

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for December 8, 2013

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” – Nelson Mandela

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 AttendanceOperations
- 3 (After attendance) Gift for Deborah Steinberg from Fly People from best friend and roommate
Jingle Bell Rock (from Mean Girls).
- 4 Consent Agenda
 - a. YDS – Prelim.....(\$54/\$54)
 - b. SJP – Prelim.....(\$0/\$15)
 - c. Hip Hop 101 – Community.....(\$2,000/\$7,000)
 - d. Capital to Outing Club \$289
 - e. Prelim to Generations..... \$70
 - f. Social Consc to SEASA..... \$598
 - g. Capital to Ballroom..... \$65
 - h. Speakers to VHP.....\$84
 - i. Minutes from 12/1/2013
- 5 Executive Board Reports
 - a. Student Life.....(7 min)
SL – SL committee met on Monday, we will also be meeting tomorrow. Minutes from the last meeting covered the travel home fund. We are reaching out to find funding for that. At the meeting with administration tomorrow, it will be brought up. We will also be talking about gender-neutral bathrooms. It’s only a matter of putting up signs, but the sign may be an issue [specific language for example]. Event this Wednesday in faculty parlor, Know Your Title Nine. All college day has a speaker – Janet M. Alejandro McGee is heading that. Student Labor dialogue will be having more activities soon. We covered shared governance and what that means in light of recent events. We’re going to be working with ops on the VSARC Project. We discussed VSA exec. work-study. The theme for all college day is Un-silencing Voices. I would really like to know what’s going on in a variety of students’ minds, not just the ones I interact with. We were talking about how people are feeling about [the recent events], the administration, responses to the privilege campaign- all things that will be discussed more tomorrow.
TAs- I saw a gender-neutral sign on these bathrooms; was that part of the program or was it someone else doing that? Can they?

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SL- I think it was probably Judy, or LGBTQ center perhaps. I think it's more this hasn't happened on the official level, but it's there. [Shared governance] is in development stages now and it's an ongoing discussion.

2016 – can you talk about the issues to change the signs?

SL – I have limited information on what's been going on politically.

Pres. – there's a little bit of a push back from faculty. They support this project, but they would also like single ones (bathrooms to use). They're having discussions about which bathrooms they can appease. Based on what I understood, what most likely is going to be more productive is to look at bathrooms that are being renovated. It's a little harder for buildings like Rocky.

SL- Judy felt that this should be coming from administration and we shouldn't be putting that in the faculty's hands.

TA point of information – I know there's an unspoken rule that past 5 o'clock they're gender neutral? Could the signs say that?

SL – I'm going to check on that.

Finance – you're doing great.

TA- how are you choosing proxies for student life?

SL – I'm going to look at orgs over break that really pertain to student life, center orgs, RSL, things like student labor dialogue (already have), and from there I will see which ones it will be better to talk to. It's a matter of are those students available and willing to come to student life committee meetings. I'll reach out to them for that. In the mean time, I'm trying to get more student feedback that isn't just from the same people
2015- I like your placard.

SL – thank you

b. Academics(7 min)

Academics – the NY Times- we contacted the sales rep. She seems wonderful and is giving us options. I sent out an email asking for money [to a specific group of people, I the note-taker did not hear]. We're also looking for people from development. We're also looking into cheaper ways to get it. The other thing is, the cheaper textbooks. The students for the class issues alliance are going to be here. They're putting together a sheet of information. It's a way to let faculty know about students' situations. This will be read out by Dean Rock, December 11th, at the faculty meeting. The other thing I think is valuable to do is, I wanted to send it to all the committee chairs because they have a more personal relationship. With the newsletter, we're doing well there. It will

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be out next semester. We have a bunch of new ideas in Academics. A lot of members from committee came up with great ideas – for example, a study space on weekends that may be open 24 hours, and archiving student activism. The other thing that came up was the EMS course. You get half a credit for it per semester. It’s 6 hours a week and there’s a lab component. It’s a class where there’s a lot of effort and work that goes into it. You want people on the squad. There are talks to get them one credit per semester. CCP wants more information. It’s something that’s very much in the faculty domain. It’s a very unique course and can’t be compared to many others. Event-Wednesday 11, Winter Swear, free food, celebrating the support systems on campus. There will also be entertainment; we’re looking for people to entertain, so if you know any, you should let me know as soon as possible.

SL – I forgot to mention an update – we are trying to get some sort of disorientation manual for the freshmen next year. If anyone is interested in reading Tuft’s (disorientation manual), come to my office. With the faculty resistance, it’s not super realistic, but it will be a small effort to try and make some sort of social consciousness and awareness.

2017 – is this for next year?

SL – yes, next year

6 Election Timing Amendment Operations (10 min)

2016 – we present to you for the third time, the Election Timing Amendment after much consideration and many edits. It was definitely the combined efforts of members of my class council and Abigail sitting over there. If you have any questions, you can direct them to Abby. Noyes – I think this is a very nice idea, but I see some issues. As a council, one of our goals this year was to be more transparent, and I think in doing so we become less transparent. Let’s say I lost an election, I would have to go directly to the VP of election [or others] and have to shame myself. I also think it’s valuable information to have, whether you lost or won. If you lost, you can learn from that. If you were elected, you can use that information. Let’s say I was running against Estello and Logan. [People wouldn’t have access to the numbers]. It’s important to acknowledge people’s feelings, but you are running knowing you may lose. In positions of leadership, there are going to be upsets and you have to kind of be prepared to face them. It’s a factor worth considering. It’s interesting to look at the results. One thing that should be changed is the public email. If it’s something that’s on the VSA website, if they want to access it, they can, I think that’d be better.

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2017 – I think people may be confused since we changed the amendment extensively. It used to be that they wouldn't be accessible unless you asked for them, and now it says they will be delayed.

SL – I guess I would echo the sentiment that when you run for something, as somebody who has run for 2 positions and lost one, you understand that you're running and may lose. I appreciate the sentiment behind this, but I feel it steps on our efforts of transparency. I think the student-body deserves the information. And I think it detracts from treating the student body as peers and adults. I'll leave it at that.

Davison – when it comes to public shaming, for example, for the spring elections, there's also an event for the process. It's already there in a sense, where you are quote on quote “publicly shamed.” You're already around your running mates [when the results are announced]. So I don't see how this amendment would basically not allow people to want to know, but at the same time it's kind of like, you're already publicly shamed in a sense, because you're aware.

2015- I was looking through the constitution. So section 11 of which article? So bylaws article 10, that section has a sub point “a” and “b” but doesn't extend to f. I think we need to amend this or push it to a committee. I know that's annoying.

Jewett – if you're going to publish them, why 3 weeks?

Ops – in ops, the discussion was that 3 weeks is a reasonable time period where sensitivity around the situation may have dissipated. But they may still look at the results.

Jewett – wouldn't that just remind them of what happened 3 weeks ago?

2016 –It should say section 10, which extends to subsection 11. Originally when we wrote his amendment to have the results withheld, it's the idea that a lot of people run in elections and in a couple of instances, some kids get 4 or 5 votes. I don't think it compromises transparency. There's a lot of push back from that. It also compromises your ability to vote anonymously. It creates an awkward dynamic. There's a lot of hype the night elections are released and we thought 3 weeks later the hype would go down. It's important to be considerate to people's feelings. Everyone at this table, with the exception of proxies, won an election and we all know what it's like. And not everyone knows how it's like.

Ops – I'd like to speak briefly to this amendment. On a personal stand point, the VSA talks about increasing transparency. Rarely do we ever discuss increasing kindness or passion. I think that's something we should also value. I see this amendment as increasing kindness. As a person who has both lost and won elections, it can be very difficult. I think if a couple people feel better because of this, we've done something right. I understand people's fears for transparency,

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but it's more about the release date than the desire to withhold results. On an ops standpoint, we want as many people as possible to run in elections. I think that would be fantastic.

Strong- I think people have spoken to a lot of points. I ran for freshmen president and lost, I obviously won the next year. I know what its like to lose the elections. Allowing the results to be seen right away were good [because I saw I only lost by a bit]. Seeing that you didn't get obliterated can be really validating. I think Casey brings up a good point. We already have an event where you [say who wins]. I think you bring up a really good point about bringing compassion but I don't know if this is really the area to.

SL - to build off of that, I think we're ignoring that some people do need that. Increasing good passion is a good idea. I'm going to echo; this may not be the best way to do it. In terms of how ops things have gone before, I think efforts can be more effective in other areas.

Noyes - increasing passion is important, but by people coming to the office, that's another [situation].

Joss- compassion is nice but the world is not nice. Life is unfair, if you lose... I don't know, I'm done.

THs - I just want to echo Ali's point. Whatever makes people want to run is good.

2017 - will it be announced it's on the website?

Ops - it would be announced at elections when the date of release would be. There would also be a reminder that if they want to see the results earlier, they may send an email. It's purposely vague (whether the results will be sent out or only shown, upon request).

Academics - more directed towards the authors, was there any sort of feedback that prompted this, are there genuinely people upset about this? My personal understanding is that people were upset about losing the elections, not about knowing the numbers.

2016 - I encouraged a freshman to run for freshmen rep. at his house and he got like 4 votes- not even his whole fellow group voted for him, and he was really upset. I understand it's a hard world, but I don't see how us knowing he got 4 votes contributes to anything. It's written to protect the people that lose hard.

Abby - I was one of the other authors. I ran and won my position, and [I know] people who didn't win. The link was posted on Facebook, so it gave us immediate [insight into the numbers]. I have a friend who came in last and we spent the whole night trying to keep him [away from that information]. I agree it's a tough world, but freshman year is tough. If you could do something to make someone feel better, it would be great.

Ops - I got 5 emails complaining that results were publicly available.

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Davison – I am a strong advocate for this amendment, but it’s always going [to be something that is questioned].

Ops – Move to adopt amendment.

Pres. – let’s assume the numbers are correct (section numbers wise). If we don’t approve it, it doesn’t mean it can’t come back any other time and we can vote on it.

Noyes – For me, the bigger concern is that only VP for ops can release the results from 3 weeks to the end of the semester. I would feel more comfortable to release the results after a set amount of days, like 14.

2015 – a second reason to vote no is also I think it should say have “the right to see the results” and not “may request” because that implies VP for ops [may say no].

Motion fails and amendment is not adopted.

7 Debt AmendmentStrong & Operations (10 min)

Ops – this is an amendment form from the activities committee. I am presenting it because Activities is not present. The original concern over the amendment was about the language - debt vs. deficit. There were some concerns about the internal references [to other “debt”s used throughout the student government]. We didn’t really have an alternative.

Strong- I wrote this amendment with the Finance committee and I think we were changing it... back to the basic premise, at the moment. Basically we will work something out.

Finance – I’m confused. I contributed some language to this amendment and it’s not there * referring to the amendment presented on the screen.

Ben, at large – we had a discussion with Mike and we sent amended language to Stephanie, which was going to be sent to Ops.

Ops – I motion to table the amendment to the ops, activities, and finance committee.

Pres. – motion to table this amendment because nobody knows what it says.

2016 –Considering that this is purely procedural since we’re disregarding a part of the constitution, do you think it would be better to make another amendment that corrects all others [regarding “debt” and “deficit”? This is a thing that everyone is always confused about when it happens.

Ops – a deficit is an over drawing of an account and we generally refer to it when they [orgs] overdraw. They’re not technically borrowing it, but we usually refer to it as a debt. Because it’s money they borrow from the VSA. We take that money back by taking it away from them next year- unless they overdraw to the extent that their next budget would not be enough [to cover the deficit]. If we want to change the language, it would be fine, but it may be unnecessary.

Finance – I think it’s a great idea.

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Ben – I can just send you the line because this is one line.

Pres. – I’m going to move this to the end of the agenda. Motion on the table is to table this. If you don’t want to table it, we’ll talk about it later today. Motion passes and it tabled until the next meeting.

8 Pre-Org Application ApprovalsActivities Committee (15 min)

- a. Beauty and the Beats (Second Semester)
- b. Body Positive (Second Semester)
- c. Choir Council (Second Semester)
- d. Committed (Second Semester)
- e. Generation (Second Semester)
- f. Giving to Extremes (First Semester)
- g. JUMPS (Second Semester)
- h. LiNK (Second Semester)
- i. NASA (First Semester)
- j. Quest Scholars (Second Semester)
- k. Quiz Bowl (Second Semester)
- l. Students for Justice in Palestine (Second Semester)
- m. Vassar Croquet Association (First Semester)
- n. Young Democratic Socialists (Second Semester)

Strong – these are the orgs that you can see, most of these in fact all of these are being recertified in some way. You can see which semesters these orgs are being advanced or held at.

Pres.- they all had to be reapplied. The semester thing is, think of it as levels.

Finance – perhaps \$100 for first level and [more for, I note-taker (NT) did not hear] the second level orgs.

Motion passes.

9 Organization Certifications.....Activities Committee (20 min)

- a. Archery
- b. ComedyNormative
- c. Vass Shakers
- d. VCTV

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Socos - ^we've met with all of them [orgs above] in activities committees ad we think they are well equipped to become certified orgs with all of the privileges.

Finance – from a finance committee [stance], you still need to apply for a budget.

TAS – so is archery going to be a club or a club sport?

Strong – just a club, like Frisbee.

Ops – if we're trying to move club sports out of something from VSA and into something handled by another group, wouldn't it be a good idea to certify it as a club?

Ben - we believe that archery is at a point where it will not become a huge burden to the VSA. Instead, it's more of a Frisbee-esk scenario.

Pres. – one of the bigger issues is traveling, and as I understand, they don't travel.

2015 – there's not a lot of concrete evidence of that [they would be traveling], so putting them in limbo is unfair

Strong – archery already functions as a club, and not as much as a team. We felt they fit the description of a club

Pres. – we have to vote on each of these individually.

All motions (org certification of orgs stated above) pass.

10 Conversation about what we would like to accomplish next semester President (20 min)

Pres. – tomorrow exec. is meeting with senior level administration at a forum they put together knowing there is a lot of discontent. I wanted to give everyone the opportunity to share things, anything you want to make sure that we bring up. We're going to go around in a circle.

Raymond – I've heard a lot of concern [to know what is going on] with the new science building

Cushing proxy – our constituency would like the conversations to switch to modes of better communication. We had a long house discussion, and people feel like they've been kept in the dark. They would really rather just have clarity and would like to feel that they as students, don't want to have to attack anyone [for information]. We want to feel like we know. There will be less backlash if there's more knowledge. Just the idea of support, things like what Dean Ro.

Is doing having the lunch-ins. I think also a lot of our students in Cushing didn't feel comfortable with the avenues they had [to go through] and didn't know much about them.

Davison – members of my constituency have been asking if they can target questions to the VSA without coming to the meetings. They were asking and inquiring whether there are channels to discuss this.

Pres. – Yes! They can email me.

Joss – pass

2014 - pass

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2015 – I have specific things I’m going to list off. One concern was the current progress on getting gender-neutral bathrooms. A lot of students have a bit of confusion. There’s a request for more resources for counseling services, an interest in more clarification in terms of the recent events, VSA exec positions still counting towards work-study, a plan for making academic buildings accessible, and exploring why Africana studies and other studies are only programs rather than departments

Main – pass

2017 – I think there’s a general confusion regarding the students’ relationship with administration.

Strong- echoing a lot of what’s been said, more open communication. Just feeling like administration is having a conversation as opposed to talking at people.

Royal – I’d like to echo the more resources for counseling center.

Academics – While we should be celebrating our financial aid program, there is room for improvement.

SL – the general thing I’ve been hearing is I would like for the administration to not only be constantly defending themselves, but to also admit when they are wrong. Echo resources for counseling.

Ops – I would like to see more senior and junior level administration having more office hours in more accessible locations.

Pres. – mine is more resources for students and better publicizing those resources, so counseling and being more receptive to that.

Finance- I agree to some sort of truth finding.

Socos- I think we need faculty to be more receptive to our goals. We were talking a lot in academics about this. Any projects we have tried to work on have met the roadblock of professors not wanting to do things. We would ask professors to publicize their office hours [but they would refuse to]. Similarly when we requested that they share [what] textbooks they will be using earlier, they said no.

THs- similarly having more of a connection with the faculty.

Ferry – pass

Jewett- for administration, more shared governance. For us, making ourselves more accessible

2016 – I’ve had a surprising number of students come to me about the counseling service. One student told me they went to Metcalf and that the earliest appointment they could get would be in two weeks. I think it’s really difficult for a student who needs counseling to be told there aren’t enough counselors. I think if we need more, we need to find some more money for that.

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What Shruti said - we give amazing financial aid, but for some reason, there's some disconnect. There are more needs for students than just financial aid.

Lathrop - a lot of my constituents feel that, moving forward, they would like more concrete things, not just reactive [things]. In the town hall meeting when they asked questions about being proactive, they [answers] were kind of countering with some historicizing. A lot of people want more proactive things and they're not seeing that.

TAs- I'd like to talk about (recent events) and a 24 hours study space.

Pres. -talk about things we would like to do. Would anyone at large like to contribute to the conversation?) things that we want to do as a council?

TA- newsletter publish next semester, like Jewett moving council meetings

Lathrop - dis-orientation manual

2016 - definitely a 24 hour study space, students assistance fund which has been in the working

Jewett- us moving our meetings around, 24 hour study space, student assistance fund

Ferry - I commend the consent Agenda

THS - focusing on more events that improve mental health and stress etc.

Socos - I'm looking forward to looking at committees and how we can restructure to make them more affective and to come up with a more concrete plan about counseling

Finance - I would like to have a smooth [NT did not hear] process.

Pres. - dis-orientation manual

Ops - [NT did not hear, but did hear mention of the board of elections process]

SL - dis-orientation manual, Metcalf, gender-neutral bathroom, more resources for students on financial aid, work. Personally I want to start moving my actual office hours around campus.

Academics - things people have mentioned, cheaper textbooks, 24 hours study spaces, all of these things.

Strong - students assistance fund, committing to financial aid, helping students where they need to be helped, not just in name but practice, making council more accessible, and moving meetings around. It can be very intimidating to come to the VSA when you're not on it.

2017 - I'd like to see more resources that are actively giving to each and every student. I don't want it to be "I need resources I need to go" [to them].

Main - I have a list of demands: VSA mug night or VSA rave, academic newsletters, 24 hour study space, archive of student activism, making VSA more accessible

2015 - shared governance, getting feedback faster, for ex. I know ops. is working on stuff with iPads. I was reading an article about getting really short and on spot responses [and how they can be more honest responses], also transparency, maybe a blog online.

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2014 – progress made with the audit, current VSA structure and making it more accessible.

Joss – I would like for those on financial aid to not be poster children. If we can find some way to highlight what financial aid, and what it does. And, I guess if VSA were to find a way to make sure what we do is get concrete things done instead of nit picking details.

Davison – the inclusion of more members of administration, faculty, and students in a conversation. Also more access to resources, people should be more knowledgeable about them, 24-hour study space, and VSA rave.

Cushing proxy - physically moving meetings, solidifying the rights of students, define in a document joint governance, resolution of gender-neutral bathrooms, VSARC, audit.

Raymond – VS-Rave, gender-neutral bathrooms, VSARC, audit, student assistance funds, reforming elections and appointments, everything academics does, further conversations about a social consciousness requirement

Noyes – to improve, so people learn more how programing works, and supporting each other as a team on council

TA – I think these ideas are great, but a consistent roadblock for administration would be money. So if we could do a student survey [asking for student’s feedback/requests], what would be great

Pres. – now we’re going to take a pause and speak with Benedict

Benedict – SCIAS [class issues alliance], VSA org seeking to increase dialogue about class and class issues, provide a forum for discussion and support and also advocate for intuitional changes to better serve the needs of students of lower socio-economic status. Echoing some of the things, there was a booklet called Navigating Vassar, 2 years ago. We’re currently working on revising it to correct it and think about how to expand the document. That is an ongoing project.

Second representative of SCIAS [NT did not hear name] - we have to contact a lot of different departments on campus. We’ve been working with Shruti in order to know more when the course materials for classes is available, so students can pursue alternative means. It can potentially help the students choose courses and encourage professors to think if the latest additional of a book is necessary

Benedict – are you really going to read 20 books in a semester? We’re refining a proposal.

Hopefully, we’ll have lists posted soon for the following semester, if administration would be responsive.

Second rep. – an ongoing project, last year the VSA council voted in support for a class issue program, so hopefully we’ll be working with Danny.

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Academics – when I sent out that thing about the financial aid, that was something they [SCIAS] came up with. They met with Dean Ro. It was because of them. It’s something they should be appreciated and thanked for. They’re working hard.

SL – first, this org is like a God sent. All of this was like on my agenda this year. They’re doing so much hard work and I appreciate them. I get really frustrated when professors even assign five books and actually assign you to read two. Also to address that, financial aid will say there is a fund you can tap into if you contact them. All of those funds are so easy to be used on other things. These funds are really valuable and really needed

2016 – I was wondering if you could speak to any progress of class issue center

Benedict - we reached out and worked with Genesis to discuss ideas and had conversations with Judy and Luz. We’re looking forward to meeting with them.

Pres. – thank you for coming in

Benedict – if anyone has feedback or questions, we would like to know. We meet in the Villiard room at 7:30, Thursday [last meeting]. You can contact us by email.

Pres. – as you all noticed, there is some vandalism. I spoke with Chris today and they were initially not planning on sending out an email, so I’m going to send out an email. I haven’t decided what tone to take. Then I realized that if I wrote it by myself it was going to be a little belligerent. So instead, I decided to bring it to you all, since you know your constituents.

Obviously I know as much as you do, but clearly people are upset and concerned. We talked a bit about in exec, we would remind people about our office ours potentially. I’ve been working with Chris to make a venting meeting, with a counselor present. I did want to open it up to you. Another thing that Finance brought up is reminding people if they feel unsafe, you can ask security to escort you. If anyone has things that are important to send out on email, now would be great

Ferry - ferry had one building vandalized. It’s not triggering [for those living there]; it’s just annoying.

Pres. – It seems that people forget that people live there. It’s great you have a message for administration, but it also affects peers

SL – to direct what finance said about security, I would like to acknowledge there are students who don’t feel comfortable with security. I’m looking past the use of very a privileged statement of comparing our situation to apartheid. I’m trying to look past that. On a campus where privilege is called out very often, this was more likely done in the same spirit as other things have been done because students still do not feel that they will be listened to if they do not do

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something radical. I'll be available this week [for office hours specifically] and I would like anyone who has input on this to talk about it. I'm trying very hard to look past the language in order to look at why the students are [doing this].

2017 – I have a question about the email; will it be more like responsibility and accountability or more explaining what happened?

Pres. – if that is something people would like me to say, that can be added

2017 – I'm conflicted about it [NT did not hear the rest].

Pres. – I think that's how a lot of people feel, so I think the email will acknowledge both of those perspectives, I can meet with administration.

Calvin, at large – I think it will be good for you to say you don't have a lot of information because otherwise people will think there is information hidden

Strong- I want to echo what SL said. It's detrimental to students. When we have a culture where students will do this because they feel so unheard, I think its something to take notice

Cushing proxy – as far as the tone, I think focusing on care and resources will further promote the idea of respect and safety.

2014 – I personally have lots of thoughts and feelings about this event. I think it's really messed up for a lot of reasons. We have spent the last hour talking about financial distress. The college is now going to have to spend thousands of dollars to remove this. Beyond the privilege language, disrespecting the actual structures of our community is really messed up.

Jewett- respect of our area - they didn't need to put it on the ground where everyone walks or ferry. Also let them know about going to res life.

THs, more of an idea or solution, since we seem to love vandalism, I know a lot of other colleges have a giant graffiti wall for an outlet, so maybe having something like that.

Ops – [before the Cushing proxy leaves] thank you, you were amazing to Cushing proxy

Joss – does Cappy plan on saying things?

Pres. – I don't know, I will find out.

2015- on the idea we need to make it clear that we care about and support the community. I hate when we're saying things “it's really unfortunate that people do this.” I think the tone may be a little angrier. Maybe not using kid gloves.

Pres. – maybe I'll try to find a happy balance between “your peers are frustrated and they express anger” and me swearing as much as I would

SL – I would love to emphasize a more humanistic tone rather than mechanical. Also, if anyone has any photos... [misc. speaks of some they took]

TAs- also the fact that students won't be cleaning up these messes...

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for December 8, 2013

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Noyes – we should clean it, VSA!

Finance – is this going to BIRT?

SL – they haven’t reached out about anything. BIRT will meet 24 hours after any incidence, but it defines what we recognize [as a biased incident].

Ops – I wanted to speak to Noyes’s point. I think encouraging students to help with the clean up [would be good]. All students are the VSA and it would be a good coming together of the community to see us taking in part to repair things.

2016- I think it’s important to distinguish acts of vandalism and cries for help. In Halloween, that was just like drunk people being irritating, but when I walked past the graffiti, I think it’s clear that apartheid is one of the worst things that has ever happened. Most people, especially Vassar students, know that, so for someone to compare this culture [to that] really makes me think about what these students think. I don’t know what was going through their heads. The things we have in place are not working the way they ought to be. We should find a more affective way.

Joss- did someone say you should mention there are places you should go to talk about it [to president]?

Pres. – can people throw out resources, like effective resources? Metcalf, student life, the rest of exec, all of us?

At large, Proxy from Cushing, - student fellows

Jewett – we spoke about the security but isn’t campus patrol doing that thing where if you need to be exported, they got you?

*Laugh about exported vs. escorted

2015 – so I was wondering about if the Misc. can say where the majority [of graffiti] is.

Misc.- buildings, sidewalks, bricks, in front of them, around the dorm areas

2017 – did the Misc. take the chance to take photos of all of them?

Misc- only the ones we have seen.

Joss – did they put any by Cappy’s house? Because that would be beneficial.

Misc- not to my knowledge.

Pres – I feel like a strongly worded note can [be better than the graffiti]

Finance – can we tighten this up? It is the last week of classes and there are finals coming up.

Davison – finance got me.

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2014 – that wasn’t open discussion? I didn’t do a thing this week. There’s 167 13 hours 2 min 46 sec until commencement. This past Friday we announced what would be the student gift. It’s going to be a donation to the internship grant fund. So if you are a senior who has secured an unpaid internship, you can apply to the fund. We are renewing our dedication to this. That will begin in the spring.

Main - I think a forum with Cappy would be interesting

Royal – I don’t know if this exists or not, but maybe for the activities fair, maybe to have a VSA table there? People always ask me where to get the minutes for these, so maybe that should be more publicized. Also, Steph was great in the jazz combo.

Finance – Friday, this Friday, Dec 13th is the final day for all reimbursements and form approvals, no exceptions.

Raymond - Raymond is hosting a stress buster, laser tag, Facebook event. You sign up with a team of six and you come and shoot things.

THS – I want to thank Noyes on a great event, your house team worked really hard on it

2016 – I asked for the Misc not to tweet this, but I can’t stop you from doing this. I decided by not saying anything, I would be giving power to the person who did this. Someone asked me what the poster board with all of our faces on it was and I said the VSA. We all spend a lot of time together and I always appreciate constructive feedback. No one wants that time to be wasted. I told them it was something that someone was made and they asked me why I wasn’t on it- my face had been ripped off. It upset me because I feel like I’m part of this community and that made me feel like I wasn’t wanted. This semester has been very difficult, and I thought a lot of about resigning throughout the course of this semester. Because when you put so much time and effort into something, but people are talking behind your back it becomes frustrating. To whoever did that, pretty sure someone in this room, I decided that I’m not going anywhere. I’m just going to put in even more work. And thank you for all of you who have been supportive.

Pres. - I’m sorry that happened to you. But I know where your face is, on one direction...

Noyes- I fixed it and as a joke, I added a max face on the one direction [poster].

Sl - as somebody who doesn’t take shit from anyone, [NT did not hear]. To Casey, thank you for this [placard] I really like Conner’s shoes.

Jewett – just want to give a shout out to the [org who hosted the dinner last Friday]

Activities – application for groups for pre orgs open tonight

Beth – just want to say thank you. This is my last time; I’m going to really miss all of you. I have talked to Pol. about putting my face on iChat and listening to you guys talk. I appreciate all the

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work you've been trying to do. Good luck! I'm sure to be back. If you have any questions, please text me, email me. Deb, please don't cry because then it'll get weird. Doing my job is hard, and I know doing your job is hard and I want to say thank you for making my job easier and I hope I did the same for you.

*Many thanks to Beth

2017 – I want to talk about our event this Tuesday, with freshmen class council

Academics – Strong requested a shout out

TAs motion to adjourn. Motion passes.