

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 23, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

*"If you can know where you're going, you've gone"
-Sunday in the Park with George, Stephen Sondheim*

- 1 Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
- 2 Attendance.....Operations
 - 2015 was late. 2016 proxy, Ferry proxy, Socos proxy.
- 3 Consent Agenda
 - a. \$200 from Capital Contingency to the Barefoot Monkeys
 - b. \$1,704 from Capital to the Barefoot Monkeys
 - c. \$100 from Capital to Habitat for Humanity
 - d. \$970 from Discretionary to the Barefoot Monkeys
 - e. \$250 from Discretionary to the Vassar Democrats
 - f. \$220 from Discretionary to the Class of 2015
 - All adopted.
- 4 Forum with ViCE Executive Board.....Dan Flynn (40 min)
 - Six members of the ViCE executive board came to explain their organization: They have 7 different committees. They run small and large events throughout the year from weekly concerts to all school parties. They have advisers in the administration, but they are unique in the sense that they are totally student run. Ground up operation. Committee chairs go where committees tell them.
 - Music, Jazz, Special Events, Film League, No Vice, Student Music: each has a chair. There's also an overall director and assistant director.
 - They get \$145,000/year from the VSA: this is broken up into 9 different categories.
 - They have a Discretionary Fund which gives more to committees that need additional funding. They also maintain a Working Fund to provide for various costs.
 - ViCE Music does Serenading, fall concert, spring concert every year and sometimes another smaller event. \$66,000-22/event. They have to create events that appeal to as many students as possible. Big-wig bands and production costs can be too expensive.
 - Student Music brings singer songwriters to smaller events with student musicians.
 - Film League is trying to branch out and do some election coverage. It costs \$500-700 to screen older movies and over 1 K for newer movies. They can't afford this all the time. There are also production costs.
 - No ViCE puts on concerts every other week. They try to expose the student body to music they wouldn't hear otherwise every Thursday.

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 23, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

*"If you can know where you're going, you've gone"
—Sunday in the Park with George, Stephen Sondheim*

- Special Events does everything that isn't film or music, i.e. comedians, fire breathers, parties. They like to collaborate, especially with the senior class. 50 Night's buses cost somewhere between 8 k and 10 k. My Super Sweet 2016 was a 2-3 K event a couple weeks ago. They seek variety to keep people coming.
- They try to bring artists that will be popular, but haven't made it big yet because they can't afford the super famous guys. In the past they've brought some big names that charge big time now. They try to get the next big thing.
- Challenges include the fact that they are not-for-profit. They get their money from the Student Activities fee and the VSA. They're committed to inclusivity; they try to program for everybody. They have a small sample size to work with. They had 800 people at the Serenading concert which is a fourth of the student body, but not that big of a number. They love collaboration, like with VC Punks or Hip Hop 101. They want to provide programming different from what other orgs are offering.
- Activities asked about music. How do they engage student opinion in who they bring? Serenading was an anomaly. The process is they send out emails to booking agents and ask who is available at this price on this date. No genre is specified. The names are brought to the committee and they collaboratively make the decision. They look who's playing on the festival circuit, read music blogs, etc. They look for names people may have heard.
- Student Life asked how they gather feedback from the events and what they do with it. Committees have weekly meetings where they debrief events. They talk about it on Exec. Board. While staffing events, they speak w/ security, Terry Quinn, Mike Bodanarik, their friends; they look at a crowd, they analyze attendance, they follow up with EMS to see how programming and intox stats relate to events. Generally speaking, the first weekends back are going to be shit-shows. They base film screenings on attendance. Say Anything can be a resource. They hear stuff walking around campus, sitting in the shuttle, anonymous places.
- President asked about money and some of the steps they've taken to change the deficit from 2-3 years ago. Last year they committed to paying the \$30,000 debt that they had. They were able to give quality programming despite the deficit, but not as great as they would have liked. They're working with Finance Committee to ensure that they are more responsible. They're trying to find an Exec. Board that's not just a group of friends, but instead people that will really think about these issues and have a commitment to changing this. Special Events noted that the format for finances had changed since each committee is responsible for

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 23, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

"If you can know where you're going, you've gone"
—Sunday in the Park with George, Stephen Sondheim

their own finances. This has fostered increased responsibility. Since there are budget lines for each committee, this helps them keep to their budgets.

-Jewett asked how long the Censure lasts. It's not a Censure, but an amendment to the bylaws.

-2014 asked if they've thought at all about getting more student input in different ways. One way is to get your name on the general body email list. They've also been trying to get the word out that you can change programming by being a part of it. They walk the line between listening to the people that matter and those who don't want to work on it.

-Activities asked about how they've created more accountability to get into the org. At the end of the year last year they sent out an email declaring open positions and they sent out an application, conducted interviews, and the former Exec. Board chose new positions. What's your vision? What's your experience? You don't need experience necessarily to be on it. Sometimes it's good to get fresh eyes. Anyone who's outgoing (graduated or not on it) sits with VP for Activities, President, and Mike Bodnarik to choose the new ones.

-Finance asked about alternative events on campus this semester. She hasn't had general body meetings yet, but they are focusing on diversity of programming.

-Socos asked about collaborations. They've done a lot; SASA, Hip Hop 101 (selecting who came and why)-Das Racist, they had a panel planned, but it didn't work out. They've collaborated with VC Sound System, different departments, political groups, comedy groups, WVKR, ASA. They usually let orgs approach them or they'll reach out if they have an event in mind that makes sense. They have a special collaboration fund. They don't want to simply be the piggy bank for other orgs. Mike B is the org advisor and assistant director of campus activities, so he helps them know what's going on. Student Music already collaborated with Wordsmiths on an event this semester. They want to decide on who to bring with the org. They have diverse connections and spaces on campus.

-ViCEisnice.org: where to find more information.

-Sustainability Committee: New position, Alistair; he's working on a variety of initiatives. He graduated from Vassar in 2011. He's a resource and wanted to introduce himself so everyone knows who he is. They're re-launching the Resource Conservation Fund which funds sustainability projects. They funded the new LED lighting in ACDC. There are many more opportunities around campus that they can help with. They are open to all ideas. They are willing to spend upwards of \$50,000 on projects like these around campus. The idea is that in the next few years the fund will become self-sufficient. They hope it will be an

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 23, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

"If you can know where you're going, you've gone"
—Sunday in the Park with George, Stephen Sondheim

education tool and a way in which different students can collaborate. Self-sufficiency is a priority. Their timeline is to solicit proposals over the next few months; the 1st deadline will be November 5th. By Thanksgiving they will have a huge community forum where they will invite anyone to give feedback and post comments. Then they will make a decision then on which project to select. Someone from the VSA is helping in this process.

-2015 asked how the All School Gift of 2011 (the Sustainability bucket to the annual fund) plays into their work. He assumes that fund helps fund their projects.

-Student Life asked if he has any specific issues he's thinking about. They want it to be a community effort which is why they aren't using B&G's list. They have thought about paper towel use, water resources, an energy master plan, etc.

-Operations asked how people apply. They are in the process of updating their website at pages.vassar.edu/CCS where there is a simple application. After they've done that, they will work with them to calculate the exact savings.

-An at-large member asked how they collaborate with renovation projects on campus. They are increasingly seeing more integration of sustainability into master planning because they now have a representative that works with the master planning committees.

-Academics asked about the savings evaluation process. Isn't it complex? They have a college budget analyst and budget director on their committee who help with this. The college is constantly being approached by people who offer suggestions on how to spend \$0 on energy. They have to sort through these offers.

-Student Life suggested installing a charging box for electric cars at Vassar. The car contract is on a 3 year term so they will be reevaluating soon.

-Jewett asked about compost in dorms. They ran a composting trial in Raymond. It was pretty successful, but they are still thinking it through and trying not to increase the work of custodial staff. They are trying to improve it in senior housing first.

5 Executive Board Reports

a. Activities.....(7 min)

-Yesterday was the Arlington Street Fair which is arguably the cutest event ever.

There were many orgs performing. Andrew Rovner was great! The weather had its moments.

-Meet me in Poughkeepsie now has a bus route. There will hopefully be a Facebook event going out tonight. Registration will open Tuesday at noon and close Sunday at

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 23, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

*"If you can know where you're going, you've gone"
-Sunday in the Park with George, Stephen Sondheim*

noon. Thank you Activities Committee for helping plan events and sort through applications.

-The Activities Committee structure: half an hour of structured time talking about whatever event is coming. The next half hour is spent talking about ways in which to improve programming on campus.

-Saturday, a VP for Activities in 2008 came in and it was really cute and she tweeted about it so Activities wanted to share.

b. Finance.....(7 min)

-Special Purpose Funds: Collaboration \$16,000. Community: \$11,680/\$12,000.

Speakers: \$32650/\$45000. Capital: \$23000/\$25000. New Orgs: \$5,000/\$5,000.

Discretionary: \$55,605/60,000. Internal funds are all good. The VSA has used 1/3rd from the Speakers Fund; they have to cut back on it if they want more speakers in the future.

-Finance Committee is having conversations about how to be more accessible, and transparent. One thing they've changed is opening their meetings to orgs. They have a conversation and Finance talks among themselves so the org can hear the whole process, instead of the previous system where Finance would discuss it alone after a short Q&A with the org.

-Student Life wanted to say Happy Birthday to Finance and you're attractive!

6 Appointment of Strong Junior Representative.....Operations (5 min)

-This position was supposed to be filled in the spring. They only had one applicant, Jessica Grinel. The motion to appoint her for the fall passed with all in favor. The motion to appoint her for the spring passed with all in favor.

7 Appointment of Raymond Secretary.....Operations (5 min)

-They had two applicants. They brought both of them into the Operations Committee and talked with them. They felt one of the candidates had a stronger statement, had more concrete ideas, and has already gotten involved with house team. They were impressed with the other candidate's dedication to getting involved in student government, but ultimately decided to recommend Meagan, the first candidate. The motion to appoint Meagan to Raymond Secretary passed with all in favor, Raymond abstained.

8 Open Discussion

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Agenda for September 23, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

"If you can know where you're going, you've gone"
—Sunday in the Park with George, Stephen Sondheim

- 2013: 243 days until commencement. He will have a specific time for Serenading debrief in the near future. The Senior Class Council wants to be the main hub for all Halloween events.
- Operations: Freshmen elections are still going on. Tomorrow at 7 pm there will be a debate in Sanders for Presidential Candidates. Voting is Wednesday at noon until Friday at noon. There will be no campaigning during that period. This Friday at 7 pm there will be a results party. Next Sunday they'll have a freshman president. Founders Day co-chairs are still a thing; applications are due on Sept 30th at midnight to the special appointments sections of VSA website.
- President: Finance's birthday today—they bought cake, everyone should come and eat!
- Activities: Thanks Michelle for sitting in as 2016 president the past few weeks.
- Lathrop asked about Halloween weekend. 2013 answered that they want it to be seen as a package.
- Dave from the Miscellaneous News- Dean Chanette released his agenda for the year which includes some very massive changes to the way students structure their course loads and he hopes everyone and their constituencies follow this issue very closely.
- Academics noted that he will be going over this issue in depth at his next updates. As of now, they are just ideas that Dean Chanette has, not policy issues. It's an open question as to whether this relates to how student perceptions will change.
- Cushing made a motion to adjourn.
- This motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.