

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for April 15, 2012

"You have nothing to fear but fear itself."
-FDR

- 1 Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
- 2 Attendance Operations
 - All here; Ferry and Lathrop had proxies.
- 3 Consent Agenda
 - a. \$375 from the Council Discretionary Fund to the Feminist Alliance
 - b. \$5000 from the Council Discretionary Fund to MECHA
 - c. \$1800 from the Council Discretionary Fund to GAAP
 - All adopted.
- 4 Executive Board Reports
 - a. President (7 minutes)
 - She finished her thesis—Congratulations!!!
 - She's really excited about the class of 2016; there was an Open House this past weekend. They are making a short film for next year and are looking for student film experts to help with this.
 - Cappy has offered to have a Career Development Specialist come in to analyze our current system. Someone from Duke is going to come soon.
 - b. Operations (7 minutes)
 - Google workshops. CIS is offering these so that people aren't confused later.
 - The weekend shuttle is no longer happening because we're out of money.
 - Constitutiathon is happening today and that's a big Executive Board report.
 - Elections are underway. There was a successful candidates meeting. Campaigning is underway. Socos added that voting begins at noon on Saturday the 21st. Executive Debates will be happening soon and everyone will get an email with updates about this. Houses need to hold debates; it's mandatory.
- 5 For Adoption: Constitutiathon Amendments
<http://crocodoc.com/O1dAybZ>.....Operations (30 min)
 - Student Life wanted to thank Operations for the Constitutiathon. The biggest change he noticed is that many things are moved to the bylaws which means they can be overridden which he thinks is a good thing. Jewett doesn't see this as anything that fundamentally changes the structure of student government. 2014 talked about consistency with events like Elections; now everything is in the bylaws where it belongs.
 - Davison expressed a concern about putting Exec Board duties in the bylaws. What if one year someone simply doesn't want to do something? Noyes stated that they maintained the same structure as always and in order to override anything you still need a 2/3 vote.

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for April 15, 2012

"You have nothing to fear but fear itself."
-FDR

- Ali noted that the Constitution is a framework whereas items included in the bylaws might be procedural and you can therefore override them.
 - President noted the change of placement to the bylaws as a way to make changes like adding in Tasty Tuesdays and Student Seminars.
 - Operations made a motion to consolidate all the amendments into one big amendment. 2014 asked where we got this idea and Student Life responded with a technical and convincing reason backed up by the Constitution. This passed with all in favor.
 - President thanked the committee who put so much time into this. Cappy approves.
- 6 For Adoption: An Amendment Correcting Language on Joint Committees.....Operations (25 min)
- Academics made a motion to amend the language to say "Shall be two students from the Academics Committee". 2014 asked how people are appointed and it's based on interest. They also added a period to the sentence. This motion passed with all in favor.
 - The motion to adopt this amendment passed with all in favor.
- 7 For Adoption: An Amendment Rectifying Irregularities in Exclusive Language https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fc_1HNl6_xo6_5pjb6OTbA2FzrlQs15xv7gZhDZ2bs/editOperations (25 min)
- This amendment makes it legal for anyone to run for Judicial Board and Executive Board. This motion passed with all in favor.
- 8 Conversation about a programming board (30 min)
- Student Life feels there are discrepancies between what students want to see and what there is. There aren't many late night options for students on campus; there's usually just a dance party in one of the student faces. This committee would work on this. They would have 2 student co-chairs that have the duties of president/treasurers of any other orgs. They will have weekly general body meetings that anyone can attend and help plan these types of events. The advising chairs would be the VP for Activities and Terry Hanlon (whatever his long title is). They'll go through the SARC office and have a SARC intern. They will be working on bringing unique diverse events onto campus. They could also collaborate on events that are happening. They will hopefully add more far reaching and better aspects to the normal events. They want to create more options and opportunities especially for late night.
 - Davison asked who is making the decisions that an event counts as diverse programming. Activities responded that the general body or the co-chairs themselves can make these decisions.

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for April 15, 2012

"You have nothing to fear but fear itself."
-FDR

-Socos asked how does this programming board differ from Vice and how will they fit together? The answer was that it differs from ViCE in that it won't hold big concerts or small scale concerts, but really focus on diverse programming. Even though ViCE has the capacity to do this, they don't necessarily do it, and this committee will guarantee these types of events.

-Finance asked if orgs can apply to this board to throw events for them. No, it's all collaboration or just the board on its own. How will the board be funded? \$5000 from the VSA and some from the administration as well. Nothing has been committed or solidified its just here to talk about at this point.

-Jewett really likes this idea and thinks it speaks to student concerns. What is the timeline? We have two Councils after this and we need to ratify this before then. There is a proposal written up so we can vote on it at any time. A fund app may be put in conditionally or put in as a set discretionary fund.

-Noyes thinks that the board itself will be making most of these decisions so they aren't really up to Council. Part of the proposal is to have a review after one year and a bigger review after two years. This is a trial and she thinks it's worth a try,

-2013 asked if certain event will be scrutinized more and what the relationships with Activities Committee will be. Activities thinks that they wouldn't veto current activities and say they're not ok, but more just program alternatives. He thinks a member of Activities Committee would serve on the board. 2013 also asked about the constant competition for space for events and how this would play in. Activities isn't worried about this being a problem.

-Cushing wondered how this would affect the use of the VSA Special Purposes and Discretionary Funds; isn't that supposed to be for alternative programming currently? Activities thinks that this board won't have enough money to collaborate with all orgs so the VSA will still be needed. Also this board isn't solely for collaboration; they'll have other events.

-President feels that this board is jumping the gun a little because we haven't had conversations with ViCE and House Teams about the events they throw since they throw most of the events. She talked about how this is the first time that we've included administrators as part of programming and the affects this will have.

-Davison talked about how this is a good step to alleviate a problem on campus because he feels that currently dorms plan all school events which isn't in the mission statement; dorms are supposed to plan for their dorms.

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for April 15, 2012

"You have nothing to fear but fear itself."
-FDR

-Jewett has a problem with calling this "alternative planning" because that implies moving away from alcohol consumption instead of just having more options. Also, he doesn't feel that having conversations with ViCE and House Teams will help this because even if they aren't holding the dance parties, someone will and down the road the problem isn't solved when new people are in charge. Jewett feels that dance parties aren't the problem, but the fact that they're the only option.

-2013 thinks we need to work on removing the stigma that is associated with "alternative planning."

-Student Life thinks that using "alternative programming" s main problem is alternative with what? The ATF gave that answer, all campus, music based programming. He also agrees with Davison that we shouldn't burden the houses with programming because they have a lot of options, but of course there is tradition to keep in mind. There's no central clearing room for programming, a body to look at the events of a weekend and decide how to deal with them. He noted that we have a proposal that we can look over during the week, talk about it in Council, but he warned not to let this hinder our imagination in how we create this body.

-Noyes thinks that we should be talking to House teams and ViCE about this, but she doesn't think we're losing jurisdiction if we allow administration to work with us.

-She thinks that allowing the administration in is a good experiment because we don't have to do everything on our own. She thinks we should never be afraid of breaking down traditions if it's time for them to go.

-Activities talked about the phrase "alternative planning"; people won't say yes they want this but they will say yes they want different events that get them off campus, doing different things. Another suggestion for next year; he advised people on Finance committee to very carefully look at applications for events coming in

-Vote to extend time by 15 min was passed with a majority.

-2015 talked about using the administration as someone who will be there longer than we are and creating institutional memory. Also, ViCE is supposed to give monthly updates which hasn't been happening. He thinks that they should definitely be part of this committee.

-Main: better event calendar

-Socos is worried about autonomy in terms of the administration putting their opinion in our events even though he agrees with them helping with institutional memory. He thinks we should be constantly thinking about this if we go into this experimental phase.

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for April 15, 2012

"You have nothing to fear but fear itself."
-FDR

-2014 noted Terry Quinn's involvement as advisor of Senior Class Council and how that has been helpful but hasn't taken any autonomy away from students.

-Cushing thinks that this would be an irresponsible decision to make as a Council at this time because we only have two Council meetings left. His opinions have already changed several times in this one meeting.

-Student Life wants Council to be careful about the idea of ceding control to the administration. We will still be in charge of the budget and the administration is involved in our activities as is. He wishes we had all year for this as Cushing says, but there are things we can get started with, getting a place at the Activities Fair, thinking over the summer, and potentially putting on some events at the beginning of the year. He thinks that passing this initiative now isn't a huge investment and Finance agreed that we could handle this now and it would be under construction and has potential.

-Activities clarified that the only difference with administrative involvement is that Terry Hanlon will help advise this committee. 2012 noted that Terry Quinn currently helps them by meeting once a week to advise them and helping them make big decisions.

9 Open Discussion

-2012: 34 days until graduation. Senior week sign-ins will go live at midnight on Tuesday. It's cut off at 25%. The senior week calendar will be released later this week. It's embarrassing how few people have contributed to the student gift and the dorm challenge.

- Operations declared the open position of Board of Elections co-chairs. They need to be appointed this year before Spring Convocation. This has to be someone who won't be running for something this year; it's on the website under special elections. Thank you everyone for the Constitutiathon. Thank you Misc for the lovely editorial supporting the VSA. There won't be a meeting for Operations this week because she's in tech. Go see Into the Woods!

-Academics: They're having a short meeting right after this! They're sending out a survey to freshmen about freshmen writing seminars to see what's important to students about this class.

-2013: Vassar Rowing will have its first home regatta next week and everyone should come!

-2015 is holding an event to present the class with candidates in elections.

-Main made a motion to adjourn and this passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.