

**VSA Senate Meeting Notes**  
**10/11/2020**

**1. Consensus Agenda - PASSED**

- a. Allocations
  - i. Unbound: \$30.99/\$30.99
    - 1. Coat hangers/props
  - ii. Contrast: \$685.99/\$685.99
    - 1. camera
  - iii. VSA: \$5500/\$5500
    - 1. 4 V-cash machines
    - 2. All orgs can rent them

**2. Executive Board Updates (Executive Board)**

- a. Equity and Inclusion
  - i. Meets fridays at 11am open committee
- b. Residential Affairs
  - i. No updates
- c. Health and Wellness
  - i. No updates
  - ii. Sent out first health and wellness newsletter last week
- d. Organizations
  - i. No pre orgs to approve because they are going through all of them
  - ii. Phase 3 -new programming guidelines
- e. Academics
  - i. ETI Pedagogy this past friday
  - ii. Releasing first edition of newsletter in 2 weeks
    - 1. Will be featuring student research
- f. Finance
  - i. No updates beside allocations
- g. Programming and Traditions
  - i. No updates
- h. Operations
  - i. Appointed Davi treasurer
- i. VSA President
  - i. Info being released should be approved by Pres or VP so false info is not spread

**3. Committee Chair Updates (Committee Chairs)**

- a. Environmental Action
  - i. No updates
- b. Planning

- i. No updates
  - c. First-Year Programs
    - i. Ways for first years to make friends in other dorms (lunch/dinner)
- 4. Senator Updates (VSA Senators)**
  - a. Class of 2024
    - i. Sent survey about spring opening options to first year students
      - 1. 300 responses
  - b. Class of 2023
    - i. No updates
  - c. Class of 2022
    - i. No updates
  - d. Class of 2021
    - i. No updates
  - e. College Planning
    - i. No updates
- 5. Constituent Concerns**
  - a. none
- 6. Open Discussion**
  - a. Spring Opening (PB - President Bradley, DA - Dean Alamo in notes to distinguish from students)
    - i. (faculty voting this wednesday)
    - ii. 2024 senators collected data on new revised plan
      - 1. Over 200 responses - overwhelmingly liked plan A
      - 2. 118-plan A; 30-plan feb17th plan
    - iii. 2022 survey - assumption is that A,B,C is scrapped so asked about new revised plan
      - 1. Lukewarm - but leaning toward not liking it
    - iv. Concerns about spending so much time at home - unsafe living conditions
    - v. Concerns about peak flu season during pandemic - does plan mitigate this
    - vi. Like that new plan has graduation May 31st and avoids cold weather
      - 1. Avoiding cold weather (isolation) important for mental health of students (no eating/spending time outside)
      - 2. Can students (exceptions) still be allowed to stay on campus/come back at earlier date
    - vii. Prefer longer break of revised plan (come back 2/7) over Plan A (come back 1/10)
      - 1. Graduation date end of may important for internships/jobs/summer plans
    - viii. 2024 concerns with phases when moving back spring semester

1. Plan B (start remote) - work is getting more difficult when moving in
  2. PB: feedback on newer plan? → more votes for compromise than plan B
- ix. 2022 - what would breaks and shortened study/exam periods would look like
1. PB - combined reading/exam period (8/9 days)
  2. CCP will decide when breaks are
- x. Worried about shortened reading/exam period - cause stress (not enough time to study)
- xi. Will dining be open over winter break
1. DA - dining will be open but reduced schedule (similar options to summer break)
  2. Won't know spring plan until decision to stay over winter break
    - a. DA- aiming for week of 26th for decision → recommend that you apply, and then withdraw application
- xii. 2022 - 150 responses - overwhelmingly preferred coming back on time and graduation staying the same
1. Shortened exam/reading period - big concern
  2. Interest in faculty plan to keep expectations reasonable re: shortened reading/exam week
  3. Overwhelmingly preferred consecutive days off over community care day
- xiii. 2024 concerned over phase move in - is 10 days enough
1. Wanna spend as much time on campus as possible (dont wanna do remote) - especially hard for international students (time/difference)
  2. DA - shortened move in - not really moving in just coming back to rooms
- xiv. 2023 concerned about short exam period and community care days dont help (just using them to study instead of relac - consecutive days off are needed)
- xv. 2022 prefer plan A; worried about reading period; want to spend as much time on campus as possible.
1. Ending on time (end of may) - incredibly important
  2. PB - thinking about starting people off in pods because of isolation/cold - want student feedback
  3. Prefer staying on campus and having broader access on campus (rather than having off campus privileges)
  4. DA - move in does not have to look the same as the fall - could start pods sooner

- xvi. 2023 most people want to come back in january (dont want really long break)
  - 1. But hard because of isolation at the beginning (cold)
  - 2. What facilities will be open over winter break - more people staying than usual
- xvii. Poding early is important - if not accessible students will break rules
  - 1. 2022 survey - community care days not useful in the middle of week. mon/tues over friday bc many don't have classes on friday anyways
- xviii. How will different plans impact senior week?
  - 1. PB - if graduation on may 31st may be tough to fit in senior week with compressed schedule
    - a. If its spread out can do more memorable senior activities since graduation will look different because of pandemic
  - 2. DA - how important is may 31st graduation to you? If its later, can do more senior activities
  - 3. PB - surprised ppl so adamant about finishing on time since summer internships/plans are so uncertain
- xix. Poding early will cause more people to be quarantined - even more miserable/hard on mental health
- xx. Graduation impacts smaller portion of the student body - so okay to push it back but must be advertised early so people can make plans
  - 1. DA - if pushed back it would only be for the seniors, everyone else can leave early
- xxi. Really important to have senior activities because seniors have already missed out on so much
- xxii. Is new revised plan the main consideration or are original 3 plans still on the table?
  - 1. PB- Plan B - everyone hated; plan C - a lot of push back on starting/ending late; mainly considering A and revised plan
  - 2. 14 weeks of academic work
- xxiii. Concerns about internships starting june 1st/late May (hard especially because there are less internships)
  - 1. Make it clear to faculty to respect community care days
  - 2. Will JYA happen?
    - a. PB/DA - decision will be made in about 2 weeks- doesn't look optimistic especially europe
- xxiv. PB - spring semester will still be hybrid plan (can do remote if they want)
- xxv. DA - other institutions are also considering pushing back start dates

1. PB - other liberal arts colleges starting about 3 weeks later (but they also have shorter breaks)
- xxvi. It's gonna be cold till march so is starting a few weeks later really worth it; remaining over break?
1. DA- yes it's important because it minimizes the cold period
    - a. will be applications for students with special circumstances to stay over break - but encouraging students who can to stay home
    - b. students will return keys to ensure that students provide test upon arrival (must present test to get key)
- xxvii. PB - will students be more careful about social distancing before coming back? There were about 20 positive cases upon arrival in the fall
1. Some people think huge parties won't happen as much because of winter (spending time with families)
  2. Holidays especially new years will cause lots of parties - will be similar to fall
    - a. Also because we've been stuck on campus for so long ppl will want to party
- xxviii. Will there be more programming especially at the beginning and in general throughout the semester
1. Travelling is stressful during pandemic - will there be shuttles?
    - a. DA - didn't want shuttles coming to campus because everyone coming from different places - but will have for return home
  2. PB - must consider what kind of programming works (remote/in person)
- xxix. PB - working on quicker testing to open on-campus access faster; working with new testing group
- xxx. DA - breaks are also really important for faculty and staff - so want to take this into consideration
- xxxi. PB - now considering consecutive days off, exam period lengths, and senior week