

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 7, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Rockefeller Hall 212

“The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.”-F. Scott Fitzgerald

1 Call to Order

Start: 7:07

2 AttendanceOperations

Proxies - 2017, 2018, Raymond

Absent - Town Students

3 EMS Fund App.....Finance (15 min)

Finance: EMS would need items soon, Carolina (President) and I decided it would be a good learning experience to make this decision as a council. Kevin is here from EMS, Kevin will have a chance to speak to application and give us information about the organization and why the funds would be necessary

EMS: Requesting \$2450.85 for CPR equipment. VCEMS requires CPR certification for members to join, so we try to host certification each year. We decided this year to have in-house training, 3 EMS members will become instructors, so we require equipment including mannequins, breathing masks, etc. which is why we are requesting that the VSA provide this funding

2015: Are you guys planning on using equipment owned by athletics?

EMS: They are charging rental fees, and we believe it would be more convenient to have our own equipment

Joss: Previously, was there a cost to students to be trained in CPR?

EMS: There was a large change in athletic department last year, so we had to hire outside services which didn't work with student schedules leading to low attendance, so we decided our own members could do in-house certification

Finance: Are you charging students for certification?

EMS: Because our primary goal is to provide certification for VCEMS, members will not be charged any costs, we want to encourage students to at least try EMS, so if they do even one shift they won't be charged, but if you do not fulfill that, we charge a standard \$25. \$5 to process...outside services, \$20 for instructor's time

President: Anyone else have a question?

Finance: Pros and Cons rundown, feel free to disagree. I think this is good use of the capital fund. Important that EMS has access to the resources it needs. This offers an added benefit to students looking to be certified, and it's good to offer this if athletics isn't. Drawback is this is very expensive, don't often see capital item purchases this large, but I believe benefits outweigh costs. Anyone else? I move to vote.

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President: Options are to abstain, vote in favor, or vote against. All in Favor? All. Motion passes.

4 Forum with Kelly Grab, VSA Advisor Kelly Grab (15 min)

President: Kelly, want to introduce yourself?

Kelly: I am house advisor of Lathrop and Jewett, a title IX investigator, work with equal opportunity..., health education, amongst others.

President: Kelly is our advisor this year. She serves as an additional resource, can offer opinions, and she can provide advice for a VSA issue. We will have her in occasionally to be involved. Any questions? No. Perfect.

5 Executive Board Reports

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

Activities: Yesterday activities fair was moved to Villard room, very short notice, went generally well, good turn-out. Opened up pre-org application last week, taking them for the next 2 weeks, we will then review with committee. Thursday afternoon the Activities council will meet.

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

Finance: I have successfully transferred all org budgets into accounts except those who haven't completed form submission. Treasurer training is next Tuesday at 6pm, Rocky 300, and Thursday at 7pm in Sanders Classroom. Every treasurer is required to attend. There will be pizza. Finance meeting will be sometime this week to go over funds and a budget overview, all funds are the same except for the recent EMS deduction.

Activities: Can you go over applications for each budget?

Finance: We haven't decided if we will roll over funds. We have \$80,000 leftover total. The only amount that needs to roll-over is capital so it can stay in the capital fund, it may not make sense to roll-over funds in other categories. A brief overview: Speakers start with \$50,000, discretionary \$65,000, social consciousness \$10,000, capital 50,000, conference has \$15,000.

President: Any questions? No.

6 Guiding Principles.....South Commons and 2016 (10 min)

2016: we wrote up guiding principles based on what we decided as a group. One big problem was improving accessibility and at large participation.

SoCos: We want to address supporting each other. We talked a lot about how Villard room parties shouldn't be the norm.

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2016: We wrote to work more with Poughkeepsie and other/sister institutions to foster better relationships.

Socos: We want to be more approachable and not standoffish to outside members.

Pres: I move to pass guiding principles. All in favor? All. We have adopted the resolution.

7 First Year Elections Timeline.....BOEA and Operations (10 min)

BOEA: Operations and I have been working on timelines, mostly made by board BOEA with feedback from Operations. First year elections made this Wednesday, follow the format of previous elections timelines, almost identical to two years ago. Mandatory candidates meeting between filing and campaigning, and we will also have an interest meeting during filing so people can figure out what the VSA is before they have a chance to file. List of open positions is listed on VSA website.

President: We will now vote on this. Anyone abstaining? No. All in favor? All. Motion passes.

8 Declaration of Open Positions.....BOEA and Operations (5 min)

BOEA: A lot of positions become open due to transferring students, resigning, etc. We have a timeline to fill these positions. All open positions are listed. Basically, there are 6 days of filing for positions, and appointments will be next Sunday, between 3pm-7pm, depending on how long we think the meeting will take. The email will go out tonight if you approve.

Operations: Town students will be filled by appointment because president resigned a few days ago, but we will address this in emails.

Activities: What is the reasoning behind appointment and not election?

BOEA: At first Town Students failed to host an election, no applications, and then not enough voters. Less than 10 people were voting, so it seems that it would be more efficient and easier to make an appointment. It would be simpler, less emails and less of a burden. All positions on the VSA website are listed as open if open.

President: We have to vote if we will officially fill Town Students President position by appointment.

Operations: I move to appoint town president by appointment.

President: All in favor? All but activities. Activities is opposed. Passed.

9 Appointment of Raymond President.....Operations (5 min)

BOEA: After 2 week period of filing, 2 candidates applied, we had interviews and talked to house team, but we did successfully come to a conclusion. We want to make a note, we seriously considered not nominating a president, because house teams perception of the role challenged the opportunity for a fair decision, basically in the future we will recommend you

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follow our recommendations, because this appointment came across as demeaning... that being said we find this person fully capable.

Activities: Why this candidate versus the other? We don't know the background and didn't see applications.

BOEA: Our role is slightly more substantial, VSA has discretion, but we are supposed to make the independent decision.

Finance: Moving forward, we shouldn't be consenting to consent agenda without having anything in front of us. I'm not comfortable approving anything that I don't have any insight on.

Cushing: can we make distinction between consent agenda, I don't get what our role is if BOEA is making autonomous decisions.

BOEA: If you believe we didn't make the best decision, then you can make a different decision.

President: I think people are concerned because we don't have enough information.

Cushing: If we don't know about other applicants, how can we make decision?

President: We never saw applications.

BOEA: I can speak to candidates. We found both would operate slightly differently, current president seemed like a strong leader and we also thought the opposing candidate was more reserved, and we thought he might not be able to integrate as well into an already formed house team, but both were qualified.

Socos: Can you explain the house team difficulties?

BOEA: It was a tense discussion, we noticed questions being asked were very leading and one-directional based on the candidate, we thought there may have been some scheming ahead of time based on how to approach the appointment, it wasn't ideal because of this.

Activities: I move to appoint ... as Raymond House President.

President: Abstain? 2015, Davison, THs, Operations, Main, Ferry, Activities, Finance, Jewett, Noyes.

Socos: What is difference between no and abstaining?

Finance: I am abstaining and I am uncomfortable with the process, I can't consent to something I don't know about . But I am not saying no because I don't disapprove of this candidate.

President: You abstain if no matter who the candidate was, you wouldn't vote.

BOEA: Worth noting, if logistically feasible, we would have preferred an election.

Operations: Can one option be to table this?

Finance: We already started voting.

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President: All in favor? Activities, Student Life, Strong, Joss, Cushing, 2016, 2018, 2017.

Opposed? None. Motion does not pass.

BOEA: I move to consider this as a consent agenda, where abstain and consent is the same.

Cushing: What I am proposing is to table this until everyone on council feels comfortable with all the things we know about both candidates, and that is in the hands of board of elections. I really hope that that will happen before next week.

2017: We could vote. In order for this process to be fair, an election should have occurred. Us tabling will just drive the process on, and Raymond house has been functioning without a president for a long time...

2015: A lot of us are just not comfortable with a lack of information, tabling will only work if we can get the candidates in here.

BOEA: This would mean at least another week without a house president for Raymond.

Activities: This is something we voted on, the rest of executive board doesn't have the applications.

BOEA: Operations has the applications.

Operations: Suggestion, can we take a 15 minute recess so people can read the applications? We can allow you to look at them in a 15 minute recess.

President: All in favor of 15 min recess? All. All opposed? None. We will restart at 7:55.

7:55

President: Did everyone have an opportunity to read applications?

Main: I move to vote in favor of appointment.

President: Abstaining- Raymond, Socos, Finance. Motion passed. President appointed.

10 Open Discussion

Finance: Again, treasurer training is coming up, make sure every treasurer is there. If you would also like to come or send another house team member, feel free to come.

BOEA: You will get an email to ask if you are interested in joining a council.

Activities: ViCE is meeting in 2 minutes in the Villard Room.

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At Large: I just want to bring up a point. Calling it a "consent agenda" is an inappropriate title because we are consenting in absence of a "no."

Student Life: Meetings will be Mondays 7pm in the LBGTQ lounge. Recent changes to campus dining that many people are talking about but few people understand. 3 administrators got together and decided that they would take away guest swipes and add dining bucks. Also, enforcement of a long-existing policy for using personal swipes only for yourself has been enforced this year. Come to Student Life committee if you are interested. Also come to open debate about campus dining. Free pizza.

Academics: We will meet Tuesdays at 8pm in VSA office, may move somewhere else, you should come if you are interested, which you should be because you're in college.

Operations: Committee will be discussing BOEA this week, including at large members. Meetings are Tuesdays at 7pm in VSA office, may move somewhere else eventually.

Jewett: As member of operations last year when BOEA was being created, for the future, the point of an appointment is to outsource the process, so by voting for that we gave up our involvement, so it's kind of pointless to argue it now.

2015: Serenading is Saturday. There will be a dunk tank, slip and slides, lots of water balloons, good music. It will begin at 12:30 in Noyes circle, concert at 7pm on the quad.

Main: House presidents, we should all say hi to new Raymond president, exchange numbers.

Activities: Motion to adjourn.

President: All in favor? All. Adjourned.

End: 8:00pm