

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes for Sept. 19, 2010

1 Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2 Attendance..... Operations

-All here

3 Consent Agenda

a. Minutes from 9/12/10

b. Allocation of \$300 to Jewett from Council Discretionary

c. Allocation of \$150 to Vassar Islamic Society from New Organizations Fund

-All items from the consent agenda were adopted without opposition.

4 Special Guest: Renee Pabst, Director of Health Education.

-Ms. Pabst handed out brochures and stress tips to the entire council. She explained that a new name has been developed for the sexual assault program: the relationship abuse policy. Apparently the cases of sexual assault on the Vassar campus are slightly higher than the national average, whereas the cases of abuse are slightly lower. She stressed the fact that it's still happening too much and students are not reporting it enough. She encouraged the VSA, as student leaders to think of creative ways of getting contact information and education out to the student body.

-The student guests from CARES (Amanda, Charlie, and Zoe) then discussed the definition of relationship abuse as systematic and progressive; it can take form verbally, emotionally, or physically. They explained how the pattern is that it increases/worsens over time and can take place in all types of relationships: friendships, homosexual, heterosexual, and family relationships. Abusers often focus on isolating the victim, either psychologically or physically, and there's usually phases of buildup and artificial calm. Abuse is intentionally hidden and often escalates. Victims are told it's ok when what they really need to be hearing is that it's not ok at all and they need to seek help immediately. A diverse committee has been formed to deal with this issue made of students, community workers, interns, and reps from student conduct. It is trail blazing as there is currently no policy on sexual assault so they are struggling with defining various terms such as stalking, harassment, assault, and disruptive conduct. They're trying to put forward what is not working right now and how individuals can make a difference.

- CARES then discussed what bi-standard intervention is and how important it is to get individuals involved, as well as the general community. They are thinking of starting a workshop, but need a way to get students invested in the topic.

-Ms. Pabst then explained the Save a Life campaign and how it was formed due to a horrible story of a boy who could have been saved, but was instead written on. The program teaches students CPR and ways to step into a potentially dangerous situation. She is

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requesting 5-10 students to participate and would like to get a diverse group involved. Email her in order to get involved.

-Oct 30th: fun run! The whole executive VSA board is signed up! They want to bring the wellness approach to all education, environmental, spiritual, social situations as well as concerning alcohol, drugs, etc. She encouraged everyone to run! On Wed. at 3:30 there will be a running workshop on the Retreat patio. Everyone gets a medal who participates. She needs help getting houses to buy candy to give to kids and suggested having a contact person from each house. Dress up too!

-Activities: great way to get us involved in the community by getting kids to come on campus and participate. Also stressed how more events in the morning show that Halloween is more than just getting drunk. There have actually been studies that if more activity takes place in the morning, people are less likely to get drunk at night.

-Cushing: wanted to know if there's a way to run and do trick-or-treating. The race is at 11, so people can help afterwards.

-Academics: push these resources. Advertise about fun run!

-Next month is academic awareness month; CARES can help with dorm activities and events.

5 Announcements

- a. Shuttle Finance
It worked out, we're paying for the weekend service, very important, fund it.

6 Executive Board Reports

- a. Academics- training session for peer advisors coming up. It will be mandatory. She will also be meeting with all major chairs to plan the majors fair. They are currently trying to get an extra half credit for labs. There will be a student faculty game to celebrate 150th anniversary.

7 Appointment of Maya Acevedo to Town Students..... Operations

- Operations expressed her opinion that this person is very competent, had a good application and that the committee wants to recommend her to the council.

-Move to appoint her: Operations. Finance abstaining, everyone else in favor.

8 Open Discussion

- Academics: Yay ABC dance; it went really well!

-Operations-still needs freshmen representatives from Lathrop

-Operations: wants to redo the campus bookstore, transitions starting with clothing. Focus group being formed-volunteers picked. They will meet a couple of times to discuss improvements.

-Finance: supplemental capital budgeting

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-Raymond: 'Scared and Undeclared' will be the haunted house theme this year; it will start at 8 p.m, but at 7: 30 it will open for the community, faculty members kids etc.

-Motion to adjourn: Main. Opposed: Joss and 2013. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.