

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for Sept. 25, 2011

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

1 Attendance Operations

-All here; Raymond had a proxy.

2 Consent Agenda

- a. \$450 from Conference Fund to UNICEF
- b. \$650 from Collaboration Fund to Ballroom

-All adopted with all in favor.

3 Announcements

- a. Freshmen Elections Result Party.....Operations

-Voting commences tomorrow at 5 p.m. There is tabling this week. The debates went really well. There will be a party to celebrate next week!

4 Executive Board Reports

- a. Academics

-Peer advising goes live this week. The first meeting with the chairs of majors committees should be happening in the next few weeks. The library committee is trying to make the library a more accessible space.

-2012 asked about the prison course. This course is not being given this year because of a state decision. They want to reevaluate and recreate the courses, not abolish them completely. There is a push to make them more education centered and to get more faculty involved in teaching courses. In recent years, the courses have fallen under the responsibility of just a few people. Basically, they want to institutionalize them more and potentially spread classes over multiple departments. They would love people to get involved.

- b. Student Life

-Student life committee has been really busy this year. They are revisiting the relationship abuse charge and the college is reevaluating its policies to address this.

-The Alcohol Task Force has been working on the specificity of alcohol policies on campus. They will be meeting for the first time tomorrow at 9 p.m. The committee is made up of Lathrop, THs, and 2014 and they are working with Renee Pabst, Terry Hanlon, and Randy Cornelius, among others.

-The campus dining review committee is working hard on the Airmark deal. There will be six focus groups. They will also be hosting a few conversation dinners in the DC and other

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observations in the DC. They will also be making a few surveys. They will have a town hall with dining to discuss these issues.

-Ferry is working hard on the security issues, more updates later.

-Building and Grounds is also under student life and they're working on it.

-Dean Roelke is undergoing his five year review in which the VSA will participate. Student Life also sits on CCL, the drug and alcohol committee, CLRG, Inclusion and Excellence, and New Student Orientation.

5 Declaration of Open Positions for Founder's Day.....Activities

-According to the bylaws, VSA has to appoint co-chairs for Founder's day before October Break. They are open now.

-They had their first Meet Me in Poughkeepsie meeting last Tuesday and they will always be on Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

6 Amendment regarding the roles of Class Representatives.....2013 & Noyes

-They added that class representatives should bring important info back to their constituents and that they can add extra members to their committees. This amendment will be tabled and referred to Operations Committee and discussed next week.

7 Amendment of Article IV, Section 1(G) - Board of Elections.....Operations

-Operations made a motion to change the bylaws to "4 or more individuals" on the board of elections. She also made an amendment to suspend the original bylaw. This passed with all in favor.

8 Academic Bylaw Change.....Academics

-Academics made a motion to strike the word 'Council' and replace it with 'Academics Committee' and to refer it to Operations committee. This passed with all in favor.

9 Appointment of Alex Koren to BOE Operations

-Alex has been doing a lot of work and he already works as the webmaster so he has experience.

-Operations made a motion to appoint Alex Koren to Board of Elections. This passed with all in favor.

10 Position Statement on Identity-DiscriminationPresident

-There were a few comments made recently on Say Anything Vassar ("this school is ruled by a bunch of vaginas") and at Serenading. President talked about how we want the VSA to take action against any comments that harm or cause the climate at Vassar to feel unsafe or unwelcoming in any way. They also want to put something in the Constitution that addresses how to deal with situations such as this one.

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-Davison asked about how to approach issues that come up. Student Life clarified that there must be a distinction made about whether it applies to the VSA or not. You should report primarily to security which will bring it to CLC or CRC if necessary.

-Ferry thanked Council for bringing this up and making a change.

-TAs made some minor changes to the language in the position statement. She made a motion and this passed with all in favor.

-2012 thanked everyone for helping and made the point that she didn't know what she was doing, but by working together they got a lot done and she feels really good about what they've accomplished.

-Strong thanked everyone for their support and apology statements.

-Student Life made a motion to endorse this position statement and it passed with all in favor.

-Operations will announce a meeting time where they discuss this further.

11 Letter to Senator SalandPresident

-Cushing or Davison (?) said he's talked to a lot of people and made an amendment to change the letter to say "On behalf of the Vassar Student Association Council" and "endorsed by majority vote."

-Finance responded that he thinks that since they are elected officials that they have the right to make decisions such as this one.

-Noyes made a motion to consider multiple options. This passed with all in favor.

-Misc. Rep. asked a clarification question.

-Jewett believes that it is very important to acknowledge that this is a majority elected body.

-Student Life called the vote to question and this passed with all in favor. Council decided on Noyes's amendment to just add "endorsed by the majority vote"

-There was a back and forth about clarifying the "we" in the first paragraph to say "we at the Vassar Student Association Council. Student Life made a multiple options motion to strike "at Vassar". The majority voted to leave it as is.

-Student Life made a motion to strike Council from the signature line. This motion passed with a majority.

-The motion to pass the letter to Senator Saland passed with all in favor.

-Exec wants to let students sign their names so she is going to send out an email to campus.

12 Open Discussion

-2012: 238 days until commencement. Halloween is coming up so start promoting safety etc.

-Socos reminded everyone that voting for freshman President goes until Wednesday. He asked house presidents to send out emails to their houses reminding freshmen to vote.

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- Activities wanted to thank Xan for coordinating the Arlington Street Fair.
- President talked about VSA getting together to talk about campus wide issues that they want to address in Council once a month with food at 6 p.m. This month it will be the 2nd Sunday, but normally it will be the 1st Sunday.
- Noyes voiced her support for Davison and Lathrop opposing the letter because there are constituents that don't agree.
- Davison asked senior representatives to remind constituents of upcoming events like Dayglo and Harvest Ball.
- 2013 had a conversation with Terry Quinn about Serenading and it went great.
- Activities made a motion to adjourn. This motion passed with all in favor.