

Vassar Student Association Council
Agenda for October 11, 2009

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“We have a hunger of the mind which asks for knowledge of all around us, and the more we gain, the more is our desire; the more we see, the more we are capable of seeing.”

-- Maria Mitchell

Call to Order

Attendance _____ Operations

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes from 9/20

Special Guests:

Rachel Kitzinger, Dean of Planning and Academic Affairs

Jon Chenette, Dean of the Faculty

Steve Rock, Chair of FPCC

Fred Chromey, Chair of FASC and FCC

Announcements

Meet Me In Poughkeepsie _____ President

Fines _____ Finance

Committee Report

Food

Exec Report

Exec Report _____ Student Life

Exec Report _____ Academics

Appointment of Josh Rosen to Cushing House Freshmen Rep _____ Activities

Allocation of \$925 from Speakers and Lecturers to VACA _____ Activities

Open Discussion _____ Anyone

Adjourn

VSA Position Application

Position you are applying for: Cushing House Team Freshman Representative

Please fill out all sections to the best of your ability. Do take time to consider your responses, and be fair and honest!

Information

- 1.) Name: Joshua A. Rosen
2.) Telephone: 203-246-7050 3.) E-mail: jorosen@vassar.edu
4.) Campus Box #: 3633 5.) Class Year: 2013

Are you planning on studying abroad anytime over the next year?

YES

NO

Short Response Questions

Please list all student organizations and Vassar affiliated groups that you are currently and have been involved with, including any position(s) held and years affiliated.

I am currently a member in good standing of MICA (Moderate, Independent and Conservative Alliance) and have been selected for an officer position for the near future. Additionally, I am involved in the Vassar Jewish Union, and intend to get involved on the VJU board. I have also written a column for the Miscellany News and plan to continue doing so in the future. I would also like to note that I was unable to run for the freshman representative position – though I had intended to do so – since I was running for the position of freshman class president, as per the VSA Constitution, Section 4, Subsection A.

What motivated you to get involved and what characteristics do you have that would make you a good contribution to the position you are applying for? Please describe why you would like to serve on the positions you have listed.

As someone who has been involved in student government throughout my secondary education, I sincerely desire to be involved in student government on the college level, particularly because of the greater influence that Vassar student government and house governance roles have over the lives of students and the community. I have a considerable amount of political experience, having worked on campaigns for local, state and federal legislative roles – both Senate and House races. Also, I have experience in project administration, having run environmental testing and public health efforts on the local level.

What ideas do you have relating to the position you are applying for?

As a freshman representative, I hope to work towards ensuring that the other freshmen that live in Cushing are as comfortable talking to upperclassmen – whom I have found to be a very important resource, thus far. Additionally, I want to work towards improving freshmen attendance at house events, namely Spot o' Tea, since it is a valuable way to meet other students whom we might not otherwise have the opportunity to interact with. I would also like to encourage the house team to organize house movie nights and perhaps even the occasional poker game, particularly on weeknights towards the end of the week – Wednesday and Thursday. Also, unless such an event already exists, I would like to look in to conducting a gambling-themed all-campus party. In terms of student governance, town hall-style meetings, where Cushing residents can voice their opinions on VSA issues and have their questions answered by house team members, would be useful to allow students not otherwise involved in governance the opportunity to become part of the legislative process, particularly when issues of concern to the campus as a whole are raised.

Fund Being Applied For: Speakers, Lecturers, and Panels Fund

VSA Organization: Vassar Association of Class Activists

Name of Applicant: John Joyce

Applicant E-mail Address: HYPERLINK "mailto:jojoyce@vassar.edu" jojoyce@vassar.edu

Event Name: "Border Dynamics" with labor organizer Veronica Leyva

Location of Event: Rocky 200

Date of Event: October 14th, 2009

Description of Event:

Veronica Leyva is a grassroots organizer in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Veronica spent ten years working in the maquiladora industry, and has been organizing in her community for fifteen years conducting workshops on worker's and women's rights. Veronica will discuss the battle at the border to confront militarization, increased internal migration, and insecure living conditions. In her talk she will analyze President Felipe Calderon's army-led war on drugs and the millions of dollars promised in US aid for this war via the Merida Initiative.

Benefit to Students:

Veronica Leyva is a labor organizer who, among other topics, focuses on workers' rights issues and cross-border economic issues.

We hope to use the event to raise awareness about some of the labor and economic issues she'll be speaking about, as well as begin a discussion about the drug war in Mexico and how it is related to the US/Mexico border region.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Airfare (to Newark) and Visa: \$460

Rental car: 300

Food: 50

Staff coordination (administration and translation): 100

Honorarium for speaker: 190

Total Cost of Event: \$1100

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

Funding from Latin American and Latino/a Studies: \$50

Geography Department [still pending]: \$25

Political Science Department [still pending]: \$50

Feminist Alliance [still pending]: \$100

We also may receive financial help from the Hispanic Studies Department and/or MEChA. At this point, the amount we have pledged from student orgs. and academic departments/programs is \$225. We are hopeful that the Speaker's Fund will be able to make up the rest.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year - when relevant):

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Feminist Alliance: possible donation of \$100 (still waiting for confirmation)

Amount Requested: \$925

Finance recommendation: \$925

Exec recommendation: \$925

Amount left in fund: \$49,500

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