VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION
Senate Minutes for Sept. 26th, 2021
Time: 2:00PM
Location: New England 105

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance Roll Call (Name, pronouns, class year, major) (Off-record v. on-record)
   a. Check-in question: Favorite Media
   b. Attendees: Valeria, Leslie, Ryan, Jyotsna (Adriana’s Proxy), Gabi, Nick, Ceci, Lola, Harman, Lauren, Lisberma, Katie, 2024: Olivia, Jordan, Alaina, 2023: Joe, Aiden (Julien’s Proxy), Shannon 2022: Jason, Bailey, Natalie, Davis, Olivia (Misc), Emily (Admin Intern), Olier (Web intern), Hannah (Treasurer of Barefoot fireflies), Lila (prez of Fireflies), Melissa, Kay
   c. Absentees: Julia, Addie
3. Adoption of the Agenda
   a. Agenda adopted (Ryan added BOA confirmation)
4. Consent Agenda
5. Updates and Announcements
   a. Executive Board
      i. Equity and Inclusion
         1. Met w/accessibility committee
         2. SCF Application: ALANA Fest $2,000
            a. ALANA center requisitions 2k out of Social consciousness fund.
         3. Budget
            a. Says 7k but its not correct, they already get 5k so we would be allocating 2k
               i. Equity & Inclusion passed it; adopted by Ryan & rest of senate
      ii. Residential Affairs
         1. Dining met & planning on surveying student body 2 see what opinions are; e.g. enough gluten free options, labeling, etc.
         2. Meeting w/ manager of Bon appetit; Greens committee reaches out abt concerns w/ late night & single use plastic;
         3. BORA; service requests being responded to. everything is good
      iii. Health and Wellness
         1. First Aid initiative; went to dorms & TAs & saw left over supplies; will go to dorms & get count of what is there and what is needed to restock;
         2. Newsletter started;
      iv. Organizations
         1. Apps for pre orgs went out; signatures rolling in; Didn’t meet this week & probs. Won’t meet next week b/c not enough apps.
2. Met w/ Michelle ransom to go over org closets; thinking of getting shelves to have more space.

v. Academics
1. Thinking of starting a pilot program for textbooks; want to hold majors fair twice a year (ambitious) goal is at least once a year; place for students to gage better ideas of their majors; maybe before Oct. Break or the week directly after.
2. Met w/ CEIH

vi. Finance
1. Met w/ Michelle ransom; class of 2020 organizing in person ceremony; money from fiscal year was supposed to be set aside; record not found for it. (Likely will come out of contingency fund for this year); Some unpaid bills above 5k that will also come out of contingency;
2. Barefoot Fireflies Capital Application
   a. For items tht last 3 or more years; finance committee supportive of many of the items save for speakers and things from Lowes; going to get cheaper materials from amazon.
   i. Frisbee team got equipment & speakers tht were more cost effective & recommended speakers that they wanted (about half of 2.7k application was on speakers).
      1. Fireflies okay with all of it save for 1 concern abt speakers & not sure if they will be loud enough; happy to find alternative speakers but maybe not the ones recommended since speakers are integral to the club.
      2. Metal torches, are most important things already pre-approved in finance;
      3. Everything approved in the senate save for speakers.
   
3. Application ^^^

vii. Programming and Traditions
1. Shuttle start date: Oct 2nd (going to Poughkeepsie)
2. Talked abt halloweekend & scheduling for halloweekend

viii. Operations
1. Leslie getting treasurer
2. Chair community affairs will be on Good Neighbors Committee
   a. Point of contact recommended Wesley Dickson (spec. Assistant to prez & board; might be helpful w/ contacts)
3. Bring up & pass MOU’s (Like Bora, Judicial Board, BOA).
   a. Want budget to be protected.
4. BOA finished appointing house teams, and the Senate needs to appoint them; All appointed.
ix. VSA President
   1. Met w/ PB & Dean Alamo- talked abt COVI testing policies
      a. Author of petition, invited to Ops, did not meet w updates yet.
   2. Vassar building relations w/ tribes tht vassar land is on (Deleare tribe, Ontario, etc.)
   3. Met w/ Young alumni achievement award winners.

b. Committee Chair Updates
   i. First-Year Programs
      1. Getting ready 4 first meeting after elections on Oct. 9; going to be sitting on committee meetings
   ii. Environmental Action
      1. SEED is going to meet about Divistement
         a. Went to have students more engaged on campus;
         b. Survey sent about environmental issues: maybe had in newsletter?
         c. Talked about sustainability peer educator in dif orgs & dorms; Met w/ Director of sustainability
            i. Talked about issues w/ have w waste; not good at recycling and composting
   iii. Communications
      1. Organized slack w Ceci; voted on using it last week.
   iv. Athletics
      1. Continuation on what was discussed in previous weeks
      2. Passing info w/ SAC abt. Getting athletes events and breaking up the stigma.
   v. Student Labor
      1. Cancelled this week.
   vi. Community Affairs
      1. Talked about what we wanna see from committee; talked about comm. service @ vassar.

c. Senator Updates
   i. Class of 2025
      1. N/A
   ii. Class of 2024
      1. Olivia: Meeting w/ Dean Inoa abt parties; sent guidelines to registre party but only if you’re 21 and live in a TA
   iii. Class of 2023
      1. Joe: sent out intro email & included poll about class tree ceremony; worked on drafting MOU with BORA
         a. Will have meeting w/ Dean Alamo, Julien 7 other deans abt 15 dollar min. Wage
         b. New proposal tht would replace tennis courts behind joss; New admissions building? Climate concerns about having a bunch of parking.
2. Julien’s proxy: future of Liberal arts collab for innovation wants online summer classes to transfer credit; Non-faculty w. PHD’s should be able to teach; Max student course load should rise; Foreign Language requirements are changing. (APs and things of that nature may not be accepted); (Might affect class of 2026).

iv. Class of 2022
1. Natalie: Sending out email to class soon including a survey form.
2. *Section in the athletics committee; if chair cannot come then VP can appoint new person; needs to be balanced committee meeting. (VP can appoint interim chair)*
3. People aren’t hearing from some Joint-Committees

6. Constituent Concerns
   a. Trying to request closet for Latinx Student Union
      i. Some capital fund items stolen; Prez. reached out to Ceci, still in the works of getting them closets but they have one in ALANA and that’s something ALANA does specifically.
      1. Ceci’ll talk to ALANA

7. New Business
   a. BOEA Confirmation
      i. Confirmed BOEA appointments

8. Speakers List

9. Adjournment
   a. Meeting adjourned @ 2:59