

1 Call to Order

-The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2 Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from 10/31

-all approved

3 Executive Board Reports

a. Activities

-we'll have the safe space by January. Trying to make sure that people are spending wisely. We'll be collaborating with ViCE on a sesquicentennial event as soon as we get back; Joss is willing to help plan.

b. Finance

-VSA is in good financial health. Anyone can come to meetings, keep that in mind. Activities- the calendar is filling up really fast for the spring, so make sure dorms have spots for events.

4 CCL Report

CCL is the main advisory body to the president. Last week they approved VSA mug change in alcohol. They discuss relevant issues on campus to students and faculty. They have sub-committees for different issues. They are looking for a better representative for the food committee. They had an open discussion about how to talk about sensitive issues more, especially the drinking issue. They also talked about the safe space issue to counter the hook-up culture, etc. Their pre-Halloween meeting they talked mostly about how the community has reacted to our drinking, Halloween party, and ambulance usage. Big ideas were using education and student leaders to counter dangerous drinking and looking to other colleges that have had success in that area.

5 CCP Report

Committee on Curricular Policies. Social Sciences rep came. They've had 5 meetings and have formed 5 sub-committees. They cover everything academic, peer advising, multi-disciplinary majors, staffing concerns, etc. They've been looking at the academic redemption policy, which would allow students with a D to retake a course; they recently passes this, so now the faculty has to decide to vote it into policy or not.

6 Decertification of Asian Quilt

They are supposed to publish once a year, but they haven't for the past few years. They didn't table at the activities fair which put them on the Activities alert radar. An organization can be automatically decertified if they're inactive for at least 2 semesters.

Our first duty is to offer our help to make them more active, but if they don't want to then there's no point. They had \$650 allocated them this year.

-All in favor of motion to decertify Asian Quilt.

7 Allocation of \$700 to MeCha from the Community Fund

Ammendment: make it \$900. This coming Saturday they have an event inviting other colleges to target teenagers from our local area, they're bringing in non-profits like Planned Parenthood, a DJ, workshops, etc. 11-5 pm. all day thing. Very cool event involving community.

- Amendment adopted all in favor.

- Motion passes all in favor, abstaining Town Students.

8 Allocation of \$1,000 to VISA from the Collaboration Fund

Every year they have an international education week called kaleidoscope. They have talent week, photo contest, 15-19<sup>th</sup> of November. They are actually requesting \$2,500. Their total costs are \$5,050. They received a lot more last year, so they feel like they deserve more this year, because last year their initial budget was \$2,000 and this year it's \$700. Finance thinks that people could pay tickets prices to fundraise. Leftover food would be stored at a faculty member's house and used for international Thanksgiving. They are trying very hard to publicize this to freshmen especially.

- Motion to amend to \$2000 by Finance. Questions about food choices, and amount of money made from merchandise sales and ticket sales. Last year there wasn't a profit made on merchandise. Activities stressed how important this event is and how it provides a creative alternative to campus dining. They order to feed 200-300 people. They are putting a lot of their budget into this because it is a very popular event. Motion passed all in favor.

- Motion passes all in favor, except for TAs who was abstaining.

9 Allocation of \$7,000 to ViCE from the Speakers & Lecturers Fund

Joseph Gordon Levit can't come, so they're applying for Dustin Black (wrote Milk). He is outspoken about gay rights, has testified in Congress in California, has an interesting family history, and is now a very successful screenwriter. He's living proof that it does get better. QGBC is collaborating. March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the date they would get him which appears clear on the calendar. They haven't decided to open it to the public yet; they would need a bigger venue if they were to do this. 2014 says this would be a cool event to open up to the community, especially high school students. Finance suggested the Chapel as a good

venue. Several people expressed appreciation for the importance of this message to Vassar, even though he doesn't have as much star factor as Levit.

- All in favor, motion passes.

10 Allocation of \$175 to VARC from the collaboration fund

- Lots of questions, but we have to vote on it today

- Lathrop saw them outside Retreat promoting vegan options.

- Their budget is very small, something like \$50.

- Amendment to \$200 passed all in favor.

- All in favor, passed

11 Open Discussion

- Harvest Ball is this weekend

- Discussion about opinion article written in Misc. perhaps criticizing MICA; council seemed to agree that everyone can express opinions in the way that they want. Council members need to know that their opinions do reflect on the council and that everyone should feel comfortable coming to the executive board with problems.

- Socos wanted to reiterate that we can take as much time as it takes on any issue that we feel is important—he thinks they should express personal opinion, but know that they're representing constituents too.

- Lathrop wants to focus more on operations of this event, rather than content, council members shouldn't vote for fear of appearing biased, and opinions can be made separately from council.

- Noyes supported Main bringing to the public the issue that council had with Mica, not just to show that they didn't like them; writing for the Misc. is a good public space and she felt that the exec board is condescending and Mica had attitude.

- Finance wants to promote constant discussion.

- 2011 feels that having to run opinions by the exec council is belittling, and that they need to have more council wide discussions.

- Student Life felt that the article was about process and that it was a question that should have come to the exec board first.

- Main felt that they were rushed because the agenda was sent an hour before the meeting, he hadn't talked to constituents, and he was erring on the side of caution, so he was trying to get this point across in the Misc. and he's happy with his decision.

- IMPROVE COMMUNICATION!!!

- Lathrop wants to find positive aspects that we can take from this discussion—increased communication, notice beforehand, and respect for amount of work the exec board puts in.
- Ferry wants people to be aware that the general campus is already wary of council and that the article may have alienated us further.
- Strong wants to find positive aspects of this discussion, changes that can be made, maybe more smaller conversations outside of VSA meetings because they can get long.
- 2014 wants to focus less on personal opinions because there are varying perspectives within classes.
- President stressed ability to table discussions and proposed a meeting outside of council about Robert's rules.
- Cushing stresses the importance of remaining respectful and optimistic as the discussion continues. She believes the article was not purposefully alienating and actually believes it highlights the varying opinions on council.
- Strong wants to address fact that it seems like exec council has the only real power, even if this isn't true.
- Noyes apologizes for her personal attack.
- 2011-201 days till graduation.
- Academics- majors fair on Wednesday..thank you for this conversation, email constituents so people go! Harvest Ball in Upc, theme is mascaaed ☺ jazz music from 10-2. Happy Brithday Davison!!
- 2013: motion to adjourn, all in favor, except Joss and 2013.