

VSA Council Minutes
February 17, 2008

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

2. Attendance

Proxies: Davison.

Guests: Alison Abreu-Garcia (QCVC), Shira Collado (DOC), Reed Dunlea (Green Party), Sara Fairchild (CIE), Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Kyle Giunta (President's Office), Gabe Meltzer (Green Party), Acacia O'Connor (Miscellany News), Elizabeth Plapiner (WVKR), Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News), Angelic Sosa (BSU), Woodrow Travers.

3. Reports

a. Council on Alumni-Student Advancement

A representative from CASA reported that the Mind the Gap event was a great success and had lots of participation, and resulted in around 100 thank-you letters written. Participating students also showed many alumni around campus. The event illustrated the need for giving on campus, and the committee will likely continue to hold similar programs in the future. The committee will be meeting more regularly now, including a meeting this week. Any students with suggestions for the committee should contact Summer's-Grace Green or any other member of the committee.

b. Committee on Inclusion and Excellence

CIE has had two meetings since their last report, one of which was last semester on December 18, after some students had left for Winter Break. One of the new successes of the committee is the Poughkeepsie High School scholarship program, which originated in a subcommittee of CIE. The program gives students accepted to Vassar from Poughkeepsie High School scholarship money with no loans. Council later engaged in a discussion about the nature of privileging students from one specific local high school.

On All College Day there will be a forum with members of CIE, to allow other students to ask questions and give suggestions to the committee. Their table will be in the Faculty Commons from 11am-12pm, and the committee invites any organizations or students to come talk to them.

CIE has a three-year term, and the committee is engaging in discussions of what it would like to accomplish during the three years. It will also talk to President Hill about the future of the committee. The committee itself runs mostly through subcommittees, and CIE is currently discussing specifically what each subcommittee should be focusing on. Any students should feel free to email any member of the committee to give input and feedback about their current projects and their future.

c. Campus Life Resource Group

The Campus Life Resource Group is busy working on All College Day, which this year is themed "Be the Change." They will be hosting a mural project in the North Atrium starting at 10am, and tabling from different student organizations will occur from 3-6pm in the Villard Room. There will also be a Soup and Substance in the College Center MPR to have an open dialogue, and a Conversation Dinner will be hosted sometime after All College Day.

In response to a question from Student Life about faculty participation, the representative from CLRG reported that only administrators are actually members of the committee, but that there is significant faculty participation in Soup and Substances and

Conversation Dinners. Student Life responded that he is concerned about professors disengaging from participation in events.

In response to a question about the theme of All College Day, the representative responded that the theme was intended to encourage individual responsibility in changing the future, especially in reference to student organizations and how they interact with both the Vassar community and the larger Poughkeepsie community.

d. Exec Report (Operations)

Operations' report was shorter because CASA and CIE had already reported. She encouraged everyone to meet with CIE on All College Day. She also commented that the committee's three-year term limits the committee, and expressed a desire to show the campus the scope of the committee, and that students' voices can truly be addressed through the committee.

Operations has had a meeting to talk more about developing the website, "101 Things to Do in Poughkeepsie." The website will hopefully be more all-inclusive, and would also allow members of the Poughkeepsie community to see things to do on campus, through a section called Neighbors. She also hopes to merge the Ask Banner and Course Catalog search engines, in order for the Course Catalog to better reflect what classes are actually offered each semester, and allow students to search for classes based on course content. 2010 later asked whether there was a timeline for the 101 Things website, and Jewett suggested incorporating information about the Shuttle to the website.

Operations then reported on some individual issues: College Relations has formed a new committee, called Parents and Families Committee; there was a discussion regarding the possibility of a two-section election term for next year, but housing complications will likely make it too difficult; VSA has talked to Ferry about its inclusion into bylaws and institutions; Operations will be talking to Melinda Guthrie about the lack of meeting times for the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Advisory Committee; and there are currently open appointments for the Science Facility Planning Committee and a Board of Elections Co-Chair.

4. Certification of Gaming Club

The certification of the Gaming Club was moved to the following week's Council meeting, because no one from the club was able to be present this week.

5. Allocation of \$3500 from Speakers Fund to Green Party

Finances moved to allocate \$3500 from the Speakers Bureau Fund to the Green Party. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

6. Allocation of \$2500 from Collaboration to QCVC

Finances moved to allocate \$2500 from the Collaboration Fund to QCVC. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

7. Allocation of \$1200 from Speakers Fund to BSU

Finances moved to allocate \$1200 from the Speakers Fund to BSU. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

8. Transfer of Funds

Finances, on behalf of the Executive Board, moved to allocate \$892.75 from the Great Works Fund to the Conference Fund. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

9. Allocation of \$1200 from Conference to WVKR

Finances moved to allocate \$1200 from the Conference Fund to WVKR. 2011 questioned the amount of promotion and knowledge of WVKR's existence to the Vassar student body, and a representative from the radio station responded that WVKR is one of the only true links between Vassar and the Poughkeepsie community, and remains an essential part of the college. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

10. Allocation of \$740 from Collaboration to Davison

Finances moved to allocate \$740 from the Collaboration Fund to Davison. Cushing spoke briefly about the event, which he said he hoped would be a nostalgic experience for students who as children attended Bar Mitzvahs, and a cultural experience for students who did not. The event is very unique and will be significantly different from other events on campus.

Council engaged in a discussion regarding the size of the allocation, based on the size of Cushing and Davison's budgets. Student Life moved to call the allocation to question; all of Council voted in favor, and the motion passed. The majority of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

11. Allocation of \$500 from Discretionary to Filmmakers

Finances moved to allocate \$500 from the Council Discretionary Fund to Vassar Filmmakers. A representative from the Filmmakers spoke briefly about what the proposed project entails. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

12. Approval of Minutes from February 10

Operations moved for the minutes from the February 10th VSA Council meeting to be approved. Only Cushing and 2010 voted not in favor of the approval, and the motion passed.

13. Announcements of Fines

Finances announced that the following organizations have been fined \$50 for failure to attend or send a proxy to the All Treasurers Meeting held this past Sunday: EDRS, Investment Club, No Offense, Sailing Team, Ski Team, Unitarian Universalists, Synchronized Skating, Vassar Swing, and Wordsmiths. Council then engaged in a discussion about the punishment process for organizations being fined repeatedly for various reasons.

14. Open Discussion

- Operations moved to declare open for appointment three at-large positions for the Dean of the College Search Committee. All of Council voted in favor of the declaration, and the motion passed.
- 2008 announced that 98 days remain until commencement, and that 100 Nights occurred on Friday and was a very successful, well-attended event.
- On All College Day, CIE will be holding a forum from 11am-12pm.
- Lathrop announced that the dorm would be planning an event during Parents Weekend on April 12. They are discussing having a mechanical bull, and requested donations from other organizations.
- Lathrop also announced that the most well attended Men's Basketball game will be on Saturday, February 23, and encouraged people to attend.
- VRDT will be hosting its Annual Gala Event on Sunday, March 2 at the Bardavon Opera House.

- Jewett reported that its Seven Deadly Sins party went very well, and expressed gratitude to the other organizations that helped with the event.
- Joss announced that Josselyn and Davison are giving collectively \$1000 to a New Orleans Housing Charity with the proceeds from Harvest Ball.
- Cushing announced that Mazel Tov Matthew would be on Saturday, February 23.

15. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 8:41.