

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Council Agenda for March 30, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer” – Albert Camus

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Attendance.....Operations
- 3 Consent Agenda
  - a. Founder’s Day (Disc).....(\$2500/\$2500)
  - b. HEL (Collab).....(\$0/\$800)
  - c. Amnesty (Disc).....(\$600/\$700)
  - d. Vassar Shakers (Disc).....(\$200/\$200)
  - e. P.E.A.C.E. (Disc).....(\$850/\$850)
  - f. Minutes from 3/23/14

Item B removed from consent agenda

- 4 Forum with Marianne Begemann and Bob Walton ..... (45 min)

Marianne – [here to talk about] academic resources, and current plans for a permanent home for the multidisciplinary department... also update on the science project or any other related issues. I don’t know how many people are familiar with planning the multi program. The decision was made to renovate New England a couple of years ago. We engaged with the local architect, met with the programming directors to figure out the needs for the students and what the square footage was. At the end of that process, we had the programming \_\_\_ study complete and tentative. [We wondered if it] would fit well in the old laundry building [and questioned whether] the old laundry building was the right place in location of campus, quality of building... for many years to come. When Bob came, we undertook an architectural \_\_\_\_\_. As part of that architectural competition, we sent out invitation [to firms] to participate in conceptual designs for the multidisciplinary program and how it could be combined in new building. There is a programming committee and subset of directors that are working with us closely. They will meet with the architects. Our work will be completely wrapped up in the fall \_\_\_\_\_.

Raymond – thanks for coming in. Can you talk about the science facility [progress is doing]? Marianne- we’re pretty much on track with where we wanted to be with the Sanders and New England complete renovation. If everything [continues to be] on track, we will reopen some time over this summer. Olmstead will be off line this summer [and will be in] complete construction mode. That means people can’t occupy the building. It won’t be available for students or faculty for summer programs. They have been relocated... when fall comes, we can reopen the building, but the classrooms themselves will still be under renovation and won’t be finished until January of 2015. \_\_\_ creating new spaces for psychology and neuroscience. The bridge building will be completed fall of 2015 sometime perhaps. That will be open for business that spring. That’s the plan.

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Main - can you tell us about conversations about the new student space in terms of the bookstore moving to Juliette?

Marianne – it’s a little early to tell exactly what it will be. The students with Jason Reuben undertook a study focused on the space and did some surveys and focus groups to get \_\_\_\_ for the kind of space students are looking for. We have the opportunity to create a really nice student space. We’re taking a look a little bit more holistically, thinking about what all floors mean to all constituents on campus so we can get a sense... it can serve many needs on campus. We’ve just begun that work. We’ll have a good sense on how we can use the space

Ops – my question is regarding the left side of building being taken out of service. Those classrooms are directly above animal facilities. Asking as myself, what does that mean for research going on in that area? Will it move to Blodgett?

Marianne - in working with Julie Williams, director of the animal facility, [we decided] to keep them there. It was her expert opinion that moving the animals is more harmful to them than keeping them where they are. We decided to keep them but we also have contingency plans in case... then we will move them over to Blodgett in that case. Some of the bird colonies have been relocated to Blodgett due to the noise.

Strong – I was wondering if you could talk about originally ending... 2015

Marianne – originally fall of 2015, at this point we still have time to fast track things, but because some of the early work involving excavation, we had some delays in the process and we got behind. Rather than speeding things up and spending more money, we decided it made more sense to not try to accelerate and open a semester later. There was a chance that if [we had sped things up, we] still would not have opened.

Finance – for Bob, could you talk to us [about any update regarding the bookstore]?

Bob – the project started after I got here. When I looked at the bookstore, I felt it wasn’t all that good. In talking to Barnes and Noble, we realized we didn’t have a contract- it had expired about a year ago. We began to talk about if we could continue the relationship or not. They came with a proposal for a 5-year extension [and gave a presentation in January]. It was pretty disappointing I’ll call it. I said, “This is a disappointing proposal.” At that point, we decided we were going the other way. We joined NACS – National Association of College Stores, based in Ohio, about 3,000 different independent stores that work together. You don’t have to conform to any style. Secondly, we wanted to look at another location, partly because we are in need of space. We decided that we should take advantage that we own the property of Juliette. It was sending a pretty negative message to the community. The problem with the partnership with Barnes and Noble... it was quite expensive there. Now we can make it more economical, didn’t have to do all those things in a national \_\_\_\_\_. We also partnered with BurgerFi. If you go

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on the web, they're kind of an interesting new style of food purveyor based in Florida. They're interested in sharing the space. There'll be an opening between the two stores so we can share the space. We're not going to sell trade books because we have the 3 Arts store. Walter is going to sell trade books. We're going to focus on textbooks and other things. We're going to sell things they don't sell here – New York type items, also sell Hudson valley or regional items that would be of interest to other people. We hired Tinkelman Firm and Construction Company. They're in construction now. Our plan is to take the keys of the building in August first. Contact through NACS hired company to design interiors. It's going to have things stores have in the spirit of the old Juliette theater... bling, something interesting. It's very much not Barnes and Noble. It'll have a small performance space. It's not a stage... it's a platform. It will have audio, visual, sound mixing. [It will have the] ability to hold a cappella choirs, speakers, authors – cool stuff to program into the space. We haven't set the hours yet. [They will] probably be longer hours, times when you're actually awake. We will be using our unionized staff so that was one of the big things. I think that pretty much it.

SL - congratulations on your project

Bob - well congratulate me once we're in.

SL - could you update council on any initiatives [regarding the gender neutral bathrooms]? [Do you know] if the signs have arrived?

Bob - I think that they're actually here. All of the bathrooms that were single user bathrooms that we've identified \_\_\_\_... we are designating as gender neutral bathrooms. We have about 6 buildings that don't have a single occupant bathroom. The big hurdle is code compliance. We're trying to be responsive, but the code requires you to have a certain number of toilet seats, \_\_\_ for men and women. We have to be careful when we go into buildings... we're going to study that. For example, in the Juliette bookstore, there has to be two bathrooms, men's and women's. We can't even have plans until we get \_\_\_\_\_. Once, we get that, we can think of [what signs we would like to place].

2015 - discussing the new potential bookstore space at class council, [and they were] interested in frozen yogurt. So if you happen to notice any vendors to throw in...

Bob - that's noted. You should check the website for BurgerFi. They do sell sort of high-end Italian creams and things. It won't be a nationally branded...

Josh - how is the management orientation going to be in terms of [cooperating]. I don't know how it was originally with council \_\_\_ entrepreneurship in learning more about the mindset of how businesses operate, given this is a new venue if there's any potential...

Bob - we do have to honor the union project, but I think we can assume we're going to expand the use of students and expand hours, more time for students to work. I'm open to

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entrepreneurial interests. We don't really have \_\_\_\_\_. We're going to hire a store manager, by Vassar- whereas right now Barnes and Noble hire them. That job is being posted this week pretty soon. That person will report to director of budget and enterprise services, and that person, Brian, will report to me.

Noyes – I was wondering how currently its location in central area [where] there's a lot of flow {admissions tours}... how do you think moving it will affect [revenue]? Because it will be close to My Market, how do you think it'll affect the relationship with My Market? If they are similar things, how will it affect the relationship and revenue for the bookstore?

Bob – let me work on those questions. That last one of the questions will be answered by the actual experience. When it comes to things like admissions tours opportunities, I think we're going to set up a small kiosk. We haven't quite sorted that out, but that's been discussed. If we can make the store more than what we have downstairs and it can be combined with food, it'll be a place you want to go. It'll become more of a social location than just functional. The question about My Market... one of the things we were going to try to do is sell things we won't compete with others. Vassar College controls all other things. I'm not going to sell toothpaste, trade books... but the reality when it comes to food and stores [is that when] there is more competition, not that we are, there will be better success for the other stores. They're going to have I think more business. Yes all of you will have to walk a little farther, but it's going to break up the monotony that you don't have many places to go to. Particularly if you can do programming and it's a cool store... hopefully that'll be good. \_\_\_\_ more parking at that location than here. People are going to be able to park in the north lot, about 50-75 feet from the store. Traffic from the campus will be mostly walking. [There will] also be a lot of traffic coming from the neighborhood. People who come here are usually parents and alumni. Google college store... at Davison College [they have done a similar thing to this asnd it has been successful].

Socos- has there been discussion [about] a dining bucks option to reduce traffic at the retreat for BurgerFi?

Bob- I think all businesses are going to be able to take vcard dollars. Whether there's going to be a food option...When the \_\_\_\_ dean is going to be back at end of spring, [we will] talk about dining plan in general. It's probably not going to \_\_\_\_ that way. We're going to look at how we can change the plan. [One of the] objectives is to have flex dollars to spend but it'll probably be more of a trade off. BurgerFi is interested as is Julie's café. We just can't undermine the financial plan for ACDC.

Raymond – for Marianne, what is happening to {mug/mud} chemistry, and are there [plans for other academic building updates]?

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Marianne – {mug/mud} will be deconstructed after chemistry moves out. Then that area... there's new landscape designs. It's actually really beautiful. There are longer-term projects involving academic buildings. There is a building audit we're undertaking. It's going to enable us to have a full suite of data buildings on campus, what the needs are and how much that might cost. Without having a strategic plan, it's hard to \_\_\_\_\_. I can tell you which ones I imagine, maybe Blodgett. It's undoubtedly a large \_\_\_\_\_. It's a big one to tackle. We should do it thoughtfully. I know there are some issues with Chicago hall, smaller kinds of programs. [We are] trying to collate other languages.

TAs - can you explain and describe overall plans for trees?

Bob – campus master plan... landscape. I think there were some early, when I got here in the fall. There were two incidents that created questions about trees. A lot of brush clearings, changes in Noyes circle, probably too much enthusiasm from the grounds group. Now we're working a little bit closer with our faculty. The other had to do with taking several trees down for the science project. We have had a meeting with environmental science faculty and other interested faculty, and talked about long range planning and invasions of \_\_\_ that are beginning to encroach on less tended areas of campus. The plan is to basically if we're going to add trees or take trees out, they need to go to the campus planning committee and have a thorough discussion. Then we have proposals such as yours as we bring things to the campus master plan committees... new capital review process to being more inclusive and hear about other priorities.

Marianne – Vassar has applied for tree sustainability for tree campus USA arboretum foundation, so it enables us to get connections with arboretum foundations. Trees are taken seriously. With the science project, we went through a number of \_\_\_\_\_ getting approval, counting how many trees we were putting in and how many we took out. Many being taken down early on were Norway maples that are invasive species, softwood invasive maples that aren't native. We took all of those out and we put in native species that hopefully will have a good longevity. We're putting in more than we're removing.

Joss - when you said that the new store would be economically friendly, quote on quote, and not cheap, what exactly does that mean?

Bob – we have to run the store so that it pays for us. We're funding this project; we borrowed money and were going to repay that through the earnings of the store. We know one of the challenges of students is cost of books. If you're a Barnes and Noble... they have a lot of control in places. If it's a Chemistry 101 book, if they're selling it in Albany for \$75, they'll sell it for the same price in Missouri. That's controlled by the corporate system... whole country as profit. We're going to try to recognize many of you want to buy them online. We're going to

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try to have the textbook prices closer to the online stores. We don't want to close the store because of money but we can sell it for about the same price. We can't do that for every book because we need to make enough to run store. But we're going to offer more books as rentals and work to offer paperback. Barnes and Nobles has a bit of a schizophrenic attitude on that. I'm not going to sell \$5 Chapstick. You can go to My Market. We still have to run the store. We're still going to be sensitive to price. That is an advantage of being an independent store. We want to carry cooler stuff. [I went] to one of these independent shows for stores in Dallas. Having gone through exhibits, about 50 isles, 100 yards long... there is a lot of cool stuff we don't sell. [One example is] messenger bags made out of recycled bottles. Just cool stuff we should be carrying. And we don't. We're going to get things that are more interesting. Academics – {on behalf of Royal} how is the new store going to follow up on things the store still offers like website?

Bob – one of the advantages of being an independent store is you can pick your partners. We are partnering with a Utah store and working with them on a book rental program, buy backs... we can use the same program Barnes and Noble uses. One disadvantage is Barnes and Noble is still operating the store through June. I don't know what it'll be like. It'll probably be a little harsher [pricing]... I don't know and I don't control that. The goal is to encourage faculty to help us by adopting books... you shouldn't see a big change because we're going to use a big \_\_\_\_.

Josh – \_\_\_\_... how will [the selling of mostly only textbooks at the bookstore] affect English for example? My Market price gouges too.

Bob – I mean it's a fair question. I'm sensitive to prices but I can't sell paper clips as cheap as Staples because its not the business a college bookstore is in. The primary goal is to provide the best \_\_ to students and faculty at a reasonable price... \_\_\_\_ part of it is to balance keeping the store economically viable. One of the board of trustees concerns is why do we even have a store if the store is unbuyable [or] if we can't have it break even. Our goal is to break even. \_\_\_\_ then we would probably not run the store at that point. We'd look at another...

Josh – what are you doing out of your office to be sensitive... the bigger question is what are you doing to make sure My Market, which are tenants of college properties... to make sure that when [the] office [is] looking at cooperative effort, to make sure to stay sensitive to needs and budgets of financial aid students? [It is a] decision between lifestyle choices. We're in cahoots, not in a bad way... I just want to see safeties for \_\_\_\_.

Bob – I wouldn't say I'm in cahoots. Where I grew up, it means something different. We're going to try to be sensitive. The businesses that are in Arlington are swimming against the current. If you want to lose a lot of money, you run a small store... it's an economic challenge,

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hard to run small independent store and make money. [There should be] balance between a variety kinds of services you need and not gouge students but at the same time [it] need[s] to be financially viable, not as cheap as a discounter, but not \_\_\_\_.

Josh – more specifically, what a student makes for week [is not enough for certain My Market prices. Is there a way to tell them to change their prices]?...

Bob – I’m not going do that. I’m not sure it’s fair to My Market. It doesn’t actually matter what a student makes... where they make money... If I tell them to lower prices and they [end up shutting down], that wouldn’t help students.

President- we have to wrap up, but thank you so much for coming in.

### 5 Hip Hop 101 Fund Application Appeal ..... (30 min)

Nik, Gianna, Charlie, \_\_\_\_ assistant director of vice next year – Nik – [here to] talk about hip hop 101... appeal to get extra funds... founded 11 years ago... always been \_\_\_\_ of having a great time... [The] fun events [are] for all communities. Four pillars and throw back jam [are] always seen as [good]. Budget says \_\_\_\_, originally not accounting for deficit dealt by the previous administration. With the budget, the event will fall under expectations and will not reflect what Hip Hop 101 or VSA is about. Our goal is to have the best participants for Vassar at Poughkeepsie. [We are] not going to say [we have] always done right. We have made quite a few mistakes, first of which, our budget is consistently in red zone for the past 4 year {POI from finance past 2 years,} – 2 years it has consistently been in the red zone, usually the largest of the debts. [An alumni from Hip Hop 101] Jay, now a law student duke university, [said the budget] isn’t meant to cover [everything]. Hip Hop 101 has always relied on extra funding. Hip Hop 101 consistently is put in position where it is not always capable of showing \_\_\_\_ due to constraints. [We have] come to VSA for money, but not always acted in manner that was \_\_\_\_ respect. We are acting to change that, starting with submitting a project budget report. Second, last semester \$2000 was granted. We appealed for extra funds but withdrew, we initially believed, were under assumption, that we had \$13\_\_/\_... deep analysis failing to account for a deficit. It was a huge mistake. For the fall concert, Travis Scott was overpaid. On top of that, [he] did not perform for agreed amount. More than \$11000, less than a prime position. Administration is very new... previous administration of the past 2 years was headed by alumni, Sauna and Marissa, who often acted in secretive bases and didn’t teach [others] how to run [things], often acted on their own designs. We were kept in the dark. Most [things] we have had to learn on our own. [We have a] desire to change infrastructure of secrecy by being more open... reaching for artists more pricy, but \_\_\_\_ greater Vassar community as whole. [We] believe Travis Scott could have better spoken to community... Sauna and Marissa - many people have complained of their secrecy. Negotiations [with Travis Scott] lead us to give them a

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check they would \_\_\_ until got half... the condition not honored. Because [we did] not [have an] understanding [of] where the funds were going beyond scale of the budget... and started communications with bigger [artists]... problems with misinterpretation of the budget. ...originally lead us to believe we could get artists (for more) who speak to Vassar and the larger community. Unfortunately, no one would accept the scale, so we upped the scale. ...there will always be people dancing – fashion sense. We contacted ghost face – without realizing we didn't have enough money, and had complications. I believe they can be fixed. [We had a] lack of knowledge in how to manage them. No one in the past from exec board has been there to walk us through these. We have a desire to outdo previous execs. Hip Hop 101 has neglected to do that. {papers passed out} We're working on the assumption that we have \$\_\_\_, spend most on a headliner most... The total cost at most- \$8000 with a throw back of less than \$1500. This [would be] the first time in a while when we will end in the green. We have come to face the reality that artists not always obey rules. [We should work on/understand] the terms of contracts. We can save money and time and hassle. One of the big things you're thinking is alright, this org has come many times and whatever funds thrown have been thrown away... this fund is crucial. Artists usually comes between \$15-22k . TC, chef and part of Hip Hop 101, has these amazing connections with managers and agents for lower prices than what we would see on things like concertideas.com. Since we started the negotiation, if we suddenly dropped out, that would reflect [badly] on TC, on hip hop 101... [and it would be difficult to] get artists of that caliber in the future. We understand there's a max amount of funds for Hip Hop 101... \$3000, considering 2000 from last. Second outline, possible contributions given... \$3000, \$2000, \$1000. \$3000 works within the budget; it'll keep contacts we have regardless of how much money we have. B-boys... will probably be forced to cut out regardless. I tried to outline potential outline that always ending in green.

President- thank you, this is wonderful. Now we will open up to council for questions.

Finance – thank you for coming in. Basically, when finance met with Hip Hop 101 in December, we talked a lot about all of the events and increased amount of spending by \$3000 without consequence. One motivation for low allocation is basically orgs can't just expand programming and expect future programs to not suffer. We recognize the \$2000 deficit, so we did feel contribution was in order. The 2000 number came from [and to cover] the deficit. A big part of conversation... the allocation was increased by \$5000 so there was more money to begin with. Then we saw them again over break. The committee took the liberty of meeting with them again. The committee decided it was worth discussing. When we met this past week, the idea was that we would set up a guideline in December and there was not so much of an



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effort to stay within those guidelines. The focus on a headliner outside of budget... \$2000 from vice no longer one thing...

Nik- we were supposed to give them \$2000 for their event and [they were supposed to give us the] same. Really it doesn't make sense. On another note for the headliner, TC and his connections... there was one point he told us he could get Ghost Face down to 8k.

Finance - the committee decided, not unanimously, to stick to the recommendation from December. We can't reward orgs for mismanaging funds. They had the opportunity to appeal and this is an extraordinary viewing of it. I have also been working closely with Nik [regarding the] future of Hip Hop 101, and I will say its been great working with him.

SL - thank you for coming in. So I understand the significance of this event, what it means to the community, and I admire your passion for the org. My concern is more over the precedent it sets for large orgs to consistently come in with deficits and receive what I see as special treatment, speaking as a president of an org, [that is] not the same treatment for smaller [orgs]. Nik - in the outline, [there are] not attempts to feed into precedent for further bailouts. We only ask for money to aid these things in the future. I spent hours working to outline this budget to always stay within the green. I know we can definitely do that. I will make sure [before] I leave, to train the officers to not make the same mistakes, who won't be the sacrificial lamb.

SL - I admire that. I'm just a little hung up on the point of old admin not training you more because that's something every org experiences year after year, lack of communication. I just don't necessarily... I'm going to support this because it is significant to the community. I just hope that that's carried through in the future.

Nik - Sauna and Marissa are great individuals, but they were seniors involved in academics and other orgs. They let a few other things slip. This is the only org I'm in. Most of my free time is usually devoted to finding ways to make things better. If I had money out of my own pocket I would [give it].

SL - how could you ensure that for the future?

Hip (other member)- just because it is a music org. It's different because we hire artists, managements... If people above us don't tell us how to do it, it's harder for us to get the job done. {Nik} we did make some mistakes. We contacted an agent and, unfortunately, we realized it was a sham. That was a way to get us to wire them money. Thankfully we didn't sign that. Thank god for Dominique or we would be in a shit hole.

Finance - first time advisor, Dominique- job to get a head start on things and go through contracts.

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SL – is there no way to get cheaper \_\_\_\_, I understand Ghost Face was voted in, but is there no way \_\_\_\_ for cheaper?

Nick – \_\_\_\_ of throwback, but also getting one for history, getting someone whose songs people will get to sing along to. Like Vick Mensa, \$7-8k price range hoping that if things go alright it could be \$7-8.5k, Vick no mater how talented, not as many people know his songs. Especially because around festival seasons, it’s hard to get someone that will fit within the budget.

Racking in Ghost Face is the closest.

2016 – thank you for coming in, fantastic presentation. [I wanted to] address some of the concerns. ...that budget in red for 2 years, you can’t be held accountable for, that needs to be addressed in different ways. To what extend are we making current students suffer in terms of programming because of past mistakes? The problem is not being in the red is how I saw it, but that in budget for last year, you allocated \$7000 for Four Pillars and spent \$11000. The way we work, is if an org wants more funding.... fund app... here, they just spent more money than budget, which means something is going to suffer. We lost \$4000 because it went to Four Pillars. I think the new budget is great, fantastic. Also, the annual budgeting closes soon, so submit something like this. The problem is, it was stuck to last year. We’ll see something that looks like this. I think it’s great you’re saying you’re keeping this. But 5 years down the line, no one will know who you were or we were. How will we know they stick to it?

Nik – that comes down to working closely with them from day one.

2016 - I think it is as much as failing of your part [sorry to say this]... I support the allocation. I also support a kind of consequence, whether you are bound to the budget, whether you have to have this amount of money or VP for finance won’t sign it. I support that - especially since there’s a lot of different problems with the way orgs run that [don’t] necessarily [have to do with the] org leadership. I think we need to do something so you won’t be in the red.

Nick - to add on, Hip Hop 101 has always had to do deal that we can never really afford everything. I’m trying to set a precedent where we come to VSA less, to establish a precedent to adhere to financial guidelines.

2016 – not to say that you can’t apply to change things, but the problem you are describing is something every org has. The problem is we don’t have money to do things that are spectacular. I think in the near future we should establish guidelines for the future.

President- [you] don’t have to respond to everything people say

TAs – I have a question. Who makes up the \_\_\_\_ and how do people get involved? How is it advertise and do you fundraise outside of selling t-shirts?

Hip (other member, Gianna) – at the activities fair [I became interested]. Then I went to Four Pillars and throw back and was amazed by the events that were brought. I said I wanted to

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become an active member. So that's how it was advertised, [through] attending these events. (Other Hip Hop 101 member) – over the summer before freshmen year, I Googled it. It was actually part of my decision to come to Vassar.

Nik – we've always been cutting it very close. The last time fundraising a concert for \_\_\_\_\_ local martial arts... that was the last thing we did. We tried to get involved with workshops. We're just trying to make sure we have some extra money. It's been two years and we want to get \_\_\_\_\_. President- to clarify not what community service have you done, but fundraising money for the org...

Nik – some ways is... normally when we have an excess of money, we make t-shirts, mix tapes, hip hop memorabilia, wristbands. Originally when we were composed more of MCs, we had rapagrams. We would go to people in classes and rap. I was not a part of that, so that saddens me a bit.

2015 – first off, there's no bylaw restriction for \$5k or whatever to any event.

President- it's just a policy I believe.

2015 – but we can break it. In terms of applying for an event, if you expand one event, you just run the risk of not having [an] event. I agree we should include an allocation to support the event. In my experience it's been an awesome even I'd like to see happen. In finance committee, I voted in favor of allocation when everyone closed their eyes. Coming to talk to us right now, working with Dominique, \_\_\_\_ going to approval... anything over 5k should bounce back and forth [with finance]. And when get to voting... on wither 0 or 5k based on lack of \$2000 from Vice.

President - try not to repeat things other people said. Holding checks is great, but \_\_\_\_\_.

Ops - my understanding is that when vice went into debt, the debt was paid off over time and they took a slight reduction, sacrifice, for a small for awhile, and they'd be able to go back. I would recommend the same thing. Not a 5k allocation but more of a 5k loan allowing you to put on an event planned next year then figuring out over the next three years how to program to pay off the next... it shouldn't be as devastating.

Nik – really appreciate that, but firstly, because it doesn't have resources like orgs like Vice, sometimes it feels like compensating for events you want to bring... just trying to do the best with what we have.

Ops – the financial reality is limited amount of money... I think your program is amazing. I go to it every year, but at the same time we have specific rules about deficits. I just think they have to be \_\_\_\_\_, but as an org, you should... your org was punished for having done this so that it doesn't happen again. It's a fairly mild punishment in my perspective.

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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**“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer” – Albert Camus**

Nik – my perspective is to have the best outcome possible. I just personally would not have a huge issue

Strong - I was just basically wondering if you guys have looked at how it'll look if you don't get it.

Nik – we would have to settle for a headliner that in many ways does not necessarily fit the bill. New artist... that isn't necessarily very popular, people would not recognize. Despite the fact throwback is many ore things. It's a huge draw. We would desperately love to bring someone everyone enjoys.

Strong – [could you talk more about fundraising?]

Nik – all of [the] resources focus on making best possible event.

Jewett - motion to give Hip Hop 101 \$5000, to vote on this

Socos – \$3000 because [of the] original or additional?

2015 – the Vice allocation didn't come through

Jewett - motion to allocate what Hip Hop 101 needs

Nik – I'm not asking of the extra money, but if I just may support that. We would love to bring the B-boys back. No matter how much money we get, if we have to have the loans... pay them off, that would be fine.

Noyes- can we divide it so there's a \$5,000, \$3,000, or no? (yes) ... - makes motion for \$5,000. \$3,000, or nothing.

President- assume that that's okay {to vote on this one instead of both motions previously mentioned}, \$5,000/\$3,000/\$0.

Ops – I'm confused- if we were to talk about \_\_\_\_, when would we discuss that... [disciplinary action]?

President- assume it'll go to activities committee.

Nik - Wednesday is good to talk

Finance – I don't think it's appropriate to vote on a 5k allocation. I think they've presented excellent plan. While everyone wants more money, I think this plan is reasonable and we should only consider 3k.

2015 – go back to the center... vice issue was \_\_\_ in debt. Second, 5k potentially makes the event richer, so it's in need event... I disagree its inappropriate.

President- motion on the table to allocate.

Voting - Joss, Davison, and 2017 abstain; in favor of 5k- Jewett, TAs, 2016, 2015, THs; 3k – Cushing, Raymond, Main, Socos, Activities, Ops, Student Life, Academics, Noyes, 2014, Ferry, Lathrop; in favor of 0k – Strong and Finance

\$3,000 allocation passes

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President- 10 minutes [for finance] to talk about HEL org

Finance - Motion to allocate \$800 to HEL [regarding first annual comedy festival].

Motion passes, all in favor

### 6 Reports

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

President- [skip reports]

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

Ops- elections are happening as people in [these] positions, people are going to ask about positions and [will] probably [be] interested in running for them. Tell them the truth. Maybe sugarcoat it a bit because the truth is a little bleak sometimes. That was a joke. Try to get people to run... Especially true for women in minorities ... should be encouraged.

President- I wrote a psych paper about it...

Ops - many of you may be running for positions. Please, everybody, don't discourage other people from running if they're thinking of running against you. If you discourage other people from running, that's bad. I know it's hard. No one is perfect at this. Also, extra important- be healthy, be safe. It can be stressful, time consuming... don't let it destroy your life. It's just student government.

Jos - but it's Vassar!

c. Constituent Concerns..... (7 min)

d. TAs - \_\_\_ great job because when I went to the 24-hour space Saturday night, it was popping. More of a comment [than a concern].

2015 - please mention frozen yogurt, my constituents...

Noyes - in the Deece there was a sign saying that after spring break, UpC would be open everyday of the week, and people ask Deece and workers. They confirm it'd be open after spring break and we came back and it was closed. And why close it on Monday Sunday, just in general when people have the most work crammed up kind of? It just doesn't seem very intelligent.

Raymond - it's closed those days because Precious has to take off and there aren't enough student workers.

2016 - who do we go to about that? Because people keep asking about that?

President- Maurine King is in charge of dining

2016- and anyone to go to about wages?

President- that's for student employment but can also....

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2016- [people] emailed me about new couches in the Vialliard room... so I don't think anyone had to do with that is in that room, but if you know who it was, I promised I'd say thank you. [TQ is to thank for this]

Davison – what's up with Late Night at the Deece?

President- we're working on it. I submitted a page long summary of comments, 90% in favor.

Hopefully by the end of this semester... It won't happen again this semester. The biggest concern is student workers, and it's not fair to have them [do that] without having signed up for it.

Raymond – [Raymond has joined the] broken card swipes [club], on Chicago side.

### 7 Students Bill of Rights..... Cushing (15 min)

Ops – if you flip the page in the agenda, Cushing and other students, mostly at large, worked on this document. For this conversation, rather than going line by line, we're going try to talk about what we want to see happen about this, and what we can see happen with this. If anybody wants, I spent 4 hours researching students' bill rights. If you want information, I can shout [some] out. Some discussions in ops [had to do with] whether these were rights we could guarantee people or mostly things we would have to ask administration for... we could just advocate for. We can't necessarily have a bill of rights if we have no resources for upholding \_\_\_ expected rights... different than guiding principals. Another conversation is... adopted as its own governing document, which poses complications in the sense that we can't be in violation of governing documents. We would have to add some form of preamble. We appreciate the hard work.

TAs – [could you] speak to the tone? It reads more as student demands... ambiguity to points are both powerful and problematic.

Ops – some felt that if we came into an administration, basically Cappy, we should have a strong bargaining stance. Others felt the opposite, that we should leave our requests reasonable. So that was discussed. In terms of the vagueness, we talked about making it more vague. The discussion was about making it more vague or to get rid of...

Jewett- some things stood out, like 6b... is that saying I can keep to myself what I want or if there's an investigation going on...? It's very vague in a way that what is it speaking to if anything? Then also 8b, other than “original judge”? Who's that?

Cushing – both of those, 6b... students who wrote that... [the] thinking was basically, stuff about health information or home address, or shit like that. We already have that choice. 8b... another student who emailed me about concerned about disciplinary... then appealing it, and having the same person to appeal to.

2016 – I want to say I appreciate all of the hard work that was put into this. They spent a lot of their time and everyone is busy. I see 2 different things- set of ideals and ideas. I think we need

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to separate them... I think a bunch of stuff in this is a lot of really great ideas we should be advocating. I think if people feel passionately, they should become their own \_\_\_\_ things. I don't think necessarily that they're rights. If we're going to adopt them, it needs to be stuff we can guarantee... what it means to me (example) is that they don't have a space they can go to. They don't feel that's something they can have, that they can come to this council... that I have a right. I think that's possible within our framework. We can reexamine how our structure meets

President- as I understand it, this should be more of a priority.

2016 – that doesn't mean we can't advocate for things, but I don't know if it should be...

SL – thank you for the initiative and patience. I'm just a little uncomfortable with a and b just because in a disciplinary proceeding it's open ended to a point where it can be a problem for interpersonal panels. I think its open ended to a point where....

Socos – [we had a] similar discussion. The conclusion that I reached was that what 2016 said... [there are] great priorities here, but since we can enforce the document. I don't support it being passed as a bill of rights familiar to a few weeks ago of finding ways of changing system... [it should be] more about doing it. [I think we should focus more on the] reasons that made us put them on the list.

Cushing – when we asked for me to do this, what exactly did we have in mind?

Ops - that's a solid question. Brief history – there are students' bill of rights at a few American institutions... a ton of American legislation. But we're guaranteed a lot of rights that the college doesn't necessarily enforce unless forced to. For example, North Carolina I think passed a law that students have a right to an attorney in all student \_\_ proceedings. States tend to uphold... that if that were challenged in NY, which is kind of lenient... uphold that statute.

President- as I understood it, it was similar to the idea of priorities but having a public way of \_\_\_\_ having it as a list that's something students can see. I know vsa will advocate for me. In my mind, it was something that'd be front and center. We want to help you secure those rights. I do see it as a bill of rights, but for the purpose of using as priority. Feel free to disagree.

Ops – I imagined we talked about things we could provide in this space. All students have the right to come into council and present their opinions, which they already do. So I thought we were going to expand on that. I was thinking as rights of students... our priorities as student leaders [is to] provide \_\_\_\_.

Strong – agreeing with 2016 and other people, making more of a priority and less... bill of rights. There are things we can't guarantee. I am very hesitant to pass something that we can't guarantee. I do think there are a lot of very good ideas to focus on. I think it should be more of a guiding on what we hope to achieve.

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TAs- I would also like to see these are rights as long as they don't infringe on others.

President- or laws, yes... {examples} medical issues, sexual assault...

TA- I'm also curious about the respect part and the rationale behind that... respect as an idea, as a right?

Cushing - I don't remember who contributed that or why.

SL - it looks more like a call for respect so that it would \_\_\_\_. I agree it would be based on what you gain. [This respect has to do more with] the line that they would disrespect me on the merit that I'm Puerto Rican, not policing personal respect.

President- recognizing there is hierarchy also. We have administration and students [as an example]... we should respect each other.

2015 - I don't get the hang up on what we can guarantee or not. It's confusing to me. I saw this going into this... about codifying a lot of things we want to think about on the regular. We have 5 weeks left. We have a list of things we would want be thought about. Regardless of what want to call this, I definitely think in terms of respect for what ruby and the [group of people] have done, at some point... We could have done this already because we haven't. I'd like to see it posted somewhere, I don't know.

President- I think the hang up was that we could decide where this is going. I think the purpose was to decide based on what it is where it should be going. I hope it answers your concern. I agree we shouldn't spend our time worrying about that.

Ops - also guarantee is the wrong word. We can never guarantee anything. For example, I have the right of life under the United States, but that doesn't mean someone won't murder me.

Jewett - things in here we can't put within rights because we're asking of the faculty and administration and that should go to [them]. We think, as students, we can't guarantee that it has to go to faculty. Those things need to go to them in some form of a document. There are two different things in the document and I feel they should be separate.

Royal - we discussed this in ops committee... separating things we couldn't guarantee, whether it should go to faculty or administration... responsibility and agree to uphold this with us. The spark notes of it is, things we care about, guarantee of course material, even getting syllabuses posted... we came back to this battle where we can get it approved or if it is important to us taken off, but then we're just left with things that aren't really the hot topics. We did discuss this in depth.

Davison - so is this is a conversation of what we're going to call this? It's been brought up, and it's drafted by students who want and need this. [Or is this conversation whether] we're going to put it or call it?



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Ops – I think we wanted to be supportive of it in doing that. We have to decide what our abilities are to publicize it and accept it. So, I am going to make a motion that we table this to ops committee with the intention of changing the name potentially to express its expectations of rights, we can decide on some things and plan to bring it back next week, and that it should be adopted as a different document.

Joss – couple of things- getting caught up on name. I agree it should be presented more to administration... issue on what we promise to govern. Yeah, we are the student, what is it org, organization. I understand that this being drafted should be for administration. We are literally just a VSA at Vassar in the middle of Poughkeepsie. I don't think it's an issue of what we can promise as VSA to do.

Socos – as someone who has been to all of the meetings, there was a little bit of a low turn out. I don't want to minimize those who contributed, but this was a group of 3-5 students.

Ops – you all have constituencies. Show it to your constituencies. If this is something a lot of people are interested in, then ...

Cushing – I also had some emails, so if you want a solid number, it'd be 16 and about 5 more from VSA, so a total of 21.

President- suggestion- maybe [the best solution would be tabling this]. However, it sounds like people are leaning towards this is some things that are priorities, something we should send to administration and faculty... reframing so it's something we can send to them [saying] this is what we believe, we're sending it to you.

Academics – aspiration is a good word

2016 – what Socos said before... didn't permeate conversation as much as I hoped it would. I think that what ruby and company did was what we were supposed to be doing, go to students and asking [what they] want. Passing this doesn't [do things]. What I see here is what we should be advocating for. These are the things that the students want. I don't think passing this is going to help. It's just another semantic thing. My suggestion is that if we recognize that these things are important, we should just advocate these things. You should go and pursue this. You should write a letter like Rebecca ... Metcalf and wrote about it. This is a problem as opposed to passing them saying we want access. I think there's more to be done. It sucks we only have 5 weeks. If this is important... do something about it.

President- if I'm not mistaken, it should be internal guidelines...

2016 – maybe this is something [we should] bring this to those people next year, [and tell them] we found out what the issues are, like start immediately.

Davison – points addressed however, I would really appreciate it if this was put up somewhere.

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Raymond – I don’t want to open up can of worms, but if people are concerned about whether students really want this, with elections coming up, [this is a good] time for a referendum.

President– I think in ops we should discuss a potential referendum. We got some good ideas out which was great. Go to ops if you want be part of this conversation. I think that perhaps rephrasing it and sending it to administration would kind of accomplish things. Like, 2016, sending this to people is a way of advocating it. This is an incredible list. I really, really appreciate it. Since there is no one on the speakers list, it’s going to be automatically tabled.

8 Work Study Exec Positions Letter.....Student Life (10 min)

SL – I don’t think background on this is necessary. I’m assuming everyone read through it. We just talked about it and basically if there’s anything in the letter that you think should be there, or shouldn’t be, if there’s anything to take out put in... I met with Eve Dunbar and we talked about what should go in the letter. She felt strongly that it [took away] membership from certain underprivileged groups. That is affectively taking away the right to participate in student government... distinguishes simple membership and legislative, particularly an emphases on how exec board gets consistent and tailored communication with administration, which is open to the student body. The main distinction is because... this and then others we don’t want to up a can of worms, where others are opened up for... by nature of being on exec board. It is the kind of \_\_\_ that carries more weight. I would like to open up a conversation. Josh helped me with this letter.

Noyes – I think this is fundamentally a really good idea. It’s great to look out for people. I’ve spoken to people, and they don’t have enough time to commit to positions. The only issue is that I think I understand what this is achieving to pay certain people for a job that other people... have a problem with. If both people spend time working... I’m wondering how that would affect the team dynamics. Is this a bridge to make all exec board positions paid?

SL – this is not making the positions jobs \_\_\_\_. This is allowing students to apply work-study, stipend to position. I don’t think it should create a different dynamic. I think if someone who is not on work-study and has a problem with another person being paid... \_\_\_ don’t see the conflict.

Raymond – just a minor thing, there is a typo on second page

SL – ...this is just a draft

Raymond – toward the last full paragraph of the 2nd page, second line from bottom [there are some] specific wording things.

President– this may be better in an email to not go through the nitty-gritty things on the floor.

SL – we can clarify that.

Raymond - I just think this is a really great letter.

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SL - ...we have a meeting with Cappy on Tuesday. I would like to get her signature on it.

President- we affectively endorsed it last year...

2016 - so I think that maybe I'm just not understanding this properly. I have similar concerns to what Raph was saying. Work-study positions, were there enough work-study positions for students... Those students would still be paid?

Jewett -yeah but they would not want to run for student VSA positions because it's extra time. It's like, I'm on work-study, I would be paid to do that instead of me taking another job that takes away from schoolwork.

2016 - I think this is a good step but it makes the assumption that only students who are on work-study need their campus jobs in order to support themselves, which we know isn't true. I think that while this is a good first step and something I support, we need to take a look at all of these positions and why students are running for them and if financial obligation is one of those reasons.

Josh - is it also your concern in terms of how student employment sets policies?

2016 -no but thank you.

Strong- ...I do want to bring up HAS is paid and presidents are not, and I can tell you it has not affected our relationship while it is important to think about students who are not in work study, I also think it is important to realize the damages of not having this policy. I think it's more damaging than other students... I think it's a crucial policy that we should start moving on.

Joss - wanted to remind [you] that if you all really want to make this more inclusive at Vassar, minorities and women, then opening work-study would be a plus. Speaking as myself, a poor student on campus, in a VSA job, academics... this is really difficult. And money is always on my mind... considering in the past, that VSA has been very white and rich.

Noyes- I want to ask, could that be something that is discussed about... long term goals in the project with Cappy?

SL - yes, but maybe we should talk about long term goals.

2016 - I wasn't trying to say it wasn't important... [I don't] want people to say that all of our issues are over. I wanted to make sure that that was heard. This makes VSA more accessible. It doesn't make it completely accessible.

President- we'll talk to Cappy about this.

Josh - a great thing to talk about on admissions and financial aid policies... although it's about VSA, I \_\_\_ to do with student employment. There's mutuality there... great to reach out t reps.

President- good point thank you.

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- 9 Programming Amendment.....Activities & Raymond (10 min)  
2015- in front of you is an added amendment about VP for operations. When we passed that last \_\_\_\_, there were some good and bad things. [We] made it so vp for ops was never permitted to run for ops ever while they are [still vp for ops]. [That was] definitely not the intent at the time. It seems to rectify that, amends what the role is for VP ops... not director. They're supposed to make sure [and oversee] that [things are] happening, that kind of thing. This clears it up. I move to suspend the bylaw regarding amendments, [to wait 2 weeks to vote on them]. So we need to vote to suspend the bylaw.  
2016 -POI, if we don't approve this, Ali can't run? {correct}  
President- motion to suspend bylaw and vote on it today... All in favor.  
Socos – can we still suspend bylaw and vote on it next week? {\_\_\_\_}  
President- all in favor of amendment, Abstention – ops, everyone else in favor, motion passes.  
Now ops is a person
- 10 Open Discussion  
President - on the bill of rights things... if you didn't take it to constituents, now would be a good time.  
2014 - I woke up early and got brunch at big tomato- I highly recommend it. It took 57 minutes [to eat]. If I were to keep having the same meal constantly between [now and graduation, I would eat] 1,402 brunches and an extra .1 left over. 50 nights is happening on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Speaking as board of elections co-chair, same thing, candidates meaning... mandatory for all those running this year. [It will be] at UpC at 5 o'clock on that same day. And I think that's everything. Filing has been open for a of couple days.  
Jewett - who are the DJs for 50 nights? People [have been asking me].  
2014- I'm hoping that the Facebook event goes... JSTR and Great Dane... the student DJ is getting picked tomorrow.  
Act. - The student-faculty basketball game is this Sunday at 4 pm in where they play the sports  
2014 - the ticket is your contribution to the student gift.  
Lathrop – a reminder, the Lathrop Art Market is this Saturday, weather permitting. If not, it will be in the college center. You should all come. I think there are 25-30 vendors at this point. [There will be] maple products, patches, nick-knacks, paintings, wire bags, maybe a messenger bag- who knows?  
Noyes- after Lathrop's event, Noyes is doing a Noyes circle soiree Roxy's, Twisted Soul, and Baccio's. We put all of our money into the food. The rain location is in aula. It is all-free.  
[There will be] mock-tails, and fake champagne.

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Academics- the majors fair is this Sunday from 1-3 pm so even if you come to this, you can still go to the basketball game. We're also expanding this to be more than major departments. \_\_\_ will be there, JYA, the writing center, academic resources and not just departments. I will send you a new blurb.

Socos – apologies exec board is in UpC, but the mandatory debate \_\_\_ is in Sander's Classroom. The VSA yard sale for orgs... encouraging [orgs to sell some old merch[andise]. [It will] almost certainly be on April 12. If you are an org leader, please sign up for a spot. If not, come.

Finance – annual budgeting is due a week from today, april 6<sup>th</sup>

Jewett – you should all tell your constituents to come to VCTV Friday, Rocky 300, first premiere of a Hype music video. 7pm.

SL – congratulations to the accepted class of 2018! Focus weekend is in 2 weeks, so make sure to be super inviting. Email me with any corrections to the letter, or if you want to have a side conversation. Take care of yourselves.

Academics– CEQ friends who want to take it... we're looking for a type of student. They look like me more than certain other people.

Davison – motion to adjourn

President– I'm not even going to take it, Just leave.

End 9:50