

VSA Council Minutes

January 24, 2010

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01

2. Attendance

a. Late: Main, SoCo, Ferry

3. Consent Agenda

a. **Approval of the Minutes from 12/6/09**

b. **\$175 to Class of 2011**

There were no objections.

4. Announcements

a. Faculty-Student Basketball Game

On Feb. 25th, at 7:30 PM, the students will be challenging the Faculty to a Basketball game to raise money for the Senior Class Gift. Cappy will be leading the tip-off, and there are some high rolling faculty and students involved. The trustees will be there, the flypeople will be doing a halftime show and Bob Brigham is playing. Admission is \$2.00 and they are hoping to sell out. There will also be a free dinner reception beforehand.

5. Forum on Deer Culling

Marianne Begemann, Associate Dean of the Faculty gave a presentation of the Culling of the Deer. Over the break they brought in a sharpshooter to humanely shoot 64 deer in the head. This provided 12,000 meals for the homeless. The calculated move won Vassar the support of the Gaming Commission and the NRA who awarded them a prize and a dinner banquet. The protests were limited to a woman who lived near the farm and to a girl named Clarice who was disturbed by the silence of the deer.

Academics wondered if this would be a regular thing in the future, and was told that it probably would be, or at least some form of deer population control. These buggers are just breeding too fast for what is sustainable, and you know how Vassar is about sustainability. They determined the deer population through a fancy infra-red fly-over. There are lots.

Activities wanted to know if a research thing could be made at Vassar to study and chemically castrate the deer. This was determined to be basically a no.

The President expressed an interest in why they chose to hire a sharpshooter and not open it to hunters. Since it is a suburban area, it was felt that luring the deer to one person and letting him take care of it was significantly better than a bunch of people traipsing around in the woods and accidentally shooting the family cat or daughter.

6. Allocation of \$1,000 to Feminist Alliance

Finance moved to allocate \$1,000 to the Feminist alliance to bring a band to Vassar. The band claims to be Vegan, which caused some semantic confusion on council; how can a band be

vegan? Were the instruments made without animal testing? Did they use faux-leather straps on their guitars? It was finally determined that the band MEMBERS were vegan and that they really liked being vegan as well as promoting it. Once that was clarified, everyone was in favor of giving them money.

7. Allocation of \$21,000 to Vassar Polo Team

Finance moved to allocate money to the Vassar Polo Team for a series of tournaments at Vassar. This application was shocking to the Council because they were unaware that we had a Polo Team. A series of tests were undertaken to ensure the existence of the Polo Team and, finally, at the Polo Team Coaches assurance that "yes, we do exist," council acknowledged the reality of the Polo Team. The Polo Coach felt that this was a perfect example of why the Polo Team should be given money for image promotion. Council was in agreement, as it seems that Yale knows they exists and will be playing them soon. All were in favor.

8. Amendment to Article VI, Section 3 of the VSA Constitution.

Operations moved to amend. TH's corrected a sentence and it was tabled until next week.

9. Amendment to Article VII, Section 8 of the VSA Bylaws

Operations moved to amend the Bylaws so that position selection could take place in the spring in the case of a vacant house position.

Noyes recounted a horror story about lacking a treasurer and a secretary. Everyone agreed that it was, indeed, very scary. Main agreed that something needed to change. Activities made a small change to something and it passed.

10. Strike Article IV, Section 19 of the VSA Bylaws

Operations moved to strike a useless passage from the VSA Bylaws which, in a historic precedent, made them slightly more functional. Academics felt that this passage was dumb to begin with and that it should never have existed (the opposite problem of the Polo Team.) Cushing worried that groups with alliances would break their alliances setting off a land war in the College Center that could lead to war. She was reassured that nothing, save the unlikely assassination of the Archduke of the VSA by a staunch Serbian Organizationalist could cause such a thing. All were in favor.

11. Open Discussion

There are 118 days till graduation.

Jewett wondered if committee times were still the same. The answer was maybe. The committees met after council to determine this.

A group came into the Council Chamber, raising brief fears that the CSWG had once again returned to extend the length of the meeting, however it was just The Ski Team asking for money so that they could go to a third event. Their registration costs had skyrocketed and they were unsure if they could still go. Main wondered how much students already paid out of pocket, she

was informed that this was the first year that his had happened. The application was moved from Conference to Council Discretionary and all were in favor, with the exception of Finance who abstained.

Activities then moved to transfer funds, equal to but not exceeding the amount granted in the earlier motion, from Conference to Council Discretionary. The motion came to a vote and was passed by the Council.

Activities noted that pro-health had been in Haiti when the earthquake hit and that, lo and behold, they had not filled out an emergency contact sheet. However, considering all that they had been through, it seemed rather mean to fine them.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:02