

VSA Council Minutes
November 25, 2007

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Attendance

Proxies: Terrace Apartments, Town Houses, and 2008.

Guests: Sara Fairchild (CIE), Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Rachel Gilmer (Greens), Acacia O'Connor (Miscellany News), Jamie Rosen (President's Office), Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News), and Lauren Sutherland (Miscellany News).

3. Consent Agenda – Approval of Minutes from November 18

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

4a. Report from Campus Life Resource Group

The representative from CLRG reported to Council that the organization has met every week since their last report. The group had a Soup and Substance several weeks ago, and at their next meeting they will have a discussion of how the faculty communicates. This Wednesday will be the second Conversation Dinner, and the topic will be seeing patterns in isolated incidents. The group has also started their discussions about All College Day, and the representatives made note that in recent meetings there have been attendance issues with both staff and students.

4b. Discussion on CLRG Report

Student Life asked about the group's activities for the next semester; CLRG will have two or three Soup and Substances, two Conversation Dinners, and the All College Day. The representative briefly discussed the Drug and Alcohol Conversation Dinner, and mentioned that CLRG felt underrepresented at the dinner with only two members present. 2010 reported that he was also at the dinner, and engaged in discussion about the campus's need for more alternative programming. Upon a question about the Conversation Dinners, the representative noted that the dinners usually have about 50 people in attendance, and that people wanting to attend have to RSVP ahead of time.

5a. Report from Inclusion and Excellence

The representative from CIE reported that the group has began meeting in its subcommittees, and at the last meeting all of the subcommittees started to bring everything together. The committee is interested in recruiting more minority students for the student fellow positions, and recently got the results back from a survey sent out by Luis Inoa. The survey was intended to research minority status among student fellows, and also to question whether student fellows should be higher paid, or whether the position should be completely voluntary. The survey was based on self-reporting of minority and financial aid statuses.

The committee also met with Diana Brown from the Dean of Studies office, to discuss studying JYA, especially in traditionally black universities. Operations made note that the committee would be making recommendations to President Hill, Dean Jackson, and Dean Sharp in coming weeks, but prior to making the recommendations the committee is not at liberty to disclose their findings.

5b. Discussion on CIE Report

Main asked the representative about what constituted a minority in the survey. Both the representative and Operations reported that the survey was designed to look for students who are first-generation college students, those who are receiving the highest level of financial aid, and those who are gender and racial minorities. Additionally, the survey was based on self-identification for all of these criteria.

6a. Report from Council on Alumni-Student Advancement

The representative from CASA reported that the council is working on what their main mission is, to enact programming. They have hosted several successful programming in the past weeks, including the Freshmen Devils event, and the networking programming hosted with the CDO. They are working on more programming for next year, including a Tuition Stop Day, which is the day that students' tuitions stop and Vassar pays the rest.

6b. Discussion on CASA Report

Cushing asked for clarification of the Tuition Stop Day, and the representative reported that it would be sometime in January, and that it marks the day in which students' tuition has been paid, and Vassar begins paying for the rest of the cost of its students' educations. 2010 asked for more information about the networking event, and the representative reported that it was hosted by someone who worked for the CDO last year, and provided information to use networking in a more social context, in order to make contacts in a different environment.

7. Exec Report (President)

The President reported that he has been involved in Priorities and Planning meetings, chaired by President Hill, and looks at long-term issues for the college. In addition, the Priorities and Planning Advisory Council has been meeting, which is a coordinating body for all of the college's committees. Exec has been meeting with President Hill every two weeks to discuss everything going on in the college, and to discuss everything being pushed at the administrative level in various committees. In general, he reported that things have been going well, and Exec has begun to learn more about how things work. He made note that most of his time is being taken up by Self Study, and that all the levels of Self Study will likely report to Council on the last meeting of the year, on December 8.

8. Decertification of the Listening Center.

Activities moved to decertify the Listening Center as a VSA organization. They have failed to adhere to Article 4, Sections 22(a) and 22(c) of the VSA Bylaws, and failed to submit their necessary org reports. All of Council voted in favor of the decertification, and the motion passed.

9. Allocation of \$1500 from Collaboration to Greens

Finances moved to allocate \$1500 from the Collaboration Fund to the Vassar Greens. The representative from the Greens informed Council that the organization would likely not need the money requested for publicity costs. Student Life moved to amend the allocation to remove the \$185 for publicity costs, which would make the allocation \$1360.50. After further discussion, Student Life withdrew his amendment.

Operations moved to amend the allocation to \$1436.25. 2009 moved to call the amendment to question; all of Council voted in favor, and the motion passed. All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed. After amendment, the motion was to allocate \$1436.25 to the Vassar Greens.

All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

10. Allocation of \$195 from Collaboration to Town Houses

Finances moved to allocate \$195 from the Collaboration Fund to the Town Houses.

Vote on Allocation of \$195 to TH:

Abstentions: TH, TA, Town Students, 2008 and SoCo (5).

Not in Favor: None (0).

In Favor: Ferry, Jewett, Davison, 2010, Cushing, Joss, Finance, Student Life, Operations, Academics, Activities, 2009, Lathrop, Raymond, Strong, Noyes, 2011, and Main (18).

Result: Motion passes.

11. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 180 days remain until commencement.
- Lauren Sutherland from the Miscellany News announced that Acacia O'Connor has been elected to be in command of the paper.
- Operations moved to begin Super Secret Holiday Gnomes among Council. The motion passed.
- The President reported that Exec is working to redesign the agendas, which are different than usual this week. Council then provided suggestions about the layout of the agenda. Council also engaged in discussion about possible improvements of the Council meetings for the guests who are in attendance.
- Main suggested that during meetings the voting items should be discussed first, coming before reports instead of after.
- 2010 asked Activities about the status of purchasing new V-Cash machines, and Activities reported that about \$400 has been raised already, and the total estimated cost is around \$2400.
- Activities encouraged Council to attend Frank Wu's lecture tomorrow at 5:30pm in the Villard Room.
- Council moved to declare Sunday, December 2 as Festive Sweater Day.
- Student Life reminded Council that the Student Life Committee is hosting a Campus Issue Forum this Wednesday in the Retreat from 6-9pm. The intent of the forum is to get student input outside of the constraints of an online survey.
- Main announced that some of the scarves have arrived, and the rest will be arriving soon.

12. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 8:10pm.