

VSA Council Minutes

February 21, 2010

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05

2. Attendance

Davison Proxy

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes from 2/14

b. Allocation of \$250 from Speakers, Lecturers to Filmmakers

4. Special Guest Bret Ingerman, Vice President for Computing and Information Services.

Bret Ingerman, always a pleasure to have at council, arrive with the next big news in information technology. For months, council had been on the edge of their seats, waiting for the new announcements and the rumor mill had been going wild: would this show the release of the new vPad? Mr. Ingerman moved to a slightly unexpected route when he announced that the largest change would be the removal of telephone lines from the dorm rooms starting next year. This would save the college around \$500,000 a year. They will instead be replacing the hall phones with the brand new vPhone, a large, steel hall-phone that would, in theory be indestructible to roving hooligans.

Mr. Ingerman also announced that the Voice Directory for students would be disappearing, since no one has phones anymore. Activities wondered if the current system could be improved and, lo and behold, it can. It seems that the company checks them a lot.

Main wondered if registration would be moving online, Mr. Ingerman politely directed her to the registrar.

Student Life asked if there were any updates related to the cell phone tower. Mr. Ingerman replied that they were trying to figure out somewhere to put the ugly box things that usually sit at the bottom of cell towers. If all goes according to plan they will start working this summer.

Student Life also wondered about bandwidth. She was told that we were not getting anymore at this time.

Main hoped that in the future they could do something about signing in to the internet every single time a student gets online. Mr. Ingerman hoped that they could do something about it too.

2011 brought forth to the table a proposal on utilizing the email capabilities of google. Mr. Ingerman countered the proposal claiming that it would be expensive and would be basically impossible to retrieve information if they were to end their service with google. Finally, it raised privacy issues, as google saves everything.

At this point, with the Speakers List exhausted, Mr. Ingerman made the mistake of mentioning v-print. It was at this point that the TH's, in a fit of righteous rage, could no longer restrain herself and she burst forth with a passionate, desperate cry of: "it never

works!"

Finance agreed, he had been trouble printing some PDF's and he wondered if there was a way to cancel a print job if it takes forever to load. He was told that they couldn't, afterwards, he asked Mr. Ingerman to install Flash and things onto the library computers. It was to be done.

Cushing wondered if we could get a signup sheet next to the printers so that students could detail the problems.

Student Life pointed out that, ironically, most of her problems have happened in the library. 2010 agreed.

Noyes wanted more color printers, 2010 just wanted more printers. According to 2011 the box to add money to v-print doesn't work.

2010 also wondered if there was a fax machine for students to use. Alyssa, the wonderful intern of Cappy and the CDO, pointed out that they have one. Everyone was happy.

5. Judicial Report, Daniel Salton

This didn't happen, as Dan was most likely off somewhere being Judicial.

6. Exec Board Reports

a. Activities

In lieu of the recent visit by the Gentlemen's Sandwich Club, Activities got up council's hopes for some entertaining new organizations, unfortunately of the 7 new organizations desiring certification, all were normal. He also announced that there was a new method of transferring v-cash for orgs. Hopefully it will only take a month or two, or three, now. He also gave a fast forward to April, where there is SO MUCH! going on. Finally, he expressed a little bit of hatred for B&G fines and hoped that the whole process could be-- that's right, you guessed it-- more transparent.

b. Finance

Finance gloomily looked upon the council, his hands shaking as he reported the dower news: the VSA was not in good financial health. That wasn't actually true, it's doing pretty well. He put up a chart that outlined the amount of money left in funds. The most striking being the 1% still remaining in Council Discretionary.

Strong pointed out that her budget wasn't changing. This struck people as odd, why would you complain about excess money?

Noyes took it to a whole new level when she pointed out that her budget had increased.

This struck everyone as absolutely bizarre, and had the Noyes treasurer been around, I'm sure there would have been calls for impeachment. 2010 wondered if the new, New Orgs knew about the new, new org fund. According to Finance, the new, New Orgs knew about the new, New Org fund. (Ever write a word so many times it loses all meaning?)

7. Transfer of Funds

a. Finance moved to move \$3,000 from Hosting to CD. Activities pointed out that most of the dates were booked and a hosting event seeming unlikely. All were all for this.

b. Finance then moved to move \$1,000 from mid-hudson to CD
Suddenly tension broke out in the room. (And we had made it so far...) Noyes wondered why, if council knew that the newest, new orgs were not using the new, New Org fund, then why couldn't they move money from the new, New Org fund, unused by the new, New Orgs to Council Discretionary. This was news to Finance. Activities cautioned them from doing it, as there were seven new orgs that would be coming before the council soon and no one knew what those new orgs might need from the new orgs fund.
TH's didn't really like mid-hudson getting that low
The motion was withdrawn.

c. Finance moved to move \$2,000 from the New Org Fund to CD
Activities opposed.

8. Allocation of \$1,000 from Council Discretionary to Pro-Health

Pro-Health came in to announce that, once again, they were doing the relay for LIFE! Last year they raised 17,000 clams. (Clams means dollars in ancient Phoenician.) Everyone was in favor.

9. Allocation of \$1,000 from Hosting to VPI

VPI brought in several copies of their magazine for council. This is going to be their 10th reunion, which is odd since the program has existed for 30 years.

2012 thought that this was important.

2011 wondered why the money had changed from \$2,000 to \$1,000. It as reduced for several reasons, such as point driving.

Academics abstained. All others were in favor.

10. Allocation of \$600 from Council Discretionary to Class of 2010

2010 wanted money so that our Daisy Chain could look beautiful. Everyone awwed, and Activities and the Notetaker reminisced about their hot, sweaty, thankless time as Daisies. 2012 and Davison Abstained, 2010 did as well, but she totally didn't have to. All else were in favor.

11. Allocation of \$7,000 from Speakers, Lecturers and Panels to Hip-Hop 101

Jay began by saying that the allocation was totally random and that they really wanted to bring somebody cool to campus. This someone cool was a person that the notetaker had never heard of, but Hip-Hop seemed adamant that it would draw a crowd.

2012 felt that a double standard existed between Hip-Hop and ViCE. The President cautioned people from making the comparison, as each organization is completely different. TH's felt that this was directly relevant to ViCE, in some way or other. Operations reminded council that not all organizations can be ViCE. ViCE is intended to be large, consist of effectively six large organizations that cover most of the programming costs on campus. They are huge, they are meant to be huge.

Activities agreed, ViCE does a massive amount of programming, it is like comparing mountains to molehills, much of their cost is going towards subsidies for the student body. Jay felt that the subsidies were silly.

Student Life worried that this event catered mostly to off campus individuals and proposed that Jay cut back on beer and food for the audience. Jay countered that it is vitally important to the success of the event that they provide beer, since the community members would just bring it on otherwise.

Main thought it was important to make another comparison reminding people that there is only one Hip-Hop group but seven theatre groups.

Cushing felt bad that people felt bad for making the comparison that the President encouraged council not to make.

2011, who serves in ViCE, felt that it was unfair to view ViCE as a large monolithic organization with one opinion and one budget.

Finance felt that this was an example of poor budgeting by Hip-Hop since they should have saved for their largest event.

Academics didn't want to give out so much money, and encouraged council to really re-think how they spend. Activities and Finance opposed the motion to amend, all others were in favor.

Finance noted that the VSA only has a finite budget, and that, according to the numbers, only four organizations get more money than hip-hop.

Lathrop felt that we should spend, spend, spend. Activities reminded her that we have no idea what unexpected events may be arising in the future.

All were in favor.

12. Open Discussion

2010: 90 days left till graduation, 10 weeks till thesis, pages written, Zero!

Noyes announced that DayGlo! Would be happening, eliciting a delightful F**K YEAH! from the Notetaker.

Campus Solidarity Working Group showed up to announce that they didn't know what to do this semester. They wondered if they as students had sacrificed enough. They were hoping to ask students to give some, perhaps get organizations to donate money.

Operations felt that this was really cute, but cautioned them that the transfer of money within a non-profit can be ridiculously difficult and the college will not accept that sort of thing.

CSWG was hoping for a Great Works donation, however Finance cautioned them that they would need to find a specific item or service to donate to.

CSWG wasn't sure what to do, since they didn't really have anything planned, but they thought it would be a really good idea to raise some money.

The President wondered what exactly they wanted to do with this money? They responded that they really wanted students to help and to build community and...yeah, that's right, solidarity.

2011 suggested that they do a referendum. Raymond wondered if Council could donate, he was informed that this was from the drained Council Discretionary fund.

TH's suggested that they hop on the Senior Class gift agenda, since it is something that helps everyone. Ferry agreed, wondering why they didn't like the gift. Operations reaffirmed that the gift already had a precedent and had an IRS thing.

CSWG responded that they had been thinking about things and they really wanted to give something back, something socially responsible. You know.

2010 wondered how the basketball game was looking. Operations held up a large bag of money and shouted "THE ENDOWMENT IS FIXED!" They gave some special seats to prospective students.

Activities wondered if council could do a council dinner again, since they really need to talk about things like budgeting and explain ViCE.

TH's "felt dumb." She worried that the council didn't know what they were doing, and that they were not as versed as the exec board.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30, or so.