

VSA Council Minutes

April 4, 2010

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00

2. Attendance

Proxy: 2010, Main.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the Minutes from 3/28

b. Allocation of \$430 from Council Discretionary to Ballroom Dancing

c. Allocation of \$300 from Collaboration to Investment Club

4. Special Guest: Leslie Williams, Education Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Williams began by explaining that recently he had been focused on assessing Vassar's strengths and weaknesses in relation to authentic community engagement--moving beyond basketball courts and into creating sustainable long-term outreach programs. The current graduation rate of Poughkeepsie High Schools is below 50% and they were working to increase retention and college admission. In the past, Vassar was unsure how to approach the community, and ultimately developed a system that would allow Vassar to engage in the community, liability free.

In addition, Vassar has been working with Marist in Poughkeepsie Middle School to engage parents and move forward. Mr. Williams reported that recently he had been contacted by a junior at Marist wondering if they could get involved in VAST. Yet, there have been some problems, such as transportation. Even the CIA was been coming out to operate some free classes and tours. Currently they were working towards expanding the programs into the community to work towards female empowerment.

One of the key goals in the inclusion of parents, and right now, VAST has already proven to be highly successful. A recent meeting had 250 people show up. Already parents identify as VAST parents.

The President wondered what office Mr. Williams worked for. Currently he works for Dean Roelke, but he has been pushing for a new department. He compared Vassar's program to a Mecca to which people would "perform haajs and bring incense."

Academics wondered if there were any other programs from which VAST had drawn inspiration. There were 19 other program similar, according to Mr. Williams.

2011 asked if there was more than education built into the outreach programs. Mr. Williams responded that there was: the parents committees had an extracurriculars section that helped to promote social justice. They would be holding a BBQ soon.

Lathrop wanted to know how many Vassar Students were involved and how that information was being brought back to campus. According to Mr. Williams, there are over 250 students involved. There is currently a problem relaying information, as the website doesn't get updated that often. The website was uei.vassar.edu

Strong encouraged him to contact the houses for support and to hold VAST study breaks.

5. Allocation of \$664.96 from Capital Contingency to Filmmakers

The 2nd camera belonging to filmmakers needed a cleaning, check and repair. This was paid out of their normal budget, but they were not covered for repairs. THs wondered if there was money left in the fund. There was plenty. All were in favor.

6. Allocation of \$3000 from Discretionary to Frisbee

Nate, Captain of the Frisbee Team, informed council that they needed this money to finish their tournaments. The largest tournaments of the year are coming up: regionals and nationals. Last year, Vassar won the whole thing. Cushing! Announced that she had joined the frisbee team this year, and that it had been so much fun, in fact they had played two games that very day.

Main was happy that relations were improving.

All were in favor.

7. Open Discussion

48 days till graduation

Finance moved to transfer \$3000 from conference to discretionary. All were in favor.

Operations reminded everyone to promote elections.

Academics announced an upcoming majors fair in ACDC from 12-2 on Wednesday and Thursday.

Operations moved to appoint Hannah, Noyes President, as Board of Elections Co-Chair. Operations slipped up, calling her fair and "unbalanced." This provoked chuckles from the room and lead Noyes to declare herself "crazy." Noyes abstained, all else were in favor.

Strong announced roaring 20's upcoming this weekend. There would be swing and lots of fun!

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:59