

**VSA Council Minutes**  
*February 3, 2008*

**I. Call to Order**

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

**2. Attendance**

Proxies: Davison, Raymond, TA.

Guests: Evan Altshuler, Natalia Doan, Brian Farkas (Miscellany News), Shaina Horowitz, Olivia Mak, Acacia O'Connor, Yasmin Roberti, Jamie Rosen, Sam Rosen-Amy, Laura Saiz, Abra Sussman.

**3. Consent Agenda**

**a. Minutes from December 9**

**b. Minutes from January 27**

**c. Allocation of \$300 from Media Publishing to ViCE After Hours**

No objections were made, and the consent agenda was adopted as presented.

**4. Reports**

**a. Committee on Curricular Policies**

A representative from CCP reported that the committee has been talking most extensively about the possible faculty switch to 2-2. He reported that the switch is most likely not going to happen, as there is not sufficient funding to hire enough new professors, because the switch would result in a loss of about a fifth of the offered courses. The dialogue has included talking about the effect of 2-2 on introductory-level courses, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs, future class years, and the ability of students to complete their majors. In considering these factors, the committee came to the conclusion that a switch to 2-2 is not feasible at the present time.

The representative then reported on other topics that had been discussed by the committee, including the College Course Program, giving credit to prison internships, and changes occurring in specific majors. The committee had its first meeting last week, which was an hour shorter than usual, and the representative made note that there were communication problems between the students and professors on the committee.

Departments have submitted new mission statements for the beginning of the year. The registrar will be crunching the numbers of 2-2's effect on course offerings before the next meeting. The future of 2-2 will include a discussion of the timeframe necessary for adoption, what courses will be cut, how students will still be able to complete their majors, and in general what needs to be done over a certain period of time to effectively adopt the new policy.

**b. Computing and Educational Technology**

A representative from the committee reported that they had their first meeting the previous Tuesday, and that the committee will be looking for more members this semester. Also discussed was a new technology fund being made available to professors to utilize new uses of technology in the classroom, in order to encourage professors to incorporate technology into a classroom environment. Main asked the representative for an update on the V-Print quota program, and suggested that financial aid students should be able to apply for larger quotas.

**c. Library Committee**

A representative from the Library Committee reported that the committee had met once or twice since their last report, and that their meeting schedule is very irregular. The committee has been discussing the incorporation of new technology in the library, most specifically in the process of searching for library resources. The library has received a demo of a new search method for resources, which is similar to Google and is supposedly much easier to use than the current method. However, the new method is incredibly expensive, and a decision on its adoption will not be made for a while. The library has also purchased a Kindle book reader, which could possibly be used in the future for students to receive their books and readings electronically.

The representative expressed excitement about the Senior Class gift, which is the purchase of new library carrels for seniors. Upon questioning about the proposed creation of a 24-hour study space, the representative made note that there were staffing problems with the proposal, and that such a study space is not currently feasible. 2009 questioned the representative about changing bathrooms in the library to become gender-neutral, and they responded that there currently exists a list of bathroom all around campus (including library bathrooms) that would become gender-neutral.

#### **d. Science Facility Planning**

A representative from the committee reported that they had their first meeting on the day before classes began. They saw a presentation from a landscaping firm from New York City, but did not consider the presentation very informative. The committee has to pick a landscaping firm to perform the construction, and will be viewing more presentations from different firms. The college has still not decided whether or not to tear down Mudd. The committee meets from 12:30-1:30 on Tuesdays, and may be looking for another student to serve on the committee. 2010 expressed disappointment that the meeting times are not conducive toward students' schedules.

#### **e. Admissions and Financial Aid**

The committee has met twice since their last VSA report. At their first meeting, they discussed the methods utilized by Vassar to gather information about potential students, including traveling to schools that they have targeted for a long time, attending college fairs, meet with counselors from New York, and looking at students' PSAT scores. Additionally, they discussed having a bus trip and a summer camp on campus for local students.

At their second meeting, the committee learned that David Borus had met with the Poughkeepsie High School, and discussed how to get local students and low-income students to come to Vassar. Three suggestions were presented: providing enhanced financial aid to local students, offering merit awards to juniors, and offering a \$1000 scholarship to a Poughkeepsie High School junior, regardless of their final college decision. Another suggestion was to have students attend one course on campus free of charge, to show that Vassar is a viable college option.

The representative discussed the committee's continuing frustration that students' voices aren't being heard, due to overpowering voices from administrators, including David Borus. In response to a question from 2011, the representative explained that local students are being targeted because they are often low-income and minority students, and Vassar eventually hopes to broaden their recruitment methods to other such students. The college is currently collecting data about local students, and recruitment is purely in discussion right now, with nothing firmly planned for next year.

In response to a question about how Davison going offline would affect the size of the Class of 2012, the President reported that the target size had already been set. Council briefly engaged in a discussion about the relationship between Admissions being

need-blind and the awarding of merit-based scholarships. 2008 commented that giving merit scholarships and being need-blind are not mutually exclusive.

#### **f. Financial Report**

Finances presented Council with a Financial Report for all VSA organizations. Finances also announced that Ferry was being fined under Article 1 Section 6C, and that the following organizations are being fined \$25 for failure to submit their VSA Org Reports: Aids Ed, Catalyst, Idlewild Theatre, Investment Club, SAU, and Water Polo.

#### **g. Exec Report (Activities)**

Activities reported that in response to the space issues from last semester, the first round of space allocations has occurred. Not all of the space reallocation could happen at once, and the highest-need problems were addressed first. The Leadership for Change program has begun to be marketed, and Activities requested that all Class Presidents include the program in their next email.

He then announced that within the next two weeks, the pilot transportation program will be launched, and will run Monday through Friday. The transportation will be funded by a re-allocation of funds from organizations dependent on taxis. There will be an update on VSA forms on the website for organizations to more effectively navigate VSA forms, and will hopefully avoid some of the former bureaucracy. The V-Card machines for the College Center will arrive tomorrow, and will be up-and-running soon.

Council then engaged in a discussion about the logistics of the new transportation system. Jewett expressed concern that the program wouldn't get enough usage during the week, and Activities responded that it is guaranteed use by internship and work-study programs, effective immediately. The hours of the program will be 1pm-8pm, it will be privately operated by Vassar, and capacity issues should be solved by the program's use of a small school bus. The precise details about how the program will work, including specific details about its five stops and its half-hour loops, are not yet available.

Academics suggested the creation of an online space for students to provide feedback about the usefulness of the program.

### **5. Allocation of \$5000 from Special Events to ViCE**

Finances moved to allocate \$5000 from the Special Events Fund to ViCE. Ferry questioned whether such a large allocation would be wasteful, and Council engaged in a discussion of the question. Activities moved to call the allocation to question; only Noyes voted not in favor, and the motion passed. 2008, 2010, and Ferry abstained to the vote, all else of Council voted in favor, and the allocation passed.

### **6. Allocation of \$1000 from Conference Fund to Polo Team**

Finances moved to allocate \$1000 from the Conference Fund to the Polo Team. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

### **7. Allocation of \$800 from Collaboration to Jewett**

Finances moved to allocate \$800 from the Collaboration Fund to Jewett. Jewett expressed disappointment that the allocation was significantly lower than the amount requested, and Finances responded that the allocation amount was decided based on the average amount allocated for all dorm parties from last semester.

Main moved to amend the allocation to \$1500. Main later moved to amend his amendment to \$1000. Lathrop moved to call the amendment to question; all of Council voted in favor, and the motion passed. All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the allocation was amended.

All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

#### **8. Allocation of \$700 from Speaker's Fund to VARC**

Finances moved to allocate \$700 from the Speaker's Fund to VARC. The President announced that the allocation would be tabled, as no one from VARC was present at the meeting.

#### **9. Allocation of \$600 from Conference to Feminist Alliance**

Finances moved to allocate \$600 from the Conference Fund to Feminist Alliance. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

#### **10. Open Discussion**

- 2008 announced that 112 days remain until commencement.
- The President briefly discussed that JJ Jackson has announced that she will be taking a position at the University of Kentucky. As such, the Dean of the College Review Committee is disbanded, and a search committee for the new Dean will be formed.
- Operations reminded Council that a Council member is necessary on CCT, and that one member should volunteer during the coming week.
- Brian Farkas discussed the Sophomore Class gift, which is the purchase of V-Cash swipe machines for the vending machines on campus. He requested donations from any Council members able to donate extra money from their budgets.
- Student Life clarified the email sent to the student body about the new Town House construction, discussing that while not certain, it is likely that the THs will not be completed in time for the new school year.
- Noyes announced that Professor Plotkin from the Political Science department would be coming to Noyes on Tuesday night to discuss the results from Super Tuesday voting.
- 2011 commended Student Life's article in the Miscellany News about gender-neutral housing.
- Main announced that it would be hosting the Crossover party the following weekend.

#### **11. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 8:35pm.