

The Constitution of the Vassar Student Association

Preamble

We, the students of Vassar College, recognizing that the student body is a separate entity within the structure of Vassar College, and that each student has the responsibility to conduct his or her life with consideration for others in the College community, and with regard for the promotion of the educational process, hereby establish the Vassar Student Association, to provide means for responsible and effective student participation in the appropriate decision making processes of the College and to further student welfare and interests, while working within the framework of the College, as set forth in the Governance.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Vassar Student Association, hereinafter the VSA.

Article II – Purpose

The VSA shall serve, represent, and promote the interests and welfare of the students of Vassar College. It shall encourage student representation and involvement in college decision-making and shall strive to enhance the quality of life and education for the students of Vassar College. It shall represent the opinions of the student body, serving as a communications conduit to the Faculty, Administration, Trustees, Alumnae/i, the local community, and beyond. The VSA shall also sponsor, support, and be responsible for student organizations.

Article III – Membership

All matriculated students of Vassar College shall be members of the VSA.

Article IV – Expectations of Elected and Appointed Members

All VSA elected and appointed members, including members of the VSA Council, Residence and Class Councils, student committees, ad-hoc committees, task forces, and student delegations to joint committees are expected to uphold and abide by the VSA Constitution and the VSA Bylaws and adhere to all Vassar College Regulations. All VSA elected and appointed members are expected to serve honestly and openly, to participate fully in all required meetings and events, and to effectively and responsibly represent his or her constituency by acting on its behalf.

Article V – The VSA Executive Board

Section 1: Composition

The VSA Executive Board shall be chaired by the VSA President and additionally consist of the VSA Vice President for Operations, VSA Vice President for Student Life, VSA Vice President for Academics, VSA Vice President for Activities, and VSA Vice President for Finance. The VSA Executive Board shall be known as the Student Conference Committee to the Faculty, Administration, Trustees, and Alumnae/i of Vassar College.

Section 2: Power and Responsibilities of the Executive Board

The powers and responsibilities of the Executive Board shall be to:

- A. Act as the representative of the student body to the Faculty, Administration, Trustees, and Alumnae/i in accordance with the Governance of Vassar College, including mandated rules of confidentiality.
- B. Oversee the day-to-day operations of the VSA.
- C. Provide support and guidance to other VSA members.
- D. Create such committees as are necessary and proper to aid in the performance of VSA duties.
- E. Have each officer announce and hold weekly office hours.
- F. Make decisions by majority vote.
- G. Ensure that the actions and decisions of the VSA Council are communicated to the College community.
- H. Perform other duties as set forth in the VSA Constitution and the VSA Bylaws and uphold and abide by these documents.
- I. Represent the best interests of the VSA.

Section 3: President

The powers and responsibilities of the President shall be to:

- A. Be the leader and chief executive officer of the VSA.
- B. Uphold and abide by the VSA Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.
- C. Represent the best interests of the student body of Vassar College in dealings with students of other schools, and the Faculty, Administration, Trustees, and Alumnae/i of Vassar College and with the general public to the best of his/her abilities.
- D. Call and conduct meetings of the full student body and VSA Executive Board, when deemed necessary.
- E. Serve ex-officio as a member of all committees of the VSA.
- F. Represent the student body at student government conferences.
- G. At the request of the Board of Trustees, serve as a student observer at Trustees' meetings. When serving in this capacity, the VSA President shall uphold all confidentiality requirements as set forth by the Trustees.
- H. Perform other duties as set forth in the VSA Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.

Section 4: Vice President for Operations

The powers and responsibilities of the Vice President for Operations shall be to:

- A. Oversee the activities of student committees and student delegations to joint committees as

set forth in the VSA Bylaws.

- B. Serve as an official liaison to the Alumnae and Alumni of Vassar College (AAVC) and Development Office, Computing and Information Services, and College Relations.
- C. Oversee the orientation of new VSA Council members.
- D. Oversee VSA Elections and perform the duties of the Board of Elections Chair(s) in his/her absence or incapacity, or in the event none is appointed.
- E. Maintain records and documents of the VSA, the VSA Executive Board, and committees, as well as minutes of the VSA Council.

Section 5: Vice President for Student Life

The powers and responsibilities of the Vice President for Student Life shall be to:

- A. Work to improve the quality of student life and promote general student welfare at Vassar College.
- B. Serve as primary liaison to the Dean of the College Division.
- C. Provide support and guidance for House Teams, including coordinating House Officer training.

Section 6: Vice President for Academics

The powers and responsibilities of the Vice President for Academics shall be to:

- A. Represent the academic interests of the student body in dealings with the students of other schools, and with the Faculty, Administration, Alumnae/i, and Trustees of Vassar College.
- B. Serve as the primary liaison to the Dean of the Faculty Division.
- C. Provide support and guidance for Majors Committees.

Section 7: Vice President for Activities

The powers and responsibilities of the Vice President for Activities shall be to:

- A. Receive, investigate, and present to the VSA Council all applications for certification and de-certification of organizations.
- B. Maintain records and documents of VSA organizations.
- C. Provide support and guidance for VSA organizations, including designing and coordinating VSA conferences for organizations.
- D. Work with the Office of Campus Activities, including the Student Activities Resource Center, on programming and approving all events sponsored by VSA organizations.
- E. Serve as the primary liaison between the VSA and the off-campus community.
- F. Be responsible for annual budgeting of organizations, in conjunction with the Vice President for Finance.

Section 8: Vice President for Finance

The powers and responsibilities of the Vice President for Finance shall be to:

- A. Be the chief financial officer of the VSA, overseeing all financial operations.
- B. Advise and present to the VSA Council for approval such policies and procedures deemed

necessary to oversee the honest, efficient, and equitable administration of the Student Activities Budget.

- C. Prepare and provide an annual budget report and other financial reports as requested by the VSA Council.
- D. Call mandatory meetings for treasurers of VSA organizations, when deemed necessary.
- E. Require all certified VSA organizations to submit a budget, upon request.

Section 9: Election

The VSA President, VSA Vice President for Operations, VSA Vice President for Student Life, VSA Vice President for Academics, VSA Vice President for Activities, and VSA Vice President For Finance shall each be elected from and by the Vassar student body at-large in the spring election.

Section 10: Succession of Powers

- A. Should any Officer be absent, incapacitated, or leave office, all of his/her duties, responsibilities, and powers shall be temporarily assumed by the VSA President.
- B. Should the VSA President be absent, incapacitated, or leave office, all of his/her duties, responsibilities, and powers shall be temporarily assumed by the VSA Vice President for Student Life, VSA Vice President for Operations, VSA Vice President for Academics, VSA Vice President for Activities, or VSA Vice President for Finance, in that order.

Article VI – The VSA Council

Section 1: Composition

- A. Voting members of the VSA Council shall be VSA Vice President for Operations, VSA Vice President for Student Life, VSA Vice President for Academics, VSA Vice President for Activities, VSA Vice President for Finance, the four Class Presidents, Presidents of the Residence Houses, President of the Town Houses, President of Terrace Apartments, President of South Commons, President of the Town Students, and a Representative of the Ferry House Cooperative.
 - 1. The residents of Ferry House Cooperative shall select a Representative each semester by their own process.
 - 2. The VSA President can only vote when his or her vote will affect the result.
- B. The Council shall be chaired by the VSA President.

Section 2: Duties of Individual Members

It shall be the duty and responsibility of each member of the VSA Council to:

- A. Represent his or her constituency on the VSA Council by acting on its behalf and in the best interest of the student body.
- B. Present to the VSA Council the opinions of his or her constituency as obtained through polling, discussion, and any other means deemed appropriate.
- C. Participate in all VSA Council meetings.

- D. Present to his or her constituency the actions taken by the VSA Council and any other information pertinent to the College community.
- E. Adhere to all rules of the VSA.
- F. Ensure that the VSA acts in a manner consistent with this Constitution and subsequent legislation.

Section 3: Functions of the VSA Council

The Functions of the VSA Council shall be to:

- A. Act as a forum for communication between VSA officers and members.
- B. Initiate, pass, amend, and implement rules of order, standing orders, policies, rules, legislative decisions, and regulations, which are deemed necessary and proper for the functioning of the VSA.
- C. Issue official endorsements and position statements of the VSA.
- D. Convey to the committees of the Faculty, Administration, Trustees, and Alumnae/i, through student representatives, the opinions and decisions of the VSA.
- E. Hear reports from VSA Committees, student representatives to College committees, and all VSA organizations.
- F. Provide oversight and population of standing VSA committees.
- G. Create and populate ad-hoc committees and task forces, and populate those created by the Faculty, Administration, and/or Trustees with student representation.
- H. Confirm or reject nominees to specific posts of the VSA.
- I. Review, amend, and approve the budget of the VSA.
- J. Present to the College President for final approval legislation involving a substantial change in the character of the residential or academic community or in the financial commitments of the College.

Section 4: Meetings

- A. The VSA President, with the Executive Board, shall set meeting agendas.
- B. Any VSA member may request an amendment or addition to the agenda.
- C. The VSA President may call a session of the VSA Council at any time and shall call a session within three days of a written request of one-third of Council members.
- D. A quorum shall be defined as a two-thirds majority of the voting members and shall be necessary for any session of the VSA Council.
- E. Any student may make a motion or raise an issue before the VSA Council and it shall be considered if seconded by a VSA Council member.
- F. Further guidelines and rules of order for Council meetings shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the VSA, and any subsequent rules of order.
- G. All VSA Council meetings shall be open to all VSA members, unless a three-fourths majority of Council votes to close the meeting.
- H. All votes shall be cast publicly and shall be recorded in the minutes.
- I. Minutes of the VSA Council meetings shall be recorded at each open VSA Council meeting and become official upon approval of Council.
- J. Members of Council shall abstain from voting on issues in which they have a conflict of interest.

- K. Regular meetings of the VSA Council shall occur at least every two weeks, when classes are in session.
- L. When considering issues of disciplinary action, as set forth in Article X, disciplinary action may not be voted on in the meeting in which the issue is initially raised. This may be overridden by a three-quarters majority of the Council.

Section 5: Organizations

- A. The VSA Council shall have the power to certify student organizations in accordance with the VSA Bylaws. The requirements and privileges of certification and shall be set forth in the VSA Bylaws.
- B. The VSA Council shall not certify any organization whose purpose the VSA Council feels duplicates the purpose of a previously certified organization.
- C. Organizations violating the VSA Constitution or the VSA Bylaws, or otherwise violating VSA policies, shall be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in this Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.

Section 6: Income and Budgeting

- A. The VSA Council shall be responsible for handling and distributing VSA income from the Student Activities Budget and the VSA Restricted Endowment. This income shall be divided into the various accounts of the VSA.
- B. The VSA Council shall be responsible for approving the Student Activities Budget allocations and contingency allocations with respect to the limitations of the annual VSA budget.
- C. The VSA Council may choose to give or not give money to any VSA organization it deems appropriate.
- D. Further budgeting guidelines shall be set forth in the VSA Bylaws and other policies of the VSA.

Section 7: Committees

- A. The VSA Council shall have committees with compositions and functions as set forth in the VSA Bylaws.
- B. Each VSA Council committee shall be chaired by a member of the VSA Council, unless determined otherwise by the Council.
- C. The VSA Council shall oversee elected or appointed student delegations to joint committees. The Council shall appoint its own VSA Council members to all student vacancies on College committees as they occur throughout the course of the academic year.

Article VII – Class Councils

Section 1: Composition

- A. The Senior, Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman classes shall each elect, at-large, from their respective classes: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These four Class officers shall form the Class Council Executive Board of each respective class.
- B. The Junior and Sophomore Class Councils shall additionally consist of one representative from each House, appointed by the House Team. The term of office for the Junior

Representative shall be for one semester.

- C. The Freshman Class Council shall additionally consist of one representative from each House, elected by their respective first-year residents.

Section 2: Class Powers and Responsibilities

- A. Class Councils shall represent their respective class, organize and conduct all class business, and make all decisions by majority vote.
- B. Presidents shall call and chair mandatory meetings of their respective councils, if deemed necessary; serve as a voting member of the VSA Council and relay information and opinions between the VSA Council and their class council; and represent their Class in applicable meetings.
 - 1. The President of the previous Freshman Class, or his/her appointee from his/her class, shall serve as the acting Freshman Class President until a new one is elected
- C. Vice President shall coordinate Class social activities in conjunction with other officers and shall assume the duties of the President in her/her absence, incapacitation, or departure from office.
- D. Secretaries shall be responsible for all Class communications and record minutes at all Class Council meetings.
- E. Treasurers shall be responsible for all financial matters of the Class and maintain an inventory of all Class assets, including capital items.
- F. The Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class Councils shall have the power to appoint additional representatives of their class to their Class Council.

Article VIII – House Teams

Section 1: House Team Composition

- A. Each House shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Freshman Representative from their respective residents. These five House officers, in addition to the Sophomore, and Junior Representative, shall form the House Team of each respective House.
- B. Town Students and the respective residents of the Town Houses, Terrace Apartments, and South Commons shall each elect a President, Programming Director and Treasurer. The Programming Director shall assume the duties of the President in their absence, incapacitation, or departure from office. In the absence of an acting Programming Director, the Treasurer shall assume the duties of the Programming Director.
 - 1. In the event that there are no elected or appointed members of the residence to serve on the VSA Council, Council shall have the power to rescind their allocated budget for the year
- C. Town Students shall elect a President.

Section 2: Residence Powers and Responsibilities

- A. House Teams shall represent their respective residence and make all decisions by majority vote.
- B. House Teams shall work with the Office of Residential Life and the Dean of Students to

- organize and conduct residence business.
- C. Presidents shall call and chair House Team meetings and meetings of residents, if deemed necessary; serve as a voting member of the VSA Council and relay information and opinions between the VSA Council and their House Team; and represent their House in applicable meetings.
 - D. Vice President shall coordinate House social activities in conjunction with other officers and shall assume the duties of the President in her/her absence, incapacitation, or departure from office.
 - E. Secretaries shall be responsible for all respective House communications and record minutes at all respective House Council meetings.
 - F. Treasurers shall be responsible for all financial matters of the respective House and maintain an inventory of all House assets, including capital items.
 - G. Freshman Representatives shall communicate freshman concerns and/or ideas to their respective House Teams and assist with House programming in cooperation with other House officers.
 - H. House Teams shall appoint a sophomore and a junior representative to serve on their respective Class Council and House Team.

Article IX – The Judicial Board

Section 1: Composition

The Judicial Board shall be composed of 1 Chair, elected at large, and 16 members, 4 elected from each class.

Section 2: Jurisdiction and Powers

- A. The jurisdiction of the Judicial Board shall extend to all cases arising under the VSA Constitution, the VSA Bylaws, and under any social regulations or other rules established by the VSA Council, including:
 - 1. Cases concerning the compliance of VSA policy and legislation with the VSA Constitution and VSA Bylaws.
 - 2. Impeachment hearings after indictment by the VSA Council.
 - 3. Cases involving a breach of agreement reached through mediation as stipulated in Section 6 of this article.
- B. The Judicial Board Chair shall have the power to refuse or accept a case, based on its relevance to the VSA Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.
- C. The Judicial Board shall ensure the compliance of VSA legislation with this Constitution and other legislation of the VSA.
- D. The Judicial Board may convene to review the VSA Constitution and the VSA Bylaws and advise the VSA Council of problems or inconsistencies therein.
- E. The Judicial Board shall have access to every VSA resource, file, or any other material deemed necessary to the effective execution of the case.
- F. Judicial Board members shall sit on the Academic Panel, College Regulations, and the Audit Committee. The Judicial Board Chair shall be responsible for organizing participation on these bodies.

Section 3: Process

- A. The Judicial Board Chair shall choose 4 of the other 16 members, on a rotating basis, to hear each case. In the case of an appeal, 4 of the 12 remaining members who have not already heard the case shall hear the appeal.
- B. After receipt of a written complaint, the Judicial Board Chair shall notify both parties involved and the members of the Judicial Board of the charges and arrange a date, time, and place for the hearing. Cases shall be disposed of expeditiously, within 72 hours unless extenuating circumstances deem otherwise.
- C. Only in the event of a tie shall the Judicial Board Chair cast a vote.
- D. In the event that the Judicial Board Chair is the respondent or complainant in a matter, the VSA Vice President for Operations shall select a temporary Chair from among the other Judicial Board members.
- E. The VSA Vice President for Operations shall sit as a non-voting Constitutional advisor, except in the event of his/her own involvement in the case, in which case the VSA President shall fulfill these duties.
- F. The Judicial Board shall determine a decision in a closed session and, when applicable, appropriate disciplinary action shall be determined by concurrence of at least 3 of the members hearing the case. The decision shall be posted on the VSA Bulletin Board within 24 hours of the hearing.
- G. Any member of the Judicial Board must recuse him/herself in the event of a conflict of interest.

Section 4: Rights of the Respondent and Complainant

The respondent and complainant shall enjoy the following rights when tried before the Judicial Board, and if retried on appeal:

- A. To be presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- B. To be given fair notice and a fair hearing.
- C. Fair notice shall be given within 24 hours of the receipt of a grievance. Such notice shall be given either by phone, e-mail, or written notice to be placed in the student's campus mailbox.
- D. To be assisted in the preparation of his/her position by any student or member of the faculty of his/her choice, except current members of the Judicial Board.
- E. To be judged by no person presenting evidence for or against him/her, or otherwise involved in the case.
- F. To be informed by the Chair of the Judicial Board of these rights at the time he/she is notified of the charges against him/her and again during the hearing.
- G. To receive an open hearing unless the Judicial Board finds compelling cause to close it.
- H. To demand that all of the evidence against him/her be present at the hearing.
- I. To receive a copy of all proceedings involving him/her.
- J. To appeal any decision according to Section 5.
- K. To call any member of the Vassar Community as a witness as deemed necessary for the effective execution of his/her position, subject to the approval of the Judicial Board Chair.

Section 5: Appeals

- A. The Judicial Board shall have the authority to retry cases on appeal from the original Judicial Board decision in the case that substantial new evidence exists and/or the procedural rights of the respondent or complainant were violated.
- B. The individual may submit a petition for a rehearing to the VSA President, except in the event of his/her involvement in which case this duty shall fall to the VSA Vice President for Operations. The Judicial Board Chair shall present the record of the case and the respondent shall have the right personally, or through a representative, to submit arguments on his or her behalf.
- C. During an appeal the VSA Vice President for Operations shall act as chair, except in the event of his/her own involvement in the case, at which case the VSA President shall fulfill this duty.

Section 6: Alternate Dispute Resolution

- A. Members of the VSA are encouraged to seek resolutions of disputes through means other than traditional Judicial Board hearings.
- B. Mediation may be a preferable means of resolving disputes. The goal of mediation shall be for individuals to reach a mutually agreeable solution to a conflict, rather than through an adversarial process. The solution shall create a binding agreement that is signed by all parties, the VSA Vice President for Operations, and the Chair of the Judicial Board, depending upon the status of the complaint. The terms of this mediated agreement shall be made public and posted on the VSA Bulletin Board.
- C. The Judicial Board Chair may suggest mediation. Such a suggestion shall not necessarily preclude judicial action.
- D. During mediation, the rules governing time limits stating when the Judicial Board must meet to adjudicate a complaint are suspended. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, a hearing shall be scheduled following the guidelines stated in this Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.
- E. In the event that an agreement is reached, the agreement shall be binding. Violations of such an agreement are grounds for a traditional hearing under the rules established in this Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.

Article X – Elections & Appointments

Section 1: General Terms

- A. Elections shall be held in the fall and spring of each academic year.
- B. Elections shall be overseen by the Board of Elections and run in accordance with procedures as set forth in the VSA Bylaws.
- C. No person who is a candidate shall be eligible to conduct elections.

Section 2: Terms of Office

- A. VSA elected and appointed positions shall have a term of office from spring Convocation to Spring Convocation of the following year, unless stated otherwise.
- B. Those positions elected or appointed after Spring Convocation shall also terminate at the next Spring Convocation, unless stated otherwise.
- C. Officers of the Senior Class shall hold their positions for a period of six years.
- D. The VSA Vice President for Finance shall have a term of office from July 1 to June 30.
- E. Town Students officers shall hold their positions for the duration of the academic year.
- F. At the conclusion of a term of office, the officer shall remain as an advisor to the newly elected officer until the close of the academic year.
- G. No student may hold office if s/he has been granted a leave of absence by the College for any part of the office term.

Section 3: Eligibility

- A. To be eligible for any office in the VSA, a candidate must a VSA member.
- B. No candidate is eligible if he/she has been granted a leave of absence by the College for any part of the office term.
- C. Unless required by the position, no student shall be allowed to run for or hold any position on the VSA Council or Chair of any committee until such time as he/she has completed one academic semester at Vassar.

Section 4: Exclusivity

- A. No student may run for or hold more than one VSA elected position among a Class Council, a House Team or the VSA Executive Board. Students running for or holding a position on the Class Council or House Team may also run for positions on a committee(s).
- B. Any student holding a VSA residential council position may not simultaneously hold any another Residential Life selected position.
- C. No student may run for or hold an office elected solely by a Residence or Class of which he/she is not a resident or member, respectively.
- D. The members of the Judicial Board may not run for or hold any other VSA elected office.

Section 5: Power over Elections

- A. The VSA Council shall approve or veto election dates submitted by the Board of Elections Chair(s) and the VSA Vice President for Operations.
- B. As established by the VSA Bylaws, the VSA Council shall give full authority to the Board of Elections Chair(s) to verify the eligibility of nominees for elected offices of the VSA, before the names are placed on the ballot. The Chair(s) shall administer the relevant Bylaws throughout the duration of their term.

Section 6: Vacant Positions

- A. The Board of Elections Chair(s) shall have the power to declare a position vacant if attempts to fill the position through elections and appointment have failed to produce eligible candidates. The vacancy must be declared and publicized to the relevant constituency, and that vacancy may be filled if interest in the position is expressed.

- B. The VSA Council shall decide whether appointment or election shall fill a vacancy for an elected position. If the Council decides that the position shall be appointed, members of the VSA may nominate a student, subject to confirmation by a majority of the VSA Council. If the Council decides on an election, the Board of Elections Chair(s) shall be notified.

Article XI – Disciplinary Action

Section 1: General Powers

Any member of the VSA may make a motion before the VSA Council to censure or indict any elected or appointed member of the VSA Council, House or Class Council, student committee, ad-hoc committee, task force, or student delegation to a joint committee.

Section 2: Censure of Individuals and Organizations

- A. The VSA Council shall have the power to censure any of its own members, any elected or appointed VSA officer, VSA organization or organization officer. This shall be considered an official reprimand.
- B. Censure proceedings may not be closed at any time.
- C. Censured individuals or organizations shall be officially notified of the reprimand by the VSA Vice President for Operations. In the event that the VSA Vice President for Operations is censured, this duty shall fall to the VSA Vice President for Student Life.
- D. Upon censure of an individual or organization, a written notice must be signed by the VSA Vice President for Operations and posted on the VSA bulletin board no later than 12 hours after the censure and must remain posted for no less than 72 hours. In the event that the VSA Vice President for Operations is censured, this duty falls to the VSA Vice President for Student Life.
- E. The censured individual or organization must meet with the VSA Executive Board to be informed of the rationale for censure and to discuss possible courses of action to repair any damage caused by wrongdoing. The Executive Board must approve and monitor the implementation of any course of action. In the case that a member of the VSA Executive Board is censured, the rest of the Executive Board shall carry on without them.

Section 3: Indictment of Individuals

- A. The VSA Council shall have the power to indict any of its own members and any elected or appointed officer of any class, residence, committee, or organization.
- B. Upon indictment, the VSA Judicial Board shall impeach, that is, formally try, the indicted officer on all charges within 72 hours, unless extenuating circumstances deem otherwise.
- C. The indicted officer shall retain all powers and responsibilities of office while awaiting hearing and the judicial verdict.

Section 4: Procedure for Indictment Proceedings

- A. The VSA Council shall have the power to conduct indictment procedures with a majority of its members present, exclusive of any Council member charged and/or bringing the charges.

- B. The proceedings shall be chaired by the VSA President, or in the case of direct conflict of interest, by the VSA Vice President for Operations.
- C. Indictment proceedings may not be closed at any time.
- D. The officer in question in an indictment hearing shall enjoy the following rights: to be present at and for the duration of the proceedings; to hear all charges presented against him or her; and to have the final words, before a vote, in his or her own defense.
- E. A majority vote in favor, exclusive of any Council member charged and/or bringing the charges, shall be required for indictment.

Section 5: Impeachment and Removal from Office

- A. Grounds for impeachment shall consist of one or more of the following: dereliction of duty, incompetence, employment of funds or property of the VSA for private gain, violation of the VSA Constitution or the VSA Bylaws, or repeated censure, or a violation of College Regulations that undermines an individual's ability to serve in an elected or appointed position.
- B. The Judicial Board shall determine the validity of the charges against any individual indicted by the VSA Council, and shall have the power to censure the officer or to remove the individual from office.
- C. An individual sentenced to removal shall be relieved of the powers of office pending the Judicial Board's verdict. The VSA Council shall declare the position vacant and the removed individual shall have the right to run for, or be considered for appointment to, the same office.
- D. Decisions of the Judicial Board may be appealed under the procedures outlined in this Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.

Section 6: Recall

- A. Any constituency shall have the power to recall any officers elected by that constituency under this Constitution and the VSA Bylaws.
- B. If the constituency is campus-wide, the petition to recall must contain the signatures of at least 15% of the VSA.
- C. If the constituency is less than campus-wide, the petition to recall must contain the signatures of at least 25% of the constituency.
- D. The Board of Elections shall, if they determine the petition to be in good order, within the limits of this Constitution, conduct an election for the office in question.
 - 1. The officer in question shall have the right to be a candidate.
 - 2. The incumbent shall retain all powers and responsibilities of office until the Board of Elections officially announces the election returns.

Article XII – Non-Discrimination

The VSA shall not discriminate, nor by its actions encourage discrimination, based on race, color, religious belief, sex, marital status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, disability, veteran status, or age.

Article XIII – Bylaws

This Constitution maintains the framework for the VSA, yet procedural mechanisms are necessary for the proper operation of the VSA. Thus the VSA Council shall have the power to establish and maintain bylaws that further regulate and define itself and other VSA entities as it deems necessary and proper. Bylaws require a two-third majority of the VSA Council for approval or amendment. A vote may take place at the meeting following that in which the revision is introduced.

Article XIV – Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution

- A. Any member of the VSA may propose amendments to the VSA Constitution to the VSA Council. The VSA member proposing an amendment must submit it to the VSA Vice President for Operations prior to bringing it before the Council.
- B. A two-thirds majority vote of the VSA Council is sufficient initially to amend the Constitution. A vote may take place at the meeting following that in which the revision is introduced.
- C. Following an amendment, the VSA Vice President for Operations must notify the entire student body of the change, and the number of signatures necessary for a referendum, via posting, as well as providing one to any student upon request. The amendment stands if a period of two weeks passes, and a written objection is not presented to the VSA Executive Board.
- D. If there is an objection(s) signed by at least 5% of the VSA membership, then the VSA Council must call for a referendum vote to be conducted by the Board of Elections. A simple majority of those casting ballots, regardless of abstentions, shall be required to either pass or defeat the amendment.
- E. Any proposed amendment not supported by the VSA Council may be brought to a referendum with a petition signed by 15% of the VSA.

Article XV – Ratification

This shall be the only Constitution governing the students of Vassar College. This Constitution shall become effective at Spring Convocation 2006 upon ratification of a majority of voting members of the student body, and approval of the Faculty and President of Vassar College, as set forth in the Governance.