

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Council Minutes for April 29, 2012

“Although I am very proud of our accomplishments, the most memorable part of my VSA experience has been getting to know and love the people I worked with, not the projects we produced together.”  
—Tanay Tatum

1 Call to Order

-The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2 Attendance.....Operations

-All here.

3 Consent Agenda

a. \$400 from the Conference Fund to VARC

b. \$370 from the Council Discretionary Fund to Town Students

c. \$100 from the New Organization Fund to Challah For Hunger

-All adopted.

4 BHP

Report.....Noyes  
& Jewett (7 min)

-They met with the House Presidents co-chairs to talk about some important issues. They submitted an application to the Sustainability Committee through the Campus Resource fund to get more sustainable lighting in some of the dorms.

5 Davison Junior Rep

Tie.....Operations (20 min)

-Each candidate will have 4 minutes to present to Council. Then Council will go into closed session and make a decision.

-Reeve Johnson is interested in this job because he loves Davison, he has experience on House Team from this year as a Student Fellow, and he’s worked on events. He’s worked with a small group of students and learned how to bring students’ concerns to House Team and he would do the same as Junior Rep. He also loves and knows all of the juniors that are staying and would love to connect with them in this way, creating lots of face to face contact. He worked on Beyoncé Mug night as well.

-Helen Benton has lived in Davison the past two years. She co-hosted a study break this year which helped her realize how important House Team is to creating a community in a dorm. She wants to work with everyone on working together. She’ll only be here in the fall and wants the opportunity to learn about House Team through this experience and contribute to the community.

-Academics asked about their roles on Class Council as well as House Team. Helen wants to be able to bring Davison Juniors’ ideas to class Council and be a part of everything. Reeve wants to contribute like he did planning events this semester.

-Davison asked how they plan to involve Juniors and get them riled up. Helen wants to talk to them face to face, let them know what’s happening, and encourage them to attend

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events in an aggressive, yet no-frightening way. Reeve wants to let them know that their voice is heard and show them that they can make a difference in dorm issues.

-2013 felt that one of the big challenges for the Junior Class is making them feel cohesive and like one community; it's very disjointed, how do you avoid this? Helen wants to help the juniors make the transition to going abroad and feel ok with this idea. Reeve thinks that helping them connect with the incoming freshman and sophomore classes will help the junior class feel more involved and part of everything.

-Main asked if Reeve is going to be Rep. in the spring as well. No, he wants to keep his options open for other activities then.

### 6 Joss Junior Rep (Spring)

Tie.....Operations (20 min)

-Sabrina was HFI this past year and she thinks she's good at helping them have a voice on campus. She loves to organize events and will try to do this by planning events that help them feel integrated into the house. She would love to do inter-house events with juniors. She wants to educate them about issues.

-Claire wants to be involved. She knows all the juniors in Joss and she wants to help integrate them in the dorm and bring them back together in this weird year. She would love the opportunity to work with class Council and House Team because she's never done this before. She feels that her other activities make her very capable.

-Sabrina feels like she's been a great addition to the House Team. She is comfortable bringing up her own ideas and listening to other people.

-Clarie thinks she can be a leader and a member and make things as cohesive as possible. She will collaborate and listen to everyone's ideas.

-Joss asked about fostering a sense of community. Sabrina loved her experience of community last year and having integration between the classes and knowing everyone. She feels the younger students really benefit from this relationship and the juniors too. She would encourage people to come to community cookies etc. Claire also wants to bring back this community and help the juniors to be as involved as possible. She would talk to them and get them together more.

-Socos asked about Class Council. Sabrina wants to bring the issues that she's passionate about to the Junior Class. She wants to help the class understand what VSA does. Claire feels disconnected from many VSA and Class Council issues. She wants to alleviate these feelings and bring the class together to talk about these topics.

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### 7 Noyes Treasurer

Tie.....Operations (20 min)

-Chuck wants to be treasurer to be more involved and be a part of House Team. He’s friends with almost everyone on House Team and he thinks they can work well together. He feels the community and family from this year and wants to carry that on next year. He talked to the current treasurer to learn more about the job and thinks he is capable of doing everything. He wants to work with the VP of Finance

-Daniel felt bad when he came this year and everyone asked “Hows that going?” about him living in Noyes. He feels a very strong community and love of Noyes and he thinks being on House Team would be a great way to represent how he feels about Noyes and the people in it.

-Socos asked how they would foster communication in their house. Chuck would try to bring more people to study breaks. Daniel wants to be a more visible part of the community, more than just a door sign.

-Raymond asked what their experience with Finance is. Daniel was a treasurer and is an Econ major. Chuck handles his home finances. Noyes asked about working with a team. Chuck plays organized baseball so he’s part of a team. Daniel was in clubs.

-Reeve was voted Junior Rep for Davison.

-Claire was voted Junior Rep for Joss.

-Daniel was voted Treasurer of Noyes for next year.

### 8 Appointment

Recommendations.....Operations (20 min)

-They wanted to fill these before the year is over so they know what is going on as soon as possible. They had 4-5 applications. Ops read all of them and made recommendations accordingly. The Council on Alumni Student Advancement is now going to be an open committee so everyone that applied is now on CASA.

#### a. Strong Secretary: Carolina Gustafon

-She spoke a lot about improving moral in Strong in light of events this year. She talked about the event side and the Council side of this. She lost in the normal election to another position. A Strong House member talked about how this candidate hadn’t attended any meetings since applying for this position. Another candidate, Alana went to the House Team kick-off, but an Ops. Rep. notes the fact that Carolina was re-applying at all which they thought was impressive. Main asked if they could add someone else to the options. President added Alana to be

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voted on. Operations talked about how it's a flawed system, but they have the documents to go off of so they have to let this be the deciding factor. Operations decided not to have people come in because they had 45 applications and they wanted to put everyone on an even playing field. Student Life made a motion for a 5 minutes recess. This passed with a majority.

-Socos thinks that Carolina seems like she's really devoted to the community and wants to get involved and knows what she's getting herself into.

-2012 is also impressed because this girl showed devotion by running again after having lost an election and this shows her priorities are in the right place.

-Carolina was voted in.

b. Lathrop Junior Rep: Jazmine Dandridge

-She is not going abroad, she understands the balance between House Team and Council and she's involved in other committees this year which gives her a unique perspective. 2014 brought up his opinion that Jazmin has been known to stretch the truth a little. Alex is student advisor in Lathrop and he wanted to put in a word for Evan who has been a hard worker, been to all the events, and is always on time. He's also really friendly. Also, next years' House Team is very female heavy and he thinks it's important to put a guy on House Team. Operations appreciates this feedback.

-Cushing asked in what way going abroad affects an application. They do put weight on continuity. Noyes wants to add to this and thinks that Alex brings up a good point.

-President liked Jazmin's application because she'll be on other committees and bridge the gap between House Team and campus issues. She doesn't think bringing up gender is appropriate. She knows her personally and thinks she'll be good.

-THs brought up the fact that she does a lot of other activities and thinks they should take this into consideration when voting.

-Davison brought up that Jazmin is the only one with concrete ideas for next year.

-Lathrop wanted to note that just because something is on an application doesn't mean that person was devoted to this. She also reminded all House Teams that they should always hold their members accountable.

-2015 asked how important it is to have returners come in. Alex thinks that having returners is very important and they only have one this year coming back.

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- Ferry asked to consider multiple options.
- Evan won for fall representative and spring representative.
- c. Master Planning Committee 2015: Gregg Watts
  - They recommended him because he seemed to be the most knowledgeable candidate about this committee. He has a good background with campus planning and he’s done a lot of research about urban growth, space, and environment. Master Planning is also open so even if they don’t get this you can be involved. This passed with all in favor.
- d. Master Planning Committee 2014: William Hunter Furnish
  - He’ll be here the whole year, he has a good idea of what the position is/does, and he’s already interested in what it’s doing. Continuity is important. This motion passed with all in favor.
- e. 2014 Class Secretary: Jackie Parziale
  - They recommended her because she’ll be here the entire year. She’s been on Jewett House Team and Daisy chain. She wants to establish relationships between sister classes and they liked her application a lot. This passed with all in favor.
- f. Town Students Treasurer: Austen Wagner
  - He lives off campus and he’s the only one applying and is qualified.
- g. Town Students Programming Director: Rachael Borne
  - She had the most extensive application of anyone. She has been really involved with things off campus. She had a lot of great ideas for events and she has a good idea of how to unite people living off campus. This passed with all in favor.
- h. Cushing Junior Rep: Trevor McKinnon
  - He was the only one who applied. He is the Junior Rep for the fall so they think in terms of continuity this is a good idea. This passed with all in favor.
- i. Main Junior Rep: Even Hurdich
  - He’s the only person running and he’s very qualified. This passed with all in favor.
  - Operations thanked everyone who applied and all the conversation surrounding this.
- 9 \$500 from the New Organization Fund to Hype.....Finance (15 min)
  - 2013 is looking at these events because the organizations don’t have enough money left.
  - Finance knows exactly how much money they have left because it’s the end of the year and this is what they discovered. Everyone was in favor to pass this motion.

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- 10 \$1291 from the Conference Fund to Slow Food Vassar.....Finance  
(15 min)

-All in favor. 2013 noted that the Conference Fund had reached zero.

- 11 Annual

Budgeting.....Finance  
(refer to bylaws)

-They received petitions from Equestrian Team, French Club, Habitat for Humanity, Slow Food, Run Vassar, Transitions, ViCE, and more. They spoke to the president of Transitions and allocated them \$500 so that one is cleared up. No other changes were made. The way the debate process works is that they move into a 12 minutes discussion where everyone gets 90 seconds to speak. If they decide to pass it as a whole then none of the other stuff happens. They are required to go into a minimum of 30 min of closed discussion. If anyone wants to make an amendment then they offer that now.

-THs spoke on behalf of Habitat, saying VSA budgeted them \$2500 last year. One of the presidents quit because they hadn't heard back from the treasurer. They need the money to reimburse people to drive to sights and for Spring Break. He also noted that spending wasn't the same this year because they had trouble finding cars. Finance responded that they had someone from Habitat come in and she didn't explain why they needed more than \$2500. Socos also felt that they couldn't show how to spend their money and they want to trust the people involved who are going to get their money. He also noted that they can always apply for supplemental budgeting next year. THs brought up that they just want the same amount of money so that they can carry out what they've done for the past few years.

-Allie noted that Hip Hop 101 is marked as having \$17000 of budgeting this year. Throw Back Jam and 4 Pillars require a lot of funding.

-Everyone voted to adopt these with all in favor. President commended Finance on the honest petitioning process this year.

-President felt last year that people couldn't give everything to VSA. She's so happy they've proven this wrong this year and she's proud of all the sub-committees they've sat on and all the administrative compliments and praise.

- 12 Open Discussion

-2012: 20 days until graduation. They hit the 1000 mark this weekend, 1084 gifts as of now. She thanked everyone for helping her learn something about herself and it's been an honor to work with everyone. They will be celebrating.

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-2015: They are hoping to work with the first year committee. They had their freshman event this past week. They had their first Council meeting and he's so excited—he thinks they'll be a great group. BCP met last week and they'll be a thing. Thanks to all of the wonderful people on Council.

-Emily thanked Council for giving so much and taking so little. They deserve to be recognized more than they are and she's felt so honored to witness their devotion, passion, and collaboration this year.

-Socos said something about the Board of Elections. Don't let voting happen on the weekend anymore. Someone on CIS has to work overtime to fix their problems. They need to look at the issues with the Banner/voting abroad system. He talked about how this Council has defined his senior year and him and how he'll remember Vassar and go out into the real world. They've been his crutch to give him a sense of purpose when he hasn't felt it elsewhere. To all of the seniors, he's so glad they have each other. “Fucking Charlie I don't know what I would have done without you this year.” He loves everyone and he'll take you with him wherever he goes.

-Davison wanted to thank 2015 for doing an AWESOME job this year and getting lots of attendance and being great. He remembers this last year and everyone looking like they weren't happy and this is so different.

-Joss wanted to thank the interns and the at large members for being here all the time. He wanted to let next year's Executive Board know what an important part of being a dorm president is to VSA Council and doing the training this year as well as house team training. A message to next year's exec. is to keep up the good work and keep up the institutional memory.

-Lathrop loves and is proud of the seniors and is so happy for next year's Council that they had such amazing role models this year. Founders Day was amazing!

-Operations Committee is going to have another meeting so be prepared. She wants everyone to know that they mean more to her than anyone and she hopes they know that. Next year's Council be bold be kind and take care of each other, give people help.

-Student Life said it's been such an honor and he loves them all. To next year, good luck, take it seriously, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Be intentional and good about it. They'll be awesome, they owe it to everyone.

-2014 talked about becoming freshman president and thinks that given the opportunity most people wouldn't do this and he's so proud that they have and he loves everyone.

-2015 wants to take a picture.

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-Cushing wants to say that they have a spirit chair initiative and thinks it brought everyone together. He’s freaking out even though he’s not a senior because he loves everyone and feels so honored to continue everything they’ve done this year.

-Joss said: Is this the sign of a more mainstream Vassar to come? A lot of people get the vibe that Vassar is a weird place and he thinks this is a great thing and he’s heard the rumor that admission is changing policy to let in more patriarchal and well- endowed people and he doesn’t think this will ever happen. Student government has more power than anyone is given credit for.

-Ferry and Davison made a motion to adjourn. This passed with all in

-FUCK