I. Call to Order

II. Attendance
   Guests: Katie Barnett (Miscellany News), Brett Ingerman (CIS), Juliana Kiyan (Miscellany News), Amory Meltzer (Board of Elections Vice Chair), Matt Morse (Board of Elections Chair), Walter Padilla (Student Assistant to the President), John Palmer (Miscellany News), Katie Paul (Miscellany News), Anita Varma (Miscellany News)

III. Minutes
   The Organization Executive proposed the approval of the minutes from the new council portion of the May 7, 2006 meeting. No one was opposed, and the motion passed.

IV. Announcements
   A. Meeting Rules
      No new announcements were made.
   
   B. Inauguration
      The Organization Executive offered a tentative schedule for the weekend of President Hill’s inauguration:
      ▪ Event activities will last 5 days, culminating in the inauguration ceremony on October 29, 2006.
      ▪ No other major events can take place during this period.
      ▪ Friday, October 27th will be an event for students in UpCDC. The current plan is to have desserts and a champagne toast in UpCDC, beginning at 9pm.
      ▪ One idea is to have a customized cake representing each dorm.
   
   C. American Student Government Conference
      The President announced that he, the Vice President, and the OrgEx will be attending a conference for leaders of Student Government this weekend in Washington, D.C.. The conference will primarily consist of workshops and discussions, and the President, VP and OrgEx will provide a report to the rest of VSA council about their experiences.

V. CIS Presentation
   Brett Ingerman, the head of CIS, gave a presentation detailing recent developments with computing and technology at Vassar:
   
   Wireless Update:
   ▪ The campus is now almost entirely wireless.
   ▪ There are currently 400 or 500 access points, and CIS plans to continue adding more to improve connectivity in both inside and outside areas.
   ▪ With too much use, the wireless can have difficulty functioning. It is meant to supplement, not replace, use of the Ethernet connection.
The dorm computers are mostly on the wireless network, both to avoid Ethernet cable theft, which has been an issue in the past, and to be easily transportable.

Use of individual airports is discouraged, as this often causes complications and connectivity issues.

Certain areas of dorm rooms may have more difficulty connecting to the wireless than others, since it is impossible to ensure constant access from every point in the dorm.

When a student encounters an issue with wireless or Vassar computing in general, it is best to email the HelpDesk, since they keep a clear record of concerns that is organized by dorm and floor.

Printing in Residence Halls:
- The new printing scheme in the dorms is essentially the same as the V-Print system in the College library, and students can print from any dorm. Students must supply their own paper when printing.
- The printing system is not specifically affiliated with the wired or wireless connection, though there have been occasional difficulties.
- In the future, CIS hopes to make available color printing that could be charged to students’ V-Cards.

VSA Server and Elections Software:
- Last year, the VSA server was hacked into, resulting in significant problems with the elections software.
- A recent alumni gift has funded the development of a new set of software, and CIS is currently working with the BoE and the VSA to ensure that everything is prepared and installed in time for the Fall elections.
- The new VSA server is up and running, and CIS is “cautiously optimistic” about the new system, but no definite claims can be made as of yet.
- Attempting another type of software would be too expensive, so should the new program fail, the VSA must be prepared for a paper ballot election.
- CIS would like to continue collaborating with the VSA, but recommends that the VSA ensure continuity by hiring an outside individual with whom they can work more closely.

Potential Security Changes:
- Pressure from federal legislation may result in tightened network security.
- CIS is hoping to implement a new system that would require students, faculty and staff to log-in with their username and password each time they access the network.
- This system will provide CIS and the College with key information about who is utilizing the campus computers and internet connections.

Contacting Students in Case of Emergency:
- Since many students rely on cell phones instead of stationary phones in their dorm rooms, student reachability is often an issue.
Potential new technology would request student cell phone numbers with the promise that they will only be called in the event of a security or ResLife emergency.

VI. CCP Bylaw Change
The Academic Executive proposed the amendment to the CCP Bylaws that was presented at the previous council meeting. This change is essentially the correction of a clerical error, and will ensure that the CCP Bylaws are consistent with the Vassar Course Catalogue. Ian Patrick, Representative of the Arts section, has accepted the modification. No objections were made, and the bylaws were amended as written.

The AcEx proposed that council appoint Ian Patrick as the Arts Representative to the Committee on Curricular Policies. This change would leave the position of Foreign Languages and Literatures Representative open. No objections were made, and the motion passed.

VII. Committee on Community Relations
The VSA Exec Board has been in discussions with the Administration about creating a joint Committee on Community Relations to replace the existing CCR. This new, larger, more effective committee would include faculty, students in organizations, administrators, staff, and community members and would meet periodically to discuss community events. Approving the formation of this joint committee means that the positions available in the current CCR will not be filled in the Fall Elections. Recently elected members of CCR will likely be shifted to this new committee, though Exec will communicate with them about their options shortly. The current CCR will meet this semester until the joint committee is formed.

VIII. Elections
Elections Process and Positions List:
- Amory Meltzer, BoE Vice Chair, displayed a list of positions available for the Fall Elections, (excluding positions in CCR.)
- Lathrop pointed out that the list showed an opening on the Master Planning Committee, though two students from the Class of 2009 were elected to the positions last year. Council consulted the elections results, verified Lathrop’s claim, and removed the position from the Fall Elections list.
- AcEx emphasized that all students filing for positions in the CCP must be of the proper majors.
- No objections were made to the elections process and positions list, and they were adopted as presented.

Elections Software:
- A preliminary test of the software last Friday was successful.
- An additional test will occur on Tuesday.

IX. VSA Organizations and Political Activity Bylaw Change
The President proposed the amendment to the Article IV, Section 18 of the VSA Bylaws as recommended by the College lawyer and presented at the September 3rd meeting. There were no objections made and the amendment was approved.

X. Appointment to Arlington Special Events Committee

The Vice President explained that another application to the Arlington Special Events Committee was received from Fanya Veksler, Class of 2008. Davison was concerned that Fanya would be studying abroad second semester, but the VP explained that no other applications were received from the Class of 2008 for either of the spaces available, so she could help the committee for the rest of the fall semester. No objections were made to the proposal, and the appointment was made.

XI. De-Certification of Vassar Spectator

The OrgEx proposed the de-certification of Vassar Spectator, a publication that has been inactive for the past two years. According to the Bylaws on Organizations, de-certification is optional after one year of inactivity and mandatory after one and a half years. The FinEx reported that the organization has a budget of $2800.00, but has had no transactions in the past year. No objections were made to the OrgEx’s proposal, and Vassar Spectator was de-certified.

XII. Organization Partnerships

The OrgEx made a proposal to amend the VSA Bylaws to incorporate a section about Organization Partnerships. These partnerships would be a new way for organizations to collaborate, share information and better coordinate their activities. The first Org Partnership that will be created under this amendment is the Community-Oriented Organization Partnership, which will connect groups that do work in the local community. Campus Activities strongly supports this plan, as well as additional Org Partnerships that result from this Bylaws change. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

XIII. Goals for the VSA

The President presented a series of goals for the VSA created by the subcommittee. The goals are to be the manifestation of the VSA’s mission for the year, and focus on Community, Collaboration, Inclusion & Involvement, Technology. Members of council were encouraged to review these goals before the September 17th meeting.

XIV. Community Works Brainstorming

Walter Padilla and the President asked council for fresh ideas regarding fundraising and new community projects.

- Lathrop affirmed that both auctions and donation of time to organizations have been effective in the past. 09 recommended that flyers detailing particularly interesting items up for bid be placed around campus to increase interest in the dorm auctions.
- Raymond suggested that council officially challenge every organization to raise $20 for Community Works.
• Noyes said that a special dorm dance held last year raised $1800 for Hurricane Katrina victims, and seemed to be an efficient, successful means of raising money.
• Lathrop also suggested placing a “spare change” bin in the Retreat.
• 09 supported a Community Works Spirit Week when major fundraising could be coordinated.
• The President advocated interaction between campus groups through a system in which every dorm hosts an organization for a night of parlor chats, etc.

XV. Open Discussion
• 07 announced that there were 259 days remaining until graduation.
• Strong said that she will be meeting with Luis on Friday and encouraged members of council to send her any pertinent questions, concerns, or ideas.
• Walter Padilla reported that President Hill will have at least one office hour per week, but she is still organizing her schedule, so more specifics will follow.
• Lathrop’s Bi-Dormal Formal and the Noyes/Vassar Technology Shiva Rave will both be taking place on September 16th.
• The Vice President announced that filing for Fall Elections will begin Wednesday, September 13th. There is a temporary elections site, though filing will occur through email.
• The FinEx announced that the Econ majors are hosting a finance symposium on Saturday from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Those interested can register in the CDO.
• The President reminded council that a few members of VRAC and ACE are still needed.

XVI. Adjourn