

# VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## Council Minutes for April 8, 2012

“Near may be better than far, but it still isn’t there.”—Stephen Sondheim, *Into the Woods*

- 1 Call to Order
  - The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
- 2 Attendance ..... Operations
  - All here, Cushing had a proxy, Student Life was standing in for President and Strong was getting tea.
- 3 Consent Agenda
  - a. \$275 from the Council Discretionary Fund to Merely Players
  - b. \$502 from the Council Discretionary fund to Woodshed
  - All adopted.
- 4 Presentation of the Campus Dining Review Committee Report.....Student Life (30 min)
  - He needs a lot more guidance from students because there is a lot of information to process. They are going to have the committee come to House Team meetings.
  - Aramark Survey tested overall satisfaction from 2008-2011 and found that it didn’t change very dramatically. We were exceptionally low in dining on the survey compared to our peer institutions. In the fall we hosted a Town Hall meeting, conversation dinners, and conversations within houses to raise awareness and get feedback. There was no single thing that could fix the dissatisfaction rating. Little new info came out of the community outreach events.
  - A few VSA representatives went on a peer review trip to Middlebury, Mount Holyoke, and Bryn Mawr. They saw simple self-serve as a common theme as well as multiple dining hall options. They also saw up-to-date websites and communication that students used frequently. They conducted 6 focus groups over 2 days which were recorded and videotaped. They found nutrition is a high priority for 90+% of the campus.
  - The CDRC made immediate changes, self-serve vegetable station, pizza station, simpler entrees, high-efficiency dishwasher, accent painting, and an updated website. 75% say their experience is better this semester than last. Nutrition, atmosphere, signage, and service didn’t really improve. Taste of food is the area in which change is most desired by students. Next year they hope to create a contract using compensation based on satisfaction, training schedules, funding for physical space, include employees in team building, and facilitate annual hospitality workshops. They will also improve communication and physical space.
  - Socos asked what Student Life’s recommendations would be for next year’s students working on dining. He said Maureen King is a key player; he’s hoping an executive chef would help and the food committee chair is also a good resource.
  - 2014 asked if they are going to improve the physical space and Main answered that it depends on financial availability.
- 5 First Reading: Constitutiathon Amendments (see attached).....Operations (20 min)

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- The links are online on the agenda.
- Davison asked about the gender binaries. They fixed all of them in every amendment; they just don't say it specifically.
- They are going to vote on this as one big chunk so they don't have to vote on a million separate amendments.
- 2013 asked people to please read over these before our next Council meeting.
- Thank you Noyes, Jewett, and Operations.
- They want to fix more substantive amendments along with the Constitution so they're presenting them here.

In addition:

- a. An Amendment Correcting Language on Joint Committees
  - It's repetitive and there's already a committee for this.
- b. An Amendment Rectifying Irregularities in Exclusive Language
  - Vice President for Finance is the only one who has a set term because they're handling money. However, there's a rule that you can't be in two positions anywhere in VSA so it means that the VP for Finance can't run for any position for the next year. This amendment will fix this rule so that they aren't going against constitutional law for the last month of their term.
  - 2014 asked where in the Constitution this will be; it will be placed in the bylaws. Right now the "Constitution" is updated with everything they've passed this year.

### 6 Open Discussion

- 2012: 41 days until graduation. 11 days until her thesis is due.
- Academics: Majors Fair on Wednesday. She has posters she wants all House Presidents to put two up in their house. Join the facebook event!
- Eric at the Misc. announced that Dave Rosencrantz is their new Editor in Chief. Ruth Bolster will be around as Features Editor and Matt Ortile as a new contributing editor.
- Student Life reminded us the next Town Hall regarding the new student space is Monday at 5 in the Rose Parlor. This week is Sexual Assault Awareness week. CARES will be tabling all week in the College Center; there will be a speak out in the Mug tomorrow, Tuesday is a screening at 8 in Rocky 300, Wednesday is Miriam Perez as the keynote about social justice movements. Thursday is an art gallery display in the faculty commons. Tabling: stickers and temporary tattoos!
- 2015 wanted to plug the last student space town hall. The classy class dinner was on Friday and they had a good turnout with yummy Bacio's pizza.

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- Socos: Filing ends on Wednesday. He wants people to talk about joint committees more and get involved because it's a fun way to make a difference. Wednesday at 8 in Sanders is the Candidates Meeting.
- 2014: At their class meeting a girl came to talk about hosting a Ted talk; she's working through the Vassar Ventures which isn't an official organization and he thinks exec board should get involved with this initiative.
- Main congratulated Raymond and Strong on Roaring Twenties.
- Finance reminded everyone that annual budget applications are due very soon.
- 2013 asked if there will be any alternative times to talk about the upcoming Student Space. Not this year, but definitely next year. 2013 will also be holding a chat in the Rose Parlor at 6 on Thursday about expectations for Senior Year.
- Main reminded everyone that it's Focus Weekend this weekend.
- Lathrop also noted that Rugby women are going to Nationals in two weeks.
- Davison made a motion to adjourn.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:49 with all in favor.