

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
Council Agenda for November 30, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

“You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life.”-Albert Camus

1 Call to Order

Start: 7:02

2 Attendance ..... Operations

Absent: Town Students, Finance, Student Life

Proxy: Cushing

3 Consensus Agenda

a. Matt Kolbert for 2017 BOEA Rep

b. Minutes From 11/23/14

President: Finance is not here because his train broke down. But there are no fund apps anyway.

Operations can speak about the BOEA Rep application.

Operations: The position was vacated when Abby Johnson became chair, he was the only applicant, the application is attached. He came into the committee, we talked to him, actually we didn't talk to him we interviewed him. He had a lot of good ideas, and they are mostly spelled out in his application. We are appointing him.

President: Does anyone object to the consensus agenda? We will assume it is passed.

4 Executive Board Reports

a. Operations.....(7 min)

Operations: So as you all know the external review is happening this week, other than that, not much else is going on in the operational realm. Gabby Miller won't be the spring Ferry Rep anymore because she is not living there anymore, so Kaden will be here all year. Also the 2015 Judicial Board Rep position is open right now.

Pres: anyone have any questions?

b. Activities.....(7 min)

Activities: If you know anyone in organizations, we are reviewing them right now, so make sure they fill out the mandatory forms. Casino Night will be on December 13th, and 2016 is helping, so come to that. That's all I got.

Joss: Do house teams have to fill out org forms?

Activities: No.

2017: Same question but classes?

Activities: No.

President: Does anyone else have any questions?

5 Open Discussion

President: I got a few things, so first, I want to acknowledge a number of stuff that has been happening lately on campus. for example the mental health petition. We have passed that along to CADDV. and we

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are talking to the director of counseling services. We do not think it is the best place to discuss these issues in this space, so we encourage people to come to committees because that is where most of the work happens. Anyone at large is welcome to bring something onto the council floor. I don't want people to think we aren't talking about these issues or noticing them or bringing them up to administration, I just feel like this isn't the right forum to get actual change done. If you have thoughts or questions please do bring it up in committees or on exec board. We have been talking about it with administration. Secondly, Hannah cannot be here tonight because of travel plans, but she has written a statement and asked me to read it to council. It is a little long, but it has lots of good stuff.

Letter:

I am sorry that I am not at council to say this in person, but I trust Carolina to deliver the sentiment of love and respect that it demands. I was inspired by 2017 and Cushing and their leadership, and I am grateful to them. I think I speak for the entire VSA council in saying that we are enraged with the result of Ferguson and the failure to indict Darren Wilson for the murder of Michael Brown.... racism has a special sting here at Vassar... own history of campus racial profiling...dealing with the weight of the Margolis Healy report, the article by professor Kiese Laymon, and another article written in Boilerplate Magazine by Anthony Choquette and his experiences with security at Vassar. The question on table, what are we doing, how can we address the injustice... it may seem ironic... I think there is a tendency to equate actions of the VSA council... discussion on council floor does not always mean action, and discussion not on the council floor does not mean inaction. The VSA has been helping in small ways, we rented Vassar vans with the operating budget and took 3 vanloads of students to the Poughkeepsie jail. We are supporting the Vassar community... helping orgs... making sure they function... advocating for them, making sure that our on-campus homes are okay places to live. This is not to say I don't think we are doing enough, it is just to say I feel a lot of good work never gets talked about... needs to be acknowledged to know what it looks like, moreover we cannot pretend council floor... necessary work to be done. We understand our history and why you don't want to touch us with a ten foot pole... let us know what you need, whether that is in the form of an angry email, a fund app... navigate administrative offices... we want to work with you. We are not a lofty group of policy-making professionals, we need input and guidance, you know your own struggles best. You folks are the experts, calls from reform work best when they come from inside and outside of the system... honor to stand with you.

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So that is what Hannah wrote, I think she worded it really well. I encourage anybody to come forward. You know your issues far better. The last thing, if anyone on council could stay for 5 min to meet.

Cool. Does anyone else want to talk?

Cushing: Cushing is having our event on December 5th, in the Villard room from 6-10pm, if everyone could just tell everyone else.

2015: Senior Class is having an event on December 10th, you are not invited. Sorry. Seniors are invited.

President: Cool. Does anyone else want to say anything?

Main: Motion to adjourn.

End: 7:12