

VSA Council Minutes

October 28, 2007

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Attendance

Guests: Andrew Bennett, Reed Dunlea, Thomas Facchine, Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Marni Grossman (EDRS), Bret Ingerman, Jay Leff, Yu Liu, Lauren O'Laughlin, Jamie Rosen, Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News), Jeff Schnider, and Lauren Sutherland.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from October 21

b. Allocation of \$350 from Speakers to Outing Club

No objections were made, and the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

4. Presentation about CIS

Bret Ingerman came to Council to give a presentation about CIS, and to discuss how students feel about various technology-related issues on campus. First, the registration of students' computers in the residence halls went very successfully, and requiring students to register their computers helped to close a huge security hole in the network. He also announced that starting next week, faculty and staff would also begin to register their computers with the network. The registration does not make it any easier to monitor computers' Internet activity, but it does allow them to identify more quickly computers that have problems on the network.

Bret then announced that students would be receiving an email in the next few days about the College's new crisis communication system, because as seen from such examples as in Virginia Tech and Delaware State, there is a great need to reach out to the community in times of crisis. These crises could be anything from a weather delay to a shooter on campus. The college invested this summer in a Crisis Communication System, which is capable of doing a number of things, including sending email to non-Vassar email addresses and calling and text-messaging students' cell phones. The school also invested in a siren to reach everyone on campus at once. CIS is now working to get all students' cell phone numbers, and they currently estimate that they have about 50% of them. He encouraged Council to spread the word to other students that getting cell phone numbers is only in the interest of crisis communication.

Bret then addressed the issue of V-Print, by saying that the message students received in the fall was more of a procedural message than a philosophical message of rationalizing the change. There were many reasons for the change, most notably sustainability issues and the spiraling cost of printing. The cost has increased significantly every year, and the college itself has been absorbing that cost each year. This cost used to be attributed to students, who would pay for physical reserves from the library; in recent years, the reserves have become electronic, and the cost has transferred to the college. V-Print was intended to help contain the cost of printing. Sustainability issues were also considered, and were addressed last year by making students walk to the printer and choose which documents to print. These issues have also been considered in the printing done by faculty and staff, who now must use codes.

The biggest change this year was the introduction of the quota, which was set at 1300 pages per year. This number was chosen by looking at the average number of pages printed by each student last year, and 80% of students printed 1200 pages or fewer. 50% of students printed less than 700 pages. The use of a quota was not intended to make printing free for all students for all year, but rather to make printing free for students' essays. Other schools like Vassar have

quotas that are around 300-500 pages, and the intention was that most students wouldn't even realize that they had a quota. According to current usage, the student population is on track to print around their predicted amount, and fewer than 6-7% have used over 1000 pages. The vast majority of students have printed around 400 pages. CIS is also currently working with faculty to be more cognizant of how much they are requiring students to print from online reserves.

Bret discussed that the new printers are both printers and copiers, and that making photocopies on the new printers have cut the cost of photocopies by around 50%. He assured that toner costs around 4¢ per page and paper costs around 1¢ per page, and that the college is not making any profit from V-Print.

The discussion then turned from the philosophy behind V-Print to the technology behind it, which Bret admitted had been somewhat problematic. He believes that the technology now works more than it doesn't work, and assured that the printers are no slower than the old printers. At the beginning of the year, the software wasn't able to handle heavy traffic of printing, and would lock up and stop working altogether. Since then, CIS has patched the printers, and now they should only get a little slower in times of heavy traffic. The other major problem with technology has been the card swipe, which only work if the card is swiped incredibly slowly. CIS is looking to commission special drivers from the vendors to create swipes that can handle cards more quickly swiped. They don't want to return to having students simply type in their student ID numbers for security reasons, as those numbers are easily stolen.

In the future, they hope to move to per-semester quotas, communicate about the usage of V-Print more effectively, and possibly consider which classes require higher amounts of printing and which students are writing theses.

Bret then opened the discussion to questions from students. Upon a question from Main about lack of student input in the change in V-Print, Bret said that there were student representatives on both CCT and the Sustainability Committee, and they were indeed consulted in the change. Prompted by a question from 2010 about double-sided printing, members of Council and guests engaged in a discussion about how best to encourage students to print double-sided. Jewett encouraged Bret to better communicate to students that it is much cheaper to use V-Print than a personal printer. Several members of Council expressed support for allowing an exception in the quota process for financial aid students. Bret discussed that CIS hopes to make available color printers for student use. To conclude, he discussed the recording industry's search for illegally shared music, and warned students from false trust that programs like OurTunes are invisible to the recording industry.

5. Reports

a. Campus Life Resource Group

A representative from CLRG announced that they meet twice a month, and the group is comprised of an even amount of students and administrators. They're working on the All Campus Day in the spring, as well as their Soup and Substance. They are also working on their Conversation Dinner, which is this week, during which people discuss various issues. This week they will discuss drugs and alcohol and their effects on the Vassar student body.

b. Campus Investor Responsibility Committee

Nobody was present at the meeting from the Campus Investor Responsibility Committee to give a report.

c. Committee on Disability Issues

Elizabeth Mermel was present from the Committee on Disability Issues to give a report. She announced that they meet once every two months, and that they had just met last Friday. They have split into three subgroups for discussions about: education and

outreach, campus access improvement, and access to information about campus events. As of yet they have only discussed the access to buildings for students with disabilities. They hope to help make sure that all events are available to students with disabilities, and to make available more handicapped parking. Main also suggested that disability issues should be discussed during student leader orientation at the beginning of the year.

d. Master Planning Committee

Andrew Bennett discussed the new Town House students and the revised site plans, which include recommendations from the fire department. He also announced that there is a discussion about parking around Baldwin, and discussed the possibility of moving the parking lot from the front to the back of Baldwin. The college will be naming the roads on campus, which will include a discussion of what the street signs will look like. The department of transportation for New York State will be renovating Raymond Avenue and Collegeview, and will be providing summer parking passes for local businesses to park in our North Lot. Andrew also announced that the college will be getting another master plan for landscape. Main expressed concern that the Town Houses won't be finished in time, and that the housing crunch will be worse. Andrew assured that we currently have the housing regardless of whether the Town Houses will be finished in time, and that Vassar will never again hire the construction company that built the steps.

e. Exec Report (Student Life)

Student Life first discussed renovation issues, starting with room sizes, and expressed concern that the singles being converted into doubles are of adequate size for living space. Rich Horowitz, the assistant director of ResLife, is working to make sure room sizes are adequate. There are new plans for Davison that will be available soon. The meal RFP was sent out this week, with the set assumption that we will move to a meal-based meal plan, with a combination of meals and declining balance. The Committee on Inclusion and Excellence is hoping to begin cataloging the extra hidden costs of a Vassar education. The Dean of the College Review will be conducted in the second semester, and within a few weeks information will be presented about Student Life's co-chair, the composition of the committee, and a basic timeline for the committee. The Administrator Review Survey will be sent out either tonight or tomorrow morning. Student Life will begin meeting with each House Team soon to discuss many issues, including VSA and ResLife, and VSA Exec will be going to dorm study breaks starting this week.

f. Exec Report (Academics)

The Committee of Admissions and Financial Aid has met twice, and will meet twice more this semester. The largest issue for CAFA this year is cultural improvement nationally, and to become more accessible to local high schools and have more students look at Vassar. Academics said that she would bring V-Print to CAFA for discussion at their next meeting.

In terms of CCP, the State Representatives have been really frustrated with us, so they have been meeting separately and emailing Ron Sharp about the issues discussed. The biggest issue has been a lack of collection of data, and if the data exists it has not been filtered down to the students in any way. When Exec met with President Hill, she suggested some committees from which they could get the data correctly, including the Assessment Committee, the Dean of the Faculty Office, and the 2-2 Committee. In addition, they hope to get students to discuss the issue of 2-2, and will try to get some committees to discuss the issue before Thanksgiving.

g. Council Report (Strong)

Strong reported that in addition to their normal study breaks and teas, they have gone apple picking and sponsored a well-attended game night, are putting on a dance with Noyes in two weeks, and hope to sponsor some kind of self-defense event soon.

h. Council Report (2010)

2010 reported that they had an open-mic night a couple weeks ago, and are co-throwing a party with ViCE coming up on November 10. Their class is in charge of paying for security for the event, and the event will have neon and black lights, as well as a special guest DJ.

i. Council Report (Main)

Main reported that they have sponsored many study breaks, including a popular Project Runway edition. They are buying track jackets and scarves for their dorm. Students took a hiking trip to Mohonk, and the dorm put on a dorm dinner for their residents. Main also expressed excitement that its freshmen won both Serenading and the Brewer Games. Main is throwing a big Moulin Rouge party this weekend, but its main party will be second semester. They have been trying hard to work with other organizations for events, including some upcoming study breaks, a game of capture-the-flag, their apple picking, and their huge party next semester. They are also sponsoring Trick-or-Treating on Wednesday for students from a local elementary school.

j. Council Report (Lathrop)

Lathrop reported that they have had both Study Breaks and their Communities on Sundays at 9pm. They sponsored the Pumps and Hoses party at the beginning of the year, they have gone Apple Picking, and will be hosting a Lathrop Loves You party in November. They are also working on a Half-Halloween Party for next semester for returning JYA students.

k. Council Report (2011)

2011 reported that they are still getting started, because the Class Council was only recently elected. They are currently deciding on T-shirts, and are considering selling ping-pong balls with the Vassar logo on them. They are discussing the possibilities of working with Nate Silver and Maureen King on another food competition, hosting an event with the First-Year Experience and the Vassar Devils, and hosting three speakers on January 22.

l. Council Report (TAs)

Terrace Apartments reported that many seniors have been apathetic and mean about participation in events. They attempted to host an auction but received very few donations, and attempted to host intra-murals and faced incredibly low turnout. They hope to have trick-or-treating in the TAs on Halloween, and are working to create a Vassar cookbook.

6. Allocation of \$128.70 from Media Publishing to Vassar Green Party

Finances moved to allocate \$128.70 from the Media Publishing Fund to the Vassar Green Party. Ferry expressed that the allocation is unnecessary, as there are other forms of communication to get information out about the group's events to the student body. The representative from the Green Party responded that there is significant worth in having a group newsletter, and Student Life commented that it is not the place of Council to pass judgment on the merits of an application. Cushing moved to call the allocation to question; only Ferry was not in favor, and the motion passed. Only Ferry voted not in favor of the allocation, and the motion to passed.

7. Allocation of \$500 from Council Discretionary to Eric Liu

Finances moved to allocate \$400 from the Council Discretionary Fund to Eric Liu. Several members of Council raised questions about the legality of an allocation to an individual student, and expressed discomfort with such an allocation. However, Exec assured students that it was legal according to VSA bylaws, and there has been extensive evidence to assure confidence in the allocation. All members of council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

8. Allocation of \$1501.67 from Speakers Fund to EDRS

Finances moved to allocate \$1501.67 from the Speakers Fund to EDRS. All of council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

9. Allocation of \$2000 from Social Programming to Hip Hop 101

Finances moved to allocate \$2000 from the Social Programming Fund to Hip Hop 101. Jay Leff, the representative from Hip Hop 101, explained that the organization was not able to book the performer it intended for this particular event, for which \$5000 was allocated from the Speakers Bureau on September 23. That \$5000 was placed back into the Speakers Bureau. This new application is for the opening performer, who is still available to attend. All of council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

10. Declaration of Open Positions

Operations moved to declare open for appointment two positions on CASA (Committee on Alumni Student Advancement). Only 2010 voted not in favor of the declaration, and the motion passed.

11. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 210 days remain until commencement.
 - 2008 discussed that the Halloween Party was yesterday, and thanked the participating members who helped to make it a success. It was widely attended and went smoothly in terms of security.
 - President presented Council with the College Sustainability Report Card, which gave Vassar a lower grade than last year. He explained to Council that the grade was lower because they added a Transportation grade, for which Vassar earned a C, and nothing else changed. Vassar earned a B last year, and earned a B- this year.
 - Jewett discussed the discovery of a window shade drawstring tied as a noose, which found by a ROC attendant, and its implications on the Jewett dorm and the school at large. They will be tabling this week, including giving out stickers against this event.
 - Student Life announced that Babycakes would be reopening in two weeks.
- [2010 departed the meeting at 9:20pm.]
- Activities encouraged Council to support making Vassar a greener campus.
 - Main announced that its Moulin Rouge party would be happening this weekend. He also discussed that the house team was discouraged from providing pizza for residents before the Halloween party because it supposedly encouraged students to drink. The President reiterated that it is still within the rights of the House Team to provide food, and Davison added that it did provide pizza without consultation with the House Fellows.
 - Raymond encouraged Council to plain rain dates and rain locations for future events, as the rain hindered turnout at its Halloween carnival.

13. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 9:23pm.