

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

VSA Council Minutes for Jan. 30, 2011

1 Call to Order

-The meeting was called to order at 7:04

2 Attendance Operations

-All here

3 Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from 1/23

-all approved

4 ViCE Report

-They're very happy with how it went. The food was a hit and they've never seen it so crowded before. The fire alarm was unfortunate and they're still unsure why the dance wasn't opened up again afterwards.

-Joss expressed concern that security isn't trained or prepared to deal with such large crowds. Over \$13,000 was put into this party and everyone lost money on this because he feels it was shut down in a very unfair way. He suggests a change in the governing bodies in charge of issues such as these—crowd control, use of space, and capacity regulations.

-THs doesn't think the use of Main as the space for this event was advisable and the fact that people can come and go and drink upstairs and come directly down.

-Finance felt that there's inequality in the security ranks because many of the security guys were great whereas others were not efficient or helpful.

-Congratulations ViCE on a well-executed party.

-The TAs thinks it was the most flawlessly planned party she's seen in her time at Vassar.

-Crowd control came up multiple times and opinions that Vassar security should be better trained with crowds.

-Noyes inquired about any destructive elements of the party and apparently there was some damage done and inebriated students, but we're still unclear on the reasons for the party's early end. The VSA did a great job too. There was concern about the unfairness of not letting some of the artists that made the trip here play.

-ViCE future plans are the spring concert which they are currently trying to find an artist for. They are going to use 100% outside security for the event. March 26th they have another party coming up booked in UpC. Jazz night will now sometimes be on Thursdays and they are also planning be weekly lectures and fun events.

5 Executive Board Reports

a. Activities

The opening of the student space went really well, but now we can't use that space for programming. However, the Aula has been used much more than UpC in general for events. The Mug is now under Activities jurisdiction. She will be

meeting this coming week with all the heads of student organizations. Good job on everything!

b. Finance

The VSA is in good financial health; everything is a little messy, but should be cleaned up shortly. There will be lots of fund apps next meeting. We need to keep in mind that we have almost double the number of fund apps second semester than we do first, so we need to be a little stingy.

6 BHP Report

They are working together and discussing multiple issues such as having some sort of mandatory info session about elections and the roles of each position. They are also concerned about making student fellows and house teams more aware of their duties. They want the officers to have more of a role and the reports that VPs make about training to be put into practice and the recommendations addressed. Student Life would like to have a conversation with everyone about ways to change training and get feedback from members of BHP. Lathrop thinks it should be a requirement for people running for VSA positions

7 Allocation of \$2400 to MICA from Council Discretionary Finance

-They are very proud of the work they've done on their pilot issue and were initially asking for \$4,000 to continue producing it.

-Lathrop thinks that we should still consider it a new publication and in a trial period, so that this year can test its popularity and next year they can receive more funding.

-Their first issue was very well received and Raymond expressed how excited she was by the publication and the positive feedback she heard. She also suggested reducing the volume of issues because their goals seem a bit ambitious currently. A survey was suggested as a means of evaluating the paper's success to determine how much more funding VSA is willing to give. Feedback has been good, but it's hard to gauge success based on the little input they've had. The editors of the paper stated that they have all the same concerns as the VSA does and are currently trying to address them. Operations suggested that they haggle more for better deals with Dutchess printers.

-All in favor, except for Ferry who abstained.

8 Allocation of \$1840 to the Ski Team from Council Discretionary Finance

The VSA has decided on this amount because they only subsidize intramural sports, they don't finance them. Furthermore, due to the fact that the ski team takes their events off campus rather than on campus, they decided on this sum.

-The team captains said that all other teams have coaches, go to all 5 races, and pay their own gas, and hotels. They already ask for members to pay about \$400 out of pocket. They need this funding in order to go to regionals.

-2011 asked everyone to consider the fact that they've funded many other expensive sports in the past.

-Activities expressed concern that the VSA is funding club sports.

-Joss addressed the fact that all sports have to select certain people to travel, not everyone can go. The team explained that they don't like to select racers solely based on ability because they like to give everyone a chance to ski. They do fundraise: shot glasses and T-shirts. They broke down the overall costs and a lot is out of pocket, but the lodging and race costs are subsidized by the VSA.

-Operations made an amendment to give them the funding that they asked for.

-2011 expressed support for funding them and voiced her opinion that the issue of VSA funding club sports should have been brought up at the beginning of the year, not now. The team also pays for their own equipment. Many people expressed support for giving them their money because ski team members pay \$1,600 out of pocket and we committed to paying for them at the beginning of the year.

-The president stressed the fact that VSA just can't fund everything.

-Activities suggested a reevaluation of priorities in what we are funding.

-Joss made a motion to call to question the amendment. The amendment is to allocate \$3,680 to ski team. The amendment passed.

-Ski team can now go to regionals and a ski team member spoke to the amazing experience he's had as part of ski team and how great it is to be able to compete.

-The allocation passed with all in favor, except the TAs who abstained.

- 9 Allocation of \$600 to MEChA from Conference Fund Finance
 This allocation is to go to a conference in the city. They are sending freshmen and sophomores. They are sending 10 people for about \$60/person. Lathrop expressed support for this allocation because MEChA spends their money wisely.

-All in favor except the TAs who abstained.

- 10 Open Discussion Anyone

-106 days until graduation. 2011 will be selling tickets to a South Beach getaway as a fundraiser.

-Noyes wants to improve the VSA council space accessibility.

-2012: Bakeoff going on this coming week.

-Town students suggested advertising VSA more so people know they can come and learn about upcoming events.

-2011 announced that Feb. 3rd their senior gift will be announced at the bakeoff

-The bakeoff will be sanitary!

-6-8 there will be a sesquicentennial reception at the bakeoff—first all college thing. There will also be a performance at 5:30 in Skinner Hall called Vassar voices. Activities encouraged mentioning this in house emails.

-Student Life made a motion to adjourn—all in favor except for Joss.