

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for Oct. 9, 2011

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.”

—Steve Jobs

- 1 Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
- 2 Attendance..... Operations
 - All here.
- 3 Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approval of minutes from 9/11/11
 - b. \$400 from Speakers, Lectures and Panels to Feminist Alliance
 - c. \$6,000 from Speakers, Lectures and Panels to VACA
 - d. \$500 from Council Discretionary to Vassar College Synchronized Skating
 - All adopted with all in favor.
- 4 Forum with Senior Class Gift Chairs: Zan Schmidt, Mitchell Gilburne, Boyd Gardner and Race Bottini (15 min)
 - They want to improve the process from last year. They will go through all the submissions over October break because they are due before the break starts. The gift has to be a one time gift and something that goes towards immediate need. They hope to have it announced by 99 nights. They want to create a gift that is crafted with campus feedback, that’s why they’re coming to VSA. They have been given the opportunity to do an all school gift, but they’re not sure if they’re going to use it yet. They have also been thinking about asking the class of 2011 to come back on campus and make this a great gift. They have been moving toward something more tangible. The idea behind the all school gift is that the seniors are still spear-heading it, but it gets the whole school involved and it’s a cool way to encourage giving across the four years. They think the sophomore class gift is becoming less of a tradition and may not be happening anymore. They’ll be looking for feedback and depending on the VSA to get the word out to their constituents.
 - 2014 talked about how he feels that the sophomore class gift should still be present and how his council is excited about it. Also, he feels that the Development Office hasn’t been helpful to them in this process as all. The Class gift chairs brought up the fact that without the Development Office they won’t be able to make nearly as much money.
 - 2013 brought up feedback he’s had from his constituents about giving every year. He feels that by asking this, people will want to give less. The chairs responded that they feel this is something that needs to change in ideology, the mindset about giving.
 - President and 2015 brought up the concern that class councils will be too busy and won’t have time to work on more class-specific issues if they do an all school gift.

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-They are attempting to change this through having a better timeline, and perhaps trying to get informal class chairs for each class to take less time away from class councils. They want to pick the people that are interested and work with them.

-2014 felt a little uncomfortable about the freshmen having the largest amount given last year. He thinks that the class councils are a great resource to use, but getting specific individuals involved would be ideal like having a couple people from each class to come.

-They will work more on collaboration.

5 ViCE Report, Executive Board (20 min)

-Mitchell wanted to make this update a little less formal this year so that people can ask questions and it's more casual. Each committee has a lot of autonomy and brings ideas to Exec Board each week. Each committee has its own meetings and the chairs of each committee bring important issues to Exec Board. The Exec Board is there to make sure things run smoothly and the money is allocated correctly. Membership is solely based on coming to meetings and events; you can come when you want and participate as much or as little as you can.

-Finance asked about new rules concerning their finances, made in order to help with their debt: There is a \$2,000 minimum to meet with exec members to discuss budgeting and they are making sure that events are planned way ahead of time to make sure they aren't penalized for getting things last minute.

-Academics asked about the "of ViCE" title. Mitchell talked about how this allows one org to make most of the decisions and not have to deal with bureaucratic stuff. They have their own collaboration fund.

Although it sounds like they get a lot of money, but it gets spread out over the whole year and they have 2-3 events each week.

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-Cushing asked about getting students' opinions and feedback on events. The ViCE reps think that publicity has come so far in the past few years. They send surveys and talk to as many people as they can.

-Student Life asked about collaboration with other orgs. They're having the constant conversation about what collaboration is and when it is beneficial to the Vassar community.

-The big fall concert is coming up, Special Events will be putting on a lecture, and Halloween. They put on a big back to school week this year and they're looking into getting it better funded for next year.

-President touched on the fact that the VSA and the whole college is very dependent on ViCE for back to school week because there aren't many orgs who have met enough to have events yet.

-They will be announcing the fall concert very soon!

-According to the Constitution, ViCE must report to VSA once a month so they're figuring out when this is best to do.

6 Executive Board Reports

a. President (7 min)

-CDO search is a new committee this year which President and Zan are a part of; they are working on making the CDO more accessible and getting a new director. The Tanenbaum fellowship is currently in the process of accepting applicants- juniors! The Board of trustees is coming next week. They are making changes regarding serenading! There will be some different performances and living the "life of a student" this Saturday for members of the Vassar community. She thanked Council for the productive conversations during the pre-council dinner about the goals and structure of student government and she thinks this is a conversation they should continue.

-2014 asked about Vassar students' relationship with the alum in general and what they can do to change this.

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-November 3rd-5th Smashing history! Many alumni will be there.

-The institutional memory project has a new name: Vassar, More than Meets the Eye. An email will be sent out. They are in the process of preparing a presentation about this.

b. Operations (7 min)

-She mentioned the new change in assistants taking notes/keeping a speakers list. She talked about how they are drafting a statement about the “serenading incident”. They want to change the discrimination clause in the Constitution to make it stronger. They’ve been looking at the regulations in the student handbook; they want to address further identities and qualities. They want to fix their definitions of discrimination and harassment. They will have a meeting with the title 9 coordinator and they will have some language that they want to pass soon so keep your eyes out!

7 Alcohol Task Force Charter.....Town Houses (10 min)

8 Fall Leadership Conference Fines Activities (10 min)

-Orgs that didn’t attend/contact Activities before the Fall Leadership Conference must pay a fine of \$20 or 5% whichever is less. He has the list of orgs if anyone wants to see it.

9 Amendment to the Bylaws concerning BHP: Article V, Section 6(C) Davison (10 min)

-They will now have chairs or co-chairs available to attend any event.

-Student life advised everyone to keep in mind that this has broader implications and how this will affect structuring. The need to make sure everyone’s documents make sense.

-This amendment will be tabled to Operations for next week.

10 Amendment to the Constitution concerning the roles of Class Representatives: Article VII, Section 2(F)Noyes and 2013 (20 min)

-Operations discussed how this issue is challenging because there are varying opinions.

They need to define the roles of class representative, but they don’t feel quite ready to vote on this. They want to discuss this with the whole of VSA because right now there’s some uneasiness about what they want to write. They want to make lasting changes that everyone is excited and happy about. How does this affect who wants to run and why?

-President wants to thank 2014 and Noyes for bringing this up. This is a good opportunity to look at the big picture and the specific amendments. This amendment deals with defining the roles not only of class reps, but everyone on house team.

-Student Life said that logistically they could strike the end of the document.

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- President made a motion to table this amendment in order to have the broader discussion about government.
 - Noyes and Main believe that they might as well vote on this now and have it fail so that they can make changes.
 - Operations made a motion to table this and this motion failed.
 - There was a motion to call this to question and this passed with all in favor,
 - This amendment failed with all in favor.
- 11 Amendment to the Constitution concerning the composition of House Teams: Article VIII, Section 1.....Noyes and Jewett (20 min)
- If they include student fellows and other Res Life positions in the Constitution, what does this mean for their roles and relationship to the VSA? The discussion that people have had with their house advisors is that any issue that might arise with Res Life positions will be dealt with by Res Life so it's unnecessary to have them in the constitution.
 - Socos brought up his concern about individuals' role in governance.
 - 2013 talked about consistency and context and how 10 yrs down the line the Res Life people won't have the same understanding as they do now.
 - Student Life talked about how in order to hold Res Life students accountable, it's important to include them.
 - 2014 talked about how since they're not elected, they're not really relevant to our constitution.
 - There was a lot of discussion about the role of house officers and their connection to the rest of house team.
 - Socos doesn't think that putting Res Life people further under the VSA jurisdiction is the way to include them in our governing documents.
 - Lathrop feels that this amendment is being based too much on sentiment, not on logic and we're wasting time.
 - Cushing thinks that they should consider past and future in the sense that this discussion came about because the Res Life positions and house officers have merged.
 - Main made a motion to strike section 2 of the amendment. This passed with a majority.
 - The motion to amend article 8, section 1A of the Constitution passed with all in favor.
 - Finance made a motion to take a 5 minute recess. This passed with a majority.
- 12 Capital BudgetingFinance (20 min)

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-The procedure is that this needs to be voted on as a block. Finance spent 7.5 hours working on this. The bolded things on the list are regarding the speaker system.

-An Outing Club representative stood up to talk about how they're grateful for the allocation to their climbing equipment. They wanted to ask the VSA to reconsider their lack of funding for sleeping bags because they go on a few overnight trips and not having sleeping bags prohibits them from bringing individuals that can't afford to buy equipment for sleeping. They are on the road to leading 100 trips this year and they plan amazing alternative planning events all the time. Sleeping bags should last for at least 10 years. A LOT of Outing Club members came to the meeting.

-2014 commended them for being organized and offering awesome events.

-Jason thanked Outing Club and offered that they could apply in the spring as well.

-This passed with all in favor.

13 Supplemental Budgeting.....Finance (20 min)

-They need to amend something, and they'll do this later.

-This passed with all in favor.

-Activities needs to appoint co-chairs for Founder's day before October, but they're not ready so he made a motion to suspend article 5 sections 8 subsection. This motion passed with all in favor.

14 Open Discussion

-2012: 224 days until commencement.

-2014 brought up the issue of Poughkeepsie residents on campus and concerns about how it's being dealt with. Jewett discussed the fact that Res Life and security have been working on these issues and responding to complaints. The only thing they can do is ask people to be responsible about who they let into dorms and to be conscious of who is around. Davison asked about correlation to the bus system; it was decided that this doesn't affect. Cushing asked about blue lights and their placement on campus; there should be one between Cushing and Main. Student Life wants people to be mindful about how they address these issues and their tone. Also, he thinks these are really important issues and doesn't think the open discussion part of Council is the correct forum to be discussing them. President talked about being careful about racial/geographic profiling and is upset that the entire campus wasn't notified about the two men with guns and cocaine in the Strong bathroom. Cushing asked about who will be getting word out about these issues; it's Don Marsala's job.

-Davison thanked everyone for Harvest Fest!

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- Noyes went to a summit on the care of residential halls and learned a lot!
- Student Life wants people to push programming on Wednesday for the dining forum in UpC at 7:30. Slowfoods is providing deserts.
- 2015 said the pizza lunch with B&G on Friday went well, but they were thinking that maybe having it a part of orientation could be a good way of doing this.
- Main brought up the bus schedule changes at the end of the semester and wants to know what is getting done. 2012 responded that Cappy said they will reevaluate at the end of the semester.
- Operations brought up the fact that the Shoppers Special bus doesn't run when and where it should. This is a conversation that is ongoing and the system will continue to be improved upon. They want the VSA to endorse improving the whole system and work together! TSs talked about showing that we all want this.
- There was a motion to adjourn and this passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.