

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for March 29, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”-Winston

Churchill

1 Call to Order

Start: 7:02 pm

Attendance:

Absent: Davison, Strong, Town Students

Proxy: Socos

2 Attendance Operations

3 Consensus Agenda

a. Catholic Community (Discretionary) \$0/\$200

b. Committed (Discretionary) \$150/\$750

c. Poder Latino (Discretionary) \$800/\$800

d. VARC (Speakers) \$815/\$840

e. VARC (Speakers) \$450/\$550

f. SEASA (Speakers) \$4160 (minus additional contributions)/\$3400

g. ComedyNormative (Collaboration) \$1800/\$1800

h. SJP (PreOrg) \$165/\$346

i. Amnesty International (Collaboration) \$500 (+\$250 (Discretionary))/ \$3000

j. French Club (Social Consciousness) \$1220/\$1220

k. Crafts Not Bombs (Conference) \$0/\$1200

l. VPI (Social Consciousness) \$2060/\$3000

m. SEDS (PreOrg) \$150/\$150

n. Vassar Devils (Conference) \$325.40/\$325.40

o. CSA (Discretionary) \$1225/\$1425

p. Act Out (Collaboration) \$1500/\$1500

q. Minutes From 3/8/15

Finance: Varc wanted to host a lecture so we gave them funds for that. SESA applied for funding for another lecture. Comedy Normative applied for a standup comedian. SJP applied for money to build a wall. Right now they are using someone else's wall, so we made sure that they consult with Campus Activities before we can go through with that. Amnesty Intl event was very expensive and did not know how to fully fund it so we only gave them \$500. Education applied for an event through Crafts not Bombs. SEDS applied for funding for an alum who works with space. Vassar Devils moved on to the next round of their competition. CSA is putting on an event called J'ouvert and will be happening at the same time as Carnival. Act Out applied for funding to bring in a speaker on prison abolition.

President: We will assume it is passed.

4 Forum With Terry Quinn (40 min)

TQ: Overview of position of campus activities and who she works with. My office oversees every event on the calendar: scheduling and support. Run commencement- only 2 months away! Advisor to the senior class. Director of the Palmer Gallery in the College Center, involved in many different art initiatives over the years. Oversee Shiva Theater with Bill Miller. Also works with Monica Church in the Gallery. Also talked about her family, very involved in the local community: Arts Council Board chairperson for 4 years. Mill Street Loft board as well. Was a House Fellow in the late 1980s. Seen a lot happen, both good and bad, but stayed here so long because of the students here who have a sense of passion and purpose and keep her motivated. Also appreciates shared governance model. Came back from a conference in New Orleans, lots of networking but feels proud to be a part of Vassar's unique model compared to other schools (in terms of autonomy especially). Part of the great education here. Thinks relationships are very important. Frustrating that institutional change is so slow, but small things

truly matter. Speaking of changes: talking about space and dining. Art is doing the master plan, Bob Walton is working with dining. College Center Planning Committee- a work in progress. Hopefully plans will be shared very soon. Bio dept is moving out in the summer and the space will be available. Plan is student center with many offices central to student life. Meeting, programming space. Dining Review is moving into April, accepting requests from vendors until the end of month, no decisions have been made yet and they will seek student input. Sustainability, late night, renovation of spaces in ACDC and retreat. College Center basement will open up space on the 1st floor for dining and meeting space. Campus calendar is packed right now, not a lot of open space. Founders Day, convocation, senior week plans are all coming up. CA struggles with scheduling component for all activities. Lectures, etc overlap and they are looking to improve how to spread things out to make sure that resources, etc are not in competition. CA office has had personnel changes since retirement initiatives. Kathy Jennings and Ann Lynch took the initiatives, but now we are discovering new institutional memory. New people have been hired so please be patient during this transition to new community. New person is starting tomorrow. Restoration of House Advisors, Post Bac position in the works for Campus Activities office. Any questions, comments, or suggestions

Josh: How did the dialogue for the lower level shift from years ago. First through VSA, and focus groups shifted to current dialogue with one stop shop model. Bob Walton talked about architecture about lower level, what is the shift in that dialogue as well.

TQ: Involved with Jason Rubin initiative, which was shared. TQ is only a member of the committee, Marianne B. is the head of committee. Walton mentioned an architect, these plans are very ambitious, they are a work in progress. There are plans for something in the CC in order to get feedback. The plan can be shifted in the future as well. The first floor opening up is really where a lot of the student spaces will take place.

Josh: You work with Maureen King, there is currently dialogue going on about dining. Are there talks with any other companies? And what have you done with King talking about dining? Talking about campus dining with other committees and talks in the next 6 months.

TQ: We haven't received proposals yet, but we are looking at Bon Appetit, Sodexo and Aramark. Timeline is mid to late April, and we expect proposals from these companies. Aramark submitted a proposal before, and they came forward with a plan for renovation of ACDC but then the economy took a turn for the worse. Their vision was to move the kitchen out of the back and bring it out – fresh foods concept allows the student to become a participant instead of passively involved. I know Maureen and Laura are involved with Food Committee. I have met with them. Maureen has tried, using her resources (which are lacking in general). Changes that seem minimal will lead to a renovation, which is inevitable.

Josh: Are there plans to increase these resources in the next few months?

TQ: These are more suited questions for Bob Walton but the plan is that yes, we will be dedicating more resources for renovation and improving the dining experience for students

Maddy: Question about signing in underclassmen.

TQ: There was a lot of discussion, but that is a question for ResLife.

Student Life: Any plans to change the way that events are advertised by Campus Activities. The Vassar Events email is a bit overwhelming so are there plans to shift the way we communicate?

TQ: That would be phenomenal. We know what is going on because we look through the calendar, but it is overwhelming and we struggle with it in the system that we have (EMS). Our job is to put the info in the system, and Communications office pulls the info and sends out the emails. Over the years there have been conversations, but maybe we can work with SARC. Emails, Posters, Facebook events, and more could be suggestions. Would it be helpful to have a huge calendar in the CC by the week? Right now events rely on large posters. We should take a look at this process and work with SARC.

2017: Regarding the community, I have been thinking about what can Vassar students/orgs to do be a better member of the community. We have been bad examples normally, so what can we do?

TQ: We are much better now, but the best thing would be to venture out. There is a lot happening, but you may have to seek it out. Many orgs would love to see Vassar students show up. CA might be able to help with transportation to events in the community, as that is an issue for some students. The best thing would be to get out and have a presence in the community.

Ops: You've been here for a while, so I am wondering if you have noticed changes in the trends in organizations and student leadership.

TQ: There are many more organizations here than there were before. Pre-orgs are new, and that's great because it gives opportunities for interest. Some trends are new, and some are the same. The passion is something that I recognize here at Vassar. Students are great at activism and getting things done. In terms of opportunities in VSA such as orgs/pre-orgs, that has grown over the years. I would also say we used to do more structured leadership training, which has fallen by the wayside lately. Something that is on our list, and we can work with you to help it come to fruition. There are more activities, but every student has a vision to get something done. VSA has allowed student to accomplish that.

President: Thank you for coming in.

5 Constituent Concerns (20 min)

2018: Our class had a t-shirt contest, but no one submitted anything, so we are wondering about class t-shirt logo ideas.

President: Let 2018 know.

2017: Last year we went to the DMZ in library and brainstormed, then spent a few minutes making a design.

2016: I also have that problem this year, I was planning to go on fiverr.com, but then someone volunteered.

Finance: There is a student here who does graphic design and submitted something for Founder's Day. You can use your budget to hire someone to do it for you.

Student Life: I feel like the first year t-shirt is important, but after that I question the utility of class t-shirts. There may be cooler things we spend our money on.

Finance: Freshman year shirts are paid for by the first year program. You can't buy merch with your budget.

2017: One thing about talking to people is be upfront with inability to change the color from the class color.

6 Executive Board Reports

Finance.....

.....(7 min)

Finance: I don't have the fund levels right now because I just got off a plane, but I will email the fund levels and you can send them out to your constituents. I will also email budgeting timeline. We were going to do it over break, but we are going to push it back because orgs haven't had time to spend all their money yet. This way we have better idea of how the money is spent. 3 years ago we found out that 60% of org budgets are spent in April, so now we can see what they are spent on. In Finance committee, we discussed changes in our annual budget. What would be great is when these changes are presented or before, if anyone has ideas of how to spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars of the budget, give suggestions. We do not have to follow precedent with allocation of funds. We are doing audits of all the houses. This is because houses are the only VSA orgs that are given a lump sum and not told what to do with it, and also have to put on events. The only orgs just given money and can be confusing to house teams because there is no guidance or rules. We want to see how houses spend money, and creating models of guidance for future house teams. The audits will be someone who is not me. Any questions I or your treasurer can answer. The ability to take out cash advances stops 4/3. Email that out to your constituents. Nothing I can do about it, but make sure everyone knows. Mary will have to

work singlehandedly. No one will be able to take out cash from their accounts. Everything must be done through reimbursements or p-card (preferred)

StuLife: I understand that we can't take cash advances after 4/3 but is this the date they will start charging you?

Finance: Cash advances are taken out for a month, so they will not have to be closed until the end of the month.

Palak: Misc had an audit before. Will we get this before annual budgeting?

Finance: Yes.

President.....

.....(7 min)

President: Elections are happening. If there are people considering running, encourage them to run. Research shows that if you ask someone to run, they are more likely to run and we want more diverse perspectives on council.

Ops: We will be sending out information about the information session.

Pres: If there is someone you want to run, I can contact them. I will be sending minutes to council.

Maddy: When are elections?

Ops: 4/7 is filing, 4/27 is results.

7 Class Gifts Co-Chairs Amendment Operations (20 min)

Ops: It's back. I met with Natalia Preciado, and we talked about concerns that came up last time. First, history. This position was elected until ~6 years ago, no one knows why it was changed to an appointment. The concern about the gift chairs not having influence. Alumni affairs has the power to run numbers to see if it is feasible.

Finance: I was a class gift co-chair, also work at OAAD, if people think this should be elected that is fine, but this is a very different function from other student representatives so I have concerns about this being put under this body. I don't think they should be elected.

Ops: When we talked about it in Ops, we talked about it is similar to joint committees. They may not have direct power but they are still representatives.

President: Voting.

No abstentions.

Favor of election: L N C Jo F 2018 TA Act Ops TH Jewett 2017 2016 Aca StuLife M

Favor of appointment: Fin 2015

8 Referendum Amendment Operations (20 min)

Ops: Spring 2011. There was a referendum that got overturned due to the attached amendment's language, which is a bad thing. There is a technicality that means none of us were actually elected, either. We are fixing this this year. There is no option to abstain, but we will add instruction on how to abstain. This amendment changes the language to those voting instead of VSA members.

9 Open Discussion

Academics: I emailed everyone about the curricular proposals, please email to your constituents. Chenette is coming next week and we can give him feedback. Student Seminar signups open up tonight, and will close on Friday ~12 noon. Running through April. Thesis preparation seminar next week. 4/8 majors fair in Villard Room.

2018: Results of VSA general review?

Ops: Results are coming. Here's the thing. All the interviews are done. Butch said 3/20, so I emailed him and he said that he had to survey other schools and their responses are slow. What he told me was at the very latest the 2nd week of April. I sent him an email that said we need it at the end of this week (cosigned by everyone). It will be sent to everyone when we get it.

Socos: (proxy Tyler) Talked about employee interview and candidates looked very good. Trying to have everything decided by May. There will be a student interview portion. Sexual Assault prevention (2 weeks) 4/13. Cares, SAVP, Break the Silence events.

Raymond: On behalf of me and Strong, Roaring 20s coming up. Please come and plug it in your emails.

Ops: Election dates. 4/8 5:30-7 in CCMPR Interest Meeting. Exec debates (not set in stone): 4/19 5-7 pm. Location TBA. Also Ops needs your position description by Friday.

Finance: In this position I have done some exploring of other schools and Activities fees. Example: Hamilton has a huge speakers fund. We could decide that we don't have a spring concert and bring in double the speakers. We could decide not to fund the Misc, not have WVKR, etc. and triple house budgets. The way I recommend discussing this is finding out what

they like and what they want to see more of. If people are unhappy about campus programming, now is the time to fix this. Let me know if you want to be involved and please reach out.

President: Student-Faculty bball game. I will be participating. Tickets are free. Also exec is coming into study breaks to talk about the referendum.

End: 8:08 pm