

**VSA Council Minutes**  
*April 13, 2008*

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.

**2. Attendance:**

Absent: Student Life.

Proxies: Lathrop, Raymond, and Town Houses.

Guests: Michelle Cantos, Brian Farkas, Julianne Herts (Miscellany News), Kristin Lee, Jessica Linden Swienckowski, Acacia O'Connor (Miscellany News), Jamie Rosen, Ricardo Sánchez (Poder Latin@), Anna Volk, Túlio Zille (Poder Latin@).

**3. Reports**

**a. Committee on College Life**

A representative from CCL reported that the committee has had one meeting in the last reporting cycle. They met with the Kick Coke campaign about giving support to the campaign; at that meeting CCL learned that Kick Coke has been waiting for a decision from the Campus Investor Responsibility Committee since its February 28 meeting, and that CIRC has still not made its decision by the time the campaign met with CCL. CCL had previously determined that they would not decide on their position of the campaign until CIRC had also taken a position, and would then make a proposal to the Dean of the College, JJ Jackson. At that point it would be the responsibility of the college to make a final decision about banning Coke product from campus.

Jewett asked whether the committee had considered greater student input about kicking Coke from campus. The CCL representative explained that there was general agreement among participants in the various forums that have taken place, but made the point that there is a very select number of people attending those forums, and has requested that the Kick Coke campaign get more students to express support for the cause.

Rich Horowitz also talked to the committee, expressing an interest in increasing students' sense of personal responsibility for their own safety, especially related to alcohol use. He discussed students who are drinking and breaking college regulations, because he has seen an increase in broken college regulations in past few years. Possible changes that were proposed included increased punishments and sanctions, which may include parents in the punishment process. This discussion will be discussed at greater length at the committee's next meeting, and next year in general.

The representative also expressed a general disappointment in the committee's overall involvement and actions, explaining that interest in the committee and its members' participation have significantly decreased in the past few years.

**b. Student Wellness Advisory**

No one was present from SWAC to give a report at the meeting.

**c. Drug and Alcohol Education**

A representative from DAEC reported that the committee has spent the majority of their time spent making the Drug and Alcohol survey, which will be sent out next week. The committee wanted a two-week period between the survey being sent out and Founder's Day.

The committee will be participating in a Founder's Day action, which would include Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) for servers. This training may be

required for all campus-run events next year, but there is uncertainty about whether the training should be required for non-alcohol-serving events. Also in discussion for next year are water and food requirements for campus-wide events, and the checking of IDs for buying alcohol.

The Committee also has been discussing and creating the Early Arrival Time Contract, which serves as a reminder to students that arrive early to campus to refrain from substance abuse while on campus. Contract Form, including the issue of Student Leaders' early arrivals, its proposed punishments, and the nature of the form in general—which requires only a select number of students to promise compliance with college regulations for only one semester, rather than all students making such a promise for the full year. President made the point that stricter actions in general are taken with regard to freshmen.

The Committee has been working with Wendy Freedman, who presented information about drinking behaviors on campus to Council on February 10. They are working to move beyond general ideas of what to do about the alcohol problems on campus, to instead focus on specific actions that can be undertaken to change the environment on campus.

At 7:28pm, Lathrop and Raymond arrived at the meeting.

#### **d. Residential Life Advisory**

A representative from RLAC reported that the committee has been talking about a lot of things, including a ResLife guide that they are trying to come up with as a resource for students. The guide would provide advice about such issues as how to deal with roommate conflicts, and what the campus' parking regulations are. This led to a larger discussion about the issue of parking in the TAs, and the current lack of punishment for taking students' reserved spots. Additionally, there was a discussion of conflict mediation, because students often do not feel that they have any non-administration form of mediation to deal with conflicts with other students.

Luis Inoa has been talking to House Fellows about the House Fellow program, because the fellows often don't know what they "should" be doing as members of the dorms, and what sort of programming to host.

The committee has also been discussing a proposal from Luis Inoa about creating the concept of Dorm Membership, which would allow the college to connect alumni and faculty members to specific dorms. Although the specifics of the proposal were not immediately clear, the purpose of the proposal would get faculty members to be more connected to the residential life on campus.

#### **e. Exec Report (Student Life)**

Student Life was not present to give an Exec report.

#### **f. Annual Budgeting Dates**

After the changing of election dates, the new dates for the Annual Budgeting process are as follows:

- The 3-minute interviews are on Saturday, April 19.
- Between April 20 and May 2, the Activities and Finance Committees will meet to make recommendations to the VSA Exec Board.
- All of the new Exec Board will meet on May 4 to look over the budget to make recommendations to the VSA Council.
- The VSA Council meeting to approve the budget will be on May 8.

#### **4. Amendment of Elected Positions**

TA moved to amend the List of Elected Positions, to add a Sophomore and Junior Representative for each house. All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

#### **5. Transfer of \$830 from Great Works to Speakers**

Finance moved to transfer \$830 from the Great Works Fund to the Speakers' Fund. All of Council voted in favor of the transfer, and the motion passed.

#### **6. Transfer of \$1984 from Social Programming to Speakers**

Finance moved to transfer \$1984 from the Social Programming Fund to the Speakers' Fund. All of Council voted in favor of the transfer, and the motion passed.

#### **7. Allocation of \$2814 from Speaker's Fund to FMLA**

Finance moved to allocate \$2814 from the Speaker's Fund to the Feminist Alliance. A representative from FMLA explained that the requested money is to bring Logan Levkoff to campus. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

#### **8. Allocation of \$1368.25 from Social Programming to Poder Latin@**

Finance moved to allocate \$1368.25 from the Social Programming Fund to Poder Latin@. The proposed event would be called Human Rights in Oaxaca, would include a presentation from Simon Sedillo, and would take place at 7pm on May 1, 2008. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

#### **9. Allocation of \$1080 from Collaboration to Unbound**

Finance moved to allocate \$100 from the Collaboration Fund to Unbound. The proposed event would be called He(R)evolution, and would consist of a performance that discusses such issues as personal and political identity, family relationships, and political activism. All of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

#### **10. Allocation of \$637.50 from Collaboration to THs**

Finance moved to allocate \$637.50 from the Collaboration Fund to the THs. The proposed event would be a Senior Late Night at the Lehman Loeb. THs and SoCos abstained from the vote, all else of Council voted in favor of the allocation, and the motion passed.

#### **11. Council Action 22-5: A Resolution on Local Businesses**

Activities moved to adopt Council Action 22-5: A Resolution on Local Businesses. The Council Action is in response to concerns about the lack of traffic in local businesses in the coming year, due to the renovations on Raymond Ave. Activities explained that the Action is in reference to a very specific set of businesses, and that during the renovation these businesses will be almost entirely inaccessible. The renovation project is intended to begin immediately after graduation, and end in November.

2009 moved to amend the Council Action, to add a fourth operative to line 27, to read: "The Student delegation to CCAC shall report to the VSA Council on the progress of this resolution by May 4, 2008." All of Council voted in favor of the amendment, and the motion passed.

All of Council voted in favor of the overall passage of the Council Action, and the motion passed.

## **12. Finance Policy**

Finance moved to adopt a policy on finance, as presented to Council on April 13, 2008. The policy delineates the necessary applicant on fund applications, and the financial liaison of VSA organizations.

2010 moved to amend the wording of the policy, to change "only liaison" to "primary liaison." Members of Council discussed this proposed change, and whether the word "primary" implies the correct connotation. Cushing moved to call to question; all of Council voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Vote on 2010's Amendment**

*Abstain:* None.

*Not in favor:* Noyes, Strong, 2009, Main, 2008, TH, TA, Town Students, Activities, Academics, Operations, Finance, Raymond, Lathrop, Cushing, SoCo, Davison, Joss, Ferry.

*In favor:* Jewett, 2010, 2011.

Result: By a vote of 19-3, the motion failed.

All of Council voted in favor of the overall passage of the policy, as presented by Finance and the Finance Committee, and the motion passed.

## **13. Amendments to Articles II of the VSA Bylaws**

Operations moved to amend Article II of the VSA Bylaws, as presented by the Constitutional Review Committee. The amendments are in reference to VSA Budgeting bylaws. All of Council voted in favor of the amendments, and the motion passed.

## **14. Amendments to Articles III of the VSA Bylaws**

Operations moved to amend Article III of the VSA Bylaws, as presented by the Constitutional Review Committee. The amendments are in reference to VSA Funds and Accounts, and would go into effect on May 4, 2008. By unanimous consent, the word "recipients" in Section 9-E was changed to "organizations."

Council members engaged in a discussion about the vagueness of certain language found within the amendments.

2010 moved to amend lines 182-83 to read, "By the end of the semester recipients must submit a written and/or oral report to VSA Council about their use of funding." President and 2010 discussed whether recipients of the Council Discretionary Fund should have the option to submit a written report, instead of being required to report to Council in person. Ferry moved to amend the amendment, to change "a written and/or oral" to "an oral." Ferry then changed his amendment to simply strike "/or" from the document. All of Council voted in favor of Ferry's secondary amendment, and the motion passed. Noyes moved to call the underlying amendment to question; all of Council voted in favor, and the motion passed. All of Council voted in favor of the underlying amendment, and the motion passed.

2011 moved to amend lines 145-146, to strike "/or" from the document. After an explanation from Academics, 2011 withdrew his amendment.

All of Council voted in favor of the amendments to Article II of the VSA Bylaws, as presented by CRC, and the motion passed.

## **15. Announcement of Fines**

Finances announced that the following organizations have been fined \$50 for still failing

to submit an organization review: the Miscellany News, Pagan Circle, Sailing Team, and Night Owls.

#### **16. Open Discussion**

- 2008 announced that 42 days remain until commencement.
- 2010 expressed gratitude for the money allocated from the Council Discretionary Fund, explaining that the show went very well.
- Activities reported that he rode the new shuttle on Friday, that it was amazing, and that student usage has been very high. He again encouraged all students to try using the shuttle at some point.

#### **17. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 9:15pm.