

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Council Agenda for September 14, 2014

*Time: 7:00pm*

*Location: Rockefeller Hall 210*

“I am deliberate and afraid of nothing.”-Audre Lorde

1 Call to Order

Start: 7:02

2 Attendance.....Operations

Absent: 2018, Town Students

3 Overview of Motions Guide..... Operations (5 min)

Operations: You will see that we now have a council motions guide, adopted from Robert's Rules of Order. I'm going to go through them all quickly: to end is motion to adjourn, to take a break is to move to recess, etc. (see motions guide). Most are fairly self explanatory, refer to this at all times during each meeting. I noticed last week that a lot of people waited to raise their placard until someone else was done speaking, but you don't need to wait. You can raise it at any time and will be put on the speakers list. We will go down the list in order. President: If at any point you are confused, you can just ask how to do something. If debate is going on, feel free to make a motion to vote; if you are ready to go, go for it. Once a motion to vote has been made, you can only speak to that motion. Thought that would be helpful to go over.

4 Executive Board Reports

a. Operations.....(7 min)

Operations: We had our first real meeting last week on Tuesday in cc240. We are going over the BOEA and their process to see if we want to make changes or add policies, and we are all bringing proposals about that for this week. Additionally, the shuttle is running from 1pm-9pm every hour on the hour on Saturdays. Tasty Tuesdays have begun, and also the operations committee is thinking of doing an audit for the VSA.

Activities: I've heard some people talking about the shuttle operating on Sundays, is that true?

Operations: No, at least not my shuttle.

Joss: What is an audit?

Operations: Basically, two students called for an external audit of the VSA, meaning a group comes in to examine our structure and make suggestions, tell us what we are doing well and what to improve... Academic departments do it once in a while.

b. Student Life.....(7 min)

Student Life: Major updates, BIRT is now meeting weekly, and taking a more proactive approach to bias incidents on campus. Title IX legally requires some sort of survey to be distributed about campus climate and rates of sexual assault sometime in the next few years. We are being proactive and conducting it this year. I am working with Renee Pabst,

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interim SAVP coordinator, on constructing a survey that will be used to look at rates of interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus. Also, there is a large campus climate conference happening at Wesleyan that I may be attending.

Main: Have there been any discussions or movements about the situation with ACDC?

Student Life: Yes. We talked about this on the committee. A campus dining review committee met in 2010, and they did a full review of the ACDC, collected all this data and nothing really came of that. This year we will be going through that data to see what they found and we will be working with administration. This year there will be a review of campus spaces, spurred by the moving of the bookstore to the Juliet space. We will look at the data and see what we can do. That will be a major initiative of the committee.

5 Special Meeting Rules ..... Operations (10 min)

Operations: Basically, you'll find the rules starting on the second page of your agenda packet. They are the rules under which our VSA council meetings operate. Basically, it is Robert's Rules of Order condensed so they apply to us. The only change we made was that last week an at-large member brought up the consent agenda being called a consent agenda and the lack of affirmative consent associated with that, so we changed the name to the consensus agenda. This means that things are approved by consensus and not through voting. Does anyone have any questions or want to add to that?

Activities: What does this change?

Operations: Nothing procedurally, just the name.

Cushing: Clarification, I think this is really important because of every issue related to consent. Again, the absent of the no would not mean consent in life, so that's why we made the change.

Operations: I move to adopt the special meeting rules.

President: All in favor? All. All opposed? None. Special Meeting Rules are adopted.

6 Assorted Appointments and Related Business .....BOEA (10 min)

BOEA: I have a story for y'all. I keep it lively, as it turns out, there were a number of appointments we were supposed to make today, and with the closing deadline being so soon, we had no time to schedule all of the interviews. I was stuck in the city until like ten minutes ago, so I haven't heard from BOEA yet, so we can't discuss... oh yes, I have it all now. So, let's go ahead and... can we list this out as, say, a consensus agenda?

President: Sure.

BOEA: For 2017 treasurer, there were two candidates, we are nominating Kentaro Kaneki. For 2017 judicial board one of the candidates didn't show up to the interview, so we are

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going to give them a chance before deciding. TH treasurer, Michelle Foreman, she's already had an interest and previous financial experience and originally was in the position but then resigned to run for president, so we believe she's qualified. Now for the unopposed, for Town Students Cara Hunt, she's really excited to represent the Town Students. For programming director, who wants to work on connecting the Vassar community to the Poughkeepsie community, Taylor Pratt. For Raymond fall junior representative, Jonathan Stark. Strong house treasurer for the fall semester only, Rachel Mesbauer. She's interested in house team, and had some experience before. That is what I have. Can we consensus?

Activities: A question for Strong. How did you operate without a treasurer, and how do you think it will work having one for just half of the year?

Strong: I'm not excited, I think it will be extremely difficult transitioning between semesters given the nature of the role. It has been difficult running without it already, I've basically been doing all of it and the p-card will be in my name. We split delegations when buying things without a p-card. I understand the reasoning behind nominating the treasurer, but I wonder whether people who will be here all year decided not to run because they knew she had experience.

Operations: Two questions to Strong and the BOEA. Would it be feasible to leave it open for another week to let more applications come in?

Strong: I would be okay with it. I feel bad speaking without house team, but personally I would like that.

BOEA: It is probably better to try to fill positions even if just for half the year but I don't think there is any problem leaving it open for another week.

President: Are there any others who feel strongly about voting on Strong singularly? We will now vote on a consensus agenda for the first six positions, then vote on the strong treasurer after. Does anyone object to any of the first six positions. No? Perfect. They are all in. Now we will go to the strong treasurer. Options are to abstain, vote to table for a week, vote to elect her, or vote no on her forever. That was harsh, but that is the situation right now.

Abstain: Strong, 2017, Cushing, Joss

In favor of tabling for a week: Raymond, Main, Lathrop, Davison, THs, 2015, South Commons, Finance, Activities, Operations, Academics, Jewett, Terrace Apartments, Noyes Ferry

In favor now: Student Life

Never: 2016

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Tabling for a week wins, we will come back to this in a week.

BOEA: Over the course of past few weeks, I realized I have too much on my plate. I am going to be resigning, but I will stay until the end of the freshman applications and until they find my replacement.

### 7 Consent Agenda Amendment ..... 2017 (10 min)

2017: The amendment is putting into bylaws the exact same thing we did with the special meeting rules. There are three times where consent agenda is referred to as a "consent agenda", so this amendment would replace all three instances of the word "consent" with the word "consensus". So can I suspend the bylaws that make us wait a week to adopt this?

Operations: Normally with an amendment, we present it one week and vote the next week. Basically we want to suspend that and vote now.

President: Abstaining? None. All in favor? All but finance. All opposed? Finance. It passes, so we will suspend the bylaw. Next, will anyone want to vote?

\_\_\_\_\_: I move to vote.

President: Abstaining? None. All in favor? all. All opposed? none. Now it is the consensus agenda.

### 8 Open Discussion

Cushing: I was just wondering about BOEA and how they are going to present themselves in council and what their role is going to be. I wanted to know when we would discuss that.

Operations: This Tuesday, hopefully something will come of that.

Activities: Props to 2015 for serenading. It is not easy to make events fun, especially working with a bunch of new people in the first two weeks of year, great job.

Finance: We have a little bit of an issue. Exec made the decision to be more flexible about who can sit on each committee, since it didn't work well last year when we made the decision to make people sit on committees that they didn't want to sit on. Because of this, however, there are very few individuals sitting in on finance. This poses a very big problem because this very small committee controls \$800,00. This year we decided to have an open committee. Regardless, it is the responsibility of the individuals in this room to make sure that we use that money appropriately. I recommend that you try to come to the committee meeting if you have time on Wednesday. This is something that I feel is particularly important and I know other people feel this is important as well.

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TAs: Thanks everyone who helped out yesterday, and all of class council did a really good job yesterday.

2015: Yes, thanks guys, that was very impressively exuberant considering it was pouring rain.

Student Life: I want to tack on to what Finance was saying about the number of council members on finance, we talked in the executive meeting about this and wanted to bring it to all of you. Sometimes the finance committee causes controversy, and I think it creates an icky situation if we don't agree with decisions finance made if only a few of us were there when the decision was made. It can create a weird divide between decisions we make in council and decisions the finance committee is making.

Cushing: Because of prior commitments I can't make it to the meeting, but is it possible to send a proxy if someone on house team is interested in being on finance as a proxy of Cushing?

Finance: I appreciate the offer, but we are going to have more than enough people with the open positions. I think that the distribution of our funding... a certain type of person sits on council, and though we are all different in council, the greater community is even more different. Ultimately you are the ones who have to approve of funding. There have been more than a few times where someone has not been happy and we all have to answer to that. Probably the biggest grievance someone has is when they don't get money for something. If we don't take part we kind of lose our authority to make those decisions. I think I can do it alone, I know I can, but I have a very different mindset then you all have so this is something that I don't want to do by myself.

President: Congrats Strong, you had tons of spirit. I also want to reiterate the issue isn't not having enough people on finance. People believe that we have agency on these decisions, and if someone comes in and Finance is the only one to speak to an issue, it limits the perspective on the issue. That's one of the reasons I was interested in the VSA, after sitting in on the finance committee. You really do get to work with students and create change, something to consider.

Operations: Thanks for being patient about the rooming situation, we will be back in the CCMPR.

Activities: I move to adjourn.

President: All in favor? all. All opposed? none. Meeting adjourned.

End: 7:33pm