

VSA Council Minutes

October 25, 2009

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

2. Attendance

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes from 10/11

There were no objections to the consent agenda.

4. Act Out Conference Report

The Act Out leadership did not arrive.

5. Exec Reports

a. President

The VSA President announced the upcoming VSA survey going out soon to the student body. This year, the survey will be focusing on the economy to determine student realms of concern. She encourage members of council to submit either thoughts or questions for the survey to her by the end of the week.

The President updated council on the status of the Athletics Proposal. Currently the proposal is in athletics, who have assembled a committee to review the document and approve it before sending it to CCP. She hoped that it would be in motion before the end of the semester.

Recently the Board of Trustees were in town and the Exec board had a chance to meet with them. The Exec Board reaffirmed their commitment to need-blind. When they announced that the senior gift was to be financial aid, they received a round of applause.

The President reminded everyone that the next few weeks will be rough and that they would do their best to keep lines of communication open. Once again, she reiterated the importance of bringing concerns to the department chairs, not the dean, as the chairs have a more direct impact.

The Town Houses asked where one could go to raise concerns about staffing. She was directed to Rachel Kitzinger.

Jewett also asked that the survey be sent to the members of council before it goes public.

b. Operations

The VP of Operations noted that, he too had been working on the Survey. He elaborated a bit further, noting that there are three categories: academics, student life and VSA.

In addition, his pet project of putting art in the basement of the library has been progressing well. He has been working closely with the Public Art Committee and, hopefully, they will start printing this week with the art hung up in a week or two. His goal is to make Vassar's library basement at the top of the list of most beautiful library basements, for whoever follows such things.

Finally he has been talking with the Board of Trustees about encouraging certain types of

fundraising, for example: financial aid and the sciences.

6. Frisbee

The VP of Activities made a motion to send Ultimate Frisbee to the activities committee for a disciplinary hearing.

The President began by stressing that the council was not actually taking any action against Ultimate Frisbee, this is simply a vote to allow the activities committee to look into the situation.

Activities outlined the charges against Frisbee: according to security, a large number of students were recently written up at a practice for alcohol and providing alcohol to minors. In addition, an article from the Cornell Sun was passed around which read:

*"At Vassar College, one student said that the freshmen and sophomores on the **Frisbee team** are responsible for 'guest swiping upperclassmen' and helping them steal 'bagels and other food with Tupperware ... in exchange for alcohol.'"*

Student Life noted that they did not yet have the security reports, only ones from DB Brown and Chris Rolke.

The President also noted that a prospective student was witness to the drunken practice and a coach had to apologize for the action of the team.

Activities and Student Life also noted that this comes in lieu of recently granting Frisbee an extra \$3,000 in supplemental budgeting with the promise of improved behavior.

2010 asked if a vote for "yes" was a vote for punishment. The President assured her that, no, it was simply a vote for a referral to activities committee.

The Motion came to a vote. TS and Cushing abstained. Town Houses were opposed. The motion passed.

7. Allocation of \$900 from Council Discretionary to Main

According to Main, Nate Silver is trying to put on a self-written play based off the movie Clue. The play would be going up in Main in early November and as much as Main would love to see it happen, they cannot afford it.

Noyes raised a concern based on a rumor that Nate Silver didn't have the rights to the show, noting that it would be hypocritical of the VSA to police films but not plays. Activities noted that this was a self-written piece and not an already written play. He also assured council that the play will not go on if there are rights issues.

A motion was made to table the issue. SoCos and THs were opposed. The motion passed.

8. Open Discussion

According to 2010, there are 210 days until graduation.

Raymond announced that their haunted house would be this weekend and encouraged people to come.

Academics announced that she would be writing a White Paper in support of multi-disciplinary studies.

Main announced that there would be a Halloween extravaganza this weekend in Main.

Student Life asked for an update on Halloween. 2010 announced that ticket sales will be starting this week. Tickets will be selling for \$6 dollars in advance, more at the door. They will be having a fun run on Saturday, a Bonfire on Joss Beach with doughnuts, and Pizza delivered to every dorm at 9:30. There will be a costume contest in Main at 11:30. The party will be from 11-2 with DJ Olmec performing from 11-12 and Jeremy Robbins performing from 12-2.

Activities added that the VSA will be funding a pumpkin carving contest with the winner receiving the prize of Dean Rolke making the voicemail message on their phone.

Operations announced that he was supporting the idea of cross-listing courses and asked council to think of courses that could easily be cross-listed.

The President announced that the Exec Board will be coming to house team meetings this upcoming week.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:26