

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 8, 2013

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“It is never too late or too soon. It is when it is supposed to be.”

-Mitch Albom, *The Timekeeper*

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 AttendanceOperations
- 3 Consent Agenda
 - a. Vassar Dems/VARC -Speakers (\$4,500/\$5,200)
 - b. Wordsmiths - Speakers (\$2,245/\$2,545)
 - c. Idlewild - Collaboration (\$500/\$500)
 - d. Filmmakers - Capital (\$1,240/\$1,240)
 - e. Minutes from 5/5/13
- 4 Forum with Terry Hanlon, VSA Advisor Terry Hanlon (15 min)

Main: As the VSA advisor what do you do?

Terri: It depends on what [the VSA] wants me to do. I’m here for whatever you need.

President: recognizing that the midnight question was a highly polarizing question, what is it that you do with the midnight question. Can you share some of the positive feedback?

Terri: 80% of Cushing agreed that the midnight question was useful and saw it as a positive thing. The midnight question gave a lot of students a moment of pause, a lot of students reach out with suggestions and it gave some students a place to go to for advice.

2015: Where do you see the year going?

Terri: I think we need more work in students, faculty, and staff have a voice on campus. As we continue to move toward the new science building, I think people have this tense relationship with where Vassar is spending it’s money, but if there are any suggestions people shouldn’t hesitate to voice their opinions.

Operations: Do you see any potential problems getting non-traditional students resources they might need?

Terri: I think we’ve done a lot to try and improve the training of student house fellows. I thin the posse program has a great advisor, we need to continue to listen to people experiences and be mindful.
- 5 Executive Board Reports
 - a. Student Life.....(7 min)

Spoken word “How can we make this event happen for every year?”

Meetings to help about personal things; 3 different meetings where students need to retell their experiences.
 - b. Academics(7 min)

Project based. 3 major projects.

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1. Major committees; “we’re going to try to foster a greater cooperation,” specifically division wide major committees. Ex. Languages focus on power of language that reaches a lot of people across many majors.
2. Academics newsletter – created by students, includes students and faculty work.
3. Peer advising – trying to find as many best advisors, looking for new ways to outreach to freshman. Social awareness and consciousness component will be a large conversation – faculty and administration level. 2016 Q -Has anyone who was involved from last year contacted you?” A: We have been communicating with someone about it.
- 6 Guiding Principles..... Operations (10 min)
-Took everyone’s ideas and reformatted things. Principles sum up what was talked about as far as goals: inclusive and accessible, changing the culture of VSA. President’s favorite was 9 “We will work to foster an environment that not only accepts diversity but celebrates it.” Motion to adopt 28-1 motion – all in favor, so the motion passes.
- 7 Finance Amendment..... Operations, Finance (10 min)
-Mike- motion to allow the committee to schedule finance meetings. Stay on Wednesday afternoon. 4:30. All in favor, so the motion passes for meeting.
- 8 Timeline for Freshman Elections..... BOE Co-Chairs, Operations (5 min)
-Working on getting freshmen elected as soon as possible ~ refer to packet.
Ali – points out that this starts tomorrow. 2016 asked about the location and believed the change to be better from Sanders to here. Mike: Question about debate club, answer- talking about changing the debate format. Whether the debate team will be involved is questionable, but we are working with other groups to better the format of the debate. Question about the publication of the elections. Casey is glad to see the matador meeting listed. All in favor, so the motion passes.
- 9 Appointment of Raymond Junior Rep..... Operations (10 min)
Ali: talk about the application, junior rep for last year suddenly resigned. Other girl who ran for it would like to be the rep for this year. Recommendation: that we appoint Kathleen for rep for the entire year. Voting: either Kathleen yes, or whole application process if vote no. Raymond: reiterates things Ali said, Kathleen has gone through the house training, and an event is coming up in three weeks. All in favor, so the motion passes for Kathleen to be the fall junior rep..
- 10 Declaration of Open Positions..... Operations (5 min)
Deborah states she had a good weekend, but she did have some car trouble. It stopped in a one lane and there was a bus behind. Positions that you can start recruiting for: refer to list. Policy: will remain open until we get an application; then there will be a one-week time applicant where

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others can apply. *Special appointments form* After one week, there will be interviews. If there is only one applicant, they will probably be interviewed and perhaps appointed.

7 Open Discussion

With 2014: there are 254/245 days until commencement. Serenading: things are changing. If any questions, direct to me or others in senior council. Changes: moved to Sunday because of holiday, starting at 3 instead of 2; going to operate up until you get to field. Seniors will deliver class chant in the interest of creating a more reciprocal feeling. Sophomore and juniors are welcome to sing. The traditional pizza party is getting moved to after serenading so more seniors may attend the actual serenading.

Activities:

Sep 15 preliminary org. applications due, can be found on activities page VSA. -Friday 13th VSA Mug night. Main question for 2014, when is the dinner. Answer: around 5, pizza should be arriving at 4:30. 2014 will be in touch about the water balloons, will be getting those as soon as possible. Strong question: are banners being judged for points? A: They are only for house cup points. 2015 questions: reminder about pictures for website. Noyes 2014: Q: about banners. A: Will be a table in the field. Coolest banner according to me will win those points. Banner paper is in the office. Anybody who is participating can make the banner. Recommended to make it while making shirts that day. Main Q: “How can this survive the water balloon fight?”

Motion to adjourn: all in favor – all minus 2015.