

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## VSA Council Minutes, Oct. 24, 2010

### 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### 2 Attendance

-All here

### 3 Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from 10/10

b. Allocation of \$500 to Philatheus from Collaboration Fund

-All approved.

### 4 Forum: Chris Roellke, Dean of the College

Dean Roellke came to update us on campus wide activities and advancements being made this year. He touched on the volume of downsizing over the past year. Vassar lost 13 employees in the dean of college division last year, all voluntarily except for one. The college decided not to replace the Associate Dean of the college which led to extensive reallocation of responsibilities in the department. Vassar is pleased with how things have gone and the staff are adapting well.

The wonderful tradition of the student vs. faculty basketball game is once again happening this year. There is also a big party being planned in NYC to launch the sesquicentennial celebrations. Furthermore, they are planning a clean-up of the creek which feeds into Sunset Lake. Founders' Day this year is going to include Mathew's Follies, a sort of talent show.

Overall Dean Roellke was pleased with how things are going this year. There have been concerns about alcohol consumption, but action has been taken, and he's especially impressed with what the VSA is doing. It was the severity of the cases that was worrisome, but he is very pleased with the conversations being held regarding this issue. He stressed that their main concern is always student safety.

-2011: alternative space? -They are looking to create a good environment to do other things besides drinking, particularly for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Ideas have been music, ping pong tables, foosball, etc. They are working on identifying the space to do this; ideas have been Upsie, ACDC, and the room with the rocks. They are looking especially for a healthy environment and to fast track it, working full speed. Dean Roellke's interns and Cappy's are working on it and finding the space.

-TAs: don't stress alcohol free aspect because it might turn many students off.

-Joss: in support of positive way of addressing this issue rather than strong handed approach.

Pres: this weekend? The college is planning to send pizza around, and they will have trick 0' treating at Cappy and the Dean's houses. They are also chartering (Transcare) out more

emergency care services due to history of students in need-\$150 per hr. They are going with advanced life support, rather than basic life support.

-Lathrop: any way they can bring pizza earlier? 8 or 8:30 would be a better target time. - yes

-2011: costume contest planned, each dorm doing something different, each dorm sends a few people to main contest. -Stonybrook had a Redwatch program trying to train actual students to become first response care providers. Vassar has about 8 students involved in this program here, but they would be happy to expand this number. The existence of combination of energy drinks/alcohol has caused problems; some colleges are banning them, we're waiting to see.

-2011: made 4 loko posters to raise awareness.

-Cushing: beverage with pizza should not be caffeinated, something other than soda.

-2014: the FDA won't ban these drinks in time, before other ones comes up.

-Student Life: If we decided to ban them, College Life would be in charge of this, they would be enforced by security. Process of getting an EMS call: follow-up is educational, not punitive. Some colleges have point systems, but it's been decided that this wouldn't work for Vassar.

-Student life: what did the trustees say last weeks when they came? Committee on student affairs- VSA and interns helped; talked about having seniors so far away that they're not involved in campus life. Proactive discussions taking place this year. Someone said that happily this year has been "exhilaratingly normal".

## 5 Executive Board Reports

### a. Student Life

Cultural audit committee met before break. VSA is talking about what they want its role to be. Advisory board is recruiting students not from the VSA. When the VSA goals were sent out, one of the main concerns was dining on campus; it is being worked on.

### b. Academics

Majors fair will be held soon. Meeting to talk about the 24 hr study space. Survey on PQs?

## 6 Allocation of \$1,700 to Vassar Dems from Council Discretionary

-guest: we have 35 students committed to going to Washington DC. At least 16 of them would need lodging. The proposed sum would only cover chartering the bus, not including driver tip, lodging, or parking. Members are expected to pay at least \$20 for the trip. Well over half of the people are members of the club, but 10-15 are from the general population. -2012, Joss abstaining, all the rest in favor. Passed.

## 7 Allocation to MICA

25 people coming on the trip. Finance committee gave approximately the same amount to Dems, about \$50 per person.

Socos- why didn't the 2 trips collaborate? -They've been planning for a long time and weren't aware that MICA was doing this until recently.

Ferry abstaining. Town students opposed. All else in favor, passes.

#### 8 Mug Proposal

In the past, the Mug has been used for a variety of activities, but this isn't possible this year.

Conversation about removing bar service from the mug, very little alcohol sold in general.

TAs- capacity capped at small number, 150 people.

Activities: we want students to be able to do what they want instead of Aramark.

Unconventional spaces is key. Important that this is a student initiative. It is currently the only place on campus where alcohol is licensed.

2011: because of the rocks, the Aula might not be a good place for the alternative space.

Joss: might be worth pointing out to Aramark that it's very expensive to maintain the license.

Socos- would it put a bartender out of a job? -Finance- it would free up a position perhaps for a mug manager. Could potentially be used as a smoothie bar.

TAs-worried that all the equipment will be removed if this passes. -Activities- not necessarily.

Joss- worried that if not removed, it might limit space for other proposals.

all in favor to pass this. Motion passes.

#### 9 Open Discussion

-2011: sat in on ABC who are on campus 3 times a year; they are another board like the board of trustees; operations and 2011 are student observers. They talked a lot about engaging the alums. V-net, a little hard to use, under discussion how to improve it. Lack of pre-med/pre-law advising among alums. Mind the Gap in Feb to make students aware of the \$42,000 that's provide by donations, etc. that allows students be here.

-Pres- Ed Pitman is the new VSA advisor.

-Raymond- haunted house this Friday 8-11, scared and undeclared.

-TAs- senior hosted trick or treat: giving houses candy, black and orange balloons outside participating houses, on Friday at the THs 7:30-8 and TAs 8:30-9 p.m. Trying to promote being a kid again.

#### 10 Open Discussion

-2011: 210 days until graduation. Halloween schedule: Party on Saturday-Ghouls Gone Wilde, Victorian ball theme. Fun run at 11 a.m. starting at Main Circle and ending at Rocky, trick o' treating in dorms afterwards, pie eating contest afterwards, show at Upsie around 8 with bands dressed up as zombie versions of bands they're covering, 2 movies will be shown until past midnight(Hocus Pocus and The Crazies). Campus wide costume contest also being planned, tickets being printed tomorrow, ahead of time=\$5 for seniors, \$7 for underclassmen, day of = \$8 for underclassmen, \$7 seniors. Dance is from 10-2. Will send out schedule by Monday night.

-Academics: good for council to show up to these events. EMT will be at the entrance table all through the night, not letting in inebriated students.

-Motion to adjourn: 2013. All in favor except for Joss and Activities.