

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Council Agenda for April 6, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“We need to remember what’s important in life: friends, waffles, work. Or waffles, friends, work. Doesn’t matter, but work is third.” – Leslie Knope, *Parks and Recreation*

- 1 Call to Order  
Proxy - 2017, Joss, Strong, TAs, THs  
No Main
- 2 Attendance.....Operations
- 3 Consent Agenda
  - a. Outing Club (Disc).....(\$2500/\$2500)
  - b. Poder Latino (Collab).....(\$1500/\$1500)
  - c. Minutes from 3/30/14  
Consider consented to.
- 4 Forum with Elizabeth Schrock ..... (45 min)  
Elizabeth Schrock – who can tell me what month April [is]? {People raising hand} I’ll choose the person [who’s hand was up the longest].  
2014- sexual assault awareness month!  
Schrock – Oh I picked [Royal]. {2014 and Royal get shirts} During the month of April, we’re doing a number of really cool things. Next Tuesday, we have a panel and screening of *Very Young Girls...* \_\_\_\_, the documentary takes in depth view of subculture sex industry through eyes of pimps and victims. Show very young girls... It can be a triggering documentary, but it talks about very important things that we don’t really talk about in the United States. We’re bringing 3 of the staff people from GEMs to the screening 6-8:30, Tuesday. I would love it if we had at least a semi full room... in rocky 300. Blurb on the SAVP.vassar.edu, or the Facebook page, or 12 printed (no blurb on this one) posters, date time and location on page. Throughout the month of April, we’re doing a self-care series for all of y’all who are activists. We’re doing three things. We did the meditation, were going to do an empowering self-defense course Tuesday \_\_5-6pm at the Aula... then followed by a discussion on how it could be an empowering [thing]. Then yoga for empowerment, Tuesday April 29 1 pm, which I’ve heard is a bad time. The keynote speaker for CARES is Sonia Renee spoken word artist... the body is not an apology... the culture bombards us with unattainable... imaginary standards. This participation based lecture uses \_\_\_\_ to introduce body terrorism and radical self-love... Monday April 21 7pm Rocky... Break the Silence is doing zine making. They’re asking for people to contribute their stories. The dates are on the poster on the website. April 6<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 in the LGBTQ and Women’s Center. The last thing I have is... Deb you went through SAVP. I hate to put you on the spot...  
President – It was a 6 week course that met 2 hours. It ended up being 5 weeks and we made up the time. Two people came in from the family partnership center, CDO victim assistance

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for domestic violence... bystander training. We were making our own role-plays... that wasn’t actually the plan. We made them relevant to us. We got to talk about different ways we responded to it. We built this really nice community out of the people. We just graduated last week. I got a certificate and a mug.

Schrock - I think it was a really great introduction. You know that we integrate bystander \_\_\_\_... we haven’t really done. [We would like to] make Vassar’s own program relating to bystander intervention. Kind of born from it, we are going to be starting our own bystander intervention peer education group. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, Founder’s day [we are] bringing in people from The University of New Hampshire to train us to be trainers for the courses. Then we’re going to take the curriculum [and] over the summer we will adapt it for Vassar students... [Make it] better students for communities, and levels. I’m really excited about his training. I would really love for people from VSA to be in training. It’s training people to be [in] the peer education group for next year. Bringing in the Bystander... application process- apply through SAVP, link to Google drive app. For the most part, [this is] mostly for people who will be here next year. There will be a group who will be helping to gather the students and adapt the curriculum... [Some admin. and faculty are] kind of the advisors to the program. I would love to have you be a peer educator, or if you know an administrator or faculty member, I would love to have people sign up [to be] the advisors. Both are on the website. That’s kind of the summary of the month. But are there any questions about SAVP, [or] resources for the survivors?

President- can you go over which resources are confidential and which ones are not?

Schrock - this the pamphlet... I don’t know if there are enough blue and purple- blue [is about] sexual assault [and purple is] for dating domestic violence. [There are] 3 levels of privacy, if you disclose... being a survivor, some people need to make an official [report]. People that are confidential are Baldwin, Counseling and CARES, or anyone off campus, any of the hospitals. That’s confidential- then we have private. I’m a private resource. I do have to disclose statistics, but nothing identifiable. Other people that are private reporters would include Student Leaders and any professor who is not in a leadership position. Then we have \_\_\_\_, faculty, staff administration... does similar to CARES private. [They people that are] mandated is any professor in a leadership [role], deans, professors, and head coaches- not assistant coaches. I think that pretty much summarizes it. Is there anyone you’re thinking [about in particular]? House advisors are mandated. I think it’s really hard because I want people to feel comfortable talking about these things. I don’t want [people] to feel ashamed for something that’s not their fault. Also [it is] good practice to think about asking that person before disclosing... who would

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be the people you would have to tell. Then the next thing, \_\_\_ would email the person to set up a meeting. But he wouldn’t go further.

THs- is there a way for students to get involved with support systems... to get involved in CARES?

Schrock - it’s the only group that deals with \_\_\_\_, TLC does supportive services, but if a student were interested in these, to join the \_\_ would be [good]. You can volunteer at domestic violence services off campus.

SL - I think there’s a discrepancy with student leaders. There was a miscommunication during training. Some of us were told you’re supposed to fill out an incident report, but not name. So does that count under private?

Schrock – all you have to do is fill out an anonymous incident report. You don’t put anything identifiable unless you want to. You fill out that form as much information you’re comfortable with. That sends out to me. It says whether or not you want them to contact you. I would give the number to campus safety and security.

Socos- I heard complaints from students about not putting trigger warnings in content [for classes]. I also heard complaints from people who think there shouldn’t be. Just wanted to hear your opinion about that debate.

Schrock – I’ve had the same complaints from professors and students. It was also a big thing in the \_\_\_\_. I think Oberlin has an interesting policy. They include it in their student handbook saying this is what we recommend doing, but they don’t require it. That could be useful. We also thought about having a forum to see if programs and students could come to a consensus or an understanding where students are coming from. On an individual level, before having system wide things happening, I think talking to individuals is useful. If you wanted to come in, I would be more than happy to [speak with you]... At the same time, I don’t want someone to feel shut down and disempowered.

Pres- thank you so much for coming in. We’ll try to make it to as any events as possible.

El – Thank you

### 5 Reports

#### a. Student Life .....(7 min)

SL - this has been a heavy week. One good thing is the gender-neutral bathroom signs finally went up. I think there’s been a bit of, to cover misconceptions for the record...

Background- we put it through because we wanted to increase the amount of bathrooms, improve the signs that were already in existence because they were binary signs. Previous signs were a male icon and a female icon, and that was supposed to be

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gender neutral indicative. The new signs for the gender-neutral bathrooms are the new icons... that is, from what I’m told by the office of accessibility, the up to date version of what we should have in a bathroom, to indicate it’s wheelchair accessible. I think most of the dorms have them. I know Joss doesn’t because Joss itself the dorm isn’t [wheelchair accessible]. This has been a long time coming. I’m really happy to see them up. I think it’s a powerful indication of the work that has been done. If you helped out, thank you very much. We’re still going forward with that project with Judy. [We are] looking at how to move forward with the rest of the team... how to get into academic bathrooms that don’t have any bathrooms \_\_\_\_\_. So physics, they didn’t include that in the plans. So there’s going to be conversations with the staff of the building. Similar with the bridge building... it’s a big building [and] they’re working something out. With all future projects, we have gotten a premise. Although, I would like to see it in writing that there will be gender-neutral bathrooms. The work-study letter is great. Thank you to everyone who helped with it. Especially to Josh, he really helped a lot. We met with Cappy on Tuesday and she kind of did a surprising 180. It turns out it’s more of dean Rocky’s project, so she didn’t want to quote, “step o his toes” and agree to it because she didn’t feel it was appropriate to call him back from sabbatical. And since Eve isn’t in the same capacity, this is something that needs to wait until the fall. I’m planning on working with my successor and work on that because it’s really important. It’s such a small thing to make a big deal of but I do understand the precedent it would send for other orgs and leaderships to have work-study \_\_\_\_\_. I see it as an inconvenient step back. Ask me questions... still working on SVP student subcommittee video project. They’re going to give students who might not be comfortable in person the information to go through the process. Similarly, I have received some contacts from students who have experience with this, SAVP process and title nine and interpersonal violence. It does seem like these student \_\_\_\_\_ interest. That may be a project that other students might want to get involved in but I don’t have much information about it because that was just brought to my attention. There’s certainly room for improvement. I think that covers it, but if anyone has questions.

Noyes – I’m curious about the future promise for gender-neutral bathrooms, and I’m wondering in terms of the bookstore whether that’s something to discuss.

SL – I’m not sure if he said this last week at the meeting, to reiterate, that by code \_\_\_\_\_... code is really the issues with the bathrooms, not unwillingness to make them.

With sanders physics, we’re too far along with the project. With the Juliette Space, we

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have to put in a men’s and women’s rooms, but then whatever we decide to label them as is fine.

b. Academics.....(7 min)

Aca- student seminars are happening. I only hear from people if they’re not going well, and I haven’t heard from anyone so I’m going to assume it was fine. The majors fair went well, thank you \_\_\_\_\_. The new version of the CEQ... have a meeting for that on Thursday, closer to getting a new view \_\_\_ the past, probably going to get one by fall. The M\_\_\_\_\_ grant... the creative arts, we have a rep for that- it’s Alex; that meeting, I’m hoping went well. I had a meeting with CIS because one seminar was about Excel, and a lot of people signed up for it. Turns out, CIS has classes and they’re free. And they teach you things... I will send out a blurb for them. And according to them, no one ever uses it. Last thing, [there is the] continued effort of social consciousness component... document talking about what students want it, obviously you’re all welcome...

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

2015- would really like fro-yo... somewhere.  
Socos- [some people at the Socos have] complained about shuttle running and not running. It was appreciated that the email was set out [about the shuttles not running], [and we] would love more [of it].  
SL - I think Raymond brought this up, but I think there are still problems in the card \_\_\_\_ side...  
Ops - I spoke to Michael Cato about that and he’s going to make sure someone checks all the dorms and set a policy in place at least once a year, maybe a semester. There’s someone going around looking for it... He also asked people to report them to CIS.  
Another thing, I was sent a resolution that was apparently passed by freshman class council... [regarding] chipotle in the new bookstore space.  
THs- [It took me] 45 minutes to get to chipotle on Tuesday and it was a hassle... so THs also support that.  
2017 - ...would like it be noted that this was passed and forwarded on April 1<sup>st</sup>.  
However, if we inadvertently bring about the appearance of a Chipotle, we’re willing to move this forward.

6 Eligibility Amendment .....Operations (15 min)

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Ops – slightly different than the \_\_\_ in the agenda, can someone hand one to the misc. so basically the wording was really confusing on this amendment. We brought up this amendment in roughly this wording. The point is to make [this] policy be in life with res-life policy. They don’t want people holding res-life and \_\_\_\_\_, so we want to update our documents to reflect that. I thought \_\_\_ it was passed the week... I wasn’t there. This was early \_\_\_ kind of miscommunication. It was actually tabled to our committee. I take full responsibility for that. On the other hand, we should still pass this. This would make is so res-life positions can’t run for VSA positions; they could theoretically run for class or committee positions.

Pres – the reason it was tabled was because that was not super clear and there were people on council that were also student fellows and we decided we shouldn’t talk for them. The idea was to talk to... constituents, before passing it

Noyes - could you be a junior rep and also other positions?

Ops- actually class council and junior rep and all bodies...

2014 – cant run for...

Raymond –right now section f says that any student may not simultaneously hold... doesn’t that negate that even though we don’t want to...?

Ops – it should actually say \_\_\_\_\_. We made the amendment... we could accept that I made a typo it could say selected or elected... position, or house team.

2015 – so, if they’re already elected, they couldn’t hold that position... it’s assumed by the position. It’s not even a typo... It’s assumed, if you’re holding a res life...

Ops – oh yes

2014 – there are no res-life elected positions.

Raymond - suggestion instead of making this a separate point, section...

Ops – it doesn’t need to be a point. It’s...

Pres – there are no res-life elected positions.

Raymond – if we pass this, it’s replacing the point that house officers can’t be student fellows.

Ops – but it’s implied because it’s reversed.

Raymond – this is just about council; this amendment...

Socos – we were talking about the fact that I thought it was only applying to council because it was an issue of time commitment. You wouldn’t be holding \_\_\_\_ if you were Cushing treasurer. You could be a student fellow...

Pres – motion to table this to ops because it sounds like we haven’t fully resolved the issues

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2014 – elections purposes, wondering whether or not we should proceed with this rule as it is and conveyed to candidates via [the meeting]. [As] board of elections, [I’m] wondering what to do with this.

2015 – I move to pass or to vote on the amendment that was previously shown to council that’s currently in bylaws presented to people in elections and amend that later to be official.

Ops – that amendment makes 0 sense...

2015 – can we vote on it and fix it later?

2014 – ...not an issue not because there are not people running for the positions that have the res-life positions...

SL – that’s basically... wouldn’t the other thing say that? Would it stop student fellows from being floor fellows?

Raymond – no because we’re not controlling...

Ops – second to motion this to ops and I’ll meet with res-life to figure out what they want.

### 7 Open Discussion

2014 – sorry, you should have known. 48 days 8 hours 6 minutes and 1 second until May \_\_\_\_.

Shout out to class council and vice for 50 nights. Shout out to students who boarded the bus then left the bus without making security guard... [I think people] who punched security guards and broke things should do things to themselves that I would not like the Misc. to tweet.

Fin – 4 hours and 15 minutes until the annual budgeting apps will be do. For houses, please also apply for a budget. I recommend something similar to what you have then. If you have other plans, apply. Class councils, same thing, also submit a budget.

Noyes – annual budgeting, community works does that go under fund raising

2015 – you could it doesn’t really matter, but if you were to make an app, [it would be] useful to [the] history of the application. If you put it on there, [it wouldn’t hurt]. [A] fundraiser like

Challah for Hunger regularly puts how much they fundraise. That maybe helpful for the future

Fin – when in doubt, more information is more useful. Right after this finance committee, we will meet. We don’t need the proxies. Be nice to members of finance because we have many apps.

THs- we won the student-faculty basketful game. I played basketball... It was pretty well attended. And so that money is going to the senior gift. It’s in in my backpack.

Raymond – roaring 20’s this Friday 10 pm... [there will be] food, jazz, gambling...

Davison – sock-hop this Saturday... live it up. [There will be] milkshakes and other young stuff and a jukebox... 50’s...

Jewett – motion to adjourn.

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7:47 end