

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Council Agenda for Jan. 30, 2011

*Time: 7:00pm*

*Location: College Center 223*

*"Don't find fault, find a remedy."  
—Henry Ford*

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Attendance .....Operations
- 3 Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Minutes from 1/23
- 4 ViCE Report
- 5 Executive Board Reports
  - a. Activities
  - b. Finance
- 6 BHP Report
- 7 Allocation of \$2400 to MICA from Council Discretionary ..... Finance
- 8 Allocation of \$1840 to the Ski Team from Council Discretionary ..... Finance
- 9 Allocation of \$600 to MEChA from Conference Fund ..... Finance
- 10 Open Discussion ..... Anyone

## I. Fund Being Applied For: Council Discretionary Fund

VSA Organization: MICA

Name of Applicant: Steve Keller

Applicant E-mail Address: stkeller@vassar.edu

Event Name: Vassar Chronicle

Location of Event: Everywhere

Date of Event: This semester

Description of Event:

The paper, The Chronicle, will be published monthly with intended publication dates of February 1st, March 1st, and April 30th.

Benefit to Students:

We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to produce this paper, so let us begin with offering our sincere thanks to the VSA for your aid to and recognition of this work.

There were three major concerns with The Chronicle when we last came to the Council—content, administration, and campus reception. So, let us first highlight each of these and then explain how we dealt with the VSA's concerns:

1) Content: Leafing through this paper, it is fairly clear that there are a variety of ideological viewpoints expressed. From social and economic issues to foreign policy and campus issues, we have represented through our columns and debates a wide variety of opinions. We would like to see some more marginalized viewpoints come out of the woodwork for the next issue, and we think that the success of the pilot issue will spark alternative thought and spur new writers to submit content—writers beyond MICA's core membership. Even so, nearly half of our writers were not previously affiliated with MICA, which speaks to the paper's ability to attract contributors from the broader campus.

We also published a variety of forms of discourse in the paper. Our average word count was higher than that of The Miscellany News, but in general our submissions had varied length; articles were between 600 and 2000 words, which allowed for greater freedom in constructing and articulating arguments. Articles ranged from the argumentative to the speculative and the exploratory. The debate section allows for instant discourse in a way that the opinions section of the Miscellany does not.

2) Administration: Attached to this application is a copy of the paper. We are very proud of the work that our staff did on this project, and we think that the result—a professional, aesthetic, and functional design—is reflective of the immense time, energy, and passion our 13-person staff put into the paper. Now that we have a solidified design, and have proven that we are capable of

producing a paper, our work hours can be committed to improving the content rather than the structure of the publication. Moreover, we are seeking to employ at least another three students to augment our Editorial Board.

3) Campus reception: We decided to distribute the paper ourselves so we could personally observe reaction. We planned for three days of tabling—afternoons in the Retreat, evenings in the ACDC. To even our surprise, we had handed out half of the 500 copies within 90 minutes of tabling in the Retreat. We handed out the rest by 1 PM on the second day, rationing for those who could not make it for our Launch due to schedule conflicts.

Beyond the simple speed at which we handed out 500 copies (up from our initial estimate due to a good negotiated rate, which allowed for more copies)—which speaks to the clear need for more funds for additional printing—we received many positive messages from students, professors and administrators. Attached is a sample of professor comments.

Upcoming additions will feature increased page count to house more content, while maintaining the economical printing options we began with—black and white with color covers, with the student rate at Southern Dutchess, with whom we had an excellent experience. Increasing the page count to 20 or 24 pages for future editions, up from 16 from the pilot, will have a slight increase in cost per edition, as will increasing the total number of printed copies. However, we hope to begin building an advertising base after the publication of the second edition to offset some of MICA’s budgeting concerns. By having surplus funds drawn from future advertising in MICA’s treasury, the publication will essentially “repay” part of the VSA’s costs at the end of the year and defer the need for new budget applications in the meantime; however, we cannot depend upon advertising revenues, which 1) cannot be guaranteed and 2) most likely will be insufficient. Moreover, we will have some necessary office expenses, including acquiring software and materials, with a small stipend for production night snacks.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

For the above reasons, our itemized needs are:

\$1000 per edition (up from \$800 for the 16 page, 500-copy pilot edition)

- Black and white, color cover
- 20 or 24 pages per edition
- At least 600 copies per edition; we will try to negotiate the best rates each time

Total Cost of Event: \$3000

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

See above

Amount Requested: \$3000

---

## II. Fund Being Applied For: Council Discretionary Fund

VSA Organization: Ski Team

Name of Applicant: Daniel Raizman

Applicant E-mail Address: daraizman@vassar.edu

Event Name: Magic Mountain Races

Location of Event: Londonderry, VT

Date of Event: 2/4-2/6 and 2/11-2/13

Description of Event:

Races hosted by the McBrine Division of the United States Collegiate Ski Association. The Vassar Ski Team would compete in Slalom and Giant Slalom Alpine races against Yale, Wesleyan, Brandeis, Wellesley, Springfield College, URI, and Marist.

Benefit to Students:

We are the only team in the McBrine Division that does not attend all five division races. As it stands, we only have sufficient funding to attend three races, each with incomplete racing squads. This is especially difficult, as several members of our team are skilled enough to compete in the regional championship, though cannot, purely because we cannot afford to attend more races. Attending additional races would allow us to bring new team members in addition to our veteran racers, thereby promoting membership in future years. Our Sugarbush training trip this year was attended by the largest group of students in at least four years, increasing in size by nearly 50% from last year.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Race 1: 20 racers, 5 rooms

Race Entry Fees: \$92/per person: \$1840

Lodging: \$105/night per room: \$1050

Total: \$2890

Race 2: 20 racers, 5 rooms

Race Entry Fees: \$92/per person: \$1840

Lodging: \$105/night per room: \$1050

Total: \$2890

Total Cost of Event: \$5780

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

Assuming we get the deposit back from our winter training trip, we have \$1853 remaining in our budget which we are putting towards the remaining cost of our first race. In previous years we have

purchased materials (which we still have) in order to make shirts to sell at no additional cost toward this year's budget. Furthermore, we have already designed, ordered, and begun selling shot glasses that we have been selling for 200% profit. Furthermore, earlier this year every member who had attended our winter training trip paid for it entirely without assistance from the school, bringing the total amount of money spent by members of the team so far this season to over \$16,800. If any members from our team advance to the regional championships, members of the ski team will pay for it out-of-pocket at no charge to the organization.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year - when relevant):

Charlotte Gutfriend 2013

Brittanny Stopa 2013

Hilary Strauch 2012

Julia Nethero 2012

Heili Lowman 2012

Brian Lu 2013

Ethan Buckner 2012

William Wheeler 2014

Anna Been 2014

Nathan Muscato 2014

Maddie Taterka 2014

Ali Mooranian 2013

Carman Angelton 2013

Kristin van der Kloot 2011

Suzannah Horton 2011

Erik Snow 2012

Derek Mraz 2014

Ann Robertson 2011

Garrett Rich 2011

Adam Wolfe 2011

Lauren Chin 2013

Izzy Syrek 2011

Marissa Reilly 2013

Finley Bromer-Lawson 2014

Dan Shaw 2014

Paul Clarke 2014

Madeline Szkobel-Wolff 2014

Malena Harrang 2014

Catie Hall 2013

Yasmine Salah 2013

Zoe Ripecky 2014  
 Jack Gross 2012  
 Mary Claire Walker 2014  
 Mariah Shones 2014  
 Plamin Ivanov 2011  
 Theo Van Der Meer 2012  
 Michelle Martineau 2014

Amount Requested: \$3927

---

### III. Fund Being Applied For: Conference Fund

VSA Organization: MEChA de Vassar

Name of Applicant: Moisés Rivera

Applicant E-mail Address: morivera@vassar.edu

Event Name: Youth Inherit El Movimiento: Youth Leadership Through the Arts  
 and Community Organizing

Location of Event: Yale University

Date of Event: February 4 - 6, 2011

Description of Event:

Conference that highlights the importance of youth organizing in our local, state, and national communities.

From the origins of Chicanismo to the present day, the Chicano voice has reverberated with a particularly youthful ring. It was the student walkouts of 1968 that incited a re-examination of Ethnic Studies and public Chicano history, and it is today that we see young Latinos chained in front of John McCain's office advocating for the DREAM Act. The most alluring aspect of our movement, though, is the creativity and idealism with which we tackle oppression. Through efforts of organizations such as El Teatro Campesino, an ensemble theater group dedicated to creating social change through the arts, young people have truly envisioned a new world and mobilized toward justice.

The East Coast Chicano Student Forum at Yale during February 2011 seeks to explore young Latino leadership in the context of the arts and community. On a national basis, we young Latinos understand that we are in a place of systematic disadvantage and historical oppression. Despite this, however, political moves in the recent years verify that we are destined to become a generation of leaders, dreamers and thinkers. Youth organizing is not a transient mirage. It is a reality that strengthens us, and it dwells in places beyond our own privileged university campuses. What can we learn from young Chicanos painting our own past, present and future through murals,

plays, and protests? What dialogue can we ignite by screening powerful youth-produced documentaries in our auditoriums? We aim to bring concrete examples of youth organizing and community arts, as well as the tangible results of these efforts, into this forum.

As young Chicano activists we must strive to learn from one another through a collaboration of strategies and ideas. We urge fellow Chicano activists to take from this conference a means of paving forward the road to social justice; the importance of political organization is apparent, from the growing pressure to pass the DREAM Act to the federal lawsuit against SB1070. As a generation on the eve of political momentum, we must advance through creative and effective means to attain social justice, make our voices heard, and move forward with the movement.

#### Benefit to Students:

Students will learn how to make positive changes in the Poughkeepsie community by actively engaging in an event with other college students.

New members of MEChA will gain leadership and organization skills necessary to host events and political actions.

#### Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Registration for ten attendees = \$300

Transportation = \$200

Food Contribution = \$100

Parking Fee = \$50

Workshop Supplies = \$50

Total Cost of Event: \$700

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

Fundraising by selling sweet bread and hot chocolate. We hope to raise \$100.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year - when relevant):

Salvador Salas '13

Ricardo Alvarez '13

Dennis Rivera '13

Edgar Rivera '13

Raziel Correa '14

Fernanda Martinez '14

Elena Fregoso '14

David Loyo '14

Ruben Robles '14

Laura Torres '14

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

None

Amount Requested: \$600