

VSA Council Minutes
September 21, 2008

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

2. Attendance

Proxies: Joss, Noyes, Raymond, 2012.

Guests: Andrew Bennett (Student Asst. to the President), Brian Farkas (Misc), Emma Mitchell (Misc), Molly Turpin (Misc), Mitchell Gilburne, Harrison Brody, Todd Densen, Charlie Dobb, Liz Ilechko, Michael Mestitz, Michelle Comtos, Laura Riley, Domino Gehred-O'Connell, Hannah Rosenblum, Cordelia Elaiho, Isabella Demougeot (President's Office), Anne Hill.

3. Announcements

a. Meet Me in Poughkeepsie

The VP for Activities announced that 33 trip sponsorship applications were received, satisfying Exec's goal of 30 apps; there will be over 850 spots available for students to take trips biking, apple picking, volunteering, and the like.

b. Fines

The VP for Finance announced that Ferry House has been fined \$62.50 cents for failure to attend the most recent VSA Council meeting. Narsad, VPAC, Red Panda and Water Polo were fined \$25 for failure to attend the All Treasurers and All Presidents Meeting.

4. Reports

a. Exec Report – Student Life

The VP for Student Life excitedly announced that he has just secured additional student band rehearsal space on campus; the mug will now be open for rehearsals from 10am-10pm Monday through Saturday, and from 12pm-1am on Sunday. The faculty commons will also likely be made available as an alternative nighttime study space after the library's closure.

A proposal regarding gender-neutral campus housing will be presented to Council in a couple of weeks, and ultimately to the Board of Trustees in October. Student Life has also been working on the new meal plan resolution, as well as on a Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

He also announced that this year's Admin Review Committee will be chaired by Noyes, and will examine issues relevant to ResLife. Some key topics for assessment will be Davison room draw policies, intercession housing, move-out times, new student conduct software and gender-neutral housing.

5. Council Action 23-2: Meal Plan Resolution

The VP for Student Life moved to adopt Council Action 23-2: Meal Plan Resolution. The President explained that, if passed, the resolution will immediately be sent to all relevant administrators and to all student orgs.

With input from Student Life, 2009 proposed adding "...or transfer of meals without restrictions." to the end of the first resolution. Student Life was hesitant about making this change, as he doubted that adding this clause would strengthen the resolution's overall statement.

2010 proposed the following replacement to 2009's suggestion: "...such as the transfer of meals without restrictions." The VP for Finance moved to call to question. 2009 was opposed, though all others were in favor and the motion passed.

Vote on 2010's Proposed Amendment:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Strong, Cushing, Noyes, 2012, Raymond, Jewett, Lathrop, Joss, Student Life, Academics, Operations, Finance, Activities, Ferry, Soco, TS, Main, 2011, TA (19).

In Favor: TH, 2009, 2010 (3).

Result: Motion failed.

The President then moved to extend debate by ten minutes. All were in favor, and the motion passed. 2011 moved to call to question. 2009, TA, Activities, Student Life, Strong and TH were opposed, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

Vote to Adopt the Meal Plan Resolution:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: 2009, TA, TH (3).

In Favor: Strong, Cushing, Noyes, 2012, Raymond, Jewett, Lathrop, Joss, Student Life, Academics, Operations, Finance, Activities, Ferry, Soco, TS, Main, 2011, 2010 (19).

Result: Motion passed.

6. Appointment of Representative to Dean of the College Search Committee

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Hannah Rosenblum as Representative to the Dean of the College Search Committee. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

7. Motion to Reconsider Council Action 23-2: Meal Plan Resolution

The VP for Student Life moved to Reconsider Council Action 23-2: Meal Plan Resolution, as he felt that there had been some confusion surrounding the issue and that the discussion had concluded somewhat abruptly. Cushing agreed with the idea of reconsideration, as he was concerned that the resolution was being placed on the table prior to the election of the 2012 president. All were in favor, and Student Life's motion passed.

2009 moved to strike "such as unlimited entry-swipes or a la carte pricing" from the first resolution. Student Life asserted that issues like unlimited entry-swipes and a la carte pricing were major topics of discussion at the Campus Issues Forum.

Vote on 2009's Proposed Amendment:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Strong, Cushing, Noyes, 2012, Raymond, Jewett, Lathrop, Joss, Student Life, Academics, Operations, Finance, Activities, Soco, Main, 2011, 2010, TA, TH (19).

In Favor: 2009, TS, Ferry (3).

Result: Motion failed.

Noyes then moved to amend the final portion of the second resolution to read, "and to add plans...". Main and Cushing agreed with this proposal, as they felt it was "less demanding".

Vote on Noyes' Proposed Amendment:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: Strong, Cushing, Jewett, 2012, Lathrop, Joss, Academics, Student Life, Operations, Finance, Activities, Main, 2010, 2011, 2009 (15).

In Favor: TH, Noyes, Raymond, Ferry, SoCo, TS, TA (7).

Result: Motion failed.

The President moved to extend debate by five minutes. 2009, 2011 and Cushing were opposed, though all others were in favor and the motion passed.

Vote to Adopt the Meal Plan Resolution:

Abstentions: None (0).

Not in Favor: 2009 (1).

In Favor: Strong, Cushing, Noyes, 2012, Raymond, Jewett, Lathrop, Joss, Student Life, Academics, Operations, Finance, Activities, Ferry, Soco, TS, Main, 2011, 2010, TA, TH (19).

Result: Motion passed.

7. Allocation of \$2500 from Conference Fund to WVKR

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$2500 to WVKR for the College Music Journal Music Marathon. Representatives from WVKR asserted that their annual attendance at this event is essential to maintaining a strong footing in the music industry. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

8. Certification of Vassar Quidditch

The VP for Activities moved to certify Vassar Quidditch. She elaborated that the organization submitted a very clear, impressive application. Though THs was opposed, all others were in favor of certification and the motion passed.

9. Bylaws Changes

The VP for Operations presented Council with amendments to Article VI, Section 2, Subset H and to Article III, Section 14, Subset E6; these sections focus on policies regarding the VSA Auditor. These amendments will be discussed and voted upon at the next Council meeting.

10. Open Discussion

- 2009 announced that 245 days remained until graduation.
- The President welcomed the new SoCo president, Jordan Stone.
- The VP for Finance reminded Council to be aware of the upcoming deadline for Capital Budgeting applications.
- The VP for Student Life encouraged Council members to serve as representatives to the Admin Review Committee.

11. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 8:16 PM.