

# Vassar Student Association Council

## Agenda for November 22, 2009

*Time: 7:00pm*

*Location: College Center 223*

“But I think the most important thing is that we all keep working to calm things down, keep them calm, and then find a way to get the peace process going again.” –Madeleine Albright

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance.....Operations
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of the Minutes from 11/8
  - b. \$208 from Mid-Hudson Valley Fund to Iced Brew
4. Forum on Sustainability
  - a. Jeff Walker, Professor of Earth Science and Chair of Sustainability Committee
  - b. Ken Oldehoff, Director of Marketing and Sustainability
  - c. Karina Costa, Sustainability Committee Intern
  - d. Vanessa Raditz, President of the Vassar Greens
5. Discussion on Academics/Letter.....Guests/Anyone
6. Executive Board Reports
  - a. Activities
  - b. Finance
7. Allocation of \$7500 from Speakers, Lecturers, Panels to NSO.....Finance
8. Appointment of Olivia Mac to Founders Day Co-Chair.....Operations
9. Appointment of Andrew Chow to Founders Day Co-Chair.....Operations
10. Open Discussion.....Anyone
11. Adjourn

**Fund Being Applied For: Mid-Hudson Valley Fund**

VSA Organization: Iced Brew

Name of Applicant: Jerry Gilligan

Applicant E-mail Address: [gegilligan@vassar.edu](mailto:gegilligan@vassar.edu)

Event Name: Friday Night Skating with Performance by Iced Brew

Location of Event: Mid-Hudson Civic Center

Date of Event: 12/11/09

Description of Event:

We will be taking students to the Civic Center for open skating and Iced Brew will perform their program for the year for those in attendance.

Benefit to Students:

Students will get an opportunity to skate as well as to see Iced Brew perform and understand what synchronized skating is better.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

This is a fundraiser, so we are charging attendees, however we would appreciate it if the VSA could cover the entry fees for the team so we can maximize our profits

24 entrys x \$7 each = 168

2 drivers x \$20 each = 40

TOTAL = \$208

Total Cost of Event: \$208

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

We are fundraising and charging for the event, but in the past have usually have netted about \$130 from a Friday Night Skating event, and we would like not to lose money on this event.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year - when relevant):

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Amount Requested: \$208

Finance recommendation: \$208

Exec recommendation: \$208

**Fund Being Applied For: Speakers, Lecturers, and Panels Fund**

VSA Organization: No Such Organization

Name of Applicant: Suzanne Rozier

Applicant E-mail Address: [surozier@vassar.edu](mailto:surozier@vassar.edu)

Event Name: NonCon 2010

Location of Event: College Center

Date of Event: 2/19/10-2/21/10

Description of Event:

NonCon is the NSO's biggest event of the year. One of the main attractions of NonCon is the guest speakers we invite, and every year we have worked to have more prestigious guests who bring together students' academic and casual interests. NonCon is three days of student panels, guest panels, gaming tournaments, a dealers room, and various other activities.

Benefit to Students:

We would like to use this fund to bring Ken Levine and MC Frontalot to NonCon. Ken Levine is a Vassar grad '88 who founded a video game company in Boston, MA and is the creator of the recent hit game, Bioshock. He has already agreed to come to NonCon as the guest of honor and hold a panel. His presence would be a great opportunity for students who are interested in working in the video game industry, and he will be able to give a unique perspective as someone who has gone to Vassar himself. MC Frontalot is a "nerdcore" hip hop performer, who has also already agreed to come to NonCon. As one of the founding members of the nerdcore music movement, he would provide students with the opportunity to experience the intersection of video games and hip hop music.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

\$7,500 - Ken Levine speaking fee

\$2,200 - MC Frontalot

\$300 - MC Frontalot's hotel accommodations

Total Cost of Event: \$13,000

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

This fund would cover NonCon's two biggest guests this year. We are using most of the remaining NSO's operating funds to pay for the costs for other guests (including authors Pierce and Kwitney) as well as other expenses such as karaoke and advertising.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year - when relevant):

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Media Studies department - Professor Thomas Ellman is planning to moderate Ken Levine's panel

Hip Hop 101 - collaborating with NSO members to prepare an opening performance for MC Frontalot

Amount Requested: \$10,000

Finance recommendation: \$7,500

Exec recommendation: \$7,500

## VSA Position Application

Position you are applying for: Founder's Day co-chair

Please fill out all sections to the best of your ability. Do take time to consider your responses, and be fair and honest!

### Information

- 1.) Name: Andrew S Chang  
 2.) Telephone: 646 422 9215 3.) E-mail: **andchang@vassar.edu**  
 4.) Campus Box #: 1267 5.) Class Year: 2010

Are you planning on studying abroad anytime over the next year?

YES **NO**

If yes, which semester?

A B

### Short Response Questions

- Please list all student organizations and Vassar affiliated groups that you are currently and have been involved with, including any position(s) held and years affiliated.
  - Asian Students' Alliance '06-'10
    - Elected to position of Administrative Liaison '08-'09
  - Mixed Martial Arts Club '07-'09
  - Board of Elections '08-'09
  - Council of Black Seniors '09-'10
- What motivated you to get involved and what characteristics do you have that would make you a good contribution to the position you are applying for? Please describe why you would like to serve on the positions you have listed.

Since I am in my final year at Vassar I would like to finish up my college career with a significant contribution to the place that was my second home for the past four years. I feel that helping to organize Founders' Day would be a respectable way to do so, seeing that it is one of the biggest and most anticipated events here at Vassar. I am confident that I have the ability to effectively organize this event and make it one of the most memorable Founder's Days.

I have served on the executive board of the Asian Students' Alliance as the administrative liaison. I believe the experiences I have gained from this could easily be utilized in effectively executing the co-chair position. The ASA puts on many events over the course of the year, including two major events. Preparation for these events would usually start early in the semester to ensure its readiness later on. For the fall

semester of 2008, we organized a showcase to serve as fundraiser to help the victims of the Sichuan, China earthquake victims. We brought in several artists, whether they are singers, rappers, spoken word artists, dancers, etc. together for one big show. A lot of organization and coordination with the other executive board members is required to successfully launch these events. As for the spring semester, we organized a conference, bringing in several speakers and also organized a speaker board that consisted of Vassar professors and outside academics discussing a topic of our choice that we felt was relevant for that contemporary time. The management of monetary resources, time and manpower was crucial in both these events and I, along with my other executive board members, was able to demonstrate control over them.

One of the specific responsibilities of the administrative liaison is to keep in touch with departments and other organizations of interest and alumni. I effectively did so by coordinating with other student of color groups to have joint meetings about mutual interests or with the Asian Studies, Chinese and Japanese departments in working together on smaller events. I also helped reached out to local organizations, such as the Mid-Hudson Chinese Association and organizations at other schools in working together on certain events. The alumni were always informed of what ASA was accomplishing on campus, sometimes even coordinating with them in accomplishing tasks and spreading awareness. These experiences will definitely help me efficiently keep in touch with the VSA and other organizations that are going to be affiliated with Founder's Day.

Being on the executive board molded me into a leader, since the general body would look up at me for guidance. I learned to effectively communicate with others by being sincere and open-minded to whatever concerns or ideas the general body members have had for ASA. Yet I was firm when required to keep meetings or events in order. I further sharpened my skills on being an independent worker, as we were all delegated separate tasks, and also a team worker, collaborating with the other executive board members to bring out the best ideas possible. I also learned to steer around any disagreements that arose within the board, coming to terms that would appease both sides. Combining this with my eagerness and determination to get things done, I believe that I could effectively carry out the duties of Founder's Day Co-chair.

3. What ideas do you have relating to the position you are applying for?

The musical performance is one of the most important aspects of Founder's Day. I was thinking of perhaps collaborating with other organizations, particularly ViCE, in bringing a decently major artist to the school that everyone would know. In the past, the artists, although talented, seemed to be a bit restricted to a certain crowd. I thought perhaps artists who fuse together different music genres would be perfect. One artist who already comes to mind is Chiddy Bang, a rapper who rhymes over catchy and lively electronic music beats; both rap and electronic music are very popular at Vassar. A second artist is Kid Sister, who is also rapper, but with a pop twist. I thought of perhaps bringing in a dance crew would also please the crowd, for who doesn't like a good dance show? I'd try to keep the stage occupied for most of the time by asking student groups, such as the Vastards, Buffalo Drive, No Offense, Hip-Hop 101, Fly People, etc. to come up with a short set to perform.

As for food, I was thinking of having a cooking competition, such as chili, in which the contestants would be judged at Founder's Day. The winner could be awarded a prize, perhaps Vassar merchandise, cash or even having their recipe be served at the Retreat and/or ACDC every Wednesday for the rest of the school year. I would think an

eating competition would also have a good turnout. As usual, I would like to have local restaurants cater their food on the grounds. To have some new flavors, I would ask restaurants that are located a little farther than the immediate Poughkeepsie area, such as in Wappingers Falls, Arlington, Hyde Park, New Paltz, etc. but still in the proximity of Vassar, as to add some new flavor to the cuisine. In addition, since Founder's Day is a celebration of Matthew Vassar's birthday, having a huge cake or chocolate fountain would seem appropriate.

The beer lines can get quite long, so I thought of perhaps having two smaller trucks in two locations, if possible. If not I would hope to have several kegs spread around as well. Everyone seems to enjoy the rides and games, but I would definitely look up any other new attractions we could bring in. I would push hard to promote the event in Poughkeepsie in an effort to build the relations the college has with the town and also try to have local businesses or corporations to have advertising placards on the fields to supplement our fund.

## VSA Position Application

Position you are applying for: Founder's Day Co-chairs

Please fill out all sections to the best of your ability. Do take time to consider your responses, and be fair and honest!

### Information

- 1.) Name: Olivia Mak
- 2.) Telephone: 208-691-3127 3.) E-mail: chmak
- 4.) Campus Box #: 2598 5.) Class Year: 2010

Are you planning on studying abroad anytime over the next year?

YES

NO

If yes, which semester?

A

B

### Short Response Questions

4. Please list all student organizations and Vassar affiliated groups that you are currently and have been involved with, including any position(s) held and years affiliated.

ASA (08'-09' President),  
 ASA (06'-10' except 08'-09' Committee Member)  
 Chinese/Japanese Major Committee (08'-09')  
 Science Facility Planning Committee (07'-09')  
 Council of Black Senior (09'10')

5. What motivated you to get involved and what characteristics do you have that would make you a good contribution to the position you are applying for? Please describe why you would like to serve on the positions you have listed.

I would like to serve on this position because I have had a lot of wonderful experience from Founder's days past couple of years, and since this is my senior year, I would like to make it if not better, as fun and as good as it has been in the years past. I have had experience on planning campus wide activities, and I have great leadership experience. I work well with people and great under pressure.

6. What ideas do you have relating to the position you are applying for?

I would like to start planning on it early. I know that Megan Habermann used to help organize Founder's Day, and now without some of her previous knowledge, I really would like to start thinking about it early. Send out campus wide email early and ask for suggestion. It could also be a collaborative effort with senior class council and the council of black senior.

Some theme ideas: Pixar? Tim Burton's Movies?