I. Call to Order

II. Attendance
   Lathrop- Proxy
   Guest List: Cody Adams (No Offense), Laura Burnett (Arlington Special Events), Amanda Choie (Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action), Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Lorrette Fisher (Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action), Sean Gilmore (Arlington Special Events Committee), Sacha Ingber, Juliana Kiyans (Miscellany News), Alex Meade (Save Darfur), Aviva Michelman (Ferry House), Walter Padilla, Zachary Pitts, Madeline Robertson-Salt (DEC), Anita Varma (Miscellany News)

III. Consent Agenda
   a. Approval of Minutes from 11/12/06
   b. Allocation of $600 from Media Publishing Fund to Measure 4 Measure
   c. Allocation of $750 from Speaker’s Bureau to Poder Latino
   No objections were made, and the items on the consent agenda were adopted as presented.

IV. Reports
   a. Disability Issues Committee
      Members of the Disability Issue committee reported they had not met yet. The President said this was “infuriating.”

   b. Arlington Special Events
      Members of the Disability Issue committee reported on their activities this year, including the Arlington Street Fair.

   c. Drug and Alcohol Education
      Members of the Disability Issue committee reported on their activities this year.

   d. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Committee
      Lorrette Fisher and Mandy Choie, of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, spoke about their progress so far. It has been challenging to meet as a whole, but each committee member has developed a set of issues to be addressed, and Lorrette will be meeting with Belinda Guthrie on Tuesday to begin discussing said concerns.

   e. Officer Report
      The OrgEx provided an update about his work this month:
      - Org Review and Org Reports are both almost done.
      - There will be a winter pilot conference with 40-50 presidents of organizations on January 23rd. The OrgEx hopes to work more closely with ResLife on this project in the future.
      - On Wednesday, he will be communicating via conference call with the Executive Director of the Venture Consortium. They will discuss the
possibility of holding a conference for student leaders from various schools in the consortium at Vassar this spring. The consortium is already planning a conference in 2008 for faculty, students, and staff.

- The OrgEx is working with Ray Parker, ResLife, Campus Life, and Athletics to develop a February leadership workshop as part of the Vassar First Year, (formerly FYE).
- He has approved 169 event forms for 252 events, and hopes to improve coordination between events.
- The review of office spaces on campus continues, and its focus this week will be on spaces utilized in the residence halls.
- Three focus groups will be run during the first week in December, and invitations will be sent out Monday or Tuesday.
- The OrgEx is currently investigating B&G and security charges, as well as working to increase the amount of space available to Vassar theatre groups.
- ViCE began restructuring at the end of last year, and this process will soon be complete.
- According to D.B. Brown, off-campus events, particularly those involving orgs leaving overnight, have become an issue. For insurance and security purposes, all orgs participating in such events will be required to fill out an emergency contact form explaining their plans and intended whereabouts.
- Numerous new student organizations have been created, and 19 are currently in the pipeline.

V. Announcement of Fines
The OrgEx announced that ACLU, Aircappella, and Catalyst will each be fined $25 for failure to submit an org report. These funds will be collected and placed in the Council Discretionary Fund.

VI. Allocation of $1000 from Collaboration Fund to Ferry
The FinEx moved to allocate $1000 from the Collaboration Fund to Ferry House for the Ferry Arts and Music Night on November 18. Raymond inquired as to why the FinEx was not recommending the allocation of more funds, since the request was made for $1400. The FE responded that the VSA received no final figure for cost until three days prior to the meeting, and that this fund request could have been better organized. All members were in favor, and the motion passed.

VII. Allocation of $2100 from the Collaboration Fund to the Class of 2007
The FinEx moved to allocate $2100 to the Class of 2007 for their Kareoke Night on December 2. 2007 abstained, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

VIII. Allocation of $62.96 from the Academic Fund to Sacha Inber
The AcEx moved to allocate $62.96 from the Academic Fund to Sacha Inber for her sculpture project. All council members were in favor, and the motion passed.

IX. De-certification of the Snowboarding Team
The OrgEx moved to decertify the Snowboarding Team, since it is inactive and no longer has any members. No objections were made, and the motion passed.

X. Budget-Freezing – No Offense
The OrgEx moved to freeze the budget of No Offense for its failure to meet with him for Org Review. Cody Adams, of No Offense, apologized for his oversight and agreed to meet with the OrgEx for review the following day. The OrgEx withdrew his motion.

XI. Certification of Save Darfur
The OrgEx moved to certify Save Darfur, which has been active on campus for nearly two years. The group intends to continue raising funds to be donated to Darfur’s school project, which is in the process of establishing three schools for refugees in northern Darfur. All council members were in favor of the OrgEx’s proposal, and the motion passed.

XIII. Amendment to Article IV, Section 23 of the VSA Bylaws
The VP moved to amend Article IV, Section 23 of the VSA Bylaws, as presented at the November 12th council meeting.

- Per the TH’s recommendation, the following amendment proposal was made: “The Activities Committee may request additional time from the VSA Executive Board before making a report to Council.” All were in favor of this amendment proposal.
- Joss then moved to amend the amendment to read, “Fine an organization 5% or more of its budget.”

Vote on Joss’ Amendment Proposal:

Abstentions: None (0).
Not in Favor: Ferry, TS, Main, 2010, AcEx, TH, FinEx, 2009 (8).

Result: Motion passed.

- Raymond proposed a new amendment to read, “Fine an organization more than either 5% of its budget or $100, whichever is less.”
- The President recommended that these two motions be withdrawn from the table and that the Activities Committee be given the task of perfecting the amendment’s language. All members were in favor of said suggestion, and the motion passed.

Vote to Amend Article IV, Section 23 of the VSA Bylaws:

Abstentions: None (0)
Not in Favor: None (0)
In Favor: All (22)

Result: Motion passed.
XIV. Structure Discussion

The OrgEx moved to suspend Robert’s Rules for no longer than 45 minutes to encourage informal discussion of the VSA structure. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Questions & Discussion:

Dorms: Who sits on council? (President and/or Representative?)
- Raymond supported the concept of keeping presidents on council to encourage consistency and continue providing dorm residents with an accessible person to whom they can communicate their opinions and ideas. He asserted that including representatives in addition to presidents might be a good idea.
- Strong cautioned that adding representatives might complicate issues regarding responsibility, control, and communication within each residence hall. Perhaps reorganizing house team duties to strengthen presidents’ roles as dorm representatives and reinforce VPs’ positions as programming directors is necessary in the near future.
- The President noted that there seemed to be a general agreement that presidents should remain on council; no objections were made to this statement.

Dorms: Composition of House Teams?
- Jewett supported the notion of expanding the size of house teams to reduce the pressure and responsibility placed on student fellows.
- Joss was concerned, however, that it might be difficult to have competitive races if these sophomore and junior reps are added.
- 2007 reminded council that serving the house team and one’s fellowees are a key part of a student fellow’s responsibilities.
- Strong supported the concept of increasing the representation of sophomores and juniors in each dorm, since freshmen currently receive substantially greater representation.

Dorms/Classes: How should the two be connected? (If sophomore and junior reps are elected, should they serve on their class councils?)
- Davison and 2009 stated that these reps should be members of their class councils, to increase positive representation and bring in more diverse voices.
- TAs agreed, but pointed out that class council budgets should be increased if this expansion occurs.
- 2007 felt that representing specific dorms in class council is not necessary, and could become particularly complicated with JYA.
- 2010 explained that having a representative from each residence hall sitting on the Freshman Class Council provided him with a better sense of his class and a greater understanding of campus concerns and happenings.

Classes: How should each class be represented on VSA Council?
- Joss supported the current structure, asserting that it is important to have strong representation from juniors and seniors, who are highly apt to “know what’s going on” after having spent a substantial amount of time on campus. 2009 also deemed the current system very “efficient”.
• TAs felt that class is not particularly significant; she explained that a junior might be a dorm president, but that his or her residence and class year don’t typically appear to conflict.
• The President pointed out that, if council members are placed on committees, a large number of freshmen positions will be eliminated, so it may be wise to add more freshmen positions to council.
• Raymond proposed the notion of electing VSA council representatives from classes.
• The President explained that at-large positions could be created, but Strong felt that this system would not be highly effective.
• The AcEx suggested opening specific committee positions to freshmen.

Senior Housing: What representation do they need? (Programming Director Issue, etc.)
• SoCo explained that it has been difficult to find a programming director so late in the semester, but that the position will likely be more effective in the coming years.
• TS also liked the idea of increased support. The President suggested that the Town Students position be elected in the fall, since no students have run in the last couple of years, so council has appointed individuals to this position. AcEx pointed out, however, that this would pose a problem with spring VSA training.

Ferry: Should its structure and election processes be normalized?
• Strong suggested that Ferry should be able to make this decision, but perhaps the VSA’s treatment of it should be changed, since it is the only dorm that does not select its representative through VSA election.
• 2010 supported the current system, since Ferry is a tight-knight community based on “living interdependently”.
• Ferry explained that decisions in the house are made by consensus at their house meetings, where all members are present.
• The OrgEx suggested that the BoE chair could oversee this meeting.

XV. Open Discussion
• 2007 reported that 189 days remained until graduation.
• Davison announced that Harvest Ball was very successful.
• The Community Works dinner hosted by 2008, 2009 and 2010 was well attended and raised a substantial amount of funds.
• Main and Jewett were also able to do great community fundraising through their respective Community Works auctions last week.
• Cappy’s office hours on Monday were changed to 10:30-11:30; two fifteen minute slots are available for students.