

VSA Council Minutes

September 27, 2009

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Attendance

Late: Main

Missing: Finance, Student Life

3. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes from 9/20

2. \$130 from Council Discretionary to Red Panda

No one had any objections as so the consent agenda passed.

4. Announcements

a. Meet Me In Poughkeepsie

The VP of Activities announced that Meet Me in Poughkeepsie was rapidly approaching on 10/10. He reminded council that registration ends on 10/1 and encouraged people to register and get other people to register. He also warned that some things had already filled up, so file quickly.

5. Committee Report

a. Committee on Curricular Policies (CCP)

The student representative to CCP, Kelly Stout, informed council that not too much had happened yet, as they had only met 3 times. However, the bulk of conversation had focused on staffing levels for the next year. They also spoke about how various departments are dealing with changes, for example looking into "team teaching" to determine if it is financially viable.

In addition, they had tackled a specific example of a Hebrew Class with a very small enrollment. The main contention of the debate was the precedent that any action would set. It was finally voted that the class would be considered an independent study. Ms. Stout addressed Main's concerns with graduation requirements of the students involved, assuring her that the students were in favor of the decision.

The President and the Town Houses expressed encouraged Ms. Stout to look into cross-listed departments as a way of lightening course load and helping students.

Academics added that the committee would be looking into course evaluations as well as protecting multi-disciplinary courses.

b. Vice Report

Peter Denney, ViCE Chair, reported to council that ViCE has been having a great semester so far. Their back to school week was a huge success and they have kept up momentum with the film league, jazz and no-vice. Right now they are focused on the grizzly bear concert, ticketing of which, as far as they can tell, has been going perfectly. At their ViCE retreat they decided to make collaborations meaningful, and, as a result, have been working closely with Hunger Action; allowing them to table, and allowing people to turn in cans for a ticket. So far, they have raised

over \$100 in cash as well as received several cans.

Mr. Denney also expressed the wish to hold more programming off campus and ViCE is looking to move their large spring show to the civic center in Poughkeepsie.

Right now, the biggest challenge for the year has been the film league. Due to the MPAA crackdown, they have made a commitment to screen every movie legally. As is such, the films are costing a lot more than anticipated. However, they are managing better than they had hoped.

6. Exec Report

a. Operations

The VP of Operations was proud to announce that V-Swipe machines are finally back and in the hands of the organizations. Apparently the old machines didn't work, and copious amounts of transactions were never recorded. Although new machines are incredibly expensive, 4 of them have been purchased and are now available for use in the College Center. They can be used by students every day except Tuesday, as they will be used by the Tasty Tuesday vendors. They can be reserved online at vsa.vassar.edu under the "Organizations" tab.

In addition, the VP of Operations announced the opening of the Faculty Commons as a 24 hour study space starting this week. According to Operations, there will be a v-print station, as well as a bookshelf with dictionaries and (if we are lucky) a thesaurus. Eventually they hope to purchase iMacs for the room. The space will be available with card access.

Operations was incredibly excited to announce a plan to put art into the basement of the library, livening up a currently dull, dark and horribly depressing study space. If anyone has any suggestions for favorite art pieces, he encouraged them to contact him.

Finally Operations noted that he would be looking into Robert's rules as well as the FAQ for visitors to council.

7. Allocation of \$600 from Collaboration Fund to Jewett

Operations made a motion to allocate \$600 to Jewett. Jewett explained that this money was going to help fund an expanded Dormal Formal. This year it will be taking place in the Leman-Loeb Art Gallery, with live Jazz Music and Sushi before 11:30 and a 90's dance party afterwards. Originally the dance was going to be split between Lathrop, Strong and Jewett, however, the dance has been more costly than anticipated and they are forced to not only cut-back, but ask for money. As an additional cost saving measure, they cut alcohol from the event, replacing them with mock-tails. However, these had proved to also be more expensive than anticipated.

Activities noted that this was a great example of inclusive programming that everyone could enjoy. He also thanked them for their hard work.

Mat Leonard, notetaker, noted that the Office of Health Education was willing to give mock-tails to organizations, as they promoted healthy habits.

The motion came to a vote, Lathrop and Jewett abstaining, all were in favor and the motion passed.

8. Open Discussion

2010 announced that there were 238 days until graduation.

Raymond announced that the BHP would be tackling the security FAQ's.

Operations made a motion to declare the position of Lathrop Junior Rep open for appointment. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Strong encouraged everyone to attend their upcoming Harvest Festival.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:26