

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for Nov. 6, 2011

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

*"Everything I did in my life that was worthwhile, I caught hell for."
-Earl Warren*

- 1 Call to Order
Starts: 7:03pm
- 2 Attendance Operations
-Everyone present. Town Students was late.
- 3 Consent Agenda
 - a. \$1,100 to Quidditch from the Council Discretionary Fund
 - b. \$400 to Vassar Business Club from Speakers, Lectures and Panels Fund
 - c. \$500 to Vassar Student Association from the Conference Fund
 - d. \$60 to Slow Foods Vassar from the New Organization Fund
 - e. \$500 to Vassar Prison Initiative from the Speakers, Lectures and Panels Fund
- 4 Forum on SAVP with Renee Pabst, Director of Office of Health Education & SAVP Coordinator (45 min)
Starts 7:30pm
-They are approved to have a first time position. More students are coming up to get support with issues, unwanted touching, attempted rape, stalking, and full rape. Here to help protect students on campus, based on reports happening away from campus. Working on Title 9; gives survivors their rights and making sure that students are comfortable to report incidents. Bi-standard intervention training for students; planning on making it a 6 week course. Its good to have increasing numbers because it means that more students are coming forward about being sexually assaulted. There needs to be more lights on campus. Anonymous reports from bi-standards, and they are being educated on how to deal with the situation reported. Same services are offered for any type of sexual misconduct. Try to reach out to the students more and having the brand new position would help for there to be more advertising about the SAVP and their services, student reps need to let others know in meanwhile. A drinking culture allows the perpetrators to get their way with students who are intoxicated. We have an environment where we encourage sexual assault with our language and behavior. Title 9 allows rights for any gender being discriminated. Students need to intervene when witnessing inappropriate behaviors acted towards other students. There is difficulty in making an environment where students want to hold others accountable for their misconduct. Several events on campus, such as ABC, perpetuates sexual assault, because these events encourage students to dress in certain ways, which is a red carpet being laid out for perpetrators. There is room to improve. Several resources available: CARES, Sexual Assault Response Team, Renee's office, Belinda, free 24/7

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counseling, and Battered Women. Certain things are kept confidential from the health services. A fund should be raised to cover the bills for students who need to purchase pills or in need of any other health service, and do not want their parents and family to know or be concerned about. There are enough counselors available for students, but there is always room for more. End: 8:15pm

5 Forum with Sam Black, EMS Captain (25 min)

Starts: 7:05pm

- 11 patients, 2 went to the hospital (look at chart). Chart is based on calls from Halloween Weekend. Respond to calls from intoxication and non-intoxication issues, such as diabetes attacks. There are more binge drinkers that come in from alcohol poisoning. Students are more encouraged to call them than before. Alternative options were considered about ways to protect students from drinking carelessly over Halloween weekend by senior class, this should be done for other weekends on campus. Easier to get volunteers in the beginning of the year and oscillates throughout the year. They are trying to do more trainings over the year to ensure that EMS volunteers know how to handle alcohol poisoned students.

Numbers are well distributed through-out the different class years. Most calls are made for students who have no relations to their caller; students are being more proactive. Most calls came from the party setting this year, due to the weather. Funded by VSA, health services, Vassar College, and Baldwin. Not going to be paid for their work, but are trying to have administrators paid for their supervision. Security is the 1st on the scene, but are not always there for every single call. End 7:30pm

6 Executive Board Reports

a. President (7 min)

Starts: 8:15pm

-working with operations on how to include the student body with her project.

Council meetings need to be regulated in a way that executive members get to answer questions directed at them. Texting needs to be stopped because there has been an occurrence of redundant questions. Motion to allocate VISA \$2500. Ends: 8:21pm.

- VISA Allocation:

Starts: 8:22pm

Motion raised by student life. Raymond and THs opposed but everyone was in favor. More money is needed for kaleidoscope event. Finance committee unanimously supported the event and is willing to give them the money but due to budget reasons they had to allocate

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VISA a lesser amount than the year before. There needs to be more financial collaboration between clubs. Food is one of the main expense because there are many students attending. Too late to change the format of the event because it is in 10 days. There aren't enough funds to cover all food expenses. Strong made a motion to give VISA \$3500 instead of \$2500. Tickets are \$8 for this year. They want to have an event with the 7 sisters, which contribute to the additional charges. No fundraising was done in preparation for the event. A lot of organizations plan performances at this event. VISA went into debt after last year's event. OIS only contributes about \$500 towards the event. No profit is made at all from ticket sales. Motion to call to question: Strong opposes. Favor to raise to \$3500: Main and Strong; everyone else opposes to raise the amount to \$3500. Activities suggest that vendors should attend to give free food and later on charge for food. THs suggested that food should be cut. \$2500 is the most reasonable amount that can be given to VISA. Motion to have an allocation made of \$3000 from President. Motion passes and the allocation is amended to \$3000. Motion to allocate VISA \$3000, motion passes with a Tie. Ends: 9:01pm

b. Operations (7 min)

Starts: 9:01pm

- by-laws of the week: How to respond directly to a question. Archiving all of VSA activities and there is a gap from 2008. Working on developing online documents library for current VSA documents. “what should the purpose of the Student Body be?” conversation to look forward too. Motion for 5min recess. Motion passes. Ends: 9:06pm

7 Dining Focus Group Update Student Life (20 min)

Starts: 9:12pm

-Focus groups were finished, negotiations are in process. CVRC is finalizing their research. ACDC is running out of food. Ends: 9:15pm

8 Resolution Supporting Multidisciplinary Programs Academics (15 min)

Starts: 9:16pm

-a few students have raised complaints about the programs being kept intact. The concerns of the students need to be voiced. The renovations physically displace a number of them

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that are currently held in New England building. New England is being renovated to make it more accessible. Motion to vote to support; motion passes. Ends: 9:26pm.

- 9 Resolution Encouraging Conduct Reform.....Student Life (20 min)
Starts: 9:26pm

- There were concerns about moving people from their houses as a punishment for hosting parties. The resolution appeal to CCL. Switching houses is not keeping students from having unauthorized parties. CCL is going to regulate this issue. There was a discussion held about this resolution promoting irresponsible drinking. There is educational benefit with this resolution. Student Life is concerned when the council addresses student conduct systems because they take away something without having something new to provide in its place. This resolution is that there are better ways for students to be held accountable for hosting unauthorized parties. Motion to adopt resolution; motion passes. Ends: 9:47pm

- 10 Amendment Regarding Conference Fund 2013 (15 min)
Starts: 9:47pm

There is a limitation on the conference fund and it is going to be opened for competitive events. There is a surplus of money from this, so this is a good idea. Moving competitive events to the conference fund makes giving money to people more controlled. There are applications that might come in that do not fit the by-laws. This is given to Operations.
Ends:9:53pm

- 11 Open Discussion
Starts: 9:53pm

- concern with the way money was given to VISA by 2014. VSA needs to be more careful for the next time that other clubs ask for money. Student Life is frustrated with debating about decisions already made. 2013 brings up the letter to the senator, letter was not sent out. Meet me in Poughkeepsie has a new website. THs believes that things need to be done about who needs to be present when Orgs. are asking for money. Smashing History was successful. President and Student Life are working together to form a campaign that works against homophobic and racial comments. President is charging Finance with the present agenda of when Orgs. come into to ask for money. Dormal Formal was a success. 2012 is proud of being a part of this council because of VISA conversation. 2013 believes that everyone needs to annunciates better. 2015 is having a open discussion on Thursday about graffiti. Main makes motion to leave. Ends: 10:20pm.

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