

Vassar Student Association

Minutes for Council Meeting September 12, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03.
2. Attendance
- All here
3. **Special Guest: Jeff Walker, College Sustainability Coordinator**

Mr. Walker heads the College Committee on Sustainability which includes representatives from many areas of Vassar including purchasing, food services, finance, administration, and six student interns. They hold meetings the first Friday of every month and there's an open meeting coming up on the 24th of September. Announcements can be found on their Moodle sight. They are currently working on three big projects.

- 1) Turf Management- Organic management was first trialed on the library and chapel lawns about a year ago. It has been a successful experiment and the school committee wants to continue expanding it as it has many benefits. The only downside is the amount of physical labor required. Although they haven't had to spray for six years, organic methods sometimes aren't enough to maintain the caliber expected of Vassar lawns. Therefore, they will be spraying twice this year, but hopefully not again for many years.
- 2) Goal to increase college energy savings. Mr. Walker discussed the need to get the president and senior officers on board with this plan. The committee wants to decrease emissions by 4% yearly (they are currently at 2%). They hope to achieve a 6,000 ton decrease this year. The goal is to be at 10,000 tons by 2020 as opposed to the 30,000 tons we were emitting in 2005.
- 3) STARS sustainability initiative. This was a yearlong self-study; the results are posted on the website.

Mr. Walker will be forwarding updates to Matt that he can then share with the VSA. 2011 expressed concerns about having to spray every couple years. The hope is that with 90% of plants being grass, maintaining healthy soil, vigilance, and fertilizing, the turf can be kept up to coaches' high standards.

4. **Peer Advising Network: Stephanie Damon-Moore '11, Coordinator**

The concern that spurred the formation of this network is that freshmen are starting school with an advisor that they may not like or who cannot answer their questions sufficiently. The Peer Advising Network would be accessible to faculty and students through the website. Juniors and seniors can apply to be advisors and then incoming freshmen can search for them

according to their interests. It is strictly for academic interests at this time, but could be further expanded into extra-curricular activities.

- Academics inquired about an approval process and it was stated that there's the hope that one won't be necessary. Lathrop expressed that it might be a good idea to weed people out that are doing it just to put it on their resume.

- There were concerns expressed about it being a mandatory requirement, seeing as students still have pre-major advisors. The answer is that it's a supplemental plus to pre-major advisors as it is more geared towards personal and interest-based questions instead of formalities. There is a training program.

- There was a lot of debate regarding the fact that sports and theatre aren't searchable interests. This could be added in the future. Currently the VSA website has the contact information for extra-curricular areas.

- TAs suggested keeping the alums on the sight for at least one year after graduation so that they're easier to contact.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from 9/5/10
- All in favor

6. Announcements

- a. Fall ElectionsOperations
- Filing period- Sep15-20.
- Campaigning- 21-24. Posters have to be down.
- Voting = 48 hr. period Sept. 25-26. Dates and times will be sent out soon.
- Academics suggested house events related to elections

7. Executive Board Reports

- a) Activities
 - Fall leadership conference; a survey will be put out soon to gage reaction and suggestions in relation to it.
 - Sep 25th=Arlington street: fair-firefighters, police, and business owners. Encourage constituents to table, although the entertainment segment is full, they need people who like working with kids to volunteer and help out.
 - Meet me in Poughkeepsie-executives pay, people do it, have to apply, Oct. 9th is the day we meet.
- b) Finance

- Cleaning house: closing 100 funds and working on merging funds with community.

8. Allocation of \$500 from Collaboration to Lathrop HouseFinance

- There is currently a solid collaboration fund containing \$15,000. \$900 was requested for the ABC dance, and the committee has suggested \$500. Something to keep in mind is that each house is designated \$4,000 every year and they're encouraged to have two big events spending about \$1,000 on each event.
- 2011: Will supplies be reusable? Some of it will be. Talk to dorm presidents because they might have extra supplies in their closets. Study breaks to make ABC costumes!
- Activities= we need events with less drinking that's why 'Anything but cloth' is a good one! Instead of anything but clothes= addressing promiscuity.
- Lathrop-trying to push creativity and to lessen promiscuity. They want a fun event to better their reputation.
- Jewett- will be tabling Wed and Thurs giving out supplies to make costumes.
- Strong- Not letting nude people in! They asked for donation because they have other big events coming up.
- Motion to amend allocation made by Main, seconded by Joss. There was a lot of discussion about the addition of more money to this collaboration project. Specifically, 2013 was opposed due to the fact that he says people spend money on things they don't need. Main was in favor because it's rare to see VSA collaborating in this way. Vote to vote on amendment was opposed only by 2013 and finance. Amendment was passed 11 to 8. Motion to allocate \$600 from the collaboration fund was passed, all in favor.

9. Open Discussion

- 2011: 252 days until graduation
- Academics: 24 hr. study space opens tonight!
- Motion to adjourn: 2013. Opposed: Joss