VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION
Senate Minutes for Feb 13th, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: New England 105

Call to Order: Meeting called to order @ 2:05

Attendees: Ryan, Gabi, Emily (Leslie Proxy), Nik, Valeria, Lola, Lisberma, Katie, Lauren, Kyle, Jenna, Sophie, Jason, Bailey, Natalie, Shannon, Davis, Brian, Henry, Maria (Jalene’s Proxy), Olivia, Addie, Jordan, Faye, Posey, Noon, (Janet Misc reporter)

Absentees: Dri, Leslie, Aryn, Jalene

Updates & Announcements: Executive Board, Committee Chairs & Class Senators gave announcements.

Equity & Inclusion:
- No major updates
- QUESTIONS: Ad hoc committee, Leslie sent a text, what happened?
- Communication error

Residential Affairs:
- No major updates; talking to Chris 7 Christina abt spring housing prices; joint committee doing 2 rise events

Health and Wellness:
- Met w/ Adrea and talked abt plans going forward; 3rd party org reached out from Art w/Impact (mental health company that tries to use art to help college students); Andrea is interested in it. (Will be a next year thing)
- Talked abt providing breakfast for upperclassmen in TA/TH’s for founders day

Organizations:
- Met w/ Will, Michelle & Sla, to iron out details for off campus trips

Academics:
- Conducting campus wide survey, trying to conduct another survey for senator resolution; CCP committee met this week to talk abt questionnaire they're trying to draft for the semester

Finance:
- Deadline passed this wednesday, turned off limits for 38 treasurers
- Quidditch requesting 3 dinosaur costumes, for recruitment process, increasing team morale; Finance committee didn’t think it was relevant for their purpose for organization; Recommendation for Finance committee is no, but they do have the money.
- Quidditch hosts yule ball, and use their budget fully, they’re a very active org;
- We currently have 56 thousand left on our capital fund; no objections to them getting dinosaur costume

Programming and Traditions:
- Still looking for sustainability chair; as of having a programming intern to do that work but, get someone to apply if possible.

- **Operations:**
  - Met w/ Comms; VSA’ll make a laundry post; talked abt JbOard, Commencement speaker & did dictionary

**VSA President:**
- Finishing up report for the board; has been talking to PB abt commencement speaker

**First Year Programming:**
- No major updates

**Environmental Action:**
- No major updates

**Communications:**
- Talked to Jbard intern abt Lauren giving updates

**Athletics:**
- Nutrition RISE events; Got response from Athletics department and will get things sent over to what's up DC

**Student Labor:**
- Going to have division reps voted in; contacted admin about new wages and hours and how those work;

**Community Affairs:**
- Meeting w/ director of CEL and trying to expand reach.

**Class of 2025:**
- N/A

**Class of 2024:**

**Class of 2023:**
- N/A

**Class of 2022:**
- Commencement speaker; people kind of upset about it; going to send out form/poll to senior class to see what the opinions are there
- VP: PB is very close w/ commencement speaker so, that’s part of the reason why she chose him; he fought for Don’t Ask don’t tell, fought for dreamers but also fought for detention centers; (negative backlash has taken PB by surprise)
- 5 years ago some people argued that hate speech is free speech, and it associated Vassar with right-wing values so, PB is hesitant pulling speaker back
- Noon; Who decides speaker? Does VSA get a say?
- VP: No, PB does we didn’t get told prior.
- Bailey: Admin has everything to do w/commencement.
- VP: Spoke to ellie winter who’s a class alum, she was talked to abt it so it used to be a thing that admin collaborated w/ students on; not anymore
- Prez: Hasn’t been any issue w/ commencement speakers in the for years (to the same extent as this one)
- VP: HAs never been a withdrawal in recent memory;
- PB has been in conversation and we’re unsure of whether or not the speaker will

QUESTIONS: Should we have a poll w/comment sections?
- Yes but, no?
- Sophie: In the 1980s, there was something that was withdrawn in regards to commencement speaker but admin didn’t do it and there has been nothing since that point.

QUESTION: Does survey/poll go out to seniors or everyone:
- Could have separate polls, one for whole school and one for seniors; (for now only seniors though)
- ALSO: spring break housing? Some people can be charged up to $500 over break whole in march of 2020 (pre-covid), it was $25 for the whole break; a lot of seniors upset about that
- Noon: It’s 0 dollars if you’re on full financial aid
- VP: Everyone whom this concerns, talk to Lola about this; having a meeting next week so maybe tr and attend that meeting
- ALSO: Talking to Dean Inoa abt Safety and Security; there’ve been issues in the SO-COHs; Security guard very rude to student parking; bad interaction that could’ve been avoided (Joint committee on college life is going to discuss this next meeting)

Constituent Concerns
- Cushing West: Everyone’s dryers not working and people have put in requests and nothing has happened
- Lathrop: Laundry card reader still not working, hasn't been working for 3 days; L Athrop residents struggling
- Campus wide issue, Laundry things are a problem
- Res: has been talking abt Dryers @ BORA; Vassar said it’s out of their hands b/c it’s an outside company; How long is our contract w/Laundry?
- VP: Joe Bolander would know.
- Res: Can we not work w/ them anymore?
- VP: Talk to Joe Bolander

New Business
SR-23: Anonymous Form
- Got email from member of JBoard asking to make anonymous form for students in orgs to submit complaints; Decided it would be good for orgs committee to run this; Will be in Gabi’s email every week & accessible in VSA website
- Ceci: Orgs is good to pass it, recommends that we pass this
- No objections, passed.
- Going to get this going forward by next senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2:47