

VSA Council Minutes
March 30, 2008

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Attendance

Absent: Student Life.

Guests: Jared Augenstein (ProHealth), Sean Boley, Shira Collado, Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Amanda Giglio (FWA), Kyle Giunta, Sean Koerner (Noyes VP), Robertino Lim (ProHealth), Acacia O'Connor (Miscellany News), Kaitlin Riddle, Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News), Jennifer Son, Chao Song, Angelic Sosa, Brooke Widman, Lea Wiemann, Jason Wu.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from March 23

b. Allocation of \$448.70 from Speaker's Fund to Filmmakers

No objections were made, and the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

4. Election Dates

Board of Elections presented Council with the proposed Spring 2008 Election Date Schedule, as well as a list of positions to be elected Spring 2008. All of Council voted in favor of the documents, and they were accepted as presented.

5. Reports

a. Sustainability Committee

A representative from the Sustainability Committee reported that there would soon be a formal Sustainability Committee formed, comprised of faculty members and administrators. The formal committee will be formed when administrators approve of its creation. An advisory committee will also be formed. There will not be students serving on the formal committee, but students will serve on the advisory committee.

In response to a question about the Dorm Energy Challenge, the representative reported that Buildings and Grounds installed technology in the dorm houses to measure their energy usage. The Vassar Greens have since compiled a list of energy usage for the houses, have placed flyers in the dorms with this list, and the energy challenge is currently underway.

b. Vassar First Year

A representative from Vassar First Year reported that it held the Three Poets, One Mic event after Winter Break, and has already decided the required reading for next year's freshman class. The organization is currently working on the Freshman 15 event, and that the event's committee is very well attended. The committee's meetings move very smoothly because it does not comprise very many members.

c. Board of House Presidents

The head of the Board of House Presidents reported that BHP has been discussing a lot of changes to its bylaws. BHP created a Board of House Vice-Presidents, and has since drafted bylaws relating to the new Board, which will soon be submitted to CRC. BHP is currently discussing changing the names of House Team roles, including changing the role of Vice President to Programming Director. The Board is also in discussions regarding suggestions from RLAC, including House Honor Codes and House

Judicial Boards. These suggestions are being considered, but no decisions have been made yet. Finally, BHP is involved in participation of a Drug and Alcohol Panel, which might feature dorm-specific discussions after the panel.

e. Fund Report (ASA)

A representative from ASA reported that the organization used its fund allocation to attend a conference in late February, called the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference. Students from many different locations attended the conference, which included different workshops to attend, provided resources, and featured performances. Workshops offered included such topics as hate crimes and class healing, and events included the reading of certain literature and a performance by Blue Scholars. The conference featured resources and ways to meet new people, and provided suggestions for on-campus programming. ASA is considering hosting some workshops on campus at Vassar.

f. Fund Report (H4H)

Habitat for Humanity reported that its fund allocation from the Political Action Fund was used for members to spend time in Albany working for Housing Legislation. The organization met with representatives and congressmen at their local offices, working to achieve workforce housing, which provides affordable housing through a State Trust Fund. The organization will also be attending a follow-up conference in a month.

g. Exec Report (President)

President reported that in addition to his VSA duties, he spends a significant amount of time going to various meetings. One of the most prominent issues being discussed is space on campus. There is currently a space committee, which is looking at various spaces on campus, and is discussing what will happen when the bookstore moves out of the College Center. It is strongly looking to have some sort of 24-hour study space on campus, and President expressed optimism that such a goal could be achieved.

President is also attending Parties and Planning meetings, and recently attended the Faculty Policy and Conference Committee along with Academics. They discussed issues of mutual concern, including changing majors committees, student feedback of faculty, and the committee system at this college.

President attended a Board Meeting at the beginning of March, and is continually working on his section of the Self-Study literature.

h. Annual Budgeting Dates

Finance reported the following information about Annual Budgeting Dates:

- Applications for Annual Budgeting are due April 14.
- Finances and Activities will be meeting with organizations for approximately three minutes each on the weekend of April 19-20.
- The following week will be spent working to balance the budget.
- The old and new VSA Exec Board will convene on the night of April 26 to approve of the new VSA budget.
- The actual Exec Budgeting meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 29.

6. Adoption of Funding of Academic Endeavors Memo

President gave a brief overview of the Funding of Academic Endeavors Memorandum. A discussion about the funding of academic endeavors began last year, regarding finances used by the College Academic Fund. Academic events requiring funding currently requires running around to many different administrators and different financial sources, and it is the opinion of VSA that there should be one unified academic fund. VSA wants to crack down on Majors

Committees getting money to fund events that are actually held by Academic and Administrative Departments, because VSA Funds are intended for student-run and student-attended events. The memorandum will be implemented immediately after being sent to the relevant administrators.

Council then engaged in a discussion about the memorandum itself. Some members raised a concern about whether the memo would come as a surprise to the student body, and expressed hesitance about sending the memo too hastily. 2011 expressed concern about whether academic departments and majors committees would be unable to collaborate with student organizations on an event because of the memo's precedent. 2009 suggested that information be posted on the VSA website about applying to the College Academic Fund.

The motion was to adopt the memorandum as presented by Academics and Finance. All of Council voted in favor of adoption, and the motion passed.

7. Transfer of \$1727.43 from Great Works to Special Events

Finance, on behalf of Council, moved to transfer \$1727.43 from the Great Works Fund to the Special Events Fund. All of Council voted in favor of the transfer, and the motion passed.

8. Transfer of \$1522.57 from Media Publishing to Special Events

Finance, on behalf of Council, moved to transfer \$1522.57 from the Media Publishing Fund to the Special Events Fund. All of Council voted in favor of the transfer, and the motion passed.

9. Allocation of \$3250 from Special Events to Noyes

Finance moved to allocate \$3250 from the Special Events Fund to Noyes. In response to a question from Council, Noyes affirmed that enough money would be available to pay for security for off-campus attendants. Noyes abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

10. Allocation of \$1500 from Speaker's Fund to ASA

Finance moved to allocate \$1500 from the Speaker's Fund to the Asian Students Alliance.

A representative from ASA discussed its event and future events, and mentioned that more money would be helpful to host its event. In response, Finance then moved to amend the allocation to \$1700. All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

11. Allocation of \$1050 from Collaboration to FWA

Finance moved to \$1050 from the Collaboration Fund to Future Waitstaff of America. A representative from FWA explained that the musical being performed involves queerness and premarital unprotected sex, which explains the group's collaboration with QCVC and CHOICE. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

12. Transfer of \$900 from Hosting to Special Events

Finance, on behalf of Council, moved to transfer \$900 from the Hosting Fund to the Special Events Fund. All of Council voted in favor of the transfer, and the motion passed.

13. Allocation of \$900 from Special Events to ProHealth

Finance moved to allocate \$900 from the Special Events Fund to ProHealth. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

14. Allocation of \$750 from Collaboration to Noyes

Finance moved to allocate \$750 from the Collaboration Fund to Noyes. The event will be held on April 4. Noyes abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

15. Allocation of \$3000 from Speaker's Fund to CBS

Finance moved to allocate \$3000 from the Speaker's Fund to the Council of Black Seniors. President moved to move the Meeting to a closed session. All of Council voted in favor, and the meeting temporarily became a closed session.

Upon reconvening, Council voted to amend the allocation to \$4707.88. Ferry abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

Ferry abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

16. Allocation of \$300 from Discretionary to No Offense

Finance moved to allocate \$300 from the Council Discretionary Fund to No Offense. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

17. Report of the Auditor

Finance moved to allocate \$61 from Capital Contingency to FlyPeople. The Auditor reported that FlyPeople used to have a boom box, but that it was stolen from the Campus Activities Office. The replacement that was bought is currently being used by all organizations, and is not always available when needed by FlyPeople. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

18. Appointment of Raymond Secretary

Operations moved to appoint Katie Mancher as Raymond Secretary. All of Council voted in favor of the appointment, and the motion passed.

19. Amendment to Article II of the VSA Bylaws

Operations moved to amend Article II, Section 6-H of the VSA Bylaws. It was introduced last week, and is up for a vote this week. All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

20. Introduction of Amendments to Articles VI and VII of the VSA Constitution

Operations introduced amendments to Article VI, Section 1-B; Article VII, Section 2-H; and Article VII, Section B, of the VSA Bylaws.

2009 moved to amend the amendment, replacing "shall" with "can," and adding, "The respective residence council shall fill any vacancy by appointment." Academics moved to divide the question into two separate amendments. Only Cushing voted against replacing "shall" with "can," and the first secondary amendment passed. Only Academics, Operations, Activities and SoCo voted against the "vacancy" amendment, and the second secondary amendment passed.

Main moved to amend the amendment to read, "elected by their respective junior and sophomore residents." President asked for unanimous consent to accept the amendment, and seeing no objection, the secondary amendment was accepted.

Council engaged in a discussion about the usefulness of Programming Directors in Apartment Housing.

The passage of the proposed amendments will be voted on at next week's meeting.

21. Introduction of Amendments to Article VII of the VSA Constitution

Operations introduced amendments to Article VII of the VSA Constitution, including its name, Section 1, Section 2, and Section 3. Operations explained that the amendments were crafted in cooperation between CRC and Ferry Haus. Ferry expressed gratitude toward CRC for crafting the amendments cooperatively with Ferry's interests.

The passage of the proposed amendments will be voted on at next week's meeting.

22. Introduction of Amendments to Articles VII of the VSA Bylaws

Operations introduced amendments to Article VII, Section 5 of the VSA Bylaws, relating to the issue of VSA Election Campaigning. Council engaged in a discussion about whether dorms should be required to host debates among candidates.

Activities moved to strike the amendments to E-2. Council engaged in an extensive discussion about campaign practices traditionally used, and those that may be used under the new bylaws.

Vote to Strike the Amendments to E-2:

Not in Favor: Main, 2011, Noyes, Strong, 2008, Town Students, Operations, Cushing, 2010, Jewett, Joss, SoCo, 2009.

In favor: Ferry, TA, Academics, Finance, Activities, Raymond, Davison, Lathrop, TH.

Result: By a vote of 13-9, the motion failed.

Council continued to extensively engage in the specific details outlined by the proposed amendments, including issues of flyer, Facebook campaigning, and what does and does not constitute "solicited" campaign materials.

The passage of the proposed amendments will be voted on at next week's meeting.

23. Organizations of the Month for February and March

Activities moved to declare Main and ASU the Organizations of the Month for February and March, respectively. Main and Ferry abstained, all of Council voted in favor of declaration, and the motion passed.

24. Announcement of Fines

Finance announced that 2011 has been fined \$25 under Article 1, Section 6-C of the VSA Bylaws.

25. Open Discussion

- Finance moved to allocate \$1000 from the Collaboration Fund to BSU. Members from the involved organizations affirmed that no students would be receiving credit for attending the event, and that the event is not solely being held by an academic committee.

An amendment to \$3000 was suggested, and members of Council seconded the motion. 2011 moved to call to question; all of Council voted in favor, and the question was called. Ferry abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed. The allocation was effectively amended to \$3000.

Ferry abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

- 2008 announced that 56 days remain until commencement.

- Finance moved to allocate \$580 from Council Discretionary to Nate Silver. 2010 abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.
- Activities announced that a new Shuttle schedule would begin on Wednesday, which includes both a train station stop and a grocery store stop. The schedule will also hold longer hours. Activities also announced that there would be a discussion about the new Bookstore, hosted by Urban Studies, open to all students.
- Raymond reported that its Roaring 20s party was a success.

26. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 11:05pm.