

**VSA Council Minutes**  
*September 30, 2007*

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**2. Attendance**

Proxies: Lathrop and Raymond.

Guests:

**3. Welcome and Introduction**

In order to welcome the new President for the Class of 2011, all members of Council introduced themselves with their names and positions.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of Minutes from September 23**

No objections were made, and the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

**5. Reports**

**a. Serenading Committee**

2008 debriefed Council about the success of Serenading, and discussed possible changes for next year's event. He extended gratitude to the dorm presidents for helping to increase the turnout from last year. There was positive feedback received from both D.B. Brown and Ray Parker, who both reported that Serenading was very well run. Both the concert and the fireworks went really well, and the event definitely did not go over budget. He discussed the possibility that next year the event may be postponed by one or two weeks, to better schedule around the cross-country meet that usually happens the next day. The President then added that next year classes will likely begin on a Tuesday, causing such events as convocation to be scheduled differently.

**b. Food Committee**

2010 reported on behalf of the Food Committee, who has met three times so far and will be taking a hiatus this week. Changes have been made in ACDC in response to people's requests, including non-sliced bagels and new cereal dispensers. Another change likely to happen soon is that Java City will stay open until 2am upon return from October Break. Main asked 2010 about whether ACDC workers would lose their jobs if Aramark's contract is not renewed, and Student Life assured that they would not. Davison asked how UpCDC may be affected by the new contract, and 2010 replied that it would likely become much more convenience-store-esque.

**c. Exec Report (Student Life)**

Student Life reported on what the Student Life Committee and the Dean of the College division has been working on administratively. He first discussed how they are rationalizing the student input process with respect to the food service election and the dormitory renovations, a topic for which he has met with the director of ResLife and the Dean of the College. The Student Life Committee will likely handle small questions regarding the renovations, but Luis Inoa will bring larger questions from the architects to the campus for discussion. Student Life later expressed concern that the dorms' renovations may not be fully funded, as the college is currently working to cut costs with the renovation.

Student Life then discussed the issues involved with food services. He explained the current economic logic behind meal-plan point inequalities, before announcing that the ACDC will soon be functioning under a combination of meals and flex-points. The committee is aware that there exists a large lifestyle change with a meal-based system, and is currently working on a solution. These issues will be taken up by the Food Committee and the Committee on College Life.

Major policy recommendations will be coming up from RLAC (Residential Life Advisory Committee), which will have a new structure by October Break, and whose members tentatively include Student Life, Luis Trujillo, house presidents and house student advisors, house fellows, Ray Parker, and the director of ResLife. The committee will be considering such policies as gender-neutral housing and room draw.

The Student Life Committee has also been talking about administrative review that began last year, focusing on two main issues: Buildings & Grounds and the ROC; and Student Employment. Student Life also expressed concern about having a positive relationship between student leaders and the administration.

#### **d. Exec Report (Operations)**

Operations first reported on the elections from the previous week. Originally there were a few problems with the usage and management of the voting software, but they now have it all figured out and don't expect to confront many problems in the future. Operations announced that they are currently working on a software handbook to answer all questions regarding the software for future years, in order to ensure that the software contract signed will continue to be successful. There was a "Get Your Voice Heard" voting campaign, geared toward the Class of 2011. The Presidential forum was a complete success with a very large turnout. Voting went smoothly, with 70% voter turnout, and they had the results within 30 minutes of the end of elections. Operations reminded dorm presidents to be in contact with the new Freshmen Representatives, and discussed possible changes to the Board of Elections to make it more effective in coming years. She encouraged anyone who had feedback regarding elections to be in contact.

Operations then reported on committees. A written report schedule will be implemented starting this week, including reports from classes and housing. Appointments and CRC have met, and encourage any constitutional or bylaw changes to be addressed Council. They meet every other Saturday at 12pm. Operations will be starting VSA Today in the next two weeks, although they have been unable to find all of the plastic holders. Anyone who wants something included in VSA Today should contact Operations. The AAVC board will be meeting this week, and there will be a report for Sunday.

#### **e. Exec Report (President)**

There are leaks in the VSA Exec office, and as such the President is currently working to make the office function properly. The President has mainly been working on Self Study, trying to coordinate students on all the different steering committees, and helping to make sure that all committees are working properly. He has been meeting with all the senior officers of the college, and P&P (Priorities and Planning) met about a week and a half ago. The Community Works Committee had its first meeting last week, and they are currently working on the list of recipients of campaign money. He has been working on the space issue, which is a huge problem because there is no designated student area of the college. The Board of Trustees is coming in a week and a half, and the Student Affairs dinner is on the night of Thursday October 11. The President will send a copy of the report sent to the Board in a couple of days.

## 6. Allocation of \$879 from Hosting to Debate

Finance moved to allocate \$879 from Hosting Fund to the Vassar College Debate Society. Finance moved to amend the allocation to \$979. Noyes moved to call to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Vote to Amend the Allocation to \$979:**

*Abstentions:* Ferry (1).  
*Not in Favor:* None (0).  
*In Favor:* All else (22).

**Result:** Motion passes.

2010 moved to call the allocation to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Vote to Allocate \$979 from Hosting to Debate:**

*Abstentions:* Ferry (1).  
*Not in Favor:* None (0).  
*In Favor:* All else (22).

**Result:** Motion passes.

## 7. Allocation of \$150 from Collaboration to Devils, Accidentals, Minstrels

Finance moved to allocate \$150 from the Collaboration Fund to the Vassar Devils, Accidentals, and Minstrels.

### **Vote to Amend the Allocation to \$979:**

*Abstentions:* None (0).  
*Not in Favor:* None (0).  
*In Favor:* All (23).

**Result:** Motion passes.

## 8. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 238 days remain until commencement.
- Cushing reported that the Dormal Formal was a success, and commented that the Jewett House Team did a great job.
- Cushing asked when The Mug would be opening, and Student Life responded that it is scheduled to open on October 22.

## 9. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 8:01pm.