

**VSA Council Minutes**  
*September 2, 2007*

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

**2. Attendance**

Guests: Andrew Bennett (Special Committee on Dorm Renovations), Chris Doscher (Miscellany News), Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Alex Meade (College Democrats), Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News), Will Schock (College Democrats), Lauren Sutherland (Miscellany News).

**3. Goals**

The VP of Operations moved to adopt the Guiding Principles and Priorities of the Student Body Leadership 2007-2008, as presented to the Vassar Student Association Council on September 2, 2007. Main expressed concern about the Local High School Scholarships goal, and asked for clarification as to why it was made a priority. Activities answered that one of the most important relationships that Vassar College needs to develop is that with the local community, and that it would be beneficial for the VSA to encourage Vassar to foster a better relationship with the local high schools.

Lathrop moved to strike the Local High School Scholarships initiative under the Access Guiding Principle. Activities moved to call to question; all but 2009 were in favor, and the motion passed.

**Vote on Lathrop's Amendment:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).

*Not in Favor:* Cushing, 2010, Raymond, 2008, Finance, Operations, Academics, Activities, TA, Ferry, Town Students, and South Commons (12).

*In Favor:* Jewett, Josselyn, Davison, 2011, Student Life, Lathrop, Strong, Noyes, 2009, Main, and TH (11).

**Result:** Motion failed.

2010 moved to amend the Local High School Scholarship initiative and its title, to now read, "Local High School Access: ...assess the ways in which a Vassar education can be more accessible to students who graduate from Poughkeepsie public schools."

**Vote on 2010's Amendment:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).

*Not in Favor:* Main and Ferry (2).

*In Favor:* Cushing, 2010, Raymond, 2008, Finance, Operations, Academics, Activities, TA, Town Students, South Commons, Jewett, Josselyn, Davison, 2011, Student Life, Lathrop, Strong, Noyes, 2009, and TH (21).

**Result:** Motion passes.

There was a motion to adopt the Guiding Principles and Priorities.

### **Vote on the adoption of the Guiding Principles and Priorities:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).

*Not in Favor:* None (0).

*In Favor:* Cushing, 2010, Raymond, 2008, Finance, Operations, Academics, Activities, TA, Ferry, Town Students, South Commons, Jewett, Josselyn, Davison, 2011, Student Life, Lathrop, Strong, Noyes, 2009, Main, and TH (23).

**Result:** Motion passes.

## **4. Announcements**

### **a. Food Committee**

2010 explained that every dorm is to appoint two students to be members of the Food Committee. Council members were asked to inform him who the selected students were within 48 hours. 2010 also encouraged council members to consider freshmen for the Committee, and announced that there will be a cook-off among Vassar students on September 22.

### **b. Science Facility Committee**

Academics explained that in 2004 various science faculty members began discussion on a new Science Facility, as well as the renovation of some current buildings. Two students will be appointed to serve on the committee. The new building will be based on interdepartmental and multidisciplinary factors, thus the students should be underclassmen with double majors or interdisciplinary concentrations. The meeting times will be on Tuesdays from 1:15 to 3:15pm every week.

### **c. Leadership Series**

Activities encouraged all organizations and student bodies to send representatives to each of the three workshops in the VSA Leadership Series, and announced that there will be a financial incentive for participation in the series.

### **d. Dean of Planning and Academic Affairs**

Academics explained that last spring there was an internal search for the Dean of Planning and Academic Affairs, a new position charged with the general development of academic planning and the supervision of academic areas outside of curriculum and academic departments. Rachel Kissinger was chosen and her new position became effective on August 15. She looks over the Office of Financial Aid, the Libraries, the Loeb Center, the Department of Athletics and Physical Education, the Grant Office, the Wimpfheimer Nursery School, the Infant Toddler Center, Admissions, and institutional research.

### **e. Self Study**

Sam explained that he and Jess Cho were asked by President Hill to serve on the Self Study Committee, because Vassar is up for re-accreditation this year, as happens every ten years. More will be announced as the year progresses.

## **5. Reports**

### **a. Special Committee on Dorm Renovations**

Andrew Bennett announced that the Terrace Apartments, Josselyn and Noyes all had significant renovations done over the summer, there is still work being done on Main, and that the doors to the four quad dorms are expected to be finished by mid-October. Student

Life also announced that he and Andrew will be working to keep the campus informed about the upcoming renovation of Davison.

## 6. Student Review Committee for the Dean of the Faculty

As happens every five years, the Dean of the Faculty is up for review, which means that Ron Sharp is up for re-appointment. Academics explained that the review will take place during the semester, through a faculty committee and a student committee. Lucy Johnson will serve as the chair of the faculty committee. Jess Cho will serve as a co-chair of the student committee. A report will be submitted to President Hill by December 7.

## 7. Appointments

Operations moved to declare up for appointment two Science Faculty Committee positions and four Dean of the Faculty Review Committee positions.

### **Vote on the motion to declare up for appointment:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).

*Not in Favor:* None (0).

*In Favor:* Cushing, 2010, Raymond, 2008, Finance, Operations, Academics, Activities, TA, Ferry, Town Students, South Commons, Jewett, Josselyn, Davison, 2011, Student Life, Lathrop, Strong, Noyes, 2009, Main, and TH (23).

**Result:** Motion passes.

Operations also announced that they are already in the process of appointing the Board of Elections and Arlington.

## 8. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 266 days remain until commencement.
- Finance moved to allocate \$475 to the College Democrats for their Activities Festival.
  - Main moved to amend the allocation to \$712, which is 75% of the total estimated event cost. After discussion, Main withdrew the amendment.
  - Student Life moved to amend the allocation to \$711. Activities moved to call to question; by vote of 18-5 the motion passed.

### **Vote on Student Life's Amendment:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).

*Not in Favor:* Main, Noyes, TA, Academics, Operations, 2008, Davison, Josselyn, Jewett, Raymond, 2010, and Cushing (14).

*In Favor:* 2009, South Commons, Strong, Town Students, Ferry, Lathrop, Activities, Student Life, 2011 (9).

**Result:** Amendment fails.

- 2008 moved to amend the allocation to the College Democrats to \$550. 2010 moved to call to question; by vote of 22-1 the motion passed.

**Vote on 2008's Amendment:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).

*Not in Favor:* Ferry, Student Life, and Town Houses (3).

*In Favor:* Cushing, 2010, Raymond, 2008, Finance, Operations, Academics, Activities, TA, Town Students, South Commons, Jewett, Josselyn, Davison, 2011, Lathrop, Strong, Noyes, 2009, and Main (20).

**Result:** Amendment passes.

- 2010 moved to call the allocation to question; by unanimous vote the motion passed.

**Vote on the Allocation of \$550 to the College Democrats:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).

*Not in Favor:* None (0).

*In Favor:* Cushing, 2010, Raymond, 2008, Finance, Operations, Academics, Activities, TA, Ferry, Town Students, South Commons, Jewett, Josselyn, Davison, 2011, Student Life, Lathrop, Strong, Noyes, 2009, Main, and TH (23).

**Result:** Motion passes.

- Student Life announced that he will chair a student committee to review the Dean of the College, and that more information is forthcoming about how that committee will be formed.
- The President reminded Council to send the names of students serving on the Founder's Day Committee to Operations.
- Operations requested that Council remind secretaries to send minutes to her through email every week.
- Lathrop reported that it held an event with Jewett the previous night and expressed that events early in the year are good.
- 2008 announced that Serenading should be less hazing this year, and requested that dorm presidents support and encourage freshman while reminding them that participation is not mandatory.
- Student Life reiterated that roles in VSA have changed, and discussed the new positions for which the President and Vice Presidents are now responsible.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 8:17 PM.