

Vassar Student Association Council
Agenda for September 20, 2009

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

The perfection of wisdom, and the end of true philosophy is to proportion our wants to our possessions, our ambitions to our capacities. We will then be a happy and a virtuous people.

--Mark Twain

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance.....Operations
3. Consent Agenda
 1. Approval of the Minutes from 9/6, 9/13
 2. \$500 from Speakers, Lecturers and Panels Fund to Unbound
4. Announcements
 - a. Meet Me In Poughkeepsie.....Activities
 - b. Fines.....Finance
5. Reports
 - a. Exec Report.....Activities
 - b. Exec Report.....Academics
6. Discussion on the Point System.....Student Life
7. Appointment of Joseph Carver to SoCo Treasurer.....Operations
8. Allocation of \$400 from Mid-Hudson Valley Fund to Iced Brew.....Finance
9. Allocation of \$1600 from Conference Fund to Pro-Health.....Finance
10. Allocation of \$1800 from Conference Fund to Vassar Greens.....Finance
11. Addition to Article IV, Section 25 of the VSA Bylaws.....Activities
12. Open Discussion.....Anyone
13. Adjourn

THE VSA COUNCIL POLICY RECOMMENDATION 24-3 FOR THE ADOPTION OF A STUDENT CONDUCT POINT SYSTEM

Point System

Vassar College is developing a "point system" to make the student disciplinary and sanctioning process more clear, consistent, transparent, efficient, and equitable.

The system would work as follows:

When a student is found responsible for violating College Regulations they are assigned points according to the table below. Points will be assigned by the Student Conduct Administrator and/or a College Regulations panel at the conclusion of the hearing process. In the event that a student is accused of committing a violation warranting three points or fewer, points may be assigned to the student without a hearing, at the discretion of the Student Conduct Administrator. Students will be notified of this point assignment electronically and will have the right to appeal the decision and request a hearing within fourteen days of receiving notice.

Points may be assigned cumulatively for a single incident. For example, while the underage host of an unregistered party where alcohol was present could receive a maximum of 7 points (1-2 for being underage, 1-2 for having open containers, and 3 for hosting a party), Student Conduct Administrators are expected to use discretion and view the severity of the incident contextually when assigning points. The ability to add points cumulatively exists only so that those who egregiously disregard college regulations to the point of severe endangerment of self or others may be assigned points accordingly. In most cases, Student Conduct Administrators are urged to assign points only for the infraction(s) which most accurately represent(s) the issue at hand. In the previous example, 3 points for the unregistered party would be an appropriate assessment.

If through one incident or a series of incidents a student accumulates four points, the student must meet with the Dean of Students or his/her designee. If a student accumulates six points, the student must meet with the Dean of the College, the student's parents will be notified, and the student will be placed on a status of disciplinary probation. If a student accumulates ten or more points, the student will be separated from the College for a period of time to be determined by the College Regulations Panel or the Student Conduct Administrator.

Point Forgiveness

Two points are forgiven six months from the date of the violation, so long as the student commits no subsequent violations. Any new points from subsequent violations are added to those from the previous violation(s) and the six-month forgiveness period is reset.

Infraction

5-10

	Points
Open container of alcohol	
Less than 16% alcohol	1
Greater than 16% alcohol	2
Underage possession of alcohol	
Less than 16% alcohol	1
Greater than 16% alcohol	2
Excessive Noise	2
Violation of smoking policy	1-2
False identification	1-2
Disruptive or lewd behavior	2
Failure to Comply with Sanctions	1-6
Serving alcohol to minors	2-4
Hosting an unregistered party	3
Violation of party policy	3
Aggressive physical behavior	2
Failure to vacate building during fire alarm	2-10
Marijuana possession	2
Weapons policy violation	3
Theft	3-10
Intentional or reckless destruction of property	4-10
Disabling a smoke detector	4-10
Unnecessary discharge of fire extinguisher	5
Non-marijuana drug possession	6
Hazing	5
Distribution of illegal/controlled substances	8

VSA Position Application

Position you are applying for: South Commons Treasurer

Please fill out all sections to the best of your ability. Do take time to consider your responses, and be fair and honest!

Information

1.) Name: Joseph Carver

2.) Telephone: (720) 212-6953 3.) E-mail: **jocarver**

4.) Campus Box #:3599 5.) Class Year: 2011

Are you planning on studying abroad anytime over the next year?

If yes, which semester?

A

NO

B

Short Response Questions

1. Please list all student organizations and Vassar affiliated groups that you are currently and have been involved with, including any position(s) held and years affiliated.

Cooking Co-op member: 2008-2009

University of Colorado* Recycling Club Green Team Leader: 2007-2008

University of Colorado French Club member: 2007-2008

*I attended the University of Colorado freshman year 2007-2008

2. What motivated you to get involved and what characteristics do you have that would make you a good contribution to the position you are applying for? Please describe why you would like to serve on the positions you have listed.

I'm looking to get more involved in campus activities than I was last year, my first here as a transfer student. My specific motivation for the position of treasurer is due mostly to the stream of e-mails we've been getting at the Soco's about this position- it did not seem like anyone else was answering the call. That being said, a career test I took in 5th grade gave "accountant" as the strongest match for my future avocation; and while I've not chosen to go down that path, I believe my organization and motivation remain a good fit for this job. I'm also, being only a mere junior, quite lucky to be living a great Soco; this has really, so far, made the semester for me. It seems a bit silly to want this position out of gratitude- but it's a little of that, a little desire to be more involved, and probably a lot of that innate accounting talent that would otherwise go to waste.

3. What ideas do you have relating to the position you are applying for?

I think the last year has, if anything, taught us all of the dangers of combining "creativity" and money (I've looked briefly at the treasurer's manual online and was amused to see its mantra, "DO NOT GO IN TO DEBT." Good advice). At this point, I'm also not 100% clear on what the treasurer does day-to-day or how this position fits in the hierarchy of management – i.e., what ideas I would be expected to have. That said, being a cooking-nerd, I would enjoy planning events (fund-raisers?) involving food, music, and the Soco front porches. I'm sure if I fill this position, though, and figure out what I'm doing, I can contribute more positively (and concretely) to the running of the Soco's.

Fund Being Applied For: Mid-Hudson Valley Fund

VSA Organization: Iced Brew

Name of Applicant: Hannah Erdheim

Applicant E-mail Address: haerdheim@vassar.edu

Event Name: Ice Skating Lessons

Location of Event: Mid-Hudson Civic Center

Date of Event: Various

Description of Event:

Iced Brew would like to offer free skating lessons throughout the year to all interested Vassar students throughout the year with our coach and skaters.

Benefit to Students:

This will give students who are interested in learning how to skate without any financial restraints.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Ice Time - \$300 per hour, 10 sessions \$3000

Coaching fees - \$45 per hour, 10 sessions \$450

Skate rentals - \$3 per person, ~ 20 people, \$60 per week, 10 sessions \$600

Transportation (2 Vassar Vans) \$.50 per mile per van, 4 miles round trip, 10 sessions \$40.

Total Cost of Event: \$4,090

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

We are currently doing fundraising to aid in covering costs for the event. However, we do not have this much money in our budget and need money for our own practices etc. We feel that it is very important to keep this event free to give all students the opportunity to skate if they so wish and therefore need funding from the VSA to help do so.

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

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Amount Requested: \$4,090

Finance Req: 1000

Exec Req: 400

The results of this submission may be viewed at:<http://vsa.vassar.edu/node/42/submission/36>

Fund Being Applied For: Speakers, Lecturers, and Panels Fund

VSA Organization: Unbound

Name of Applicant: Kartik Naram

Applicant E-mail Address: kanaram@vassar.edu

Event Name: Life-Sized Theater: A Theatermaker's Guide to the Real World

Location of Event: 3rd Floor, Rockefeller Hall

Date of Event: Saturday, October 3

Description of Event:

Unbound would like to host Studio 42, an NYC-based experimental theater company founded and run by Vassar alums, for a day-long workshop on translating experimental student theater to the "real world" after graduation. Working with students via roundtables and Q&A sessions, the company would discuss how to start and run your own theater company in New York City; resources to utilize once you're an artist in the real world; what paths burgeoning actors & directors could take; the art of self-marketing; plus audition and monologue tips.

Benefit to Students:

There are not enough resources for students interested in pursuing theater after college, especially those seeking more entrepreneurial paths. Studio 42, in addition to being a noted theater company in the city, has deep Vassar roots, and it would be beneficial for students to learn from fellow Vassarites about what path they took, and how Vassar prepared them (or didn't) for the journey. This event would prove to be both educational and entertaining.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Stipend for Studio 42 to host workshop: \$600

Travel reimbursement for five Studio 42 members: approximately \$150

Lunch for Studio 42 members plus food for attendees: approximately \$150

Total Cost of Event: \$900

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

Besides using our budget, which we normally try to preserve in case there is an expensive student production, we aim to raise funds this semester via t-shirts, bookmarks, or some other merchandise. We do not want to charge students to attend this event.

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

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Amount Requested: \$800

Finance Req: 500

Exec Req: 500

Fund Being Applied For: Conference

VSA Organization: ProHealth

Name of Applicant: Jared Augenstein

Applicant E-mail Address: jaaugenstein@vassar.edu

Event Name: FaceAIDS Conference

Location of Event: Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Date of Event: October 23, 2009 - October 25, 2009

Description of Event:

A FACE AIDS conference for all national chapters of the organization. We've been members for 3 years and we've raised thousands of dollars to support Partners in Health in Rwanda. The conference will feature prominent public

health figures such as Paul Farmer, President of Partners In Health, and other representatives of various Not-For-Profit organizations in the international health realm.

Benefit to Students:

The conference experience is invaluable. It's an opportunity to be surrounded by students and professionals who share a common passion for global AIDS work and hear from experts and peers who are devoting their life's work to this cause. FACE AIDS specifically is an exceptional organization because it was started by three Stanford students and is an entirely student run organization that has raised over \$1 Million to support health care in Rwanda through Partners in Health.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

There will be 7 ProHealth members attending the conference:

Transportation to Airport = \$100

Round Trip Flights to San Francisco- \$300 per person = \$1,800

Hotel near San Francisco- \$50 per person per night x 2 nights = \$600

Food while traveling- \$25 per person = \$150

Total Cost of Event: \$\$2650

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

Due to our limited budget, ambitious schedule for this year, and that all money raised is donated to FACE AIDS or the American Cancer Society, we need as much help from the VSA as possible. That said, we'll be having bake sales to try and recover at least a few hundred dollars of the cost of the event.

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

Jared Augenstein 2010

Clare Cene-Kush 2010

Shannon Wilton 2010

Nicole Krenitsky 2009

Elise Presser 2009

Kristyn Abreu 2009

Amount Requested: \$2350

Finance Req: 1600

Exec Req: 1600

Fund Being Applied For: Conference

VSA Organization: Vassar Greens

Name of Applicant: Vanessa Raditz

Applicant E-mail Address: varaditz@vassar.edu

Event Name: Bioneers Conference

Location of Event: San Rafael, CA

Date of Event: Oct. 15-17

Description of Event:

Bioneers is a nonprofit educational organization that highlights breakthrough solutions for restoring people and planet. Since 1990, Bioneers has acted as a hub of social and scientific innovators with practical and visionary solutions for the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. A celebration of the genius of nature and human creativity, Bioneers connects people with solutions and each other. Its acclaimed annual national and local conferences are complemented by extensive media outreach including an award-winning radio series, book series, and a role in media projects such as Leonardo DiCaprio's film *The 11th Hour*.

Every year, the Bioneers Conference draws thousands of people together who are passionate about solutions. From how mushrooms can save the world, to how Google Earth is protecting the rainforests, the practical solutions that come from the Bioneers Conference address many of our most pressing environmental problems.

Benefit to Students:

As this year's Chair of the Vassar Greens, I hope to expand our role further. While I want the Greens to continue to be a resource to students on campus, I want to see our organization working actively to connect students to their greater communities, and I believe that bringing a group to the Bioneers conference would help in fulfilling this objective in a myriad of ways. The conference would first and foremost instruct us in contemporary environmental issues and the solutions currently discussed by the environmental community. We would be able to bring this knowledge back to Vassar to share with our community through discussions at Greens meetings, panel discussions, a trip blog, and hopefully stories for the Miscellany News. The conference would also help us be more effective in the work we already do, especially through the many afternoon sessions being offered on the greening of education

and how youth can be instrumental in this change. Finally, attending the conference would enable the Greens to gather contacts for people we would like to bring to campus, and would allow us to tap more directly into the environmental community, giving us greater resources to provide to our students. Yet at the end of the day, the purpose of this trip is not only to gather environmental issues, solution and contacts. This trip will include camping, commuting on bikes, eating local foods, and other activities designed to make this trip more of an experience in sustainable living, and not just another conference. Hopefully, this trip will help to empower our students to become active members of the world wide environmental community, and help them be better advocates for the environment at Vassar and throughout their lives.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Conference Passes

- If we get Bioneers youth scholarship: $\$60 \times 5\text{students} = \300
- If we have no scholarships*: $\$400 \times 5\text{students} = \2000

*We would probably not be able to do the trip for the current price we are offering to students if we do not get this scholarship. However, I have spoken with the person who organizes the scholarships and it is almost certain that we have it as long as I turn in the names of the students on the trip by the deadline

Transportation= $\$2200$ ($\$440$ per student)

- Train and buses to the airport: $\$50 \times 5\text{students} = \250
- Plane tickets: $\$300 \times 5\text{students} = \1500
- Weekend bike rental: $\$90 \text{ dollars} \times 5\text{students} = \450

Food & Lodging= $\$487.50$ ($\$97.5$ per student)

- Campground: $\$20 \times 4\text{ nights} = \80
- Campground reservation fee: $\$7.50$
- Estimation of food costs: $\$20 \times 4\text{ days} \times 5\text{students} = \400

Total Cost of Event

Total with Bioneers Scholarship: $\$2987.50$

(Total without Bioneers Scholarship: $\$4687.50$)

Total Cost of Event: $\$2987.50$

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

If we did not get the conference fund, this is what we would have to do to fund the trip:

- Participant Contribution: $\$200 \times 5\text{students} = \1000
- Vassar Greens Budget: $\$500$ - $\$1000$ (in the worse case scenario)
- Collaborating Organizations/Departments: $\$500$ +
- Group and Individual Fundraising: Whatever has not been raised by other means

Other than the Participant Contribution, the funding plans are dependent on organizations and individuals outside of the Vassar Greens, and so are tentative. It is for this reason that we are applying for the conference fund. If we are able to get the amount we request, it would primarily reduce the amount that the Vassar Greens would have to contribute from our budget, allowing us to use those funds for the many events we already organize every year. It would also reduce the participant contribution so that more students can feel financially able to go on the trip.

If we got the full amount that we asked for, this is probably what we would do:

- Conference Fund: $\$2000$
- Collaborating Organizations/Departments: $\$100$ +
- Vassar Greens Budget: $\$100$ - $\$500$
- Participant Contribution: Whatever has not been raised by other means

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

Vanessa Raditz, 2012

Danielle Falzon, 2012

Nadine Souto, 2012

Ani Kodzhabasheva, 2012

Xiaoyuan Ren, 2013

Alternate: Erica Licht, 2010

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

- Vassar Outing Club has already shown interest in collaborating. Particularly, they may sponsor the cost of our campsite and/or bikes, and in return we would work on events with the Outing Club upon our return.
- We will be asking for funds from the Biology Department, the Environmental Studies Department, and the Earth Science and Geography Department. These departments teach students that would probably be interested in the Bioneers conference, and have goals in line with those of the conference.

- We may also ask for funds from other departments such as Anthropology, Sociology, Urban Studies, or Science Technology and Society. These departments may also be interested in the goals for the conference and their students would gain valuable information.

Amount Requested: \$2000

Finance Req: 1800

Exec Req: 1800

Proposed Addition to the VSA Bylaws:

Current: Not Present

Proposed: Article IV, Section 25: Off-Campus Representation Responsibilities

Any organization that chooses to travel off-campus overnight, thereby representing the Vassar Student Association and Vassar College by extension, must abide by the articles herein:

- A. In accordance with the policy of the Dean of Students, an Emergency Contact form must be completed and submitted to the VSA VP for Activities a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of the planned trip. Changes to this document may be submitted up to 1 hour before the proposed departure.
- B. The attendees of the trip agree, to the best of their ability, to appropriately represent their organization, the VSA and Vassar College. Infringements of this agreement include, but are not limited to, violations of College regulations, local, state and/or federal laws, lewd or inappropriate behavior, and slanderous or defamatory remarks that jeopardize the integrity of the VSA and/ or the College.
- C. Failure to adhere to these regulations for off-campus travel will be considered a breach of conduct, punishable by censure, and/or a fine equaling up to 10% of the organization's budget. Repeat offenses will be considered a severe breach of conduct, punishable by a fine equaling up to 30% of the organization's budget, censure, and/or decertification. The VSA Council will vote on the appropriate punishment.