

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

NOTES:

This document contains various internal hyperlinks to make navigating within the text easier. Most position titles and committee names are linked so that if you click on them, the document will jump to the corresponding position or committee description.

The new VSA structure includes more appointed positions than the previous structure. Because the appointments will take place at a later date than elections, the appointed positions are mentioned throughout this document, but position descriptions are not provided so as to save space.

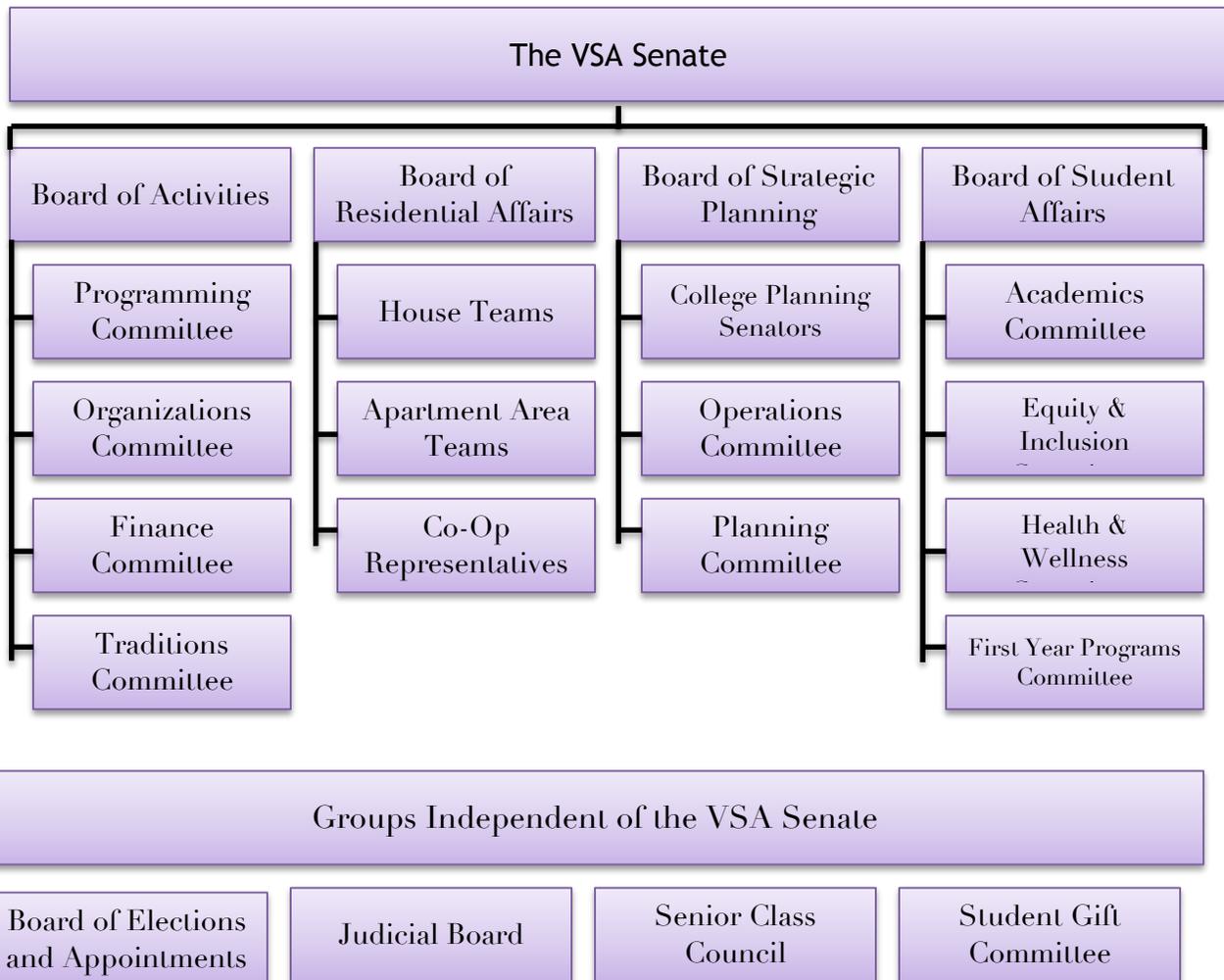
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I. VSA Structure Flowchart

This flowchart provides a broad overview of the new structure of the VSA. Click on a header to jump to that section of the document; each section details the composition and function of the group, as well as the responsibilities of its members.



II. The VSA Senate

The VSA Senate (formerly the VSA Council) is made up of the following 26 members:

- The Executive Board (7)
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Chair of Academics
 - Chair of Equity and Inclusion
 - Chair of Finance
 - Chair of Organizations
 - Chair of Residential Affairs
- Senators (14)
 - Senior Class Senators (3)
 - Junior Class Senators (3)
 - Sophomore Class Senators (3)
 - First Year Senators (3, elected in the fall)
 - College Planning Senators (2)
- Other Members (5)
 - Chair of Health and Wellness
 - Chair of VSA Planning
 - Chair of VSA Programming
 - Co-Chair of Equity and Inclusion (appointed)
 - Co-Chair of Residential Affairs (appointed)

The VSA senate meets weekly, on Sundays at 7pm. Meetings can last any amount of time, depending on the length of the agenda. Senate is a space for all areas of the VSA to update the others on their current work, to discuss current campus issues, and to vote on legislation.

a. VSA Executive Board

This section details the responsibilities of the VSA Executive Board. All Executive Board positions are elected by the student body at large.

NOTE: VSA Executive Board positions are paid as work-study jobs. This is because serving on the Exec Board is a major time commitment (at least 10 hrs/week) and should not be taken lightly. Most Exec Board members chair their own boards and committees, meet twice a week as Exec Board, and attend Senate, in addition to other responsibilities.

VSA President

The VSA President shall:

- Serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the VSA, overseeing the Executive Board and the Senate.
- Chair 2 meetings of the Executive Board per week.
- Set the agenda for and chair weekly meetings of the VSA Senate.
- Organize monthly meetings of the Executive Board with the senior officers of the College and other administrators.

- Hold at least 3 office hours per week.
- Serve as the student observer to the general session of the Board of Trustees.
- Report to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees (3 times per year).
- Sit on the Priorities and Planning Committee (once per month).
- Speak at first year move-in day for both parents and first year students.
- Speak at Fall Convocation.
- Meet with the Executive Board, VSA Senate, student organizations, and/or College administrators in a timely and appropriate manner as issues arise.
- Attend other college committees and task forces as the need arises.

Vice President

The Vice President shall:

- Serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the VSA, overseeing the internal affairs of the VSA.
- Maintain the governing documents.
- Oversee the hiring and supervision of the VSA interns.
- Manage the VSA Office.
- Attend 2 weekly meetings of the Executive Board and the weekly VSA Senate meeting, as well as meetings with College administrators and senior officers.
- Chair the [Board of Strategic Planning](#).
- Chair the [Operations Committee](#).
- Sit on the [Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid](#).
- Serve as a student observer to the Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors (3 times per year).
- Report to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees (3 times per year).
- Hold office hours weekly.
- Advise the [Board of Elections and Appointments](#) and [Judicial Board](#) as needed on constitutional matters.
- Sit on the Priorities and Planning Committee (once per month).

Chair of Academics

The Chair of Academics shall:

- Serve as the primary liaison to the Dean of the Faculty, academic departments, the Dean of Studies, and related areas of academic life.
- Attend 2 weekly meetings of the Executive Board and the weekly VSA Senate meeting, as well as meetings with College administrators and senior officers.
- Set the agenda for and chair the [Academics Committee](#).
- Oversee programs such as Peer Advising, the Majors Fair, and Student Seminars.
- Potentially chair the [Board of Student Affairs](#).*
- Sit on the [Committee on Curricular Policy](#) (biweekly) and the Library Committee.
- Sit on other College committees and task forces as needed.
- Hold office hours weekly.
- Report to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees (3 times per year).

*This Board may be chaired by the Chair of Academics or the Chair of Equity and Inclusion.

Chair of Equity and Inclusion

The Chair of Equity and Inclusion shall:

- Serve as the primary liaison to the Campus Life and Diversity division, including the ALANA Center, Women's Center, LGBTQ Center, Office of International Services, and Religious and Spiritual Life.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Office of Accessibility and Education Opportunity, Student Financial Services, and Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action/Title IX.
- Attend 2 weekly meetings of the Executive Board and the weekly VSA Senate meeting, as well as meetings with College administrators and senior officers.
- Set the agenda for and chair the [Equity and Inclusion Committee](#).
- Have the opportunity to sit on the [Campus Life Resource Group](#) (monthly) and the [Committee on Inclusion and Excellence](#) (meeting frequency varies).
- Potentially chair the [Board of Student Affairs](#).*
- Serve as the student representative on the Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT, meets weekly).
- Report to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees (3 times per year).
- Hold office hours weekly.

*This Board may be chaired by the Chair of Academics or the Chair of Equity and Inclusion.

Chair of Finance

The Chair of Finance shall:

- Serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the VSA, overseeing the roughly \$900,000 overall budget and its distribution to organizations and special purpose funds.
- Approve all organizations' financial transactions.
- Make financial transfers across organizations and departments/offices.
- Attend 2 weekly meetings of the Executive Board and the weekly VSA Senate meeting, as well as meetings with College administrators and senior officers.
- Sit on the [Finance Committee](#), which is chaired by the appointed Co-Chair of Finance.
- Potentially chair the [Board of Activities](#).*
- Report to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees (3 times per year).
- Manage the VSA Finance Interns and work as a cohesive team with the Interns and the appointed Co-Chair of Finance.
- Hold at least 5 office hours weekly.

*This Board may be chaired by the Chair of Finance or the Chair of Organizations.

Chair of Organizations

The Chair of Organizations shall:

- Oversee all student organizations and pre-orgs.
- Attend 2 weekly meetings of the Executive Board and the weekly VSA Senate meeting, as well as meetings with College administrators and senior officers.
- Set the agenda for and chair the [Organizations Committee](#).
- Address organization needs such as closet and office space.
- Assist in planning the Fall and Spring Leadership Conferences.
- Potentially chair the [Board of Activities](#).*

- Ensure balanced programming throughout the year via the Board of Activities.
- Report to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees (3 times per year).
- Hold office hours weekly.

*This Board may be chaired by the Chair of Finance or the Chair of Organizations.

Chair of Residential Affairs

The Chair of Residential Affairs shall:

- Serve as the primary liaison to Residential Life, Campus Dining, Safety and Security, and other areas directly dealing with on-campus life.
- Attend 2 weekly meetings of the Executive Board and the weekly VSA Senate meeting, as well as meetings with College administrators and senior officers.
- Chair the [Board of Residential Affairs](#).
- Have the opportunity to sit on the Safety and Security Council.
- Sit on the [Committee on College Life](#) (once per month).
- Report to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees (3 times per year).
- Hold office hours weekly.

b. VSA Senators

This section details the responsibilities of the VSA Senators. Class Senators are elected by their respective classes. College Planning Senators are elected by the student body at large.

i. Class Senators

Each class has 3 senators:

- Senator for Activities
- Senator for Strategic Planning
- Senator for Student Affairs.

In addition to sitting on the VSA Senate, the Senators shall have the following responsibilities:

- **Senators for Activities** shall sit on 2 committees within the [Board of Activities](#):
 - Organizations Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Programming Committee
- **Senators for Strategic Planning** shall sit on the 2 committees within the [Board of Strategic Planning](#):
 - Operations Committee
 - Planning Committee
- **Senators for Student Affairs** shall sit on 2 committees within the [Board of Student Affairs](#):
 - Academics Committee
 - Equity and Inclusion Committee
 - First Year Programs Committee
 - Health and Wellness Committee

Additionally, the Senior Class Senators sit on [Senior Class Council](#).

ii. College Planning Senators

In addition to sitting on the VSA Senate, the College Planning Senators shall:

- Sit on the [Board of Strategic Planning](#).
- Serve as student representatives on the following committees:
 - [Campus Investor Responsibility Committee \(CIRC\)](#)
 - [Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid \(CAFA\)](#)
 - [Master Planning Committee](#)
 - [Sustainability Committee](#)

c. Other VSA Senate Members

This section details the responsibilities of the Chairs of Health and Wellness, VSA Planning, and VSA Programming. The Chairs are elected by the student body at large.

Chair of Health and Wellness

In addition to sitting on the VSA Senate, the Chair of Health and Wellness shall:

- Set the agenda for and chair meetings of the [Health and Wellness Committee](#).
- Sit on the [Board of Student Affairs](#).
- Serve as the primary liaison between the student body and Health Services, the Counseling Service, the Office of Health Education, the Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention Office, and Athletics.
- Oversee initiatives to improve the health and wellness of the student body.

Chair of VSA Planning:

In addition to sitting on the VSA Senate, the Chair of VSA Planning shall:

- Set the agenda for and chair meetings of the [Planning Committee](#).
- Sit on the [Board of Strategic Planning](#).
- Manage long-term planning initiatives of the VSA.
- Oversee the annual budgeting process in conjunction with the Co-Chairs of Finance.
- Work with the College Planning Senators to ensure that the long-term plans of the VSA align with those of the College.
- Sit as a student representative on the [Master Planning Committee](#).
- Coordinate with other VSA Committees on long-term projects.

Chair of VSA Programming:

In addition to sitting on the VSA Senate, the Chair of VSA Programming shall:

- Set the agenda for and chair meetings of the [Programming Committee](#).
- Sit on the [Board of Activities](#).
- Work with ViCE, the [Traditions Committee](#), and the Campus Activities Office to ensure a variety of regularly-scheduled programming throughout the year.
- Oversee and coordinate the planning of events on weekends when others are not scheduled.

III. Class and Residential Representation

This section details how each class year and residential area is represented in the broader VSA structure.

a. Class Representation

Each class year is represented on the VSA Senate by its 3 [senators](#): a Senator for Activities, a Senator for Strategic Planning, and a Senator for Student Affairs.

i. Senior Class Council

This section details the composition and the responsibilities of the Senior Class Council.

The Senior Class Council is made up of the following 12 members:

- Executive Board (4)
 - Senior Class President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- Senior Class Senators (3)
 - Senior Senator for Activities
 - Senior Senator for Strategic Planning
 - Senior Senator for Student Affairs
- Senior Class Student Gift Co-Chairs (2, appointed)
- Senior Housing Presidents (3)
 - South Commons President
 - Terrace Apartments President
 - Town Houses President

Broadly, the Senior Class Council is responsible for organizing class events and Senior Week programming. They oversee the Daisy Chain.

Senior Class President

The Senior Class President shall:

- Set the agenda for and chair meetings of the Senior Class Council.
- Chair meetings of the Senior Class Council Executive Board, as needed.
- Oversee the planning and execution of class events, such as 100 Nights, 99 Nights, 50 Nights, and Senior Week.
- Send communications to the class as needed, with relevant information and updates on programming, all-campus events, etc.
- Serve as a student observer to the Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors (3 times per year).
- Have the ability to appoint additional members to the Senior Class Council, as needed.
- Work closely with the [Student Gift Committee](#), the Daisy Chain, and other class-specific organizations, such as the Council of Black Seniors.

- Speak at Commencement.

Vice President

The Vice President shall:

- Serve as the liaison between the Senior Class Council and the SARC.
- Coordinate all Senior Class programming, such as 100 Nights, 99 Nights, 50 Nights, and Senior Week in conjunction with the President.
- Assume the duties of the President in the case of absence or incapacitation
- Succeed the President in the case of departure from office.
- Attend the Fall and Spring Leadership Conferences.
- Attend meetings of the Senior Class Council.
- Attend meetings of the Senior Class Council Executive Board, as needed.

Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- Attend and record minutes of Senior Class Council Meetings.
- Attend and record minutes of Senior Class Council Executive Board meetings, as needed.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Be responsible for all financial matters of the Senior Class, overseeing its budget.
- Serve as the liaison between the Senior Class and the Finance Committee, submitting fund applications as necessary.
- Complete reimbursements, fund transfers, and cash advances, as needed.
- Maintain an inventory of all Senior Class assets, including capital items.
- Attend treasurer training once per semester.
- Attend meetings of the Senior Class Council.
- Attend meetings of the Senior Class Council Executive Board, as needed.

Senior Class Student Gift Co-Chairs

The appointed Senior Class Student Gift Co-Chairs shall:

- Attend meetings of the Senior Class Council.
- Work with various groups and offices, such as the Office of Alumnae/i Affairs and Development and the Office of the Dean of the College.
- Decide on, fundraise for, and organize the execution of the Student Gift.
- Attend meetings of the [Student Gift Committee](#).
- Execute programming on behalf of the Student Gift Committee, such as the Faculty-Student Basketball Game.

ii. Student Gift Committee

The Student Gift Committee is the primary campaigning and organizing force behind the Student Gift. The Co-Chairs from each class meet regularly with each other and with the Office

of Alumnae/i Affairs and Development. In addition to serving on the Student Gift Committee, the Senior Class Co-Chairs sit on Senior Class Council.

The Student Gift Committee is composed of the following appointed members:

- Senior Class Co-Chairs (2)
- Junior Class Co-Chairs (2)
- Sophomore Class Co-Chairs (2)
- First Year Co-Chairs (2)

b. House Teams and Residential Representation

This section details the composition and responsibilities of House Teams, Apartment Area Teams, and Cooperative Housing representatives.

i. House Teams

Each house shall elect the following 5 House Officers:

- House President
- Programming Director
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- First Year Representative (elected by first year students in the house in the fall)

House President

The House President shall:

- Represent their house on the [Board of Residential Affairs](#).
- Set the agenda for and chair weekly meetings of the House Team.
- Chair meetings of all residents of the House, if necessary.
- Sit on at least one VSA Senate Committee.
- Send weekly communications to the House in conjunction with the Secretary, with updates on House programming, all-campus events, important information, etc.
- Sign a House Officer agreement, as stipulated by the Office of Residential Life.

Programming Director

The Programming Director shall:

- Coordinate all House programming, including at least one all-campus event and regular residential social activities (such as study breaks).
- Attend weekly House Team meetings.
- Serve as the liaison between the House and the SARC.
- Assume the duties of the President in the case of absence or incapacitation.
- Succeed the President in the case of departure from office.
- Attend the Fall and Spring Leadership Conferences.
- Sign a House Officer agreement, as stipulated by the Office of Residential Life.

Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- Be responsible for, and coordinate with the President on, House communications.
- Record minutes at House Team meetings.
- Report House damages to the offices of Residential Life and Buildings and Grounds.
- Sign a House Officer agreement, as stipulated by the Office of Residential Life.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Be responsible for all financial matters of the House.
- Attend weekly House Team meetings.
- Maintain an inventory of all House assets, including capital items.
- Serve as the liaison between the House and the Finance Committee, submitting fund applications as necessary.
- Complete reimbursements, fund transfers, and cash advances, as needed.
- Attend Treasurer Training once per semester.
- Sign a House Officer agreement, as stipulated by the Office of Residential Life.

ii. Apartment Area Teams

Each apartment area (South Commons, Terrace Apartments, Town Houses, and Town Students) shall elect the following 3 Apartment Area Officers:

- Apartment Area President
- Programming Director
- Treasurer

Apartment Area President

The Apartment Area President shall:

- Sit on Senior Class Council.
- Sit on the [Board of Residential Affairs](#).
- Sit on at least one VSA Senate Committee.
- Meet as needed with their Programming Director and Treasurer to execute programming for their residential area.
- Send communications to the residents of their Apartment Area, including information about programming, all-campus events, and other important information, as needed.

Programming Director

The Programming Director shall:

- Coordinate all programming, including at least one all-campus event and regular residential social activities (such as study breaks).
- Attend regular Apartment Area Team meetings.
- Serve as the liaison between the Apartment Area and the SARC.
- Assume the duties of the President in the case of absence or incapacitation.
- Succeed the President in the case of departure from office.

- Attend the Fall and Spring Leadership Conferences.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Be responsible for all financial matters of the Apartment Area.
- Attend regular Apartment Area Team meetings.
- Maintain an inventory of all Apartment Area assets, including capital items.
- Serve as the liaison between the Apartment Area and the Finance Committee, submitting fund applications as necessary.
- Complete reimbursements, fund transfers, and cash advances, as needed.
- Attend Treasurer Training once per semester.

iii. Cooperative Housing Representatives

The Co-Ops (Ferry House, TH148, and Meat House) shall collectively elect the following 2 Cooperative Housing Representatives:

- Cooperative Housing President
- Treasurer

Cooperative Housing President

The Cooperative Housing President shall:

- Sit on the [Board of Residential Affairs](#).
- Sit on at least one VSA Senate Committee.
- Coordinate with the Treasurer and members of the Co-Ops to plan and execute programming.
- Support and assist in programming held by individual Co-Ops.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- Serve as the liaison between the Co-Ops and the Finance Committee, submitting fund applications as needed.
- Manage the Cooperative Housing budget.
- Maintain an inventory of all Apartment Area assets, including capital items.
- Complete reimbursements, fund transfers, and cash advances, as needed.
- Attend Treasurer Training once per semester.

IV. The Boards and Committees of the VSA

This section details the composition and membership of the Boards and Committees of the VSA.

a. Board of Activities

The Board of Activities shall:

- Work to encourage and sponsor regular, diverse programming throughout the year.
- Create and maintain a calendar of all student-sponsored events throughout the year.
- Create guiding principles at the beginning of the academic year, as well as present monthly goals to the VSA Senate.

The Board of Activities meets **at least every two weeks**, and is composed of the following members:

- Chair of Organizations
- Co-Chairs of Finance (1 elected, 1 appointed)
- Chair of Programming
- Co-Chairs of Traditions
- ViCE Executive Board Representative
- [Board of Residential Affairs](#) Representative
- Members of the Campus Activities Office

The Board of Activities shall be chaired by either the Chair of Organizations or the elected Chair of Finance.

The Board of Activities oversees the following committees and organizations:

- [Organizations Committee](#)
- [Finance Committee](#)
- [Programming Committee](#)
- [Traditions Committee](#)
- ViCE

Organizations Committee

The Organizations Committee shall:

- Consist of one elected chair, two Class Senators and any additional at-large appointed members.
- Oversee all VSA organizations and pre-organizations.
- Oversee the new pre-org application and certification process.
- Review pre-orgs each semester to determine if they may advance in the pre-org process.
- Review certified organizations on an annual basis.
- Review and approve changes to organizations' governing documents.
- Recommend policy changes pertaining to organizations to the VSA Senate.

- Consider and recommend to the VSA Senate all disciplinary action relating to organizations.

All recommendations of the Organizations Committee regarding certification, decertification, and disciplinary action shall be placed on the Consensus Agenda of the VSA Senate.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall:

- Be chaired by the appointed Co-Chair of Finance, who shall set the agenda and lead the meetings.
- Be open to all members of the VSA Senate and additional members at-large appointed by the Board of Elections and Appointments.
- Consist of at least seven members, excluding the Co-Chairs.
- Review all fund applications and make final recommendations to the VSA Senate.
- Designate and publicize a consistent time at which Finance Committee will meet on every Wednesday afternoon that classes are in session on the following Monday.
- Create, maintain, and publicize the VSA Finance Policies.

Programming Committee

The Programming Committee shall:

- Consist of one elected chair and at least two Class Senators, one SARC intern, and one administrator from the Campus Activities Office; at-large members may join via application through BOEA.
- Coordinate the all-campus programs Tasty Tuesday and the Saturday Shuttle, and may also coordinate other all-campus programs and events.
- Coordinate class-based programming for sophomores and juniors.

Traditions Committee

The Traditions Committee shall:

- Consist of two Co-Chairs appointed for staggered two-year terms, a treasurer, a first-year representative, and additional members as determined by the Co-Chairs; the Board of Elections and Appointments and the outgoing chair shall appoint the Co-Chairs, who shall appoint all other members.
- Be responsible for planning Serenading, Meet Me in Poughkeepsie, Halloween, Founder's Day, Light the Night and other events as determined by the committee.

b. Board of Residential Affairs

The Board of Residential Affairs shall:

- Discuss issues related to the residential experience at Vassar, including but not limited to residential life, dining, security, and college regulations.

The Board of Residential Affairs meets **weekly**, and is composed of the following members:

- Co-Chairs of Residential Affairs (1 elected, 1 appointed)
- House Presidents (9)
- Apartment Area Presidents (4)

- Cooperative Housing President

The Board of Residential Affairs shall be chaired by the Co-Chairs of Residential Affairs.

The Board of Residential Affairs oversees the following groups:

- [House Teams](#)
- [Apartment Area Teams](#)
- [Co-Op Representatives](#)

c. Board of Strategic Planning

The Board of Strategic Planning shall:

- Work to manage the internal affairs of the VSA in relation to the plans of the College.

The Board of Strategic Planning shall meet **at least once per month**, and is composed of the following members:

- VSA Vice President
- Chair of Strategic Planning
- College Planning Senators (2)
- VSA Research Director (appointed)

The Board of Strategic Planning shall be chaired by the VSA Vice President.

The Board of Strategic Planning oversees the following committees:

- [Operations Committee](#)
- [Planning Committee](#)

Operations Committee

The Operations Committee shall:

- Consist of the chair, Public Relations Director, Public Relations Intern, and shall be open to all students.
- Maintain the governing documents of the VSA, including all written policies, rules, and other documents.
- Review new legislation before it is brought to the VSA Senate.
- Establish, clarify, and enforce the rules of VSA Senate meetings.
- Conduct appointment proceedings for positions on the Board of Elections and Appointments.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee shall:

- Consist of the chair, Research Director, College Planning Senators, and shall be open to all students.
- Consider long-term issues facing the VSA Executive Board and Senate.
- Review the VSA structure, policies, and procedures and recommend changes to the VSA Senate.

- Review policies and procedures regarding student organizations and recommend changes to the VSA Senate.
- Conduct and manage other long-term projects, such as the VSA Endowment.

d. Board of Student Affairs

The Board of Student Affairs shall:

- Address issues of student life in an intersectional manner across committees.
- Create guiding principles at the beginning of the academic year, as well as present monthly goals to the VSA Senate.

The Board of Student Affairs shall meet **at least once per month**, and is composed of the following members:

- Co-Chairs of Equity and Inclusion (1 elected, 1 appointed)
- Chair of Academics
- Chair of Health and Wellness
- Chair of First Year Programs
- Judicial Board Chair

The Board of Student Affairs shall be chaired by either the elected Chair of Equity and Inclusion or the Chair of Academics.

The Board of Student Affairs oversees the following committees:

- [Academics Committee](#)
- [Equity and Inclusion Committee](#)
- [First Year Programs Committee](#)
- [Health and Wellness Committee](#)

Equity and Inclusion Committee

The Equity and Inclusion Committee shall:

- Consist of one elected Co-Chair, one internally elected Co-Chair, and one internally elected Treasurer; at minimum, the following student representatives: four from organizations associated with the ALANA Center, one from an organization associated with the LGBTQ Center, one from an organization associated with the Women's Center, one from an organization associated with the Office of International Services, and two from organizations associated with Religious and Spiritual Life; all other identity-related organizations may send one student representative.
- Consider issues pertaining to the physical, emotional, and mental safety and empowerment of students of marginalized identities, including but not limited to: LGBTQ students, women, students of color, students of differing ability, students of religious minorities, non-traditional students, low-income students, international students, and first-generation students.
- Consider issues of campus climate related to identity, equity and inclusion, including those brought forth by students, organizations, and/or the Office of Campus Life and Diversity.

- Act as liaison to Campus Life and Diversity Offices (ALANA Center, Women’s Center, LGBTQ Center, Office of International Services, Religious and Spiritual Life), Accessibility Office, Title IX/Affirmative Action Office, and identity-related student organizations.
- Choose from amongst themselves one student representative for each of the following Joint Committees: Campus Life Resource Group,
- Maintain the Social Consciousness Fund in the interests of empowering and celebrating students of marginalized identities.

Academics Committee

The Academics Committee shall:

- Consist of the elected Chair of Academics; one representative from each of the academic divisions, including but not limited to: natural sciences, social sciences, arts, foreign languages, and multidisciplinary programs; and any additional at-large appointed members.
- Act as liaison to Academic Departments, the Library, and offices related to Experiential Learning, such as Fieldwork, and Junior Year Away.
- Include a member of the committee as a representative on the Committee on Curricular Policy and Library Committee.
- Oversee Peer Advising program, Majors Fair, and Student Seminars.
- Consider issues pertaining to academics and the academic life of students.
- Work towards fostering and furthering positive relationships between students and faculty, as well as between students, in the interests of enriching academic life at Vassar.
- Advocate for the physical, emotional, and mental safety of students in the classroom.

Health and Wellness Committee

- Consist of the elected Chair of Health and Wellness, one Wellness Peer Educator, and one representative from each of the relevant health and wellness student organizations, including but not limited to: CARES, TLC, CHOICE, EMS, ProHealth, Body Positive, QHI, and SupportED.
- Act as liaison to Baldwin, Metcalf, the Athletics Department, Office of Health Education, and SAVP.
- Consider issues related to the mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing of students, and undertake projects aimed at improving these.

First Year Programs Committee

The First Year Programs Committee shall:

- Consist of the elected Chair of First Year Programs and the three elected First-Year Senators.
- Act as liaison to all departments, programs, and committees related to the first year at Vassar, including but not limited to: Orientation Committee, Unpacking Vassar, Transitions, and Posse.
- Coordinate programming for the Freshman class.
- Include a member who shall sit as a representative on the Orientation Committee.
- Consider issues related to the success and wellbeing of first-year students.

Chair of First Year Programming

In addition to sitting on the VSA Senate, the Chair of First Year Programming shall:

- Set the agenda for and chair meetings of the First Year Programs Committee.
- Sit on the Board of Student Affairs.
- Serve as the primary liaison to all departments, programs, and committees related to the first year at Vassar, including but not limited to: Orientation Committee, Unpacking Vassar, Transitions, and Posse.
- Oversee the planning and execution of events for first year students.

V. Independent Boards

This section details the composition and responsibilities of the two boards that are independent of, yet work closely with, the VSA Senate.

a. Board of Elections and Appointments (BOEA)

BOEA shall:

- Conduct and oversee all elections, appointments, and referendums through reasonable interpretation of the VSA governing documents.
- Report all results to the VSA Senate at the conclusion of the election, appointment, or referendum.

BOEA shall meet as needed, and is composed of the following members, all of whom shall be appointed by the outgoing Operations Committee:

- BOEA Chair
- Senior Class Representative
- Junior Class Representative
- Sophomore Class Representative
- First Year Representative
- VSA Training Director

b. Judicial Board

The Judicial Board is composed of the following elected members:

- Judicial Board Chair
- Senior Class Representatives (4)
- Junior Class Representatives (4)
- Sophomore Class Representatives (4)
- First Year Representatives (4)

In addition to presiding over the Judicial Board the Judicial Board Chair also sits on the Committee on College Life.

For more information about the responsibilities of the Judicial Board, see Article XII of the VSA Bylaws and/or the [Judicial Board website](#).

VI. Joint Committees

This section describes the Joint Committees on which students may sit as representatives alongside faculty, staff, and administrators. These descriptions are taken from the VSA website or the Vassar Committees website.

In addition to VSA Representatives, the following Joint Committees shall also have at-large representatives:

- [Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid](#)
 - One first-year representative (elected in the fall).
- [Committee on College Life](#)
 - One representative from each class.
- [Committee on Inclusion and Excellence](#)
 - Two representatives appointed for staggered two-year terms.

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA)

Chair: Art Rodriguez, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

Members truly determine how effective this committee is, as they suggest the topics. Past agendas have included the FOCUS recruitment of students of color, the use and training of student tour guides, the alumni-admissions program, early decision, international recruitment, financial aid packaging methods, student employment and work study wage/hour limitations, the impact of possible changes in federal and state aid policies, etc. Recently there has been discussion on the diversity of the applicant pool and recruitment.

Campus Investor Responsibility Committee (CIRC)

Chair: Marianne Begemann, Dean of Strategic Planning and Academic Resources

The CIRC review issues of social responsibility related to companies in Vassar's investment portfolio, and makes recommendations to the Trustees. Each member selects 2-3 topics (global labor standards, defense, tobacco, etc.) In the past, the CIRC's activity has been famously effective and has caused the college to send a letter to GE about PCBs in the Hudson River and to issue a full divestment in South Africa during the 1980s.

Campus Life Resource Group

Chair: Ed Pittman, Dean of Campus Life and Diversity

This vital committee provides forums for dialogue and discussion for all members of the Vassar community on a range of campus life matters. In this vein, CLRG plans Conversation Dinners throughout the year and the Annual All College Day. Membership is open to all members from every area of the college and students should feel free to contact members and ask to attend meetings or Conversation Dinners.

Sustainability Committee

Chair: Alistair Hall, Sustainability Coordinator

Formerly known as the Committee on Recycling and Sustainability, this group has no set membership among faculty, administration, and students other than the five busy interns who do much of the legwork from meeting to meeting. Issues under its purview related to accessing local foods, wind power on campus, recycling and overall environmental awareness on campus. The Sustainability works very closely with Greenway to help waste management and

composting and just recently acquired control of the SWAPR program. Its success varies according to membership but it has been very productive as of late.

Committee on College Life (CCL)

Chair: Christopher Roellke, Dean of the College

This is a voting body, with the Chair only voting in case of a tie. This committee instilled with the power to review and alter nearly all college regulations, aside from academic, including alcohol policies, party policies, parking policies, and the legal definitions of punishable offenses.

Committee on Curricular Policies (CCP)

Chair: Jonathan Chenette, Dean of the Faculty

This is a Joint Student/Faculty Committee with two professors from every academic division and one student from each academic division, plus the Academic Executive. The CCP is the primary body for the review and development of curricular (academic) procedures and policies. Significant decisions of the CCP are usually brought to the Faculty for final approval.

Committee on Inclusion and Excellence (CIE)

Chairs: David Bradley, Professor of Physics; Eréndira Rueda, Professor of Sociology

The task of the Committee on Inclusion and Excellence will be four-fold: 1. to build on, expand and continue the study of academic, extracurricular and student engagement at the College 2. through its ongoing research, to develop clearer understandings of relationships between student life, institutional climate and academic work as it is experienced by different student groups 3. to initiate an ongoing process of evaluation and re-examination of our goals for student achievement, engagement and satisfaction 4. to make recommendations for change to the President, Dean of the Faculty and Dean of the College to assure that members of all groups in the student body enjoy the fullest promise of a Vassar education. Membership of the committee will include elected representatives from the faculty, appointed members from the administration and from previous, related committees, ex officio members, and students.

Computing and Academic Technologies (CAT)

Chair: Andrew Tallon

This group consists of faculty, administration, and students interested in discussing issues related to computing at Vassar. Recent topics of this group include the new online storage, new video conferencing system, telecommunications changes, and the Classroom Committee.

Master Planning Committee

Chair: Vice President for Finance and Administration (TBD)

This group considers all major changes to the campus property. Recent agendas have detailed changes to the library annex storage, general storage needs on campus, parking issues, the future of the Juliet Property, the renewal plans for student residences. This committee, rather than Res Life, is the resource to refer to if you have major ideas pertaining to housing structures and building changes and improvements.