I. Call to Order

II. Attendance
07 – Proxy

III. Consent Agenda
a. Minutes from November 5, 2006
b. Allocation of $250 from the Academic Fund to Zoe Papademetriou
No objections were made, and the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

IV. Reports
a. Food Committee
Marcy Levitan, of the food committee, announced that she recently received the names of all additional students who plan to serve on the committee, and that their first full meeting will take place on Monday, November 20th.

- She has met independently with Maureen King to discuss widespread student concerns about ACDC and Retreat point policies, and announced that Campus Dining has designed a new, “double-rollover” system. After Thanksgiving break, and again after winter break, 100 of each student’s ACDC points will be converted into Retreat points. If this change in policy causes a student to run out of ACDC points, his or her Retreat points will become eligible for use at all dining locations on campus.

- King also responded to student complaints about the relationship between dollars and points, explaining that the differential derives from the costs of working with a professional management provider, maintaining the dining facilities, and offering fair living wages and benefits to employees.

- Town Students was concerned that those who purchase food on campus in cash are not made responsible for contributing to these additional costs.

- Walter Padilla suggested that the College consider expanding the Retreat in the coming years through the capital campaign to improve dining options and reduce the stress placed on the current facility.

b. Counseling and Health Advisory
Charlotte Roy, one of the students on the Counseling and Health Advisory Committee, explained that the committee met once and discussed making contacts with Baldwin, Metcalf, and the various health-related groups on campus, but is “generally lacking direction”. Though there should be an administrator attached to the project, the committee has yet to be contacted by the appropriate personnel. The AcEx recommended that the committee speak with Chelsea Backer, former president of Noyes, who
established a task force on issues related to Baldwin and might have ideas about the directions that they could take.

c. Master Planning
Tim Leonard spoke to council on behalf of the Master Planning Committee:

- The committee has met once and formed several subcommittees, each with a unique aim.
- Specific issues addressed thus far include the near completion of the Raymond Avenue construction project, as well as parking available on campus and in the surrounding area. The MPC is looking to offer more parking to members of the local Arlington community, provide a new parking lot behind Baldwin, and name all within-campus roadways.
- Numerous signs on campus, particularly those adjacent to the Admissions Office, will be reduced in number and ultimately replaced with more permanent, professional fixtures.
- The lease for Juliet’s Billiards will expire in 2010, and the college is currently contemplating how to best utilize the space. A potential plan is to create an independent movie theater.
- There is currently a master plan in place for the next three years, but the committee would like to design a more detailed, ten-year scheme.
- Zachary Pitts suggested that the committee consider systems and techniques consistent with the Vassar’s new sustainable energy policy.

d. Residential Life Advisory
Michelle Rubin addressed council about the progress made by the Residential Life Advisory Committee:

- The committee has met three times, and is still seeking a faculty member.
- A survey has been created and administered to Strong residents, and the committee is currently assessing the results. There were 101 responses; approximately 50% of the freshmen were in favor of changing Strong to a co-ed dorm, while the upperclassmen largely demonstrated preference for its current structure.
- ResLife’s current tentative plan for Strong will make the residence mostly co-ed, with single-sex floors/annexes for those interested.
- The TAs recommended that the committee survey seniors who previously resided in Strong, as they are liable to have a great deal of perspective and experience.
- Strong expressed frustration that ResLife did not consult the dorm prior to beginning exploration of this issue.

e. Conference fund – Catalyst
The VSA recently allocated $500 to Catalyst so that six of its members could attend the Community Activists Tradition Conference in Vermont. The conference consisted of a book fair, networking sessions, and a series of presentations and workshops. Philip Chinn, of Catalyst, reported that the experience was an exciting opportunity to work with future leaders.
e. Officer Report
The AcEx provided an update on affairs in the academic domain:
- ACSITT has continued to meet and discuss revision of the CEQ, which they hope to make more of a qualitative evaluation. The committee has discussed the adequacy of student input on teaching to better determine whether or not SACET should be replaced. Perhaps a small, independent body could be established to receive additional student input about professors who are up for promotion or review.
- The Majors Committee Ad-Hoc Committee issued a survey that approximately one-third of departments have responded to. McAc has sent a recommendation to the Dean of Faculty to strengthen continuity between majors committees and departments by encouraging departments to offer greater guidance.
- There has also been dialogue about student access to evaluations, particularly the possibility of posting CEQ results online or restoring the Ask Students program.
- CCP has directed its efforts towards evaluation of grade inflation, advising, and changes in the curriculum. The issue of changing the name of “Correlates” to “Minors” is still under consideration, but is a definite possibility.

f. Org Review Update
The OrgEx requested to table his update on the ongoing Org Review process, due to time constraints.

V. Special Events Fund – VISA
The FinEx made a motion to allocate $1900 from the Special Events Fund to VISA for its International Festival Dinner. Luis Gabriel Trujillo, of VISA, explained that student interest in the dinner has surpassed expectations, and that providing for such a large number of people would place too much economic stress on the organization. No objections were made to the FinEx’s motion, and the funds were allocated.

VI. Speakers Bureau – EDRS
The Academic Executive made a motion to allocate $1900 from the Speakers Bureau Fund to EDRS for its Marya Hornbacher lecture on November 20th. The AcEx noted that EDRS submitted the fund application well in advance, but Campus Activities only very recently completed the paperwork. No objections were made, and the AcEx’s motion passed.

VII. Certification of Act Out
The OrgEx made a motion to certify Act Out. Judy Jarvis, President of Act Out, explained that the group focuses on gay rights activism and awareness. No objections were made, and the organization was certified.

VIII. Amendment to Section I of the VSA Bylaws
The VP made a motion to amend Section I of the VSA Bylaws to form committees on academics, activities, administration and communication, finances, and student life. She explained that council members must each serve on one or more
committees, and may fill out a slip at the end of the meeting to express their preferences. No objections were made to the VP’s motion, and the bylaws were amended.

IX. Amendment to Section V of the VSA Bylaws
The VP made a motion to amend Section V of the VSA Bylaws, as presented at the November 5th council meeting. No objections were made, and the motion passed.

X. Amendment to Article V, Section 23 of the VSA Bylaws
The Vice President moved to amend Article V, Section 23 of the VSA Bylaws. The President explained that the issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

XI. Creation of Apartment Housing Programming Director Position
The OrgEx proposed the creation of an Apartment Housing Programming Director position.
- The TAs proposed to amend Section 4 to read, “Shall make a recommendation for inclusion of this position in the VSA Constitution before the start of Spring Break 2007.” All were in favor, and the motion passed.
- TS suggested that future policy better incorporate students living off-campus.
- All were in favor of adopting the OrgEx’s resolution, and the motion passed.

XII. Open Discussion
- 2007 announced that there were 196 days until graduation.
- The President informed council that updated copies of the bylaws will be handed out at the next meeting.
- 2008, 2009 and 2010 encouraged members to attend their joint event, “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving”, on Saturday, November 18th. Food will be catered by the Dutch Cabin, and the dinner will take place from 6:00-7:30pm in the Villard Room.
- Davison and Joss announced that they are hosting Harvest Ball on Saturday, November 18th from 10pm-2am in UpCDC.
- Strong expressed frustration about the notion of the dorm becoming co-ed. She explained that she is trying to convince ResLife to place a blurb in the housing application to explain why a single-sex dorm exists. Plans to form a committee to further address these issues are also in the works.

XII. Adjourn