

*VSA Council Minutes*  
October 21, 2007

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM.

2. Attendance

Proxies: Lathrop, Main, Strong, 2010.

Guests: Rudy Martinez, Mike Alvarez, Sara Fairchild, Sasha Levites, Jodi Lazarus, Shira Collado, Jamie Rosen, Lauren Sutherland, Malika Molly Kumar, Brian Farkas, Marni Grossman

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from October 7, 2007

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

4. Reports

a. Board of Trustees Report

The President announced that the Board of Trustees met on October 11-13. The VSA Exec Board attended the student affairs meeting, while the President attended meetings with the full board.

b. Sustainability Committee

A representative from the Sustainability Committee announced that “Power Shift 2007”, a Washington D.C. youth summit designed to raise environmental concerns, will take place on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. “Focus the Nation”, an effort to raise awareness about global warming, will occur next semester.

The committee has also been involved with initiatives to make the new science facility sustainable, to establish compost bins in the residence halls and senior apartments, and to continue streamlining the newly-implemented V-Print system.

c. Committee on Inclusion and Excellence

The VP for Student Life explained that the Committee on Inclusion and Excellence is strongly dedicated to providing every Vassar student with the best education possible.

One of CIE’s recent objectives is to encourage more students to participate in JYA programs. The committee recently fashioned a proposal, to be sent to Dean Jackson, Dean Sharp, and eventually to President Hill, that details suggested modifications to the college’s JYA policies. Recommendations include changing the GPA requirement from a minimum of 3.2 to a simple designation of “good academic standing”, increasing financial aid available to students studying abroad, providing greater resources and support to the JYA office, and adjusting the language that Vassar utilizes to describe study abroad opportunities.

Other priorities are encouraging larger, more diverse pools of applicants to the student fellow position, as well as strengthening faculty/student advising

among freshmen and sophomores. The committee consists of four subcommittees that tackle varied facets of academic and student life, particularly financial concerns associated with undertaking the student fellow position, the academic and social experiences of male students of color, and the possibility of instituting multicultural, ALANA and LGBTQ fellows.

d. Council on Alumni-Student Advancement

The Council on Alumni-Student Advancement, formed last year by 2006-2007 VSA VP Lillian Ho, aims to strengthen the relationships between current Vassar Students, AAVC, and Development. The VP for Operations explained that the CASA will soon take on two at-large students, and that it will be incorporated into the VSA Bylaws as part of the VP position description.

e. Council Report – Davison

Davison announced that it has held several successful events so far, notably a dorm hike, apple picking with Joss, weekly study breaks, and Sunday night community cookies. Planning for Harvest Ball, Matthew's Bar Mitzvah, and the purchase of dorm sweatshirts are now underway. The Davison House Team is currently working with Student Life to ensure that its residents transition smoothly to new living situations next year.

5. Announcement of Fines

The VP for Finance announced that Alive!, the Listening Center, UNICEF and WVKR are each being fined \$25 for failure to submit their org reports.

6. The VP for Academics explained that the VSA Executive Board recently appointed the Dean of the Faculty student search committee. The student search committee is comprised of 7 students, including the VP for Academics, a student representative from CCP, and 5 students at large, and is currently separate from the faculty search committee. Whether or not the search will be internal or external is yet to be determined. More information about the committee's proceedings will be made available as the search gets underway.

7. Certification of Vassar Public Art Committee

The VP for Activities moved to certify the Vassar Public Art Committee. Cushing was slightly concerned with the large size of the budget proposed, and the VP for Activities responded that there would be an Activities Committee retreat the following weekend to discuss budgeting and other related issues. Joseph Martinez, President of VPAC, explained that he has met with the Loeb's director and learned that the college has a fund for student artwork of this nature. While VPAC will also likely be eligible for funding from academic departments and seek out collaborations with other student orgs on campus, Joseph concluded that the committee's budget is very flexible. 2011 abstained from voting, though all other members were in favor of the certification proposal, and the motion passed.

8. Allocation of \$128.70 from Media Publishing to Vassar Green Party

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$128.70 from Media Publishing to Vassar Green Party for the publication of fact sheets to be distributed around campus. Ferry was concerned that publication of such a large number of sheets, (approximately 2000), would leave a substantial environmental footprint. As no members of the Green Party were able to attend this meeting, Noyes moved to postpone consideration of the item until the October 28, 2007. All were in favor, and the motion passed. Ferry moved to reconsider item 8 on the agenda, asserting that he had misinterpreted which subject was being voted upon; TAs was opposed, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed. Cushing then moved to postpone voting on the allocation until the next Council meeting. Only Ferry was opposed, and the motion passed.

#### 9. Allocation of \$900 from Special Events to Raymond

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$900 from Special Events to Raymond for its carnival on the quad on Friday. Raymond explained that a few minor expenses had changed since the application was submitted, particularly costs for B&G and prizes, and provided the new estimated budget breakdown. Raymond abstained from voting, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

#### 10. Allocation of \$1216 from Conference to ViCE

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$1216 from the Conference Fund to ViCE for a series of events November 1-4. Ferry was opposed to the allocation, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

#### 11. Appointment of Malika Kumar as 2011 Rep on Judicial Board

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Malika Kumar as a 2011 representative on the Judicial Board. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

#### 12. Appointment of Charmaine Chong as 2011 Rep on Judicial Board

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Charmaine Chong as a 2011 representative on the Judicial Board. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

#### 13. Appointment of Jodi Lazarus as 2011 Rep on Judicial Board

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Jodi Lazarus as a 2011 representative on the Judicial Board. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

#### 14. Appointment of Max Ernst as 2011 Rep on Judicial Board

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#### 15. Open Discussion

- 2008 announced that 217 days remained until graduation.
- 2011 inquired about UpCDC's post-October Break hours, and TAs responded that the third floor will now remain open until 2AM.
- VP for Activities explained that the Mug will reopen this week, and encouraged students to take advantage of the events hosted by Raymond and 2008 this coming weekend.

- VPOp explained that information for the first issue of VSA Today will be compiled this week, and urged Council members to contact her with any material they would like to submit.

16. Adjourn