VSA Council Minutes  
December 3, 2006

I. Call to Order

II. Attendance
   Guest list: Jessica Cho, Mandy Choie, Eva Grenier, Wenyi Huang, Marjorie Kaufmann, Jeff King, Juliana Kiyan, Amanda Melillo, Sarah Odio, Debbie Pham, Alexis Rivera, Rachel Wolff

III. Consent Agenda
   a. Approval of minutes from 11/19
   b. Approval of minutes from 11/26
   No objections were made, and the items on the consent agenda were adopted as presented.

IV. Announcements
   a. Focus Groups
      The OrgEx announced that VSA focus groups will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The response from the student body thus far has been fairly minimal, so he asked that house and class presidents please encourage their officers to participate.

   b. Community Works Update
      The President reported a total of $754 has been raised for Community Works in direct donations from 35 students. Student dinners, auctions, and other activities have generated $1250 so far, though this number will increase significantly once all of the proceeds from residence hall auctions are received.

   c. Ad Hoc Committees Report—Dec. 10
      The VP stated that all Ad Hoc Committee reports are due December 10th. There are four committees that will be reporting to the VSA at this time.

   d. VSA events for the week
      The OrgEx provided an overview of events offered during the coming week:
      - Tuesday: ViCE Concert at 7pm in the Villard Room, ViCE Jazz at 10pm in The Mug.
      - Wednesday: Film screening at 8pm in Blodgett, Vastards Final Concert at 8pm in Taylor.
      - Thursday: Resurrection Blues at 8pm in Sanders, VCTV screening at 7:30 in Rocky 300, After Hours at 8pm in the College Center MPR, Mahogany in the Pub at 10pm, Matthew’s Minstrels Final Concert at 9pm in Rocky 200, SASA Mug Night at 10pm.
      - Friday: ViCE end of the semester party at 10pm in the Villard Room, VARC’s Vegan Hors d’Oeuvres at 5:00pm in CC 223, Vassar Devils Final Concert at 8pm in Taylor, Resurrection Blues at 8pm in Sanders,
Swimming in the Shallows at 6pm in New England, Film Screening at 7pm in Blodgett, VCTC Screening at 7:30 in Rocky 300, Bobrauschenbergamerica at 8pm in the Shiva, and the Axies final concert at 10pm in Rocky 300.

- Saturday: Bobrauschenbergamerica at 2pm in the Shiva, Poder Latino Dinner at 3pm in the College Center MPR, Resurrection Blues at 8pm in Sanders, Swimming in the Shallows at 6pm in New England, Film Screening at 7pm in Blodgett, Bobrauschenbergamerica at 8pm in the Shiva, Night Owls Final Concert at 8pm in Rocky 200, Measure 4 Measure Final Concert at 9:30 pm in Taylor, and Flypeople final performance at 9pm in UpCDC.
- Sunday: Hot Chocolate at 9pm in UpCDC, Swimming in the Shallows at 6pm in New England. The President noted that there will also be a VSA Council dinner at 6pm prior to the final meeting of the semester on December 10th, location TBA.

V. Reports
a. VSA Delegations to Joint Committees
i. Admissions and Financial Aid
Mandy Choie explained that the committee met on Friday and discussed the possibility of financial aid for students wishing to participate in Vassar trips abroad.
- The committee’s main goal this semester has been increasing the number of minority students applying to Vassar. Admissions recently conducted a phone-a-thon to encourage minority student interest, which the committee reported went “really well”. There was also a successful bus trip offered to prospective students in November.
- The committee hopes to promote a more “open” image of Vassar, and is exploring the possibility of establishing programs for students from local high schools and initiatives to better inform parents about FinAid options.
- Another key topic has been whether Vassar should be a need-sensitive or a need-blind institution. The college is currently need-sensitive when it comes to dealing with waitlisted students. Cappy and the Board of Trustees have been considering making Vassar need-blind.

ii. Orientation
The OrgEx announced that the Orientation Committee meets every other Friday, and held its most productive meeting thus far this past Friday. He is hoping that the orientation for the Class of 2011 will be extended to five days, cover more material, and include more student social time. The committee may decide to survey the sophomore class to ascertain their opinions about orientation.

iii. Curricular Policies (CCP)
Rachel Wolff, of CCP explained that the committee has met six times this semester. Early on, they created sub-committees to more deeply evaluate specific curricular issues, and have delved into the matter of minors versus correlates. The committee sent a memo to every department to obtain more information about how each
handles correlates before it makes a final decision on the issue. Other topics that the committee has conferred about this semester are pre-major advising, grade inflation, course credit, CEQs and online results, and CCP’s long-term role in strategic planning.

b. Officer Reports

i. Financial
The FinEx reported that the VSA is in “good financial health”, and that it spent “lightly to moderately” over the past month. Many orgs have been fundraising for end-of-the-year events and trips, and the collaboration fund has been utilized most frequently. The FinEx hopes to evaluate use of the Social and Political Action Fund, and may alter the wording in the fund’s description to encourage campus groups to consider this resource.

ii. VP Report
The VP provided her monthly update to council:
- A student committee has been formed under AAVC and Development that is currently planning programming aimed at different classes. The committee hopes to foster awareness of Vassar traditions and improve the relationship between the student body and AAVC and Development, respectively. The committee is in the process of planning various events for next semester.
- ACC met last week and discussed the website. The committee is currently requesting 5-10 people to make proposals or bids to work on the website, and its recent advertisement of this project on Craigslist has already generated significant interest. ACC is also looking to hire a new webmaster, and the VP encouraged members of council to make students aware of this opportunity. Plans are in the works to develop an online book exchange, but ACC must first meet with several small existing student organizations developed to serve similar functions.
- CRC has recently focused on budgeting, finances, and committee structure.
- ACE has completed its proposals to council, and has written a series of policies and bylaw recommendations.

VI. Certification of Entrepreneurs Club
The OrgEx moved to certify the Entrepreneurs Club. VCEC is interested in building student experience in finance and business. It currently has two committees, one of which runs a business plan competition, and another that concentrates on finances, stocks, etc. No objections were made, and the motion passed.

VII. Collaboration Fund—Poder Latino
The FinEx moved to allocate $3000 from the Collaboration Fund to Poder Latino for its Nuyorican Slam Team poetry event. Poder Latino is hoping to save money for two major events next semester, and is contributing $2000 to the poetry slam event. No objections were made, and the motion passed.
VIII. Appointment of TA Programming Director
The VP moved to appoint Sarah Odio to the position of TA Programming Director. No objections were made, and the motion passed.

IX. Appointment of TH Programming Director
The VP moved to appoint Jeffrey King to the position of TH Programming Director. No objections were made, and the motion passed.

X. Appointment of SoCo Programming Director
The VP moved to appoint Wenyi Huang to the position of SoCo Programming Director. No objections were made, and the motion passed.

XI. Org of the Month for November—VISA
The OrgEx moved to declare VISA org of the month for November for its highly successful International Week. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

XII. Financial Aid Resolution
The AcEx moved to adopt resolution CR21 (01)-1.

- Members of the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee explained that they feel it is important to assert their opinions as members of the student body. Eva Grenier explained that, if this resolution is adopted, the committee will work together to generate appropriate, meaningful policy.
- Various members found the resolution’s language to be somewhat problematic. THs felt that some of the language suggested “too much victimization” and could send the wrong message. Raymond asserted that the resolution’s wording should clearly convey the college’s desire for “non-discriminatory admissions” and financial aid that truly benefits its students.
- 09 proposed to amend second whereas as follows, “Whereas private Liberal Arts Colleges such as Vassar have historically failed to sufficiently meet the needs of disadvantaged students...”
- At the urging of THs and 2010, 2009 moved to eliminate reference to other private liberal arts institutions from his amendment proposal. All were in favor, and the motion passed.
- Jewett proposed the following amendment, “Whereas Vassar has historically failed its obligation to sufficiently meet the needs...”

Vote on Jewett’s Proposed Amendment:

Absentions: None (0).
Not in Favor: Ferry, TS, Noyes, Cushing, Joss, Lathrop, 2009, Strong (8).

Result: Motion passed. The amendment was altered according to Jewett’s recommendation.
2009 moved to delete the second preambulatory clause and replace it with, “Whereas Vassar has failed its obligation to provide an admissions policy that does not discriminate on the basis of applicants’ socioeconomic status or family income.”

THs then moved to consider multiple options. All were in favor, and the motion passed. He then proposed the following amendment: “Vassar has an obligation to create and maintain non-discriminatory admissions and financial aid policies that allow all applicants the opportunity to attend the college, regardless of socio-economic status and/or family income.”

TS moved to refer the resolution to the Academic and Student Life Committees for further consideration. All but the Org Ex and 2007 were in favor, and the motion passed.

XIII. Open Discussion
- 2007 announced that 175 days remained until graduation.
- On Saturday, Jewett placed a Christmas tree and other holiday decorations in its MPR.
- Joss reported that $1800 were raised at its recent Community Works auction

XIV. Adjourn