

## Vassar Student Association

## Minutes for Council Meeting September 5, 2010

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M.

**2. Attendance:**

Absent- Finance

**3. Sesquicentennial Forum with special guest John Mihaly, Director of Development for Regional Programs**

Mr. Mihaly discussed the importance of 2011 as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vassar College since it was chartered on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1861. The school hopes to make it a yearlong celebration. Mihaly emphasized the fact that there is no budget set aside for the sesquicentennial celebrations and therefore the administration has been encouraging departments (who have pre-determined budgets already in place) to sponsor various events. He also encouraged each VSA member to think of some fun way to honor the school this year.

This is going to be a global celebration; The Communications department is planning events in Tokyo, London, and Hong Kong. Merchandise will be sold (hats, bags, mugs, sporting gear, etc.). A faculty committee has been formed and is helping plan a conference on 'educating the global citizen' which will include a presentation by Nick Adams on the history of Vassar architecture. A student committee led by Activities will be formed shortly with 4 sub committees. The conference will include the reopening of the art center, Performance of the Peace (6 person student ensemble working on the script), a big reception, potential speaker Kofi Annan, and a dance party!

Mr. Mihaly hoped to make Founder's day bigger than ever this year with an invite extended to the entire Hudson Valley community and a Roosevelt exhibition. Other potential activities for the coming year include a golf scramble and film festival with student participants. 2011 brought up the idea of inviting more alumni to these events in order to engage the community and Mihaly agreed we should keep our eyes open for opportunities. The calendar is on the website and there will be weekly updates provided at each meeting regarding the sesquicentennial celebrations.

Activities encouraged the formation of dorm centered events, like dorm birthday parties. Academics brought up the idea of dorm specific events, like researching dorm history. Operations reminded us that there is no budget, so be creative!

**4. Executive Board Reports**

a) President: We have 666 new freshmen and freshmen elections will start September 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a very solid executive board this year and we'll be doing a lot with the sesquicentennial celebrations.

b) Operations:

- New VSA website!

- Development working on improving Vnet

- At the end of September Communications will be hosting a 'freshmen sit in room and review admissions process' event. 2011 wanted to make sure that transfer students were included in this

- Government Oversight Committee will include students, trustees, administrators, and operations and will have benchmarks by certain dates.

- Elections: 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> is filing. Campaigning until the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **5. Declaration of Open Positions .....Operations**

- Board of Elections co-chair: Terrace Apartments offered.

- 4 other openings

## **6. Goals Document .....President**

- The student shuttle is currently paid by the VSA on weekends and the admin during the week, but we are trying to work with the city of Poughkeepsie to incorporate Vassar into their normal bus schedule. The idea of a bulletin board in the retreat was brought up b Lathrop.

- VSA advisory council

- College regulations panel will have right to act against domestic violence charges. This was clarified to include emotional violence.

- Motion to approve: Operations. All in favor.

## **7. Academics Memorandum .....Academics**

- Teachers would be required to give back graded work at the end of the semester. We can't enforce a penalty. Tests are not included, but possibly photocopies could be returned. Noise expressed wish for stronger language and academics responded that we need to be nice, but an amendment is always possible in the future.

- Motion to endorse: Academics. All approve

## **9. Open Discussion**

-Director of VICE: amazing back to school week! Keep in mind the relationship between space and sound for events.

-Elizabeth Anderson: Kathy's intern, will be attending meetings

-Academics: Needs someone for Library committee next Saturday.

-TA and TH Labor Day events open to all

-TH concerned about incorrect budgets. President stated that debt rolls over, but surplus does not.

-Misc.: Keep up with yourselves on the Misc!

-President: Zip cars, more to come.

-2011: 259 days until graduation

-Motion to adjourn: 2013. Joss opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.