

VASSAR STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Council Minutes for September 9, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Location: College Center 223

If farmers and blacksmiths could win independence from an empire ... if immigrants could leave behind everything they knew for a better life on our shores...if women could be dragged to jail for seeking the vote...if a generation could defeat a depression, and define greatness for all time...if a young preacher could lift us to the mountaintop with his righteous dream ... and if proud Americans can be who they are and boldly stand at the altar with who they love...then surely, surely we can give everyone in this country a fair chance at that great American Dream.

-Michelle Obama

1. Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
 - New water bottles for everyone from the freshman stock. Woohoo!
 - A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Activities Fair.
2. Attendance Operations
 - All here except Town Students. Cushing proxy was late.
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. \$2,925 from the Council Discretionary Fund to Ultimate Frisbee
 - b. \$2,500 from the Speakers, Lectures, and Panels Fund to Wordsmiths
 - c. \$5,000 from the Speakers, Lectures, and Panels Fund to the Feminist Alliance
 - d. \$1,515 from the Conference Fund to HYPE
 - Wordsmiths appealed their funding. This item was moved to number 5 on the agenda.
4. Executive Board Reports
 - a. President (5 min)
 - Exec. board will be meeting with administrators on a regular basis.
 - The Student Space Committee has been formed and they have an aggressive agenda for the semester. President will be meeting with Terry Quinn and the dean of the college in the near future.
 - The VSA has partnered with the Dean of the College and Freshmen to bring Turbo Vote to campus. This is a program that makes it easier to register to vote or to apply for an absentee ballot. Please talk to your constituencies about this.
 - President will not be here for next Council meeting due to the holiday.
 - b. Operations (5 min)
 - Freshmen Elections start this Wednesday, the 12th. VSA sent out an email explaining how to file. They will send another email on Wednesday when filing opens. It helps to have house presidents plugging for people to run; please help with this. Filing lasts a week and campaigning start on the 19th. There will be a Candidates' meeting at this time.
 - At the Activities Fair they had about 100 people sign up to be sent the weekly agenda. Let upperclassmen know! They should email VP for Operations if they want to be added to the list.
5. Wordsmith's appeal of their budgeting allocation.
 - They want Council to think further about this allocation because they aren't

considering the charge at the Alumni House.

- Socos asked if they had to stay at the Alumni House or if they could look into something cheaper.
 - Student Life made a motion to increase the allocation to \$350.
 - This motion passed with all in favor.
6. Guiding Principles Academics and SoCos (10 min)
- These are based on the principles they put together during training. To summarize:
 1. Inclusion
 2. Approachability
 3. Visibility
 4. Publicize resources of Council/VSA
 5. Improve Transparency
 6. Promote Diversity of Programming
 7. Class relations and Integration
 8. Improve school spirit and athletics
 9. Reaching out to the larger Poughkeepsie community
 10. Safe spaces
 11. Focus on the future of Vassar as they make decisions
 12. Focus on academics and faculty integration
 13. Promote relations with peer institutions
 - Socos added that they tried to make it simple and readable so that everyone could relate and understand.
 - The motion to adopt this resolution passed with all in favor.
7. Special Meeting Rules Operations (10 min)
- Operations Committee went over the procedures they use to run their meetings that don't necessarily adhere to Robert's Rules. They took out gender binaries and some spelling mistakes.
 - This motion passed with all in favor.
8. Event Updates Activities (5 min)
- The Activities Fair went well! Sorry for the thunder storms and crazy Douglas.
 - VANs went well. Woot Tornado Watch! Based on walking around and observing, Activities thinks about 350-400 freshmen participated.
 - Meet Me in Poughkeepsie is the next big event. He already has a few applications. They are all due Saturday the 15th and the event will take place on October 6th.
 - "YOU'RE WELCOME" -Activities
9. Student Space Charter President (20 min)
- Over the next few weeks they will be working on an awareness campaign regarding the new student space. Part of this will be holding informal conversations in each dorm with the house president in participation. They will also be going into UpC to gather students' feelings about the student space. Then they will be moving into the research component of the project with focus groups and a survey. They are hoping to move it forward as quickly as possible. The timeline is still vague, but it is important to get students input as soon as possible.

- The charter is a VSA committee with VSA members. There are no at large members because it's a research committee. However, the idea is that anyone will be welcome to sit in. He'll be reporting to Council every few weeks during his updates. There's no specific funding for this yet; they may need some later.
 - Student Life asked who the administrative point person will be. It will either be Chris Roelke or Terry Quinn. President has already been talking to TQ about some of the plans. Dean Roelke is very invested and pushing the project so he'll definitely be involved as well.
 - 2015 made a motion to amend the Charter, Section 4 to read 'his request' instead of 'his/her request'.
 - This motion passed with all in favor.
 - The idea is to have the student space open in the fall of 2013, but it's looking like that may not be plausible.
 - Academics added that the other construction projects are also causing delays because the administration doesn't have time to deal with this.
 - This motion passed with all in favor.
10. An Amendment Concerning Supplemental Budgeting Joss and 2015 (10 min)
- This amendment is simple. They want to make Supplemental continuous. They figured the best way of doing that is to combine it with the Discretionary fund. They removed the word "supplementary" from all places in the bylaws.
 - If this is passed all the money allocated to Supplementary will be moved to Discretionary immediately.
 - This is tabled until next week.
11. An Amendment Concerning Capital Budgeting.....Joss and 2015 (10 min)
- The Finance Committee convened to think about ways to use their money more effectively. Instead of giving the money all at once, they will give capital budgeting to orgs as they need it.
 - Some names and processes are changed.
 - Finance also added that Capital Budgeting comes from a special fund given by a donor a few years ago.
12. Open Discussion
- 2013: 257 days until Commencement. All seniors should follow the Student Gift on Twitter. You can win V-cash!
 - Serenading is happening this Saturday the 15th. The Dean of the College has put money into the dorm/alum pizza dinner the night before. House dinners will be happening at 6. They went around to every house to explain what Serenading is and invite them to the event. A very clear email went out to the entire senior class explaining the event.
 - Operations: CASA is working on planning Vassar Devils at the Alumni House. This is a presentation about Vassar traditions and everyone eats Vassar devils (yummy chocolate cakes!)
 - President took a moment to acknowledge the VSA assistants. Tewa rocks!!
 - Finance Committee will meet every Wednesday at 4 p.m. but this Wednesday there's Convocation so he wants to suspend the amendment of the time for this

week. This motion to alter article 6, section B. passed with all in favor except for Strong. The meeting will be moved to 9 p.m. this Wednesday.

- Activities thanked various Council members for helping him clean up from the Activities Fair.
- President: Convocation Wednesday at 3:30 in the Chapel.
- Academics recommended the book of the month: The Last Samurai; you can read the blurb on the website to read about it.
 - Town Houses asked about where the “book of the month” will be on the website and what will happen surrounding this idea. Activities explained that it’s still up in the air, but it will be under the Academics tab.
 - Strong asked what the purpose of this is. Activities explained that one reason is that reading is a good thing and another thing is he wants to encourage leisure reading apart from all the academic reading students do.
 - Ferry asked about who will be choosing the books and if people can recommend. Yes they can.
- Joss made a motion to adjourn.
- This motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.