

10/18/20 VSA Senate Meeting Notes

1. Consensus Agenda

a. Allocations - ALL PASSED

i. Capital:

1. Big Night In: \$29.99/\$29.99
2. Knitwits: \$12.50/\$12.50
3. JAS: \$29.99/\$29.99
4. Vassar Bike Shop: \$90.92/\$90.92
 - a. Bike shop maintenance

ii. Discretionary: - ALL PASSED

1. Knitwits: \$38.89/\$38.89
 - a. yarn
2. Vassar Law Club: \$95.76/\$95.76
 - a. speaker
3. Apartment Areas: \$147.45/\$147.45
 - a. Supplies for costume contest
4. Latinx Student Union: \$1400/\$1400
 - a. Speaker for event next week

b. Censure

i. Motion to Censure - DROPPED

1. '23 senators sent out an email -- language does not match VSA standards/values
2. Disagree with the nature of the email
3. Any emails being sent out using entire class list need to be approved by VSA president, VP, or relevant committee chairs
4. Official reprimand
5. Formally disapproving of the message -- no repercussions; but will meet w VSA executive board
6. Author of the email believes the email did not pursue personal agenda because the subject of the email was the main platform he ran on and students overwhelmingly elected him (based on this issue)
7. Message/content was not the problem -- if the author had communicated with VSA exec board and other senators (lack of communication is the problem)
8. Senators have felt like they only show up to meetings; want to be able to speak directly to the people they represent (who elected him)
9. Not an accurate representation of the change the VSA can make (don't want to make false promises)--this is the reason exec board

has a second look at letters/emails before they are sent out to student body

10. Climate change is not a personal or political issue and should not be censured
11. Senators voices are meeting-- have not had many opportunities to represent student voices; thinks senators should not have to go through VSA exec board (bylaw should be abolished)
12. Issue with communication with admin and senators
 - a. Will send out a form/email about how to work on this
13. If a senator promises something that VSA can't do, that's on the senator-- only wrong if they speak on behalf of VSA
14. How to reconcile harm done from false information if there is no one fact checking emails
 - a. Impeachment process for senators
15. Orgs don't have access to class mailing lists
 - a. For senator who is president of an org to use his power as senator to send out email to whole class about org--weird grey area (inequity)
 - b. This email was not an abuse of power--email was not on behalf of an org (was on behalf of a campaign promise)
16. Don't agree on censoring senator emails
17. Exec board does not change the wording, just a conversation about the content
18. Instead of getting emails approved, could just give exec board a heads up about email coming out
 - a. Better communication between senators and exec board
19. Promise of transparency is hurt by not having things approved
20. CC exec board to emails
 - a. Need to be voted on and added to the by laws
21. Need to update bylaws
22. Have a conversation about this in executive board meeting and/or in senate
23. Would appreciate communication with executive board
24. Anyone who feels passionate about this, please communicate with VP and attend Ops meetings (wednesdays at 8:10pm).

2. Executive Board Updates (Executive Board) - no updates

- a. Equity and Inclusion
- b. Residential Affairs
- c. Health and Wellness
- d. Organizations
- e. Academics

- f. Finance
 - g. Programming and Traditions
 - h. Operations
 - i. VSA President
 - i. Changing Traditions (In regards to their origins and practices)
 - 1. General VSA practices
- 3. Committee Chair Updates (Committee Chairs) - no updates**
- a. Environmental Action
 - b. Planning
 - c. First-Year Programs
- 4. Senator Updates (VSA Senators) - no updates**
- a. Class of 2024
 - b. Class of 2023
 - c. Class of 2022
 - d. Class of 2021
 - e. College Planning
- 5. Constituent Concerns**
- 6. Open Discussion**
- a. Spring Opening