

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Council Agenda for March 24, 2013

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

If we listened to our intellect, we'd never have a love affair. We'd never have a friendship. We'd never go into business, because we'd be cynical. Well, that's nonsense. You've got to jump off cliffs all the time and build your wings on the way down.

-Ray Bradbury

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Attendance .....Operations
  - Proxies: Lathrop, Town Houses, 2015, Raymond, 2016
  - Absent: Davison
  - Tardy: TAs
- 3 Consent Agenda
  - a. \$450 from Collaboration to MBSA
  - b. \$4,200 from Discretionary to MEChA
  - c. \$1,000 from Community to MEChA
  - d. \$370 from Collaboration to MEChA
  - e. \$1,930 from Discretionary to CHOICE
  - f. \$1,000 from Discretionary to PEACE
  - g. \$774 to Discretionary to 2015
  - h. \$700 from Community to Joss
  - i. Minutes from 3/3 meeting
- 4 Executive Board Reports
  - a. Student Life .....(7 min)
    - 2013 came to Student Life committee with a resolution in support of the creation of a formal training for leaders of athletic teams; it's a project with the Dean of Students. Joss asked who would be included in this. At this point, it's just for Varsity sports leaders.
    - Merge committee with SPECTRANA is under way
    - Elizabeth Strock will be coming to SL tomorrow to talk about the new relationship abuse policy that she wants to push through. Hopefully a resolution will be coming through soon.
  - b. Academics .....(7 min)
    - Student Seminars are moving forward as planned. Applications should open tomorrow evening. We have 18 confirmed seminars running and none of them overlap or occur on weekends!
    - Academics is moving forward with a resolution on coursework in social awareness!

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- 5 An Amendment Concerning Judicial Board Representatives.....Operations (15 min)
  - The one change since last week is that now students who hold different elected positions will not be in the pool of auxiliary members.
  - However, Operations Committee decided the amendment was still important because in the past judicial board representatives have not always fulfilled their duties, so if it does not have to be used in the future then it's still better to have it.
  - Judicial Board Chair Alaric Chinn is here to answer any questions. The majority of the judicial board representatives feel that this amendment is unnecessary.
  - Joss asked why the Dean of Students might find this necessary if the judicial board representatives do not. Chinn thinks it's more about the emergency panels.
  - Cushing asks if the current state of the judicial board – where everyone is fulfilling their responsibilities – is unique to this year. Chinn believes it comes down to the communication that flows within the judicial board and the people in the positions. One improvement would be to better define the Chair position in the VSA governing documents.
  - Academics asked if this amendment would be beneficial for this year or in the future. Chinn responds that it should really never come down to a scenario where no one can serve unless there is a unique emergency. However he thinks it could negatively impact the board by undermining the 16 people who were elected in the first place.
  - Finance mentions that there's no equivalent auxiliary pool for Council.
  - This has the potential to become very unwieldy and inefficient.
  - Operations motions to make the amendment.
  - In favor: lathrop, strong, joss, Raymond, 2016, 2014, SL, 2013, Socos, Jewett
  - Opposed: Main, 2015, TSs, Finance, Operations, Academics, THs, Ferry, Noyes, Cushing
  - Amendment fails
- 6 Annual Budgeting Update.....Finance (5 min)
  - It will be exciting. It will be fun. It will start next Sunday and last about a month. Everyone will have a week to fill out applications. Finance will have 10 days to review applications. Instead of meeting with everyone for 3 minutes, they will only meet with organizations that require a discussion – i.e. if an organization wants an increase or if

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finance wants to give them any less than they ask for. This way they can spend time on the organizations that require discussion. They will post the initial results. Then organizations can appeal at which point they will meet with finance again. Then they will publish the recommendations and this Council will vote on the annual budgets at the end of the year.

- Joss mentions that this is not meant to limit communication. Anyone who wants to meet with Finance can, and anyone who does not get what they ask for will get to meet with Finance.

### 7 Finance and Annual Budgeting Amendments..... Finance (15 min)

- Removes the Activities Committee, but keep the VP for Activities at the initial annual budgeting discussion, and changes the timeline.
- Clears up the emergency procedures: right now everyone from Council must vote for emergency funding. Now, if there's a situation where the VSA would collapse, the VP for Finance can make the decision to pull money from any fund.
- Starts the transition into VSA Finance Policies. This will make the bylaws less clunky and more flexible, and clarifies internal procedures that have already been happening but aren't publicized anywhere.
- Cleans up some of the funds: gets rid of the Great Works fund and adds the Social Consciousness fund
- Dave has comments about how now the Council has to vote to approve rollover for the Misc, WVKR, and Vassarion. This is an unnecessary roadblock to a core fiscal tool. There are many capital items that they need and they don't want to burden a particular VSA year if they need to buy new equipment when they can save up over several years. The past few years they've had a large rollover, but that was a unique situation that ultimately allowed them to recover from a burglary. The amendment requires the unanimous VSA Exec vote for an organization to get a rollover. Dave is worried about ethics on the Exec Board because most only serve one year. He does not want a bunch of politicians to be responsible for the continuation of the Misc. If the rollover is ever unfairly large again, then they should get a proportionally lower allocation in the next annual budgeting process. He is also upset because he only heard about it 3 hours ago.

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- This is a first reading, so ideally amendments should be handled in committee.
  - Finance reminds that as it is written in the bylaws, no one gets rollover. Currently it just says that the Misc, WVKR, and Vassarion cannot go into debt. This amendment would actually allow this procedure to happen. The goal was not to limit organizations, but to help them. There is a danger with automatically allowing certain organizations to have rollover, since now Vassarion is in a lot of debt. We can change who approves the rollover, but there should be a regular review.
  - Joss suggests that there should be a deeper discussion about these unique organizations since it's more complicated, but in the meantime we should make an amendment so that the rollovers are protected.
  - Dave reiterates that he would have appreciated more notice and more collaboration.
  - This will be tabled to Operations and Finance.
- 8 An Amendment Concerning Joint Committee Composition.....Operations (5 min)
- Changes that are already happening.
- 9 Open Discussion
- 2013: 63 days, 14 hours, 17 minutes, 5 seconds until Commencement. Senior week schedule has been semi-finalized. 50 nights is coming up on April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Chance. Also, Rowing is having a pop-up restaurant fundraiser in the Aula this weekend.
  - Noyes and Cushing are having a carnival this Saturday!
  - SL motions to adjourn. Motion passes unanimously.