSA RestructuringOperations (20 min)
Raymond - move to table this.

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___ - we talked about how we don’t want to talk about ourselves and decided to continue amendment. What should have happened is voted on amendment then talked about resolution.

Ops- at no point does tabling an amendment mean we have to vote on it in the future. We can decide that it won’t ever go back to council. The point is, essentially, we seemed to have killed it on the floor. This resolution is just another example of us talking about ourselves.

Fin - If we’re going to table it, I just personally never want to see it again. I think we should not pass a resolution mandating a restructure.

All in favor except 1

12 Open Discussion

2014 - earlier today, it took me a long time to finish my retreazza {retreat pizza}- 17 min. If I was to eat [at this pace retreazzas, I would eat] 7,676.5 pizzas until commencement.

Academics - thank you to TAs for being a wonderful rep for all the other proxies... prime example of this vsa. Second thank you to Tiwa because her house team has had to deal with so much. Please encourage people to apply for student seminar. It is not too late.

Jewett - going back to transparency, there was a week saying we should move our meeting location...

Pres - that was a miscommunication. We’re going to do it in UPC next weekend. We didn’t really get to that update on Wednesday.

Fin - we have 2 lovely pieces of equipment that are useful. Charges are like \$80 a piece.

2015 - this is a problem since the beginning of the year. It is really getting annoying. We might as well move it to security because that shit it expensive.

Ops - ... just bring it back to the office

2016 - if [changing the lock combination] ever becomes possible, we should [do it]. Perhaps exec should only be able to access it. If this is something that has been happening for almost a year or more, we should restrict [access to] it.

Fin - finance committee, meeting 45 seconds after this meeting

Act -... just thank the proxies for sitting through this...

2017 - all college day went very well.

2016 - Jewett, sorry about your event. Someone went up to me saying you’re considering not doing it again because of money; you should apply for finance committee because it’s not your fault. Maybe the power outage was your fault. Second thing, not to continue talking about ourselves, but I’m reading a book that I like. <2014: The Hunger Games? {no}> One of the points is that one large problem of getting aid to Africa is that aid orgs have pressure to be lean

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in operating costs and there is no admin. oversight. I agree we spend too much time looking at ourselves, but I still commend everyone who has tried to restructure _____. I hope we can spend less time looking at ourselves but be more efficient. If I were president, I would triple staff of Metcalfe. I would like to commend Socos for the letter. I’m also meeting with Cappy to talk about how important it is. We have the ability to set up meetings with senior level admin.

Socos - thank you Danny for _____ at the gender-neutral talk.

THs - thank you Michael for being here. I think you created a great dialogue on how vsa is seen by outsiders. Ways in which we can engage with campus by maybe changing locations

Ops - I know people don’t know what ops does, a lot of external stuff that’s like very other vp...

_____ it’s great everyone does that... When it comes to looking at us as an entity, that’s actually my job. I would like to make it so that it’s no longer other people’s problems. SL may have had more time to talk about things if they didn’t have to talk about amendments that do things.

At large, Michael - [I would like to] return the thank you to all of you. This was an exciting process...

Jetweet- are these meetings advertised that well? _____ just so more people could come. Motion to adjourn. All in favor.

End 9:52pm