

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

VSA Council Minutes for Dec. 5, 2010

1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

2 AttendanceOperations

All here, except for Davison (proxy came in a few minutes late), and two proxies (Town Students and Noise)

3 Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from 11/28

b. Allocation of \$450 to VIS from Speakers & Lecturers

-All adopted

4 Forum: Don Marsala, Director of Safety and Security

-They caught the suspect from the incidents recently on campus. He's now in jail and we're safe again!

-Joss: question about certifying security individuals. They do the in-service training on campus every year. Joss expressed concern about ability to control large crowds, saying that he's heard and seen problems at the Shiva rave and on campus concerts. Mr. Marsala's response was that students need to control themselves and that campus security calls the police if things get out of hand. They hire 4 extra officers usually for big events.

-Academics asked about alerts. There are two different types, an advisory and an alert depending on the severity of the problem. They send out updates on these alerts after they've been resolved. Why did we get the recent alert 24 hours after the event? The alert is drafted and has to go through a few different people before it's sent out.

-2011 responded to Joss's concerns saying that often it has to do with fire hazard regulations in the sense that too many people are put in a small space and then there's no way to get them out.

-TAs asked about security officers finding people passed out due to 4loko and if this is still happening. The response was that those cases have been dramatically reduced since the beginning of the semester.

-Main was concerned about periphery incidents, but Mr. Marsala said that any issues they've had have been resolved and culprits have been caught. They now close the gate at 6 p.m. and have someone up on the hill all the time. This has not diminished the coverage of the dorms.

-Lathrop wanted to know what they're doing in response to the groping incident. He said that they are strongly encouraging people to be conscious of piggy backing and propped doors. CRC or 7333 are the numbers to call. She also reiterated that the Shiva rave was very scary and she doesn't think it's appropriate that students had to step up to keep control. He responded that they debriefed extensively after that event.

-2014 asked about how many officers are on all shifts and he gave us a solid breakdown of their staff. Policy on a shut-down event or complaint is that they do a report, write everyone's names down and follow up on it the next day.

-Socos was troubled about the criminal activity happening on campus and how security treats all strangers on campus as criminals.

-2011 expressed concerns about how only 2 parties can be registered every weekend and how this causes excessive amounts of people in one place.

-Activities stressed how the Shiva rave was a problem because of the space and suggested that crowd control be incorporated into training for the officers.

-Student Life asked about security staff breakdown. They always have a CRC person, 3 cars going around, 1-2 bike patrol people, and extra officers for big events. They have a very loyal staff and get little turnaround.

-Several students expressed gratitude for what they're doing.

-2014 asked about security surveys to see how students feel about security. They do take place.

5 Executive Board Reports

a. Student Life- next semester they will have more of an agenda. They have gotten good feedback from many people outside of council and they're very thankful to them. They really want to make sure to encourage an inclusive student body. They've also had the food committee chair become part of the student life committee.

b. Academics- They've been working a lot on creating more communication between different committees. They are having a meeting on mini courses soon as well.

6 Course Repeat Policy MemorandumAcademics

This allows students to repeat a course if they got a D. This policy is for all Vassar students, and not a product of Vassar becoming more diverse.

-Motion to endorse this policy, passes with all in favor.

7 Certification of HYPEActivities

-A dance troupe that reaches out to the community, gives classes, and just dances. It's a year old now and they've gained lots of attention. They let anyone who wants to dance; it's not about skill, but passion. They want to get VSA help on buying uniforms, bringing in choreographers, and having a performance at the end of the year. They are very active—they have practice 3 times a week and a student body exec group. All of Activities committee expressed extreme excitement about his org and what it's doing. Student Life asked what it's doing to differentiate itself from the other dance groups on campus and they responded that a big thing was going into the community, getting people to go who have never danced and think they can't dance. They feel like there are so many a capella groups, but not that many dance groups to choose from—diversity/options. There are usually 20-30 people at each meeting every week.

-Motion to certify them, all in favor.

8 Open Discussion..... Anyone

-2011: 168 days until graduation.

-Finance: We need to move money around for the sesquicentennial celebration; they decided on \$10,000 so this has to be taken from the discretionary fund. This money mostly goes into food and production costs because they have alum DJs doing the music. It will be the only event that weekend, 2 weeks after we get back from break.

-Activities and Operations abstained, but all else in favor. This motion passes.

-Operations talked about an event called The Birthday Party where anyone can bake a cake for an on campus competition. Keep this in mind!

-2011 asked about bringing in a big performance for either 150 or 100 days. They have talked about Super Mash Brothers. They are wondering about how much to charge, where the money would come from, and deciding on the final band. They currently have \$2,500 budgeted for the entire event and ViCE would need 3.5-4 at least, so the financial aspect still needs to be worked on. They are thinking of having it in Upc and there was a lot of support expressed for this.

-Holiday get together on the 10th at Travis's house, thank you everyone for a great semester.

Respond to the gift exchange. Everyone needs to push and we can do more.

-Joss is proud to be part of this council and wanted to reiterate that you don't eat most fancy cakes.

-Academics motion to adjourn: all in favor.