

VSA Council Minutes
September 23, 2007

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

2. Attendance

Guests: Chris Beach, Jasmine Brown, Shira Collado, Karina Costa, Andrew Dueñas, Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Belen Ferrer, Kyle Giunta, Erica Licht, Ivana Milic-Strkalj, Jamie Rosen, Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News), Alyssa Roush, Hannah Segrave, Lauren Sutherland (Miscellany News), Woodrow Travers, Dana Van Brunt, Anita Varma (Miscellany News), Anna Weisberg, Stanton Wong, Aubrey Wynh.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from September 16

b. Allocation of \$400 from Collaboration to Jewett

c. Allocation of \$360 from Political and Community Action to Save Darfur

d. Allocation of \$419.25 from Speaker's Fund to Class Issues Alliance

e. Allocation of \$200 from Special Events to Joss

No objections were made, and the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

4. Reports

a. Committee on Curricular Policies

A representative from CCP announced that the committee has many future conversations planned, including discussion of registration, recent problems with V-Print, and possibly changing the faculty-teaching load. Regarding V-Print, the Faculty was only recently made aware of the problems students have been having, and will be making an effort to alleviate student's problems until V-Print has been reevaluated. Regarding teaching load, professors currently operate under a 3-2 method, in which they teach three courses one semester and two courses the next. This method may be changed in the future for a 2-2 method. The next CCP meeting will be in October, and Faculty members will be meeting on their own on October 8.

b. Science Facility Planning Committee

A representative from the Science Facility Planning Committee reported about the Committee's first meeting, in which they created subcommittees to more specifically address aspects of planning for the new science facilities. These subcommittees are comprised of students, faculty, various administrators, and B&G representatives, and will focus on such topics as research and classroom design. The renovation will consist of a restructuring of Mudd and Sanders Physics, as well as an addition of a new space. There are already pictures available of the future designs. The disciplines benefiting from the redesign are chemistry, physics, math, computer science, psychology, biology, and earth sciences. The committee meets every week on Tuesdays.

A question was asked about the design's possible LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The representative answered that in response to encouragement from the Sustainability Committee, the design will definitely be LEED certified, possibly at the Silver level.

c. Arlington Special Events

A representative from Arlington Special Events spoke to Council about the Arlington Street Fair, which is planned for Saturday, September 29. There will be a lot of

entertainment during the fair, including Bindlestick Bill, Carl Dansky, the Vassar Devils, the Barefoot Monkeys, and other Vassar organizations. There will be 90 vendors present at the Fair, and such activities as a chili cook-off, a raffle, rides, and a petting zoo. The committee's final meeting before the fair is Wednesday.

When asked about advertising for the fair, the representative responded that there are radio and newspaper advertisements for the Poughkeepsie community and that posters have been placed around Vassar. Ferry commented that tabling for the event starts on Monday, and Student Life commented that a campus-wide email about the fair had been sent to students.

d. Exec Report

Academics reported that the CCP, SFPC, and Library Committees had met for the first time. The Library Committee is currently in the process of creating a new database called Express for sharing journals, which will be similar to ConnectNY. The database would have 24-hour turnaround and would have no charge for students. The Library will be doing a Serial Review next spring, which may result in pulling a few journals from the Library's collection. A topic on next week's discussion is V-Print and its corresponding issues. The academic committee will be working with majors committees in the future, and there will be a discussion about a new or separate form of input for students regarding teaching and tenure.

e. Elections Update

Operations reported that elections for the Class of 2011 are currently underway. Filing ended on September 20th at 12pm, the candidates meeting has already occurred, and the presidential debates were earlier Sunday afternoon. Campaigning ends on 5pm on Monday, and voting starts Monday at 8pm. The place to vote online can be found on the Elections tab of the VSA website. Elections end on September 26th at 8pm, and the results party will be at 7pm on September 27th in the Retreat.

Main brought up that vandalism and tearing down of posters has been a problem, and Operations encouraged Council to support fair elections.

f. Self Study

The President announced that the Self Study committee met for the first time on the previous Monday. Every ten years, Vassar must be re-accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Vassar is under re-accreditation this year, which involves a Self Study of the institution this year, being visited by an outside accrediting team next fall, and Middle States will make a decision about our accreditation next spring. Although Vassar will certainly be re-accredited, Self Study allows us to examine how Vassar has changed in the past 10 years since its last re-accreditation. The committee is comprised of nine different groups writing reports on different topic areas, all of which will be included in a final book of about 150 pages.

5. Allocation of \$2500 from Collaboration to Hip Hop 101

Finance moved to allocate \$2500 from the Collaboration Fund to Hip Hop 101. Main moved to amend the allocation from the Collaboration Fund to the Speakers Bureau. Council engaged in a debate about whether the event could justifiably be funded by the Speakers Bureau. Additionally, the representative from Hip Hop 101 informed Council that the estimated cost of its event would be significantly higher than was originally applied for, and Council corrected the estimated cost of the event.

2009 moved to call the amendment to question; only Student Life opposed, and the motion passed.

Vote to Amend the Allocation to come from the Speakers Bureau:

Abstentions: TH (1).

Not in Favor: None (0).

In Favor: All else (22).

Result: Motion passes.

The allocation now reads \$2500 from Speakers Bureau to Hip Hop 101. 2010 moved to amend the allocation to \$5000 from Speakers Bureau. Council engaged in a debate about whether designating \$5000 to Hip Hop 101 was too much money, and whether they had the authority to allocate such a large portion of the Speakers Bureau budget.

Vote to Amend the Allocation to \$5000:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: 2009, 2011, Finance, Noyes, and Ferry (5).

In Favor: 2008, 2010, Academics, Activities, Operations, Student Life, Cushing, Davison, Jewett, Joss, Lathrop, Main, Raymond, SoCo, Strong, Terrace Apartments, Town Houses, and Town Students (18).

Result: Motion passes.

Activities moved to call the allocation to question.

Vote to Move to Call to Question:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Main, SoCo, Strong, Noyes, Town Students, Ferry, Academics, Operations, Finance, 2011, and 2009 (11).

In Favor: Raymond, 2008, Terrace Apartments, Activities, Student Life, Town Houses, Strong, Davison, Jewett, Lathrop, 2010, and Cushing (12).

Result: Motion fails.

2009 moved to postpone consideration until September 30. 2009 moved to call to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Vote to Postpone Consideration until September 30:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Cushing, 2010, Lathrop, Jewett, Davison, Joss, Town Houses, 2011, Finance, Student Life, Operations, Academics, Activities, Town Students, Terrace Apartments, 2008, Strong, SoCo, Raymond, and Main (20).

In Favor: Noyes, Ferry, and 2009 (3).

Result: Motion fails.

Student Life moved to call to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Vote to Allocate \$5000 from Speakers Bureau to Hip Hop 101:

Abstentions: Noyes (1).

Not in Favor: 2009 and Ferry (2).

In Favor: All else (20).

Result: Motion passes.

6. Allocation of \$650 from Collaboration to Main House

Finance moved to allocate \$650 from the Collaboration Fund to Main House. Student Life questioned the theme of the event and its possible objectification of students, and Main responded that the event is intended to celebrate sexuality and French culture. Noyes moved to call to question; only 2008 and Town Students opposed, and the motion passed.

Vote to Allocate \$650 from Collaboration to Main House:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: None (0).

In Favor: All (23).

Result: Motion passes.

7. Capital Budgeting

Finance moved to adopt the allocation of capital budgeting as presented by the Finance Committee and Exec to Council in the VSA Council Agenda for September 23, 2007. Although some members of Council questioned the budgeting for certain capital items, Council was reminded that it only had the ability to accept or reject the budgeting as a whole.

Vote to Adopt the Capital Budgeting as presented:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Raymond and Lathrop (2).

In Favor: All else (21).

Result: Motion passes.

8. Supplemental Budgeting

Finance moved to adopt the supplemental budgeting as presented by the Finance Committee and Exec to Council in the VSA Council Agenda for September 23, 2007.

Vote to Adopt the Supplemental Budgeting as presented:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: None (0).

In Favor: All (23).

Result: Motion passes.

9. Dean of the Faculty Search Committee

Academics announced the creation of the Dean of the Faculty Search Committee. Jessica Cho will be chair of the committee, and five other students at large will be on the committee to represent student opinion. The Faculty Committee is being created right now, and the creation of the new Student Committee will help to ensure that students' voices are heard.

10. Appointments

Operations moved to declare up for appointment five positions on the Dean of the Faculty Search Committee and two co-chairs for the Founder's Day Committee. All voted in favor of the declaration, and the motion passed.

11. Certification of Idlewild Theatre

Activities moved to certify Idlewild Theatre, a new all-women's theatre group, planning to deal directly with women's issues on campus and at large. A representative from the group spoke to Council, and expressed that the group would allow male students to help participate in the group. All members of Council voted in favor of the certification, and the motion passed.

12. Amendments to Articles III, IV, and V of the VSA Bylaws

Operations moved to amend Articles III, IV, and V of the VSA bylaws as presented to Council last week. Activities moved to refer Sections 24A and 24B of Article IV to the Activities Committee for further consideration. Main moved to amend the referral, to refer all of the Article IV changes to the Activities Committee. Council discussed both the number ten as a minimum for core membership, as well as the concept of core membership in general. Activities moved to call to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Vote to Amend the Referral to Refer All Article IV Changes:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Noyes (1).

In Favor: All else (22).

Result: Motion passes.

The motion is to refer all of the Article IV changes for further consideration by the Activities Committee.

Vote to Refer All Article IV Changes to Activities Committee:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: None (0).

In Favor: All (23).

Result: Motion passes.

The motion is to amend Articles III and V of the VSA Bylaws as presented to Council September 15, 2007. .

Vote to Amend Articles III, IV, and V of the VSA Bylaws:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: None (0).

In Favor: All (23).

Result: Motion passes.

13. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 245 days remain until commencement.
- Student Life announced that Admin Review teams need to have met for tomorrow.
- Cushing announced that the Dormal Formal is next weekend.
- Operations encouraged Dorm Presidents to remind their freshman to vote in elections.

14. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 8:57pm.