

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for December 9, 2012

“Your constituencies, who you work for, who you’re accountable to, they’ll take you outside of the box every time.”
- Maurice Lacey, Undoing Racism

1 Call to Order

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

2 Attendance.....Operations

-All here.

3 Consent Agenda

- a. \$4,000 from the Discretionary Fund to Debate
- b. \$1680 from the Discretionary Fund to No Offense
- c. \$3,000 from the Speakers, Lectures, and Panels Fund to SASA
- d. \$170 from the Speakers, Lectures, and Panels Fund to VHP
- e. \$400 from the Capital Fund to VHP
- f. \$500 from the Discretionary Fund to FWA
- g. \$1020 from the Conference Fund to Aircapella
- h. \$800 from the Speakers, Lectures, and Panels Fund to Wordsmiths
- i. \$700 from the Discretionary Fund to EMS
- j. \$0 from the Speakers, Lectures, and Panels Fund to VARC
- k. Minutes from 12/2 meeting

-All adopted except the VARC allocation which was moved to item 4 on the agenda.

4 Allocation to VARC

-Due to a miscommunication VARC missed the finance meeting in which they were to get funds.

-They are going to a conference in February focusing on the intersection of academia and activism. The money they are asking for will help student speakers and activists go to the conference. The conference takes place Feb 1st-3rd so pretty quickly after break.

-Jewett asked if they’ve been in contact with people who would come as guests; are they locked in? They’re not locked in; they’ve thought about Skype but think it’s not as interesting.

-Joss thinks this is a better conversation for Finance Committee. Why is the number of speaker’s 9? What do they know about attendance? They are looking at 75-100 attendees from off campus and many more from Vassar. They have 40 attendees already on the Facebook event.

-Jewett thinks that it would be better to talk about this in Finance.

-Activities asked where the speakers will be housed. Mostly in hotels, but a variety of places.

-President asked about fundraising. They’ve got \$200 from the Drama Department, nothing from orgs, and they’re waiting to hear back from the Education Department.

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-Student Life asked about their experience hosting conferences. They don’t have this experience yet, but they would like to try and they’re basing this off of a conference they went to last year.

-Finance was wondering if this could be done on a smaller scale, hosting only people within driving distance, hosting them in dorm rooms, etc. to see how it goes and maybe make it bigger next year.

-Ferry asked how much of their budget is going towards this. They have hosted other speakers in the past.

-Cushing asked if Council could vote on this before the winter break. He doesn’t think this is the most productive place for this conversation.

-Council engaged in a discussion about whether to have an emergency finance meeting and an additional Council next week. Jewett suggested calling a recess, having finance meet with the org, and moving back to have Council approve it. A motion to take a 20 minute recess passed with all in favor.

-Finance made a motion to allocate \$1610 from the Speaker’s Lecturers and Panels Fund. They are bringing 9 speakers, and perhaps hosting a few of the flying ones by Skype. They diminished the hotel rooms a little and are looking at alternatives to food. They talked about hosting students from other schools and having them pay a small sum. This motion passed with all in favor.

5 Executive Board Reports

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

-Tim Wise is tentatively scheduled to come and it will tie into all college day. They are also thinking about doing a smaller session with him earlier in the day with people who are interested. President is meeting with Collete Cann later in the week to get her opinion on him coming.

-Student Space Committee will be doing work over break. He’ll be looking through the notes and they’re working on a survey to send out to campus.

-Life After Vassar Committee will be meeting after break. They will be talking about implementation next.

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

-They will be hosting an event before Filing, like an interest meeting.

-They are talking about what to do about the missing Town Students rep. They will be proposing changes to the position next semester if they still don’t have a rep.

-They had another 7 Sisters Google hangout. They are working on the mission statement. They are sending a survey out to alums to gauge interest in being part of a

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new network including all of the 7 Sisters. They didn’t approve anything because not all of the schools were present.

-She is waiting on updates from each committee about what joint committees are doing this semester. CCS has picked the final round of applicants to the Sustainability Fund and will be going into implementation next semester. One thing they’re trying is to reduce fliers around campus. They are also organizing a sustainability master plan. Campus Master Planning Committee is working on the science building, online learning opportunities—Joint Committees do exciting things!
-2014 noted that we might have a Town Student Rep who’s coming back from abroad.

- 6 Appointment of Cushing Junior Representative.....Operations (10 min)
-Based on previous experiences with both of them and recommendations from representatives from Cushing, they’ve decided to recommend Caroline Maguire to Cushing Junior Representative. This passed with all in favor.
- 7 Charter of the Smoking and Tobacco Action Research Team.....Terrace Apartments (15 min)
-Smoking and Tobacco Research Team is a Joint Committee that is trying to gather faculty and administrators. So far, they have a 2014, 2015, and 2016 rep, TAs and Sasha Brown. Their purpose is making information available to people, qualitative and quantitative data on what is going on on campus. They are looking for proposals and ideas for alternative strategies for moving forward. Finally, the committee will widely distribute and advocate their results from the information they gather from students.
-Academics asked if they anticipate the committee looking at other kinds of tobacco use. They aren’t sure yet.
-2014 thinks that looking into information about smoking creating a certain image and other types of tobacco use like hookah need to also be considered.
-TAs made a motion to adopt the START Charter. This passed with all in favor.
- 8 Amendments Concerning the Creation of Preliminary Organizations and the Creation of the Preliminary Organizations Fund.....Activities (20 min)
-They want to change the current certification process. They’ve changed some wording.
-Operations asked what new organizations would do to apply. They can still apply to the New Organizations Fund in the beginning.
-2015 brought up clauses about moving funds around.
-They decided on \$200 being what they can give.
-The entire process and application will be on the VSA website. Provide an official budget for Finance.

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-Jewett thinks they should table it to Operations. It automatically goes there.

-Joss thinks that 6 semesters seems a little too long to be on the probation period without funding.

-Academics looked at what orgs have to do.

-This will now move to Operations and they’ll talk about it after break.

9 Open Discussion

-2013: 67 days until Commencement. Technically 99 nights was on the 96th night shhh. The fire alarm was conveniently timed. The student gift is decided on by a committee who gather input and then they propose their ideas to the head of the Development Office and she makes the ultimate decision. This year’s student gift will be called the 2013 Scholarship Fund which will be a contribution to Financial Aid for the next year, maybe two. This is a statement about the sesquicentennial goal of access to excellence. One of the biggest things they push when they reach out to alumni is the gap between how much people pay and how much it costs to go here. President brought up concern that this isn’t actually a student decision. Most of the money for the student gift comes from alumni matching the gift. They need the CDO staff to help get them in contact with alumni, so he thinks it might be as much student input as possible.

-Activities is coaching and assembling a team for the Student/faculty Basketball game. He’s having issues finding freshmen and sophomores so please help him. They’re going to have jerseys with nicknames on the back. People who know how to play basketball would be great.

-President wanted to thank everyone for a great semester. Things didn’t always go as they expected and they’ve had to change conversations to reflect what this campus needs, but the fact that they’ve been able to engage in this work says a lot about the people in this room. They’re thinking about a Council retreat next semester to talk about communication and other issues that have come up. He’ll be sending more info on this over the next few weeks. They’ll get back to work in January.

-Lathrop will be hosting an event which will be a Ho-Down.

-Jewett made a motion to adjourn. This passed with all in favor.

-The meeting was adjourned somewhere around 8:15.