

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

VSA Council Minutes for Feb. 13, 2011

- 1 Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m.
- 2 AttendanceOperations
 - All here
- 3 Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes from 2/6
 - b. Allocation of \$130 to GAP from Council Discretionary
 - All approved, but a discrepancy was pointed out by Joss that the 1/30 minutes weren't actually online even though Council approved them.
- 4 CIE Report
- 5 Executive Board Reports
 - a. Academics
 - She is sending out a document on mini-courses, which includes a survey to send out to freshmen and sophomores. They are also working on sesquicentennial trivia night.
 - b. President
 - There is a Board of Trustees meeting at the end of Feb. This is where they approve the budget; financial aid has gone up. Well done on this weekend—all went well!
 - c. Operations
 - Student life and Operations are combining committees to look at elections and VSA internal structure. They'll have a joint meeting. They have a completely revised constitution~ they've trimmed it down to principles causing procedural things to be put in the bylaws. She's also been working on student assistance to the president. This will be holding panels with the president on different topics: financial aid/access, capital projects, academics and curriculum, Vassar College and the economy, and one more! The birthday party was a huge success, and everyone is super excited about the senior gift.
 - 2011 spoke to the coolness of the senior class gift and how it appeals to many people. They feel that many graduates aren't leaving with the sense of philanthropy that they should, so they want to instill this value in the lower classes and stress sustainability. If 1,861 Vassar students give, then an anonymous donor will give \$150,000 and if 80% of the seniors give then another donor will give \$15,000 (I hope I heard that right!). The administration is strongly behind it and there's also lots of student support. They'll be tabling a lot so that students can give and there'll be a website up soon.
- 6 Allocation of \$1,350 to FWA from Collaboration Fund Finance

- The show will be held in the Shiva; it's a play within a play and they'll be renting equipment to make the show appear to be in black and white, using lots of blood and hopefully appeal to a very broad audience. FWA is putting on multiple shows this semester. Last semester they did the Fantastics, Wild Party, and You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. Joss suggested looking to borrow instruments from students to minimize costs. They are trying to keep the shows as cheap as possible, but because there's so much interest they are trying to have two shows per semester and this can be pricey. They are asking for the amount that they applied for. They recently found out they have to pay a late fee of about \$500, so they need more funding to pay for it.
 - Main made a movement to amend the amount to \$1,800. Academics, Lathrop, Jewett, and Davison voiced their support for this amendment. The amendment passed.
 - All in favor of the allocation, except for Cushing who abstained.
- 7 Allocation of \$970 to VCEMS from Conference Fund Finance
- A representative talked about the conference in PA that helps further train EMS people. Many underclassmen will be attending. THs mentioned that he thinks we should be paying for the food for this conference because EMS is a hard job. Lathrop disagreed because they've denied other orgs food so it doesn't seem fair to give food to EMS. The representative mentioned that the cost of lodging has increased by \$200.
 - Motion to amend the allocation to \$1,170 by 2014. All in favor.
 - The council continued discussing food— they aren't supposed to pass judgment, just be consistent with all orgs. Town Students, 2011, and THs all voiced support for covering food, but the rest disagreed.
 - The allocation passed with 2011 and Student Life abstaining.
- 8 Allocation of \$8,000 to Hip-Hop 101 from Council Discretionary Finance
- A representative came up and talked about the org; they've been around for more than 10 years. They connect Vassar with the community. Throw back jam: free food, beer, entertainment for Vassar and Poughkeepsie. They bring a DJ and local artists to perform. They had some scheduling conflicts which caused a change in date, so that the show will be held at night instead of in the daytime. Therefore, they need to buy lights, etc. They've upped fundraising, ordered T-shirt, selling pizza etc.
 - 2013 said that this was his favorite event all year and made a motion to amend the amount to what they originally asked for (\$10,000).
 - They asked for more last year and were promised it this year. They've also had more events this year than ever before. They feel they will need more funding for lighting and increased security. 2011 expressed her support for them because they do something no other organization does. In order to make an offer to their guest performer, they need to know how much money they are going to be receiving. The president suggested tabling the allocation, but it was decided that this matter should be decided now. Lathrop expressed

her support. The event will be from 5-10 on the quad. There was discomfort expressed due to the fact that Council is voting on something this big with so little details.

-The motion to amend passed, with Main, Raymond, and 2014 opposing.

-Town Students made a motion to postpone the allocation. Activities stated that Hip hop couldn't make an offer comfortably without knowing that they were going to get the money. The rep said that the only costs different from the current budget were the costs for lighting and security. Lathrop reiterated the fact that any money they don't spend can/will be returned to council. Ferry felt that the org knows best and they feel they need the money now, so they do. Because the money is coming from the Discretionary fund they can spend it on anything for the event.

-the postponement motion fails with all opposed

-The allocation passed with all in favor.

9 Allocation of \$5,000 to ASA from Speakers & Lecturers Finance

-Every year they attend a conference and they invite lecturers. They want a Korean lady who has made a documentary about experimenting with being a man and the conference is open to not only Vassar students, but other schools are invited as well. Strong wondered how many people they expect from other schools and they weren't sure, but have received a lot of interest. Academics suggested collaborating with LGBTQ and similar orgs. Jewett suggested just screening the documentary instead of having the actual lady. Activities said she went last year and it was very well attended. Also, they previously asked for more money, and were denied so they found a cheaper speaker and came back. They are also inviting four other speakers from a variety of places like a Middlebury professor, human rights activists, and business people. This year is the first time they've invited people to their conference and many schools that don't have as much money. Finance said that they've raised \$2,000!!

-Allocation passes with all in favor except for TAs who abstained.

10 Allocation of \$5,000 to Vassar Greens from Council Discretionary..... Finance

The representatives discussed how they have completely redone the organization this year. They are trying to reduce bottled water consumption, publicizing info on quality of tap water, setting up a free store, and running lots of trainings like campaign planning, leadership opportunities, and anti-oppression workshops. The Powershift leader is an underclassman, he explained the conference in DC where they expect about 10,000 participants; it's a focal point for the youth movement for environmental issues with lots of different workshops, contacts in the area, cool speakers, all about social justice, environmental justice, and climate change. They are collaborating with a variety of orgs on campus. They already have 50 people signed up that want to go, over 2/3 freshmen. It's a great example of how powerful a student group can be. They are looking for ways to reduce costs by looking for cars in DC, selling fair trade coffee, and other fundraising.

-2014 voiced a worry that this might not be the most impactful experience for the futures of the participants. The representatives responded that there's nothing like it.

-Lathrop suggested that they only fund 25 people. The Greens would only be asking people to pay for food, because accessibility is very important to them.

-Lathrop made a motion to amend the allocation to \$3,800 to send just 10 people completely funded as they asked for. They reiterated that they are trying to be creative with housing etc.

-Ferry expressed her voice for following the amendment as did Strong, although she said she wants to support it as much as possible because it's an amazing event.

-Cushing wanted to know if they were going to allow others to attend after outreach.

They've been tabling a lot, but it might have to be a first come first serve thing if there's not enough funding. They are continuing fundraising.

-Town Students suggested that if they had done outreach beforehand, then maybe they could have made a Collaboration Fund request, but finance clarified that this was the only fund it could be put into.

-Amendment passes with all in favor except Town Students and Student Life opposed

-Joss was very supportive of their organization. Academics was also excited about their work and restructuring.

-Student Life suggested allocating more money from their own budget and coming back for more money later in the year.

-The allocation passed

-Motion to recess~passes

11 Open Discussion..... Anyone

-2011: 98 days until graduation

-Lathrop: they're having a concert in the basement! She feels uncomfortable about giving the Greens so much.

-Academics thinks that Powershift isn't just another conference.

-Finance stressed that funds can be moved around and all the money is the same.

-Student Life stresses that they can give as much money as they feel will benefit the student body and shouldn't be limited to rules, but it is an important conversation to have.

-Noyes: Congrats on the teach-in! Day Glow had great security, no EMS calls; it went very smoothly. Her house team discussed the fact that Council often repeats things. She also addressed last meeting and how she felt uncomfortable about its length due to the Superbowl and peoples' attitudes about getting out of the meeting. The president took responsibility for part of those mistakes and Academics commented that that's a good reminder that this position should be a priority.

-2011: She reiterated the fact that Council repeats things a lot. The student/faculty game went well as did the after party. 101 Nights had some issues because Airmark arrived late to the Villard room and a mob formed and security didn't do anything to control it. 2011 had to control the crowd on

her own and non-security people had to man the beer room and doors. It's not the students' place to feel scared or having to take control.

- Finance made a motion to allocate \$500 to the Discretionary Fund for the mini courses. There's been a lot of student interest. The application is very thorough and people will know that there's limited funding, maybe just \$5 for a student. All in favor—it passes.

-Town Students: She has had a lot of students coming to her asking to have more events like the teach-in and also for help with how they feel about the sophomore slump or those feelings of Vassar as an alternate universe and she doesn't have time and wants to know where to send them.

Academics said that VSA should become more issue centered. The President said that peer advising is also an option.

-2012 talked about the impressiveness with which Council got things done today.

-Joss agreed that security really doesn't do their job.

-Academics let everyone know that she'll be late every meeting.

-Ferry mentioned All College Day next week and encouraging students to go and also talk to her about applying to live in Ferry.

-Davison made a motion to adjourn—all in favor except for Joss. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.