

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 21, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“It is not light that we need, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

-Frederick Douglass

1 Call to Order

Start: 7:04

2 AttendanceOperations

Absent: Student Life

Proxies: Noyes

3 Consensus Agenda

- a. Ultimate Frisbee (Discretionary)..... \$0/\$1500
- b. Caribbean Students' Alliance (CSA) (Discretionary)\$2000/\$2000
- c. HYPE (Discretionary)..... \$600/\$600
- d. Idlewild Theater Ensemble (Collaboration) \$500/\$800
- e. College Democrats (Discretionary)..... \$50/\$75
- f. Cushing House (Collaboration) \$100/\$500
- g. VARC (Speakers)\$5699/\$5699
- h. Islamic Society (Discretionary)..... \$225/\$225
- i. UNICEF (Conference)..... \$0/\$500
- j. Future Waitstaff of America (Capital)\$4100/\$4100
- k. Minutes From 9/14/14

President: Does anyone object to any items of the consensus agenda? No? Okay, it's approved.

4 Forum with ViCE..... ViCE (15 min)

President: We typically have ViCE come in once a month to update us on what they are doing, so can you give us an update?

ViCE: Last week we had ViCE's welcome back which was pretty good, I'd say a success. On Wednesday we had Freshmen Open Mic night sponsored by Student Music. We had a ViCE/NoVice show in the mug and a film screening, *Maleficent*, in the Aula. On Friday Special Events sponsored a mug night, leading to Saturday which was the serenading concert.

President: Alright does anyone have any questions for ViCE?

Main: In past years, big well-known events, like the ABC party, have been shut down by administration or other organizations. How do you plan on combating that?

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ViCE: Historically, these were banned and there have been attempts to bring them back. For example the Villard room party that was supposed to be liberating for the gay community, but it included little clothing and a lot of cocaine, so the school wasn't too excited about that. It's on the same premise of serenading, which was for past years on a Sunday because that meant the least amount of EMS calls. That was a safety thing and so are most of these decisions.

Activities: A lot of these events have been canceled because the student body doesn't know how to behave itself, so blame the EMS calls.

Academics: Can you talk a little about the general vision for ViCE this year and how it may be different from past years?

ViCE: We are hoping for increased visibility. We are revamping the ViCE website with updates and poles, I'm really into poles, so we can gauge what the student body is interested in, and so if people don't like what we get we can show them the votes.

2015: What is ViCE's perspective on involvement for Halloween?

ViCE: You mean like how could we help 2015? It depends on what you guys are looking for.

2015: We just wanted to see if you guys were interested in helping us out, we were thinking of a DJ.

ViCE: If you are talking about bringing in talent, like student musicians, we would be down.

President: Thanks for coming in. Next up, the forum with the Judicial Board Chair.

5 Forum with Judicial Board Chair Deep Anand (15 min)

JBC: As chair, my job is to manage the different panels, schedule, and make sure everyone on the board is participating in an equal manner. In the past it was been very uneven so we are trying to take steps to counteract that.

Operations: Can you talk a little about the process and what the Judicial Board does?

JBC: We have 3 panels. The Student Conduct Panel deals with a lower set of violations, from warnings and probations up to removal from housing. This includes unauthorized parties, alcohol violations, fire violations, drug violations. It is made of 3 students and no faculty, it is very informal and they basically sit with students and ask, "hey, why did you do this" and if they are pleading not guilty or guilty. They find them responsible or not responsible. The College Regulations Panel has 4 students and 2 faculty members. These are panels for suspension and expulsion. This would include drunk driving and selling drugs. The Academic Panel deals with academic dishonesty issues, and it has 3 students and 3 faculty members.

TAs: How does training work?

JBC: It has been different every year. We just finished this past Friday. We had 3 hour sessions with Rich Horowitz and Kelly Grab, and each week we have different speakers and Q&As. We spoke with

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security, Jim Kelly of fire safety, Renee Pabst, and did some role-playing of processing cases to get people up to speed.

Activites: If an outside entity, such as the police or fire department are involved, would it be student conduct or college regulations?

JBC: It depends. Fire safety is often on Student Conduct, but if there is a lot of prior history with fire safety it can be College Regulations. Fire safety is a lot of things, like smoking in the room. If its setting off a fire alarm for no reason that is more serious and is College Regulations.

Main: You just mentioned discussing with security some problems and concerns you had. Can you go in depth on that?

JBC: We had a lot of people say that security says one thing in a report that doesn't match what students say happened. What we have learned in training is that security doesn't have a reason to misconstrue things, but students do, so we have to gage that. We use a preponderance of evidence, it has to be 50% or more likely that the student committed the act. A lot of time it is really difficult to make a decision, but it is something that needs to be done.

2016: How is the decision made between when you go to the Judicial Board versus D.B. Brown versus Rich Horowitz? I know a lot of students are confused.

JBC: Suspension and expulsion always go to the College Regulations panel. There's a regular panel and an interpersonal violence panel, and this year there is a new Title IX panel with 3 faculty members and no students. We have no students on anything sexual assault related this year. The Interpersonal Violence panel would deal with other parts of assault. These are always made of 4 students and 2 faculty, except for the interpersonal violence one, so DB never makes a decision by himself. The student conduct panel is its own house administrator, they can see low level cases. Rich Horowitz gets to decide who gets what, and a lot of the time we get the more interesting cases.

2015: So if you... would you be responsible for looking into an event that didn't occur on campus but was responded to by... where is the line drawn?

JBC: This is tricky, we have had people break violations on other campuses which can also be prosecuted here, but it is dicey and I don't want to say too much, I can get back to you on that.

Strong: How does confidentially happen?

JBC: Basically, you keep your mouth shut when you leave the room.

Strong: What if someone breaks it?

JBC: This is talked about in the college handbook. It would be dealt with in a regulation or conduct panel.

President: Any more questions? Thank you for coming in.

6 Executive Board Reports

a. Academics.....(7 min)

Academics: A few things in the realm of academics. If you didn't know, the director of the library retired, took the buy-out deal. Currently, there is a search going on for a new library director, and I sit on the search committee. In terms of the timeline, don't expect us to have a new director until February, apparently a director of the library position at a private liberal arts college is very competitive

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and there are a lot of applicants. We do want a lot of student input, and when we have a solidified group of candidates they may have focus groups that some of you will be invited to sit in on. In terms of my committee, we decided on the theme of the newsletter which I'm very excited about. The theme is Vision which is the same theme as the Arts Across Disciplines. We got a large grant for a 3 year pilot program for Arts Across Disciplines, where we are expected to do one year for each of the senses, but in this case I guess only 3 senses because we only have 3 years. We decided to pair up with them. In terms of a timeline, it will come out this semester, it will not take two years. We are hoping to start soliciting submissions in October, so look out for an email from Carolina and submit scholarly things.

b. President.....(7 min)

President: Administration meetings start this week for Exec. Coming up this past week we had lots of meetings with Margolis Healy. There was an open student forum, which had mediocre attendance, but lots of great feedback and they met with a bunch of different student groups, so we were able to give the feedback that we had heard. I encourage you to contact Chris Roelke with any concerns you have. We are looking to make easily visible changes. Does anyone have any questions?

Operations: I want to add, I also met with Margolis Healy. They will be preparing a comprehensive report in 45 days, so students should hold administration responsible for releasing this report, we should hear about this in late October and if we don't we should get on their backs about it.

President: Also, there will be a pre-council dinner next week, so free food.

7 Safety and Security Advisory Council Filling Operations (10 min)

Operations: We talked about how to fill the two student rep positions for the Security Advisory Council because it was a new position this year, and I am recommending that this is filled through appointment by BOEA. I am recommending that the VP for Student Life sit in on those appointments. I will recommend a standard timeline, that it opens tonight at midnight and goes to Friday at noon.

President: How many people are they taking?

Operations: Two students. I move to fill this position by appointment through the BOEA.

President: Does anyone want to speak to motion. Okay I speak to motion. Options are in favor, against, or as always to abstain. Does anyone abstain? Cushing, Noyes, and Joss. All in favor? Everyone except those abstaining. All opposed? None. Okay, it passes! An email will go out about that.

Finance: Would people who abstained like to talk about why?

Cushing: I also abstained when making this decision in Operations, mostly because I think elections could probably benefit more, I thought that elections could somehow make it more fair. Not that appointments won't be fair. I also didn't want to vote against it because that's what Operations decided and I'm a member of Operations.

Joss: I am wary about how well it will be advertised. With a new position dealing with something so grave and integral to the current campus climate, I'm worried about how well that is advertised.

Especially because the Margolis Healy forum was not well attended because it was not advertised. It seems like you would want to inform a lot of people about it..

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President: Yes, I agree that there was not a lot of advertising. Very poorly advertised.

BOEA: This is something we have talked about. BOEA is planning to advertise through email and poster, so I definitely agree with that sentiment.

President: You bring up a good point, it is something to work on.

8 BOEA Proposal Operations (5 min)

Operations: So Operations committee spent the last two weeks talking about the BOEA, we split into groups and then came together and discussed proposals to come to a consensus about changes we wanted to make. We voted and it wasn't unanimous, but we would like to recommend that BOEA have more autonomy in making decisions and carrying out functions. Section 1 talks about how BOEA will decide on appointment or election for vacancies instead of going through council. Section 2 makes it clear that we will go through appointment by consensus.

Academics: Can you say a little about the division in the committee and give a brief overview about those viewpoints and opinions?

Operations: Some people felt that we needed to have a check on the BOEA, if they decide one thing and council says "we hate this." But the majority agreed that since we elect these people for this purpose we should entrust them with these decisions.

Finance: I think this is very good, it depoliticizes and allows for an independent BOEA. I don't think there should be any consultation with Operations, I think they should be independent.

Operations: To clarify, the bylaws say that I have to constitutionally advise them for elections and they have to consult me. It's not new.

Finance: I know it's not new, I just don't think it should be there.

President: Okay, we will see this again next week to vote.

9 BOEA Business BOEA (10 min)

BOEA: We have 3 appointments to make today, so we will generate a consensus agenda right now.

We have 2 appointments from last week and one application for a vacant position. Last week we had discussed the 2017 Judicial Board Rep. 3 Candidates applied and two interviewed but one didn't show up, so we figured it might be a scheduling conflict, so we emailed him but they didn't respond. So we decided on William Tseng. Basically he has a strong understanding of decision making and inherent bias, and how to approach each case in a case by case basis. And he had a good interview. For Strong Treasurer, we had two more applications, but one was withdrawn. The other we had a phone interview with today. We chose Mary Talbot. She is a junior who was on house team last year, she is very organized and interested in being a team player on house team. No explicit financing skills but good organizational skills. She will be here the whole year, and she didn't apply before because she was aware of the other candidate and didn't realize that the other candidate wouldn't be here the whole year. For Town Student treasurer, we have Amy Cao. She had a really awesome application and is interested in connecting the Town Students with Vassar students through programming in a very interesting and unique way. She also has experience with Phonathon and worked with the Town of Poughkeepsie Finance Department, which is not exactly like treasurer but hey, money! But we recommend her.

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2017: Just out of curiosity, I'm not personally invested in this because I don't think we should have to have this in the agenda at all, but is there a reason we didn't get William's?

BOEA: You have it from last week.

President: Okay, does anyone object? No? All are appointed.

10 Open Discussion

BOEA: The freshmen debate for president of the freshmen class is coming, y'all are invited to be encouraging to the freshmen. It's at 7pm in Rocky 200, there will not be food because it's usually well attended and it's a mess getting food.

Finance: Applications for finance committee closed on Friday night, we received a lot of applications, something like 40. The executive board is in the process of reviewing how to review the applications, because there are a lot, and we hope to have a committee by Wednesday so we can train and look at all of the wonderful fund applications. I'll let you know how it goes.

2017: With the 2-page handout, where it says "should" does this mean it was already passed?

Operations: Yes, it got passed last year but the bylaws were not updated fully. Some stuff got passed out at the beginning of the meeting, take one if you haven't. Second thing, I was recently informed that B&G for senior housing is no longer replacing light bulbs or anything except in the New TAs and THs. So options are to buy your own or go to B&G with a specific work order and then do the whole process on your own. I think this is grossly unfair because some people will get light bulbs for free and installation for free and others won't. I just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention.

President: do you know the reasoning?

Operations: I don't know the full reasoning. They just don't think it's worth it for the older buildings. They will still give a light bulb but don't think it's worth the work effort.

Activities: Pre-org applications close this Friday.

2015: So are they going to give us the light bulbs and not put them in?

Operations: That's what I'm gathering. Heard this from the SoCo manager who is in tune with these things.

At Large: What do they mean not worth it? It doesn't take a lot of effort to change a light bulb. Why is it so much easier in the new THs?

TAs: Keep us updated on that, basically.

President: Okay, if no one else is on the speakers list, I motion to adjourn. All in favor? All. All opposed? None.

End: 7:41pm