

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for November 18, 2012

"I know you cannot live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. So you, and you, and you...You gotta give em' hope...you gotta give em' hope".

-Harvey Milk

1 Call to Order

-The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2 Attendance.....Operations

-Town Students decided to resign.

-All present, Socos had a proxy.

3 Consent Agenda

a. \$845 from the Conference Fund to VSA

-All adopted. Minutes from last meeting were added to the consent agenda.

4 Forum with Campus Patrol.....(30 min)

-They look for individuals in distress, dorm damage, suspicious individuals, noise complaints, and escorts. A big change that happened recently is the way they investigate noise complaints. They want to be seen as resources in the residential halls so that people can ask any questions, report complaints, etc.

-Student Life asked about the escort service. They plan to offer this next semester. An individual student can ask for an escort that will see them to the door of their destination, if they're scared of the dark, too drunk, or for other reasons. They aren't responsible for drugs and alcohol. They will only make a note of smelling marijuana in a house and if they smell it twice in a row then they call security. If the smell is extremely strong or they get a complaint security is called immediately.

-Town Houses asked how they deal with noise complaints. Only in the residential hall? Yes. Also, where will the patrols escort you to? You can call CRC or their number and the unit can go anywhere on campus that students ask for, not just residence halls.

-2015 asked about increased visibility. They will be sending out an email to Louis that can be forwarded. They also send fliers around and are talking to campus about being another resource.

-Activities asked about the "other" category. Occasionally they will have animals in the residence halls, serious dorm damage, flooding, etc. and these are classified in this way.

-Joss noted that Council would love to help get the word out about what they're doing.

-Someone asked about noise complaints. They go to a room and ask them to quiet down.

Then they return a little later (5 minutes) and make sure that it has actually quieted down. In January they are going to encourage the patrollers to help solve self-controlled noise complaints. They will be asking loud rooms to quiet down regardless of if they've had a noise complaint. Noise complaints are totally anonymous.

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-2013 asked about working with security on big events. They help look around big parties to make sure everything is ok, but they're mostly concerned with the residential halls so they won't be around the main party places.

-2013 asked about the library patrol. Last year when many laptops were stolen, they created a unit in there to help keep an eye on unattended items. It was a well-liked position by the administration, but student patrollers don't seem to like it. They are there most of the week, but not all the time.

-Cushing asked if there have been any negative experiences with students. One of the representatives said they've never had a problem, one said they've had a problem with drunk students. They've had increasing numbers of people approaching them.

-Ferry asked about campus patrol's relationship with the COOPs. Do they ever come into the COOPs? No, they're out of their jurisdiction.

5 Executive Board Reports

a. President.....(7 min)

-Student space is moving along. They will spend break schlepping through focus group data and they will finish the semester with a final report. The consulting group for Life After Vassar was here this past week. They're talking about improving the system, fixing career services to be more effective and beneficial to students. A few Council members will be attending a conference on "Undoing Racism". Collete Cann will also be attending. They're deciding if they will bring it to campus. Tim Wise speaks on white privilege and racism and they want to bring him to campus as a speaker. They hope to collaborate with faculty.

-2013 asked about the timeline behind the Life After Vassar plan. Will it be a total and sudden revamping? They won't be changing the entire system, but they will be looking for better resources.

b. Operations.....(7 min)

-Declarations of open positions of Town Students. The official deadline is next Sunday for that application at midnight. You can access it through the Elections tab and special appointments. There are about 150 Town Students.

-Cushing Representative for the spring is open and the deadline will be next Sunday.

-They've been having conversations about representation and the structure of Council. They will be meeting after Thanksgiving.

-They had a Google Hang Out with the Seven Sisters people. They still don't have a mission, but they have jobs. Her job is alumni relations. The idea behind it is to communicate more with alums and create a way of using those networks from other

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schools as well. It's a lot about sharing resources and she is Conference Chair for next year's conference. They'll have these Google "Hang Outs" every two weeks and they'll be going to Barnyard in the spring.

6 Resolution on Widespread and Coordinated Use of Trigger Warnings....Academics (15 min)

-They are talking about trigger warning and raising awareness about what they are and what happens. Some big or traumatic event can be triggered by a small event any day. The idea is to be aware. First they want to approve the manual and require that all event advertising has a trigger warning piece to it. Finally they will email all the chairs, tell them students are behind it and ask them to include their language in event and course listings.

-Joss brought up a language point.

-Ferry noted his support of this resolution. He's heard from his constituents and wants to make sure people are aware of what this means in many senses, broad understanding.

-Academics read the clause.

-2013 asked if they could do it for certain sections of classes instead of the entire syllabus. They decided this might be too complicated.

-Activities asked if there was a way to make this pop up when you're registering instead of just having it in the catalogue. It's very difficult to do.

7 Resolution Concerning the Creation of a Social Consciousness Fund.....Finance (15 min)

-Finance talked about his proposal to endorse a social consciousness fund that includes race, spirituality, gender, etc. It's very broad. Many events will be able to qualify for funding. They want to reaffirm Vassar's mission statement to create a diverse community. This resolution endorses Council's support for this. They will be seeking funding from all over so it will be easier if Council is in favor and they can talk to people using Council's consent as a point.

-2013 asked about what kind of feedback they've gotten so far. Mostly positive, but they've gotten some concerns with implementation. TA's talked to CARES and they had a productive conversation. He's also talked to professors who think it's a great idea. The leader of SASA is excited.

-Joss asked about the Political and Community Action fund that used to exist. He's wondering if it might be beneficial to look into the history behind ideas like this and why it came and went.

-Davison asked if this could become a fund. It could, but they need to start with this. Who would decide to make it a fund? The VSA would make the decision to move forward this way and include administrators in these conversations.

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-Finance noted that special purpose funds came around only around 2005. There was a lot of dramatic shifting around the beginning of this time, so he thinks that's why this fund may have appeared and disappeared.

-Ferry noted that he'd talked with the director of the ALANA center about this fund. He's in favor, but wonders about collaboration with other ALANA orgs. They want to collaborate with them and have thought about having reps from different groups to help decide who gets money from this fund, but they haven't hammered out the details yet.

8 Resolution on Security Priorities on Campus.....Student Life (15 min)

-They did a survey in Randy Cornelius's classes about people's feelings of security on campus. 7 main priorities resulted from this. The main ones include lighting on paths, access control, improving the path plan, and security participation in helping with this. The Dean of the College will be very involved in this, but students will contribute too.

-2016 asked if a portion was included in the security audit. The campus security plan isn't that complex. One option suggested was to limit universal card access to students. There are other ways that will be considered in the follow-up discussion.

-Joss doesn't feel very comfortable with this resolution. He thinks it would be best to send this back to student life to better language and clarify a few aspects. He made a motion to table this to Student Life for a week.

-2015 noted that she noticed a couple wording things.

-2016 asked about amending a resolution proposed in Council. You can make a motion to amend and then they vote on it.

-The motion to table passes with a majority.

9 Open Discussion

-188 days until commencement. The Student Gift will be announced soon.

-Activities talked about Founder's Day and his role. He serves on the committee and is taking the seventh leading position which is Merchandise. They've picked everyone except for Decorations and Health/Wellness. They're sending a final survey with top 4 tomorrow, Alice in Wonderland, Where the Wild Things Are, Everything Glitter, and one more. People will know the theme in a week. They want to do a Secret Snowflake or a Secret Cathy McFee and they have a bowl in the office for people to pick names from. They will set a price limit, have a dinner, and if there's a price issue talk to Finance.

-2016 Council has decided to invite the reps from all committees to their Council.

-They have 3 Council meetings left for this semester. They have one more forum with Safety and Security.

-Ferry had its first concert this weekend and it was very successful and the bands were nice.

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-Noyes noted that DDR was yesterday and it was great.

-2015 noted that they had a JYS event and it went really well. Davison noted that Britney Mug Night was sick and Beyoncé Mug Night is on its way.

-The THs went to Keegan Ails on Thursday and it was really fun and everyone loved it.

-Activities made a motion to adjourn. This passed with all in favor except Activities and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.