

Vassar Student Association Resolution 27-9  
A Resolution in Support of the Relationship Abuse Charge Policy  
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**WHEREAS**, Vassar College is a residential educational community bound by common standards of conduct and adherence to its educational missions.

**WHEREAS**, The current college regulations within the student handbook are not able to appropriately address Relationship Abuse and the ways in which an individual can be isolated as a result of relationship abuse.

**WHEREAS**, Relationship abuse is a systematic and progressive pattern of abusive behaviors that increase in frequency and severity over time and are perpetrated by the abuser to gain and maintain power and control over the victim. These relationships are also characterized by the abuser's use of isolation and jealousy to maintain control over the victim.

**WHEREAS**, Relationship abuse interferes with the College's educational mission and with students' aspirations and abilities, individually and collectively by:

- Causing emotional and/or physical harm to community members;
- Contributing to an atmosphere of fear;
- Offending the dignity and violating the autonomy of community members;
- Disrupting the academic progress of affected community members.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council recognizes the necessity for the college to protect survivors of relationship abuse by adopting adequate and appropriate policies to discourage and prevent relationship abuse on campus.

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council supports the new language for the Relationship Abuse policy and urges the college to adopt this language in the College regulations.