

VSA Council Minutes

January 27, 2008

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

2. Attendance

Guests: Andrew Bennett, Shira Collado (DOC), Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Angelic Sosa (BSU), Jamie Rosen (President's Office), Sam Rosen-Amy (Miscellany News), Mikey Velarde (MEChA).

3. Announcement of Fines

Finances announced that the following organizations have been fined for failure to submit their budget information: Axis, Aids Ed, Aikido, Bridge Club, Caribbean Student's Alliance, College Democrats, Contrast, Democracy Matters, Eating Disorder Outreach Service, Entrepreneurs, Forum for Political Thought, Habitat for Humanity, Improv, Indecent Exposure, Measure 4 Measure, MICA, Miscellany News, Premium Brew, QCVV, Ski Team, Squirm, VARC, Vassar Devils, and Vassar Greens.

4. Allocation of \$700 from Speakers' Fund to VARC

Finances moved to allocate \$700 from the Speakers' Fund to VARC. Because no one was present from VARC to elaborate on the fund application, and because the application was completed incorrectly, Finances postponed the allocation decision until next week.

5. Allocation of \$500 from Conference to BSU

Finances moved to allocate \$550 from the Conference Fund to BSU. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

6. Allocation of \$440 from Conference to MEChA

Finances moved to allocate \$440 from the Conference Fund to MEChA. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

7. CA 22-3: Resolution on Gender-Neutral Housing

2009 moved to adopt Council Action 22-3: A Resolution Encouraging the Adoption of a Gender Neutral Housing Policy. Members of Council amended the document five times before bringing CA 22-3 to a vote.

Main moved to strike lines 18-19 from the resolution. He later amended his amendment to only strike the last word of line 18 and all of line 19. All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

In response to another Council member's question, Student Life briefly addressed the question of how this policy would be applied to freshmen, and why the policy will be different for upperclassmen.

Main moved to adjust lines 41-42, to replace the phrase "are not universally equipped with the vocabulary or conceptual tools to envision" with the phrase "may not fully envision." Only 2011 voted not in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

2010 moved to adjust lines 1-2, 18, 25-26, and 28-29. The proposed amendment would add the following phrase in line 18: "...because the VSA Council recognizes that housing policy should empower each student to choose safe and supportive living spaces, and that mandating

same-sex rooming can inhibit personal and academic growth." Additionally the proposed amendment would delete the text in lines 1-2, 25-26, and 28-29.

Academics moved to amend the phrase proposed for line 18. The secondary amendment would add the following phrase in line 18: "Given that the VSA Council recognizes that mandatory same-sex rooming can inhibit personal and academic growth, and that housing policy and practice should empower students to choose safe and supportive living spaces." All of Council voted in favor of the secondary amendment, and the motion passed.

THs moved to adjust the placement of the proposed phrase for line 18, in order to make it more prominent in the document. The secondary amendment would move the additional phrase to line 1 instead of line 18.

Vote on Secondary Amendment:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Davison, SoCo, Operations, Activities, Noyes, 2010, Strong, Cushing (8).

In Favor: Raymond, Joss, Jewett, Lathrop, Finances, Student Life, Academics, Town Students, 2008, TA, 2009, TH, 2011, Main (14).

Result: ~~By vote of 14-8, the motion passes.~~

2010 moved to replace "Given that" with "Whereas" in the proposed phrase for line 18. Only Main, Ferry, Operations and Joss voted not in favor, and the motion passed.

All of Council voted in favor of 2010's amendment, and the motion passed.

Ferry arrived to the Council meeting at 7:55pm.

Academics moved to add an additional clause to the document. The amendment would add the following phrase to lines 18-19: "Whereas the VSA Council understands that choice promotes a safer and more supportive campus environment." Academics later withdrew the proposed amendment.

2009 moved to move lines 27-30 of the document to the location of line 13. All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

Cushing moved to strike lines 21-22 from the document.

Lathrop moved to amend Cushing's proposed amendment. The secondary amendment would replace the phrase, "and does not take into account the needs of variously queer/GLBT students," with the phrase, "and privileges those whose gender identities correspond with dominant notions of sex, gender, and sexual orientation." The President asked unanimous consent to accept the secondary amendment. No objections were made, and the secondary amendment was accepted. All of Council voted in favor of Cushing's amendment, and the motion passed.

Ferry moved to move lines 21-23 to the location of line 18. Ferry moved to amend his amendment to also adjust the wording of line 18, to read, "Recognizing that Vassar College has," instead of, "Because Vassar College therefore." The President asked unanimous consent to accept the secondary amendment. No objections were made, and the secondary amendment was accepted. Only Main and Noyes voted not in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

All of Council voted in favor of adopting the Resolution, and the motion passed.

8. Amendments to VSA Bylaws

Operations moved to amend the VSA Bylaws in Articles III and VII. The President asked for unanimous consent to divide the question between Article III and Article VII. No objections were made, and the questions were divided.

Operations briefly explained what changes would be made by each of the amendments.

All of Council voted in favor of the amendments to Article III, and the motion passed.

All of Council voted in favor of the amendments to Article VII, and the motion passed.

14. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 119 days remain until commencement.
- Operations discussed a CASA event, called "Mind the Gap," which marks the date in which students stop paying for their tuition. She also discussed the possibility of students hosting a Vassar alum for a day, in order for the school's donors to see the college's progress over time.
- Student Life announced that the Student Life Committee would not be meeting tomorrow. He also announced that a presidential debate between representatives for the four major Democratic candidates would be held tomorrow in the Martel Theatre, at 8pm.
- Noyes announced that the dorm is still looking for a new Noyes Vice President.

15. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 8:59pm.