

VSA Council Minutes

October 5, 2008

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM.

2. Attendance

Proxies: Strong.

Guests: Andrew Bennett (Student Asst. to the President), Matthew Brock (Misc), Brian Farkas (Misc), Julianne Herts (Misc), Emma Mitchell (Misc), Molly Turpin (Misc), Michael Mestitz, Brian Paccione (Vassar Filmmakers), Anabel Graff (ViCE), Mikey Velarde (MEChA), Anastasia Hardin (MEChA), Keity Gomez (MEChA), Alice Chang (Vassar Filmmakers), Charlie Dobb, Sara Kemper (VSA Auditor Position).

3. Consent Agenda

The President presented Council with the consent agenda, which included the adoption of minutes from 9/28/08. No objections were made, and the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

4. Announcements

a. Meet Me in Poughkeepsie

The VP for Activities reported that there had been over 1000 signups for "Meet Me in Poughkeepsie" events. She also announced that preparations are underway for the kick-off event in UpCDC on October 9th from 7-9pm.

b. Fines

The VP for Finance announced that the following organizations have been fined \$10 for failure to submit their contracts on time: Ferry, Aikido, CSA, College Dems, EMS, Improv, Unbound, Green Party, Vassar Greens. The following groups have been fined \$25 for failure to submit their org contracts: Town Students, Amnesty, ASA, Broadway A Cappella, Camerata, Christian Fellowship, SAU, Vastards, Vox, Water Polo.

c. October Break Meeting Schedule

The President announced that Council will not be meeting October 19th, but will be meeting October 26, 2008 at 7PM.

5. Reports

a. Committee Report – RLAC

A representative from RLAC outlined the committee's basic agenda for the year. Discussions will be focused on intersession housing for Spring Break, possible design and implementation of a pilot program of shared governments in Joss, the new THs and 10 person Co-ops, review of rules for House Advisors and House Fellows, room draw procedures for previous Davison residents, and assessment of renovations policies, and.

b. Committee Report – Bookstore

Andrew Bennett, of Bookstore of the Future, informed Council that Vassar has just signed a letter of intent to work with Barnes & Noble on its new bookstore. The college is currently in negotiations to hire an architect, though Barnes & Noble already has its own. There are two conceptual plans, both involving space in the College Center near the Faculty Commons. A coffee café must be installed, given Barnes & Noble's contractual obligation to Starbucks, but its size and location have not yet been determined. The committee has expressed a strong desire to make local pastries available for sale at said café.

c. Exec Report – Activities

The VP for Activities announced that she has been working with the Campus Activities Office to help orgs plan and execute the best events possible. This has mostly involved booking the appropriate times and spaces for events, based on organizations' needs. She has been working with SARC and Campus Activities to evaluate campus party policies, mostly those related to food and single entry points.

Activities is also in the process of reviewing applications and approving new organizations, but is attempting to be selective about org certification, given the VSA's budgeting constraints. She also serves on the Leadership for Change Committee, and informed Council that its workshop series is well underway.

d. ViCE Report

Anabel Graff, ViCE Director, presented Council with a brief update on ViCE's plans and recent activities. Both NoViCE and After Hours have now started up, and the Roosevelt Theater has been rented out for "Meet Me in Poughkeepsie" on Friday. Preparations are also coming along for Saturday's MSTRKRFT: Fist of God in UpCDC. ViCE is especially excited for the event, as Vassar is the first college MSTRKRFT will have visited, and the group is supposed to be bringing "a great setup". As one of ViCE's central concerns is avoiding certain issues that arose at the "Girl Talk" concert, there will be 10 Vassar security guards present to deal with any security issues, and all attendees will need Vassar IDs or guest passes to gain entry.

e. Finance Report

The VP for Finance presented Council with the Finance Report, as of 10/2/09. He explained that the largest debt is from the Class of 2008, which the VSA will pay off using the Supplemental Budgeting Fund.

6. Appointment of Jennie Msall and Cati Leonard to Bookstore of the Future

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Jennie Msall and Cati Leonard to Bookstore of the Future. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

7. Appointment of Michael Mestitz to Campus Master Planning

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Michael Mestitz to Campus Master Planning. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

8. Appointment of Sheila Moussavi and Lauren MacLean to Community Works Student Committee

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Sheila Moussavi and Lauren MacLean to the Community Works Student Committee. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

9. Appointment of Sara Kemper as VSA Auditor

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Sara Kemper as VSA Auditor. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

10. Allocation of \$3737.34 from Hosting Fund to MeCHA

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$3737.34 from the Hosting Fund to MeCHA for its Fall 2008 E.C.C.S.F. Conference. Noyes moved to change the allocation to \$5000 from Council Discretionary to MeCHA; all were in favor and the motion passed. All were in favor of the revised allocation proposal, and the motion passed.

11. Allocation of \$125 from Mid-Hudson Valley Fund to VPAC

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$125 to VPAC from the Mid-Hudson Valley Fund for its trip to Dia Beacon. 2009 moved to amend the allocation to \$250, explaining that the org would still have time to advertise the trip to other students; 2011 abstained, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed. Finance moved to call to question; none were opposed, and the motion passed. 2011 abstained, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

12. Approval of Capital Budgeting Allocations

The VP for Finance moved to approve the Capital Budgeting Allocations, as presented to Council. Brian Paccione, of Vassar Filmmakers, explained that the org has received great support from these Capital Budgeting allocations in the past. It has already received funds for one piece of equipment, but would still like financial support for the purchase of a microphone, microphone accessories and mixer. 2011 expressed support for the org's request, and voiced a desire to allocate money from another fund at a later date. 2010 moved to call to question; all were in favor, and the motion passed. All were in favor of approving the Capital Budgeting Allocations, and the motion passed.

13. Approval of Supplemental Budgeting Allocations

The VP for Finance moved to approve the Supplemental Budgeting Allocations, as presented to Council. All were in favor of approving the allocations, and the motion passed.

14. Allocation of \$4000 from Council Discretionary to Meet Me in Poughkeepsie

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$4000 from Council Discretionary to Meet Me in Poughkeepsie. He elaborated that the event will be a great means of strengthening the relationship between Vassar and the local community. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

15. Gender Neutral Housing Proposal Endorsement

The VP for Student Life moved to endorse the Gender Neutral Housing Policy Recommendation, as drafted by the Exec Board and presented at the previous Council meeting. He explained that the document was revised over the past week and that the word "gender" was changed to "sex", per 2009's suggestion. All were in favor of the motion, and the proposal was endorsed.

16. Open Discussion

- 2009 announced that 235 days remained until graduation.
- TS encouraged students to attend VRDT's First Showings on October 10th.
- The VP for Operations reminded Council that various VSA positions are still open, and encouraged students to apply.
- Andrew Bennett mentioned Jeremy Bright's recent Opinion piece in the Misc , as it was a response to the CIE statement endorsed at the September 29th Council meeting. He suggested that a response to Bright's piece be issued from the student body. Council members had varied reactions to Bennett's proposal, though the President stressed that the VSA had already made clear its position on the issue of undocumented students by approving CIE's statement. Student Life then proposed that the Misc remove the option for anonymous posting on its site to issue a strong statement about how opinions are expressed on campus.

12. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 8:42PM.