

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for Mar. 20, 2011

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

"My fellow citizens, at this hour American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger."

-George W. Bush, March 20th 2003

1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m.

2 Attendance Operations

-All here

3 Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from 2/27

b. Allocation of \$200 to Phil from Speakers & Lecturers

-All adopted

4 Focus: Admissions Multicultural Interns

Ann-Marie Alcantara '13, Shane Trujillo '13, Kleaver Cruz '11

-They host 2 events each year. They have carried out this program for multiple years. They bring colored students from the New York area, the West Coast, and Hawaii. It will take place April 16th-18th. They are looking for student leaders to brainstorm event ideas for Saturday afternoon to show the students what Vassar is like and to allow them to meet Vassar students. The houses discussed doing something on the quad or in the dorms. Ideas can be emailed to klcruz@vassar.edu.

5 Allocation of \$2,600 to Pro Health from Council Discretionary..... Finance

-The funds are for the Relay for Life Event. They haven't had as much help with this as they had in the past. The money goes straight to the American Cancer society. Their goal is \$20,000. They have 10 teams formed to participate in the event.

-This motion passed with all in favor.

6 Allocation of \$500 to VPI from Community Fund Finance

7 Allocation of \$500 to Phil from Council Discretionary Finance

8 Executive Board Reports

a. President

-The year is dwindling, only about 6 councils left. They need to wrap up concerns about security, making elections big and anything else they want to accomplish this year.

b. Operations

-They are working on the bus/shuttle combination idea. They wanted to collaborate with Marist to have a loop that would run 12 noon to 12 midnight Saturday and Sunday. Marist decided to table the plans due to funding constraints. Operations is helping with the upcoming panels on Financial aid and access, Vassar and the

economy, etc. The first is tomorrow at 8 p.m. in UpC. Operations is also working on constitutional revisions.

- 9 Constitutional RevisionsOperations
- This is the second step after cleaning up the constitution. This reflects the more dramatic changes/structural stuff. The revisions will be sent out to the entire campus.
 - 2011 asked about the open positions and how they are publicized.
 - Student Life explained that the VSA decided that one constant member of the VSA should be on each committee to ensure that they participate and attend.
 - 2011 was worried that the VSA is involved in too much of the administration and the rest of the community should be allowed more involvement. The hope is that they will still have opportunities to do this.
 - Lathrop had a clarification question about having 3 representatives from residence council. The idea was to give them equal representation as the class representatives. The idea is to have Student Life and Residential Life collaborate more.
 - Jewett wanted details about how this collaboration will be carried out.
 - Joss brought up a change that clarified meaning.
 - 2012 asked about the process; president explained that everyone should send this out to the students and be receptive of all feedback. It is then changed and informally ratified and sent back out to the students. Then, after 2 weeks, the document is officially ratified.
 - Strong brought up another language clarification issue.
 - Raymond proposed a rotational system for the participation of residential committee members to allow Res. life to stay involved, but not give any one person too much burden. She stressed the fact that Vassar is a very dorm centric campus. Student Life responded to this saying that this new system won't diminish the dorms involvement and logistically a rotational system might be challenging.
 - Davison asked about finance. He was assured that the system was going to stay the same in the sense that orgs come in when they have a fund app, but it's finance's responsibility to let the org know that they need to be at a certain meeting. Executive board will have a different role in recommending financial actions.
 - Joss discussed getting the backing of the administration and how that needs to be addressed more. Exec board responded this is the reason for faculty advisors, but acknowledged that this conversation needs to be continued.
 - 2011 thinks that giving a voice to only 3 different Res halls isn't fair.
 - Main doesn't feel comfortable with the change to residential council. He thinks maybe the ratio between each class and Res Council needs to be changed. Student Life made the point that the class representatives and the Residential Council are serving the same population.
 - TAs suggested putting all of the Res Council in the student life committee. It was decided that this didn't make sense for logistical and other reasons.

-Cushing asked about training changes and the response was that more training for Exec Board and council as a whole will be mandated in the future. There is also probably going to be a mandatory meeting for anyone interested in running. They want to differentiate between res life and senator reps.

-Town Students suggested requiring fund apps over a certain amount to apply earlier than other apps.

-Strong voiced her support for increased residential representation because to the rest of the school it might look like some houses are getting more representation.

-Joss spoke to the fact that to a certain extent we have to have faith that this structure will work because we are electing these representatives.

-Ferry was very supportive of these changes. She thinks having the residential council as the body where more day to day things are settled, whereas council as a more formal body would be more productive. She also suggested a non-voting 4th observer from the residential council that sits on normal council and potentially rotates.

-Operations let everyone know that they can email her with more suggestions.

-Main inquired about the real purpose of student council. He feels that as a body, council has very little power—most of what they do is go to higher administrators and convey concerns. He doesn't like the agenda based policies. He also feels that council is looking too much at changing the entire structure as a response to the lack of productivity that council has had this year. He thinks they need to take personal responsibility.

-Operations believes these changes are honestly to make a greater change.

-Student Life thinks that students have more power than they think they do.

10 Open Discussion..... Anyone

-2011: 63 days left until graduation. Senior week plans are well under way.

-Dr. Horrible Sing Along Blog. They are the last show before the rights won't be given out. Finance made a motion to allocate \$250 from the collaboration fund. The motion passed with all in favor.

-Lathrop: lots of shows going on—Idelwald this weekend.

-Joss: This Friday ViCE is having an event and he's opening in Upc.

-Town Students: David Harvey is coming on Thursday from 5:30 to 7. There's also a conference this weekend, there will be a free dinner cooked by Slow Foods at Vassar. She talked about the crazy things happening in the world and our ability to still be so focused on our little lives.

-Academics: Mini Courses are currently being approved and should be starting in the next few weeks.

-THs addressed standardizing charges from B&G. Student Life was told that these charges shouldn't vary and that charges should be processed within 2 weeks. This hasn't happened. Problems should be sent to Student Life.

-Ferry applications are going to be sent out soon.

-Lathrop made a motion to adjourn, Joss screamed in defeat. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.