

VSA Council Minutes
November 4, 2007

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Attendance

Proxies: 2008.

Guests: Evan Altshuler (ViCE), Arjun Agarwala (VISA), Carola Beeney (Hip Hop 101), Emma Carmichael (EOAA Committee), Shira Collado (DOC), Natalia Doan (CCET), Andrew Duenas (Arlington Special Events), Hanna Erdheim (Ice Skating), Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Kyle Giunta (Assistant to President Hill), Ben Murphy (Forum for Political Thought), Akil Noel (Hip Hop 101), Lucy Robins (Campus Community Advisory), Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News and CCET), Lauren Sutherland (Miscellany News), Daniel Tan (VISA), Woodrow Travers (Food Committee and Vassar Filmmakers), Tiina Vaisanen (Josselyn House).

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from October 28

b. Allocation of \$475 from Collaboration to Noyes

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

4. Reports

a. Financial Report

Finance presented the Finance Report in a written form to every member of Council. She also announced that the \$1650 allocated to Catalyst and SAU before October Break was returned to the Conference Fund, because the groups are no longer able to attend their conference.

b. Arlington Special Events

The representative from Arlington Special Events announced that the group meets every once in a while, and that they also meet with members of the community from the real Arlington Special Events organization once a month, which will occur this Wednesday morning. At the meetings they discuss the logistics of the Arlington Street Fair, which occurred successfully on September 29. The street fair raised \$1076, which is a combination of about \$700 raised from the raffle and about \$300 raised from the chili cook-off. They work to coordinate all of the VSA organizations involved in the fair and mapping out their locations, as well as coordinating the chili cook-off and the raffle. Their purpose is to represent the interests of Vassar and VSA organizations to the larger Arlington Special Events organization.

He discussed that Raymond Avenue will go under renovation next year, which creates uncertainty about the street fair for next year. He introduced the possibility of the street fair moving to another street. He also announced the possibility of the organization hosting a car show on Raymond sometime this year. Upon a question from Activities, he also announced that the group helped with a local Halloween parade for children, which took place the Sunday before Halloween.

c. Campus Community Advisory

A representative from CCAC announced that the group has met twice, once in September and once in October. They received a report from the transportation subcommittee regarding possible transportation needs, which included a 5-year plan and its projected costs of making more transportation available. They plan to conduct

research about how other colleges deal with community involvement, and are considering the creation of a Community Center to help coordinate events with the community. They have formed subcommittees, and hope to foster relationships with certain businesses in the area, most specifically those in Arlington. They hope to get more community members to attend events at Vassar, and the academic subcommittee hopes to research how to get more community participation in academic matters. The representative discussed the group's concern that they meet too infrequently to meet their goals, and discussed the possibility of creating an office to better coordinate between subcommittees.

d. Computing and Education Technology

A representative from CET announced to Council that the group is concerned with the technology on campus, working closely with CIS. The representative conceded that most of the content of a technology report had been covered the previous week in a presentation from CIS and Bret Ingerman. The committee has had two meetings so far, meeting every other week, and has mostly discussed the issue of V-Print on campus. The group aims to examine the student side of technology issues and student experiences on campus. He discussed the Capital Technology Budget, from which all technology on campus is purchased with, and is separate from the CIS budget. The group believes that the budget is grossly under-funded, because there is about 13 million dollars worth of computer equipment on campus, and the budget is only about 2 million dollars per year. They will be looking at proposals next meeting. The group is also considering alternatives to Blackboard for the future.

e. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

The EOAA committee met on Friday with Luis Inoa, and is currently in the process of working with ResLife on policies for gender-neutral bathrooms and bedrooms. They are currently working to provide an opportunity for upperclassmen to apply for gender-neutral housing, in the interest of fairly housing transgender students. ResLife is also currently working to make all bathrooms gender-neutral and handicap-accessible. The committee is considering creating an advisory committee that would include both students and faculty members. Upon a question from 2010, Council engaged in a discussion about whether the creation of another committee is necessary and worthwhile.

f. ViCE Report

ViCE reported that next weekend will be their Blackout party, for which they are bringing DJs Flosstradamus from Chicago to host. He also reported that ViCE hosts at least three shows every week, including Jazz Nights, NoViCE shows, and open-mic nights. Campus Activities has requested that ViCE pilot a new policy under which all art and advertisements on campus will provide a disclaimer about how students with special needs can participate and attend ViCE events. The representative from ViCE discussed having just returned from the National Association for Campus Activities. He also discussed his participation in the Mug Committee, because ViCE is in the Mug at least twice a week, and announced such changes coming in the Mug as a plasma screen, a DVD player, a new laptop setup, and more elaborate lighting in the Mug. They will be working to book trivia nights in the Mug, which any student and any organization would be able to host, making the Mug more beautiful, and making the overhead lights less accessible to the public.

g. Social Programming Report

A representative from the Forum for Political Thought reported that they have held two discussions about responsibilities in political thought, and have hosted a screening of a movie with MICA about propaganda from the Pentagon. The last

discussion had a turnout of 25-30 people, including an academic professor. The group has two more discussions scheduled this semester.

h. Food Committee

A representative from the Food Committee reported that they meet once every ten days, alternating between Monday and Wednesday meetings. The committee hopes to work on health education, and to encourage healthy eating. The RFP went out a few days ago, and food companies have about three months to submit proposals to Vassar. The committee will be conduct research about the companies submitting bids, including visits to see how the companies actually provide for schools. The committee has been meeting both separately and with Maureen King.

i. Board of House Presidents

The BHP reported that they have discussed the amendment that has changed some of their bylaws, and that they're in the process of getting campus-wide scarves, which have colors specific for each dorm. They also hope to host house forums to foster discussion about dorm issues, called town hall meetings, after which the BHP will compile a report of the opinions voiced by dorm residents to be submitted to Student Life. The BHP is also working to support alternative programming for students who prefer not to attend the bigger parties on campus.

j. Exec Report (Activities)

Activities first reported that there was an activities retreat last weekend, and that there are new activities-related bylaws to be reviewed on Monday, which will change the certification process and make clear the expectations for organizations. Activities then discussed the issue of space; he reported that he is in the process of conducting a space audit, because there is no extra space to allocate to any organizations, and that he hopes to reach solutions to the space problem with the reallocation and sharing of spaces. He also announced that there is no significant impact expected with Davison going offline. Activities will also be conducting an audit of club sports, to examine how they affect the budget, and the purposes for which the funds are used. He hopes to foster a partnership with athletics to make sure they're given all their funding needs.

Activities is also going to get the meeting times from every organization, and will compile the information in an online database to increase students' ability to participate in organizations. SARC interns are starting to give reports on their organizations and their individual levels of programming, which will help give a different perspective on activities. They are planning to purchase shared items for organizations soon. The organizations of the week are Hip Hop 101, Debate, and the Class of 2008.

k. Council Report (Noyes)

Noyes reported that they have been holding their traditional study breaks, and that the dorm went apple picking with five other dorms before October Break. They are working to support alternative programming to the bigger parties sponsored by dorms. They are hosting a party with Strong on November 9 called Mods and Rockers, and the dorm will be providing mocktails prior to the event. The dorm will also be hosting a 50th anniversary party on April 26, including a field day on Noyes circle.

j. Council Report (Ferry)

Ferry is currently involved in efforts to incorporate the community on campus. Ferry is the cooperative living housing on campus. They hosted an open-mic night on September 22, which was very well attended. The house has been inviting administrators to dinner to introduce them to the lifestyle in Ferry, and thus far both Luis Inoa and President Hill have attended. The house has been in contact with ResLife to promote more co-op living on campus, and they have helped conduct a survey on co-op living at

Vassar, through which many students have supported more the inclusion of more co-op living. This has led to a discussion of possibly making new housing near the Town Houses co-op. The decision has not yet been made, and other members of Council made clear that the Board of House Presidents has issues with the validity of the student input given regarding co-op living.

m. Council Report (THs)

Town Houses reported that they have hosted a barbeque for Town House residents, and that they have screened Labyrinth on the TH circle with a moderate turnout. She attempted to foster senior housing intramurals, but lack of participation made it unsuccessful. They hope to get picnic tables for the Town Houses, as well as purchasing TH merchandise. They also hope to set up a holiday party for the end of the semester.

n. Council Report (SoCos)

South Commons reported that they have hosted a pizza party, as well as a screening of Beetle Juice with a potluck. They were also involved in the unsuccessful senior housing intramurals with low participation. They also attempted to go apple picking yesterday, but there was no participation among residents. They will be hosting a bake sale on November 8, and will be hosting some kind of study break for Study Week.

5. Allocation of \$5000 from Speaker's Fund to Filmmakers

Finance moved to allocate \$5000 from the Speaker's Fund to Filmmakers. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

6. Allocation of \$1850 from Collaboration to VISA

Finance moved to allocate \$1850 from the Collaboration Fund to VISA. Council engaged in a discussion about the amount of money allocated for catering from the ACDC, due to the organization's plan to also point drive for ACDC points. Cushing called the allocation to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

7. Allocation of \$500 from Collaboration to Joss

Finance moved to allocate \$500 from the Collaboration Fund to Joss. Council engaged in a discussion about whether they should help fund an event that will charge its attendants.

Vote on Allocation of \$500 to Joss:

Abstentions: Joss and Davison (2).

Not in Favor: 2010 and 2008 (2).

In Favor: All else (19).

Result: Motion passed.

8. Allocation of \$400 from Conference to Hip Hop 101

Finances moved to allocate \$400 from the Conference Fund to Hip Hop 101. Finances discussed the rationale for the amount of the allocation, based on the belief that public transportation could be used instead of taxis. Council then engaged in a discussion about the benefit of the organization in attending the conference. THs called the allocation to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed. Ferry abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

9. Organization of the Month for October

Activities moved to designate the Class of 2008 as the Organization of the Month for October. Class of 2008 abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the designation, and the motion passed.

10. Certification of Ice Skating

Activities moved to certify the Vassar Ice Skating Club as a VSA organization. Council engaged in a discussion about whether it was wise to certify another organization, and the possible financial burden of certifying the Ice Skating Club. Lathrop moved to postpone the certification to an indefinite date in the future. After further discussion among Council, Lathrop withdrew his motion. 2010 moved to call the certification to question.

Vote to Call the Certification to Question:

Not in Favor: Main, Raymond, Noyes, Town Students, Academics, Finances, Joss, Jewett (8).

In Favor: TA, TH, SoCo, 2011, 2009, Activities, Student life, Ferry, Strong, Davison, 2008, Lathrop, 2010, Cushing (15).

Result: By a vote of 15-8, the motion failed.

After further discussion among Council, THs called the certification to question. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Vote on the Certification of Ice Skating:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Main and Noyes (2).

In Favor: All else (21).

Result: Motion passed.

11. CA 22-1: Long Term Planning Bill

Academics moved on behalf of Executive Board to adopt CA 22-1: A Bill Creating the Long Term Planning Committee. The President provided a brief explanation for the bill, beginning with the new distinction between types of Council Actions: resolutions will provide larger policy recommendations not directly related to VSA, and bills will create policies over which VSA has direct control. CA 22-1 is the first action of this Council session.

2010 questioned whether the creation of another committee is necessary, and suggested that the proposed responsibilities of the new committee should just be adopted by Exec. Several members of Council provided suggestions for ensuring the institutional longevity, including having a freshman serve every year to create a long-term history, or having membership in this committee require a two-year tenure. 2011 expressed concern that by serving on another committee, Exec would be over-extending itself.

Noyes moved to amend line 54 to read "March 30" instead of "March 31." This amendment was later withdrawn. Lathrop moved to refer the bill to Exec for consideration on November 11. 2009 moved to amend the referral to add a requirement for each standing

committee to briefly discuss the item before November 11. All were in favor of this amendment to the referral, and the motion passed.

Lathrop moved to suspend the meeting for eight minutes for informal discussion.

Vote to Suspend Meeting:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Jewett, Cushing, Davison, Ferry, Activities, 2009, TA, Noyes, 2011 (9).

In Favor: 2010, 2008, Lathrop, Joss, Strong, Finance, Student Life, Operations, Academics, Town Students, SoCo, TH, Raymond, Main (14).

Result: Motion passed.

The meeting reconvened at 9:48pm. The motion is to refer the bill to Exec for consideration on November 11, with the provision that each standing committee discuss the item briefly. All voted in favor of the referral, and the motion passed.

12. Introduction of Amendments to Article V of the VSA Bylaws

Operations moved to amend Article V of the VSA Bylaws as presented by the CRC on November 4, 2007. Ferry expressed concern that the residents of Ferry would be underrepresented in RLAC under the new bylaw, and Activities moved to amend the amendment to include "the Ferry representative" right before "one president from apartment housing." Some members of Council responded by saying that all dorms are underrepresented, and that the VP for Student Life can represent the interests of Ferry. Main moved to call to question; only Joss and Activities were not in favor, and the motion passed.

Vote to Amend the Amendment:

Abstentions: Ferry (1).

Not in Favor: Cushing, 2010, 2008, Lathrop, Jewett, Davison, Strong, Finances, Student Life, Operations, Academics, SoCo, TH, Noyes, Raymond, and Main (16).

In Favor: Joss, Activities, Town Students, and 2009 (4).

Result: Motion failed.

After the proposed amendment failed, the President recommended that the CRC take up the issue of Ferry's absence in the Board of House Presidents.

13. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 203 days remain until commencement.
- The President announced that one council member needs to sit on the Sustainability Committee, which meets on Fridays from 12:30-2pm. Upon a request for volunteers, Ferry agreed to sit on the Sustainability Committee.
- Noyes announced that their Mods and Rockers party would be this weekend.
- Joss asked Council members for any string lights to be volunteered for Harvest Ball.
- Main announced that their Moulin Rouge was this past weekend, and that the alternative programming offered was very successful,
- Activities requested that abstentions in Council votes only be used in legitimate conflicts of interest.
- Lathrop moved to adjourn.

14. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 10:08pm.