

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for February 8, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

I'm convinced of this: Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. For a change, start by speaking to people rather than walking by them like they're stones that don't matter. As long as you're breathing, it's never too late to do some good." -

Maya Angelou

1 Call to Order

Start: 7:05

2 Attendance.....Operations

3 Consensus Agenda

- a. Barefoot Monkeys (Capital) \$1250.50/\$1250.50
- b. VPI (Speakers)\$2060/\$2060
- c. Filmmakers (Speakers).....\$200/\$200
- d. VARC (Conference)..... \$957.70/\$957.70
- e. Jewett 2017 Rep – Ryan Farley
- f. Strong Vice President – Mary Talbot
- g. Committee on College Life 2015 Rep – Tyler Fultz
- h. Minutes From 2/1/15

Finance: Finance committee had our first meeting since we've been back, going through fund apps. The Barefoot Monkeys needed equipment and toys. We agreed, but this is the last fund app they can submit to the capital fund this year because they have been using it heavily, but everyone loves the Barefoot Monkeys, and it is going to good use. VPI needed money for the Greenhaven reunion, which you can read about in the paragraph, which is being co-sponsored by the Africana Studies department. Squirm didn't show up so they didn't get anything, but they are coming back Wednesday supposedly. Filmmakers are doing a film screening of the movie Wild Canaries, and also want to bring the writer, producer, and director team all for \$200 so we will see if that happens. VARC is going to attend the 14th annual Institute for Critical Animal Studies North American conference. Those are all of the fund apps. Any questions, comments, concerns?

President: Does anyone else have concerns about things on the consensus agenda? Does someone want to talk about the appointments?

Jewett: This morning we had interviews for the Jewett 2017 Rep. Both applicants were good interviews, and they were very comparable in substance, but we felt Ryan had a slightly stronger application, so we went with him. In terms of the Strong position, we only had one application, who is the current treasurer, but that is an issue for the future. It was a good application, and Mary has been fulfilling that role anyway. For CCL 2015, Tyler was the only applicant, but it was phenomenal, so we went ahead and appointed him for that position.

President: We will assume that the consensus agenda has been approved, and congrats to the new people who have approved. Next we have a forum with Luis Inoa, the Director of Residential Life. You can go wherever you want, wherever feels best.

4 Forum with Luis Inoa..... (30 min)

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Luis Inoa: Sorry, I am just coming from home. From shoveling and making food and my kids.

President: So can you just give an overview of what you do?

Luis Inoa: So I am the Director of Residential Life, as well as the Assistant Dean of Students. This is my 10th year, and I am happy to be able to say that. I am responsible for all things residential life here, and try to navigate relationship and partnership with Buildings and Grounds, working with various offices, the Dean of Students, counseling, health education, Baldwin. The residential house fellow program, which existed in the mid 50s, and was created after a survey because faculty were concerned with the social life of the students. So it received funding, and the program has existed since. Soon after, the student fellow position came, but it was not under residential life. It was actually under the Dean of Freshmen, and it really wasn't since I got here that it became formally under res life, as well as, the notion of house teams developed 10 years ago, where officers used to work separately from student fellows, so there have been a few things in my time that I have helped evolve, and have seen changed. Part of my role, and I don't try to use language like "change res life" here, but help evolve res life. I take what it is at its core and am responsible for evolving it to the changing student body.

2016: I don't want to bring up a sore subject, but my class was really greatly affected by the housing crisis, so could you speak a little about what happened?

Luis Inoa: The easiest way to explain, there were 191 juniors abroad in the fall, and only 84 abroad in the spring, and we have never had that kind of discrepancy before. While, the number we were aware of mid-fall semester, we've had, the number has always been greater in the fall than in the spring, and there is always concern if there will be enough singles for all the juniors, and maybe this was naive but we usually just believe everything will work out, was one. Second one, which I will own, and we have learned from, is that, fall semester was, there were other things happening on campus, which were our priorities, and while we understood that there was an issue, we knew we weren't in the place to figure out how to handle it until we could finish the semester. At that point, an email could have been sent out to the community, but we hesitated until we had accurate information, and a really strong feel for how many rooms were available. Our office from time to time will send out information that isn't complete, which also causes frustration, so we opted to wait since we had already had waited. If I had to do it all over, even in the middle of a crisis, I would certainly take time to write to juniors, to maybe tell them to take a look at the local real estate market outside of Vassar. To date, outside of juniors that opted to live together, those placed with sophomores are either in line to find a single or have already moved into a single, and we are working on consolidating freshmen and sophomores to open up doubles for juniors to go into. We are still working, but it should be all set in the next week and a half, two weeks.

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Finance: Mine is unrelated. So, exec this past week met with a person from SJP consulting, concerning the new director of security position, and asked him about patrols in dorms and in other colleges.

While it is pretty common in the US, it is uncommon in liberal arts colleges, so I did some research, and it is particularly uncommon within our peer institutions to have security patrol in dorms. Instead, security doesn't enter dorms unless called, so it is exclusively student patrol, and I was wondering, maybe this isn't a question for you, but, If you could explain why this is the system we've opted to have.

Luis: That didn't just, that was in place when I got here, and evolved maybe in some ways. There were antiquated notions of the white angels. There was once only one way into a house, and at that point someone said hello to you, and if they didn't know you, if they didn't recognize you, you had to explain why you were coming in. Sometimes these desk attendants were joined by security, present with a security officer, and any behavior that they noticed, like the amount of beer a student had, the number of guests, or even just noticed you haven't left the building in a few days, they were responsible for approaching and confronting students on those behaviors. But it was not the same kind of documented process we have today. So I imagine it was an evolution of that, when the white angels went away, the security officers went away from being in the building, and in a part of checking to make sure students were secure and make sure students were meeting expectations set forth by the college. I don't know what is on table in terms of a conversation with security, and I don't know if that patrol remains a priority, and folks know that I think that if there is a departure from security in that way, that would mean, what that would mean would be for student to be responsible for those things. Most schools have someone, something, documenting or at least confronting students on behavior. If we moved in that direction, we would have a conversation with security, but until then, part of it is a gap in terms of accountability that we have to wrestle with.

Town Students: Also, there might be the issue, other schools have RAs who have to file reports of misconduct, so it is obvious, we don't want security in dorms, but maybe if they were not there, we would have to put another system in place, which would entail students reporting other students, which introduces a new dynamic.

Jewett: I heard recently that res life is forming an ad-hoc committee to look into the future directions of res life. Is that true, and if it is, why has it not been publicized?

Luis: So I am working right now with Ramy and Chris Roelke, and am going to forward my proposal to Ramy to bring to the operations committee, and then we want to be banking on the Dean of the College. I guess it would be a task force, a group that would gather throughout this semester and next, and look at the job of the floor fellow and whether to expand that position, and think of the role of student fellows, and look at compensation models, because we are antiquated in that, and look at house fellow effectiveness, and I imagine this conversation with security that Max bringing up, what

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does student accountability look like, and what would does it mean to create an inclusive space and does student structure have to change to support the changing student body? But we haven't been meeting secretly, and we certainly have the idea to have representatives. We want to have another House Advisor present, House Fellows present, maybe folks outside of the res life model that have been here and witnessed the system from the outside, some staff folks ,and have conversations about what would it would look like to have students take part in that environment.

Student Life: Could you speak a little to what is going on with House Advisors right now, where we are now, and where we will be in the future?

Luis: So in 2008 there was the economic crisis, some positions were lost, and at that point we thought it worthwhile to look at the partnership model, and we developed halftime positions, and then have internal folks, and this year we started to have a halftime person working on campus life, actually last year, so, one of the commitments Cappy made, was to add an FTE, not add one full time House Advisor, but to add someone within the Dean of the College, and that would relieve one of those duties. I feel confident that is what it is going to be, and what that means for other offices, that is something we still have to work through. There is an important meeting happening in the next week or two, and we go to NASPA to recruit for House Advisors in the middle of March, so we have to be ready by then, and if you need me to report back to you soon I can do that. I anticipate 5 full time House Advisors.

President: My question was, there was a lot of talk about the dynamics on house team between elected versus appointed members, so what are new things going on in terms of changing house team dynamics?

Luis: Most significantly, there was the behavioral agreement, or should I say understanding of expectations, and I think that will go a long way, with the amount of time spent talking about those expectations during training, and then following those up with more conversations, I think we don't have to be having those anymore. I am not saying that those conversations aren't worth talking about, but the amount of time spent was too much. Beyond that, on our end, we have to, think about what training is going to look like for officers because I don't think we made enough strides to make sure training had a particular track for house officers. The presidents have decent understanding of their role and its significance, and in their responsibilities working with the VSA, so making sure Class Reps and treasurers and secretaries have a really good understanding of their job post training. But nothing is really definitive yet. That would be a good conversation to have with y'all, but y'all change, and I'll still be here. So I am a vehicle to provide continuity for those offices.

President: This is a follow up to the behavioral agreement conversation, I think most of the tension was from a lack of communication between res life and the VSA, there hadn't really been any conversation,

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and that has been an issue for a while, there is not a lot of communication for whatever reason, so any thoughts on how to change that?

Luis: Meeting more regularly might be helpful, that process started because we were told we didn't need to be so engaged. The VSA came to me, and me after doing it 10 years, I can understand it looks one-sided, but for me, this has been a ten year conversation with the VSA.

President: I guess, this conversation needs to happen on both sides, and we need to create a a better overall understanding... select group in it.

Luis: It is like that saying, a butterfly flaps its wings and creates an earthquake, or a tornado, or something like that. A number of years ago the advisory board disbanded because it wasn't seen as a viable committee by the VSA. It was responsible for looking at policies and practices and programs, like an ad-hoc task force, and that group was working on something like this. I don't know the answer, because you all have a lot on your plate anyway, but that might be something to look at, if there is a need to have a more formal body that meets with Luis and is given interactions with res life, having students and a desire to represent.

Strong: So, my house last semester experienced a lot of hardship around fire alarms, but recently we had another one caused by burnt popcorn, and it brought up some insecurities, so I guess what I am looking for, what I want to know, with the incessant fire alarm, not necessarily a danger but potential danger, the threat of something happening, what is the backup plan, where are we supposed to go or do... what is going to happen if an entire building is on fire, if something like that is going to happen?

Luis: So this is a question of if a fire occurs?

Strong: Yes, or if something like that occurs again and makes it impossible for students to work or sleep. We were told to try to get into another room for a couple of weeks, but we couldn't do that for an entire house. Dorms are overrun with people right now, there is no room for juniors coming back from abroad. So if something happened where are we going to put everybody?

Luis: On our end, at a more typical capacity, we have had floors displaced, and have had enough room, but there are some beds we are able to utilize, and we would have to look at a partnership with the Days Inn, to put students out there, and look at whether or not we, I don't know what we would do, probably a partnership with local hotels, because putting students in cots in Walker is not ideal for being able to do work. So, where we were at with juniors, we were in a place of looking at the alumni house, the Days Inn, is that what you are asking? Then after that we would have a conversation with the Dean of the College, the Dean of Studies, how to ensure that students can get work done. Raymond this past week experienced roof leaks, four students temporarily displaced, because with the amount of snow and the age of buildings, it impacts the structure. But if it happened for a significant number of students, it would be a crisis.

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Operations: So, totally unrelated, but has there been talk of future house renovations?

Luis: That might be, you know, pre-2008, the plan was to shut down a building every other year, but post-2008, Lathrop and Strong have been renovated to build new bathrooms and so on, but given the number of commitments financially the institution has right now... ideally, I would know, but I don't know that right now. If I had to guess, I would think that would be delayed another year. I know that with the master planning, that will have an impact and give guidance for renovations and the timeline.

Jewett: Returning to what the president was saying, communication between res life and the VSA.

Personally, I think the relationship between House Advisors and House Presidents is important, and a good way to communicate, but with the behavioral agreement, it felt like House Advisors were giving out different information, so in moving forward, the relationship between the VSA and res life would be much better if there was more unified information given to us. Just a suggestion.

Luis: The flow of information, from committee to constituents, can always, in translations, language can be left out, and so, I should be thinking critically about a way to standardize that communication. Making sure the language is, "this is exactly what I want said."

2017: This is a two-part question. I live in Noyes, which is the context in which I am asking, is there a long term plan to fix the front door rather than put bandages on it? It has gone through periods of being broken, then repaired, but we are never sure how long it is going to be fixed. Last semester the front door was open almost 24/7, because the latch wasn't working. Any plan to fix that?

Luis: I am looking into it. For me, outside of that, we will be working with Buildings and Grounds and the CIS. Which part? Is it the cardswipe? Or the latch, and the locking mechanism?

Noyes: I am not sure exactly.

Luis: I have to work with both departments, and it is an ongoing issue that will be resolved soon.

Related to Noyes, it is a unique building, it has its own endowment, and we are working with the budgets office, not for things like fixing the front door, which we are responsible for, but for places like the MPR and looking to see if we can renovate the furniture.

2017: So my second question has a little more to do with that. Is there any time in the foreseeable future, where someone will do a deep clean of Noyes? It hasn't been completely cleaned in a long time, and everyone sorted into Noyes doesn't have the chance to opt out of sharing their room during breaks. Is that something that is being looked at to be discussed?

Luis: We won't be able to give it the break it needs. Something we changed last year, students are allowed to stay in their rooms for spring break. But depending on residents leaving, we may have the opportunity to clean common areas, hallways, and we will be addressing that during spring break, and be back in there in the summer. On my end, I am working with folks for reunion, and summer

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programs, to find a way to maybe give Noyes a break, and let it be for a summer. It would be beyond deep cleaning, to make the space right.

At-Large: A quick question in regards to summer services, summer programming, what is your office thinking about for the upcoming summer for students who choose to be here and work, what does the college do in the case of a heat advisory issue in the city or town, for those who choose to live on campus?

Luis: We will continue to provide that. Students participating in those programs have a nice break from cost, do work, and it is an opportunity for students to gather, an feedback has been positive. The more guidance leadership and the House Advisor provides, the better the program is. We are certainly looking to maintain that. Heat advisory. Great question. So we don't have ACs. What we've done in previous summers, we make spaces available that have central air, like UpC. Not to sleep in, but to hang out for as long as they can. We can think through that a bit more. One of the downsides, a plus for Noyes is the great kitchenettes. A downside is the MPR, the windows don't make it easy to put in units. We looked into it and it was too costly.

At-large: Just curious if there is a policy, to provide a space of comfort for as long as possible?

Luis: That isn't something we send out until we're in it. But we know it is going to be hot.

At-large: One of the questions, I am a member of CARES, and we have received different responses from different people, with what happened with the juniors, do respite rooms still exist as a resource?

Luis: Respite rooms typically are meant to be rather temporary, where students can be quarantined. For the most part students in singles, it works out. If you're talking about a space someone can have for a night we can use that space, but typically with what we are working with, those moves could be longer term, so if you are asking if there is a little space to move, one or two rooms we are holding off on right now that we have available. As we indentify sophomores and freshmen that can be consolidated, we will have open 3 or 4. We want to be able to hold them. There is one room right now.

Town Students: I am just wondering, has there been feedback from people in the community about noise complaints?

Luis: It has been good, but it is also cold, and snowy. and so, maybe along the same lines, let's try to get together pre-spring break, and talk about what that is going to look like post-spring break, because we can anticipate some folks will come down looking for something to do, so to be proactive about that.

President: Thank you for coming in, that was super informative.

Student Life: So a good and bad thing, I mentioned that we are holding focus groups for the Title IX surveys, and tonight there was supposed to be one for the SAAC, however zero people showed up, so we had pizza to be there as an incentive, because we have money for pizza and VCash for those who participated. But zero people showed up, so here is the pizza we got.

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President: Let's wait to the end to pass it out.

Student Life: It hasn't been hot since 6pm.

5 Executive Board Reports

a. Finance.....(7 min)

Finance: Hi everyone. So, I want to go through fund levels since this is the first report of the semester. In the Discretionary Fund, we spent \$20,000. I don't know how much money is in it, because it is determined by semester, and is filled after all of the accounts are filled from student account fees, but it is usually around \$55,000. So we have not spent a lot of it. The Collaboration fund, we spent \$3,000, and it has \$10,000 in it. The Capital Fund starts with \$50,000 and also has rollover. We've spent \$28,000 which is more than half, but less than half of the total fund which is \$80,000 including rollover. We have never spent that down, because we don't need \$50,000 on stuff every year. But something that has not hit that fund yet, \$6000 we gave to the Mug to replace speakers. If you have been down their recently, the speakers are awful, so we are replacing them. It was done through a kind of weird process whereby we decided since it is a student space we are responsible for it. We also gave \$10,000 to the Shiva because their endowment ran out. In the Speakers/Lecturers/Panels Fund there is \$50,000 every year and we spent \$17,000. In the Conference Fund there was \$12,000, we spent \$8000. And we can transfer money in between funds, too. In Social Consciousness Fund, there was \$10,000, and we spent \$6000 which is fantastic because historically we have never spent more than \$2000. So what I am hoping this means, we have spent more on social consciousness than in the past. Which is a nice idea. In the Community Fund we have \$10,000 and spent \$3000. That is also surprising, because we usually spend no more than \$2000 a year. It is only eligible for fund apps designed to engage with the Poughkeepsie community, so you can see why it is not usually in use, because for some reason we don't engage with the Poughkeepsie community often. Those are our funds. So I read a bunch of numbers, and let me give my interpretation. I can share a file with everyone else. Basically, it is not good not to spend money. We all come from the idea that we want to save, but with this we don't want to save. This is money students have to utilize this year in order put on programming events, and if we don't use it, we have kind of ripped off the student body. We have done better than in previous years, and the finance committee is working really hard. We rarely deny funding. We only deny if it does not fall in line appropriately with the fund, but we have not yet had to make judgment calls based on what we thought was best for the campus. I am tired of orgs saying "We'd love to do this if we had the money". You should be putting on programming, so if anyone thinks of great speakers, submit a fund app. I am going to for the first time ever hold spring treasurer training, which will be mandatory, to go over this, and how to engage the student body with the money here. I want to increase programming. I have been talking to exec all semester, and thought it

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would be appropriate to bring up now. We have been carrying a surplus years, and the exact numbers I don't know. But I think it is inappropriate to be taking money and not using it. If we are not able to increase programming in a meaningful way, we should cut the student accounts fee or have it sent somewhere else. Because it is disheartening that we are underfunded in important offices and departments and for some reason the VSA has more money than we know what to do with.

Next, there will be a SIRC meeting, next Tuesday. They will be discussing the divestment proposition, before their board meeting with the Board of Trustees. They've contacted the Greens and other interested parties. It states that it would like the school to divest from all direct investments in the fossil fuel industry. We have direct investments and non-direct investments which are invested in funds, and we can't touch those. We can remove ourselves from the fund but can't tell the managers what to invest in because that is their job and they are good at it. But we have discretionary control over fossil fuels, and can choose to invest in something else. I can bring a copy of the proposal. Any questions about SIRC or divestment?

Great. So, we, the finance committee underwent restructuring. One aspect, I believe the VP for Finance position is too powerful, and has too little oversight, and no one on council goes through our minutes or audits me, so in essence the finance committee is under the VP for Finance, which means one person makes decisions for \$750,000. So I wanted to appoint a co-chair, to have a balance of power there. But he decided to step down, it was Reuben. So, but he's not abandoning us. The second most challenging position is the treasurer for ViCE, which was Casey, and he left. So Reuben stepped in there. So the finance committee will have a rotating chair. Each member will take turns. We will discuss further and I will give an update. Also, if that doesn't work out we will do something else. We are very flexible. We also have open positions, since some people went abroad. We have a bunch of open positions, and I will send out an application. I think finance committee is qualified to choose those people. If people would like to see applications, shoot me an email, and can absolutely do so. I think that is everything.

Cushing: Something I want to ask about, that my treasurer told me, that not all of our spending from last semester has been processed. And he has probably done what he needed to do because he is awesome and I know he would. So when that will be in? we need to know for event planning. For example, we spent more than was dropped from our budget.

Finance: All the numbers I have are from the finance committee and accurate, but essentially we don't do the administrative work. We send requests, and the numbers go to accounting and the controller's office and various other departments, and they are responsible for transferring money, updating accounts, and writing checks. That doesn't fall under us. Essentially because of the lessening of employment, everything is moving slowly. I get questions like this every day, when things will be

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updated on the dashboard, but it will be taking a lot more time. But it is better than cutting financial aid. That is the only answer I have. All the money in your accounts is like, theoretical. It is just a number that is there. As long as you know how much is supposed to be there, you can spend without us updating the dashboard. If your treasurer keeps track as they all should, it shouldn't be a problem that we are not updating. We are the only school with a dashboard. It is just that the process works more slowly and we don't have people working on it every day. The Controller's Office and Accounts office do everything for the whole school. Only one person does that, for everyone. So there are a lot of checks all the time. I wish more could be done, but it can't.

TAs: A small thing, I get the budget emails every week, and those haven't been updated.

Finance: I don't know how to stop them, I contacted CIS, but those are not correct.

TAs: Can a president view the current balance?

Finance: You can create a dashboard account, or ask your treasurer, or you can email me.

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

don't have much. list, gen, in touch butch still researching, once week. one thing pers, tasty tues survey revamping, not space. working on that do better next yr. one thing shuttle. other tba next week.

Operations: I don't have much. I have been in touch with Butch and they are still researching, but we have been in contact once a week. One thing I am working on personally, I am working on a Tasty Tuesday survey, to do some revamping, because a lot of new businesses applied but there is not space. So I am working on that to do better next year. Another thing is working on fixing the shuttle, other things TBA next week.

President: Any questions?

Finance: I forgot something. I said once that finance committee is allocated \$750,000 year, which has tangible impacts on the community. For example, speakers tend to shape campus dialogue, and we have the ability to make those kind of decisions. There has historically been a low number of members. I am happy with our new structure, and anyone who wants to be involved should be allowed. But we have to have representatives on the committee to make sure money is spent appropriately. So we meet at 3:15 on Wednesdays, and now is your opportunity to join.

6 Constituent Concerns (10 min)

2108: I have been getting questions, there are mixed stories about students who are taken to the hospital and need a ride back. I know it is EMS's job to take students to the hospital. For example, my friend got a killer migraine and basically couldn't operate, so she called EMS and security, and they told her that she needed to call a cab and pay to take it to the hospital. And that is just one example,

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another friend went to the hospital and couldn't get a ride back, security wasn't responding. So yeah, is there a set operation about whose supposed to do that, or does it depend on the case?

At-Large: If you call EMS, they can't transport, but they can call the local ambulance service, either Arlington or Poughkeepsie, whoever is available. I don't believe it costs anything, the only costs are hospital bills. During the time that EMS is not on call, I am not exactly sure what the policy is. When I'm on call, we ask security to call and they can direct the ambulance. If you call 911 they will find you eventually, but it is easier to go through security.

Finance: I thought we talked about this. Those aren't standard services offered by security, just done historically because they are nice. Perhaps a conversation needs to be had if it should be standard, because obviously if someone is on their knees in pain, they shouldn't be told "sorry, we can't help you". Wasn't that discussed at the exec meeting?

Student Life: So the conversation exec had, students were concerned about getting rides from the train station back to Vassar. They were upset after calling security and finding out that they were refusing to give them a ride back to campus. But that is not a service security officially offers. Certain officers do if they are feeling generous. So a conversation we need to have is about the specific expectations of security, what realistically can be accomplished, in terms of like driving people to and from places, and what we want and as students feel is best.

Davison: I want to know how intrusive fire inspections will be tomorrow.

Operations: Res life enters rooms, but they cannot look in drawers, but they can look at things that are out.

Davison: What if say, they smell something.

Finance: Then you could sue them..

Student Life: That is called probable cause.

Davison: Security can do that, but I don't know about res life.

At-Large: From my understanding, all this is done by fire inspectors themselves, and are accompanied by reslife or buildings and grounds, just to make sure they are not going to steal stuff. Fire inspectors are looking to see if fire safety is okay.

2017: I want to ask a question about the last thing. If, security doesn't officially give rides anywhere, if it turns out nobody in an administrative office does this, can the VSA look into finding a way ourselves to make sure people can do that if they need to? Whether that is starting up something or accommodating taxi rides?

THs: I had an experience my freshman year in an ambulance with a friend, and it was three in the morning when we decided we wanted to come back, and we called the administrator on call, and they have a voucher for taxis if someone wants to come back from the hospital. I had no cash, and the

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for February 8, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

I'm convinced of this: Good done anywhere is good done everywhere. For a change, start by speaking to people rather than walking by them like they're stones that don't matter. As long as you're breathing, it's never too late to do some good." -

Maya Angelou

administrator on call called the cab. I was never charged anything. So that is my one-handed experience.

2018: That is another experience I've heard. All different stories. Is there a place to put all of this information? Who knows if there is a voucher? Will security actually give you a ride? Can we put that all in one place?

President: That is something to look into.

TAs: About fire stuff tomorrow, in the TAs, overall, if open bottles of alcohol are above the cabinet line, is that a fire thing?

At-large: I believe so, you are supposed to take it down.

President: Assuming no one else has anything to say, now we will move to the amendment on elections.

7 Amendment on Elections..... BOEA (20 min)

Jewett: So I wrote this, and its primary purpose is, because up until recently, res life scheduled room draw in a timeline that we wouldn't be able to do elections in the time we need to. So to make spring election the same length as fall freshman elections. 10 days of campaigning and 10-11 filing days is a really long time, and the more stressful it is the longer someone is in the process, from my experience. I think a week of filing and campaigning is ample time to do elections. So that is the main idea behind this whole thing.

President: Any questions?

Operations: If we pass this and elections are shorter, does BOEA have a plan to aggressively publicize elections?

Jewett: We haven't talked about it, but there will be a bit more time to publicize.

2018: I asked this question during the Student Fellow meeting, but there wasn't a clear answer, so can you apply to be a student fellow and will you know if you have the student fellow position before spring elections?

Jewett: The student fellow decisions come out before the election or right before filing, so there would still be time to run for a position on house team.

President: Generally they do make it so that it works out. This would not set an exact election time, right? Will they still end the same time, and just start earlier?

Jewett: We will vote on a time next week.

President: Anyone else have questions? We will vote next week, since that is how amendments work.

8 Open Discussion

President: Does anyone have anything?

2015: On Thursday there is an event, screening Dear White People, a film that addresses the experiences of black individuals on predominately white institutional campuses, and it will be at 4pm,

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and after there is a panel discussion with the executive producer, who is a cool individual, really wonderful, and two Vassar professors. The event is being sponsored by the VSA, the President's office, the Senior Class, the VSU, the Council of Black Seniors, and the Africana Studies Department. It will be great, and the panel is at 6. Tickets will be issued from the info desk starting Monday at 3pm. There is a big occupancy, and I encourage you all to go.

SoCos: Question, this might be to Student Life. The trailer thing that we bought, with student exhibit things inside, I couldn't get in.

Academics: You mean the Creative Arts Across Disciplines Collaboratorium?

SoCos: Yes, people want to go in to see it, but can't get in.

Academics: I don't think there are things in it. It is not permanently filled, student groups apply to use it. Some people are using it as a rehearsal place, but there is not any sort of permanent display, but if there is, it would say on it. There is not always a permanent thing in it.

Joss: Motion to adjourn.