

VSA Council Minutes

March 28, 2010

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00

2. Attendance

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes from 3/21

b. Allocation of \$250 from Speakers Lecturers to CHOICE.

4. Committee Reports

a. BHP

The Board of House Presidents announced that they had been holding weekly meetings right before council where they debated issues and items relating to the houses. Currently, they were in the process of looking into fall training and hoping to split Student Officer from Student Fellow training. They were also looking into the room entry policy and hoped to have an FAQ released soon. Finally, there were working with ResLife to get a testimonial on B&G, notorious for their lack of response.

The Socos encouraged them to talk to their building managers, as that is often the sources of delays.

5. Exec Report

a. Activities

The VP for Activities announced that this upcoming weekend was the first in many epic weekends coming up in April. As he put it: "April is INSANE! If anyone wants to have more events, they should have scheduled them yesterday."

One of the major issues that the VSA will face next year is the lack of meal swipes for catering. This would otherwise lay a huge financial burden onto the already strained VSA.

b. Finance

The VP of Finance announced that the VSA was still in pretty good financial health.

Through the course of this year, he has been attempting to prevent splurging at the beginning and overextension at the end, and he felt that the committee had done rather well. In addition, he announced the Presidents and Treasures meeting this upcoming Thursday at 7pm in Blogett. They will be doing org interviews where they give each organization a chance to explain their activities and their application. It takes forever. Good luck.

Strong was concerned that she was still not getting updates.

Jewett was concerned that some extra money appeared in his account.

6. Allocation of \$800 from Speakers, Lecturers to CSA

The VP of Finance moved to allocate \$800 for CSA's weeklong event. This was originally submitted as two events, but lumped into one app. The CSA announced that they were holding a week of talking about the Caribbean, bringing in a professional chef and holding an Auction night with VHP, screening movies, hosting a Q&A, a mug night and, finally, a dinner.

All were in favor.

7. Allocation of \$1,500 from Speakers, Lecturers to CBS

The CBS announced that they would be doing something for baccalaureate. Baccalaureate is a spiritual ceremony relating to graduation and, as done at Vassar, relating to people of color. 2010 wanted to know where the allocation amount was derived from. Finance responded that he wanted to keep some money in the fund, but still give them a good amount.

2012 abstained, all else were in favor.

8. Admin Review

Student Life moved to adopt the administration review of the Junior Year Abroad office. As Operations pointed out, this draft still says something bitchy, but does it without sounding bitchy and does not needlessly hurt feelings. 2011 expressed relief that this was finally coming to council, after such a long time in gestation, he also spotted a missing "a" in the last sentence.

The THs reminded council that Vassar could save a lot of money by cutting out middleman programs and she wondered if that was being addressed. Student Life felt that this was an important step, but one that was too complicated to tackle right away.

Cushing wondered if each major could list JYA experiences. Student life announced a new database, with JYA countries as a means of organizing people.

All were in favor.

9. Open Discussion

2010 announced that they were down to 55 days.

Operations announced that the senior gift was moving along with 100% of the exec board donating, 91% of council (that's two still holding out) and 60% of the Misc staff.

Academics took a moment to bring up the controversy of the previous weekend. Some students felt uncomfortable, it was seen as glorifying a negative stereotype.

Davison also had received some complaints this weekend about her Luau, and had been accused of being culturally ignorant.

2012 noted that she had been contacted a lot, since she was of color and was in the ALANA center. She was really upset, as both sides had been wrong in their handling of the situation. In her opinion "People need to stop trying to be right and wrong Vassar students," but should listen to each other. They needed to encourage dialogue.

The President wondered if the problems came from the titles. She was told that it actually

came from the Facebook page where they went beyond lil Wayne and into a culture. THs brought up the idea of censoring events on activities committee.

Academics felt that this was really out of the blue and the problem lay in that nobody was aware it could be offensive.

Cushing echoed that, and felt that council should be the voice for these concerns. This conversation brought to mind the community forums that happened this past year and how they had lacked student voice.

Activities reminded people that censoring titles was a monumental task considering the amount that currently goes into event applications.

Strong worried about the reactionary nature of these conversations.

THs also noted that she did not want to expand the duties of the VP of Activities and suggested that approved titles get sent out to the committee.

Raymond felt that they should stray from censorship, students have right to express what they want, however, there should be a space opened where they can discuss their problems.

The students involved got a heavy-handed talking to by the admins, which was unnecessary.

Activities agreed that it was not their job to micro-manage everything.

2012 echoed that censorship was not the answer, it wouldn't help people grow, but it would just push the problem underground.

Academics felt that it was really easy to dismiss these problems and say that people are being self-rightous. This past weekend she ended up being in meetings for 4 hours, it sucked.

Ruby noted that this was a great opportunity for opinions articles!

Jay Leff came in to thank council for their allocation and to announce that the musician had changed. Their previous artist had been replaced with J. Cole, an artist who was gaining notoriety.

THs wanted to hold a collaborative event similar to Howbout.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:57