

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for Sept. 11, 2011

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

*"I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends."
—Abraham Lincoln*

- 1 Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
- 2 Attendance Operations
 - All here.
- 3 Moment of Silence for 9/11 Victims President
- 4 Consent Agenda
 - a. \$420 from Conference Fund to VJU
 - b. \$360 from Conference Fund to Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
 - No objections.
- 5 Forum with special guest Ed Pittman, Associate Dean of Campus Life & Diversity (45 min)
 - He is the advisor to the VSA. He talked about how this is his second year advising the VSA and his reasons for doing it again. He's been here for 22 years and he has seen the impact the VSA can have on the direction of the campus and the experience of the students. He likes to be there as a support, someone to lend a hand, bounce ideas off, or help resolve conflict. He is here to listen, ask questions, and point Council towards resources. He does not feel that he needs to give Council advice or tell Council what to do. He meets with the President on a regular basis. He works with other administrators on campus on a variety of events and programs. The campus life resource group came to be because of an offensive incident in 2000. They decided to form a day called "All College Day" where everyone reflects on how Vassar as a community is doing and progressing. It will be in February. They meet in CC 204 on Tuesdays from 3-4:30 where they discuss various issues. They are very attentive in creating a diverse group of people to discuss these things.
 - Academics encouraged everyone to become a part of CLR group because she did it last year and learned so much. She feels that these days there aren't any huge unifying events like in 2000 and wonders if they are discussing this. He said that they draft a general theme every year and the group helps decide on the topic of All College Day. The idea is that they discuss large campus issues that contain layers of gender and race.
 - Operations asked about the VSA's strongest moments. He thinks that when the VSA reaches out to their constituents and the Poughkeepsie community they get a lot done. When the VSA had discussions with the publication "The Imperialist", trying to make sure the content wasn't offensive, but making sure there was free speech was a difficult moment, but they ended up being very effective. Finding an inclusive way of structuring the VSA was also a challenge that was overcome. They have focused the "I am Vassar" on the different

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individuals that come to Vassar and how they become an inclusive community. Discussing diversity is challenging because the term "diversity" is thrown around so much and there are many different angles that we can come at it from.

-2012 asked about accessibility and he responded that anyone can come and are not only encouraged to but welcomed. She also wanted to remind everyone what a good resource he is in the sense that he's our memory of before we were here.

-Activities asked about the types of issues like the keg ban in comparison with issues of race and gender. He says he looks at it from different perspectives and tries to represent as many views as are affected. He looks at everything through a diversity lense, but is always inclusive of many views. With an issue, they encourage participants to take the next step of discussion (editorials, emails, etc.) if it isn't a policy issue.

-Student Life brought up the idea of each class council or house team sending a delegate to keep everyone included and aware. He wanted clarification on the CLG and the CLRT.

CLRT: Him, Counseling center, presidential life, security, etc. They assess what the community impact is and respond in a manner they feel is appropriate—an email, a campus wide discussion, etc. They are working on making everything more accessible because they don't want events to go unreported. They want to have everything online.

-2014 asked about how to improve balance, efficiency, and representation. President added to this the question of how to make sure the group is representative if the students that do student government are self-selecting. He talked about being intentional and respectful and making sure that everyone had something to give that's different from their peers.

6 Announcements

a. Meet Me in PoughkeepsieActivities (4 min)

-He will have the applications for co-chair for Meet me in Poughkeepsie done by later this week and it will be sent out to the whole campus. There will be meetings on Mondays from 7:30-8 in the Activities office. They are thinking about pairing activities so that people aren't just going to restaurants, but participating in some type of community service related event as well.

b. Peer AdvisingAcademics (4 min)

-The applications went out a week ago, and the database is slowly filling. She will pester all juniors and seniors on Council to join. There will be a training next week. She is going to get a representative from Academics committee to talk to all the student fellows about this new system.

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- 7 Charter of the Campus Dining Review Committee Student Life (15 min)
-Airmark's contract is up next year, but all the info they have will come from this year because it's a long process. In the past, there was discontent about the student voice involved in the Airmark contract and he hopes to improve this this year. Campus Dining Committee has been doing a lot of work on this; Jewett talked about research on getting student opinion (focus groups, events in houses, and a town hall style meeting). The committee must report once a month to Council and they will need money so he'll be coming to Council to ask for more money. Student Life made a motion to adopt the charter and it passed with all in favor.
- 8 Appointment of Michael Mestitz as SoCo Treasurer Operations (5 min)
-The Operations committee found him more than competent and the motion to appoint him was approved with all in favor.
- 9 Suspension of Bylaw Article 6, Section 1(G)..... Operations (5 min)
-She wants to cut this bylaw to allow more people to be on the board. This motion passed with all in favor.
- 10 Appointment of Board of Elections Positions Operations (5 min)
-They have been meeting unofficially recently because elections are underway. Seth, Robert, Matt, Oshem (?), Doug, and Vincent were all appointed to the Board of elections with all in favor.
- 11 Class Council Amendment Michael Moore (10 min)
-He talked about cleaning up language in the Constitution and taking time to look more at it so there aren't any mistakes. 2014 made a motion to table this amendment until next week. This motion passed with all in favor.
- 12 Capital Loan Bylaw Amendment Finance (7 min)
-He made a motion to adopt article 3, section 15, sub-section b. This passed with all in favor.
- 13 Capital Loan Charter..... Finance (10 min)
-Activities asked about why he wasn't included in the language when naming the committees that have to give approval. Finance made a motion to adopt the capital loan charter. This passed with all in favor.
- 14 Open Discussion

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-2012: 252 days until graduation. She's happy that Serenading went well. She wants to make sure that there's more diversity in committees such as the Board of Elections because it is a lot of Council members.

-Operations: Tomorrow night is the candidates meeting for elections; there'll be an email sent out tonight. Each house president should have a meet and greet in the dorm where candidates can introduce themselves. Start talking up the presidential debates!! They are starting to table next week.

-President addressed Council about their apathy when Ed Pitman came in. She would like to see the rest of Council asking questions because of the 8 questions asked, 6 were from the executive board. She also encouraged people to let their constituents know when an administrator is coming so that they can ask question. Vigil at 9! Come.

-Activities encouraged everyone to look at how each administrator's job applies to projects that they're working on. Motion to adjourn, all in favor, this motion passed.