

CCSC Resolution to Bring Back Van Am Jamsⁱ

Whereas the Office of Student Development and Activities discontinued its Van Am Jams event series in Fall 2002 and effectively replaced it with its two Student Affairs Barbeques and its "Live-At-Lerner" event seriesⁱⁱ.

Whereas the discontinuation of Van Am Jams was an entirely administrative decisionⁱⁱⁱ and did not include any student input.

Whereas community-building is an important mission for strengthening ties between students, faculty and staff as well as building a positive identification with Columbia among future alumni.

Whereas the CCSC Campus Life Committee-run Van Am Jams celebration of March 28, 2003 drew a large turnout of over 1000 and contributed to community-building.

Whereas the Live-At-Lerner events typically draw comparatively few people, are inherently narrow in focus and by extension do not contribute to community-building^{iv}.

Whereas student groups regularly bring interesting, popular and high caliber speakers to campus on their own initiative and at more convenient times for student attendance than Live-At-Lerner events^v.

Whereas the Low Plaza Student Affairs Barbeques lack frequency and do not effectively focus on the undergraduate community by virtue of their location.

Whereas music performance groups view Van Am Jams as an important resource and one of the few opportunities to promote their music to the entire Columbia community^{vi}.

Be it resolved that Van Am Jams should be brought back to Columbia as a regular series of events.

Be it further resolved that, if necessary, resources devoted to Live-At-Lerner and the Student Affairs Barbeques should be redirected to support Van Am Jams.

CCSC Resolution to Make Van Am Jams a Student Run Event

Whereas the Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) does not have the financial resources to hold more than one Van Am Jams event in any given year without cutting into student group funding and existing student council and class council initiatives.

Whereas existing student group and council activities are themselves integral to campus life and vital to community-building.

Whereas the student council and student body are eager to do the work required to hold Van Am Jams events.

Whereas student organized events are more effective at bringing together the undergraduate community because they foster greater student identification with the event and build on the advantages that students have in reaching out to the student community on a more personal basis.

Be it resolved that the CCSC should take on all the responsibilities, inconveniences, and work of managing future Van Am Jams events with only financial support coming from the Office of Student Development and Activities and the Division of Student Affairs.

Zachary Frank, Student Services Representative
Jonathan Klein, CCSC Vice-President for Campus Life
Miklos Vasarhelyi, CC '04 Vice-President

ⁱ Van Am Jams are large barbeque events with full stage and sound set-up for music performers. They have almost always been held in Van Amringe Quad, which has the advantage of being between undergraduate academic buildings and undergraduate dorms.

ⁱⁱ Although Live-At-Lerner temporarily coexisted with Van Am Jams last year, its events have increased in number since the cancellation of Van Am Jams. Student Development and Activities personnel formerly responsible for Van Am Jams have also been redirected to organize Live-At-Lerner. The Student Affairs Barbeques are a new initiative begun just this year. They have been explicitly acknowledged as having replaced the Van Am Jams events.

ⁱⁱⁱ Personnel under the Division of Student Affairs, which formerly organized and financed the Van Am Jams event series, made the decision.

^{iv} We are using “community building” as defined repeatedly by administrators in discussions surrounding the Intrepid cancellation and 2003 End of the Year Party. Numerous representatives from the Division of Student Affairs, along with their Barnard counterparts, have explicitly said that if the end of the year party did not draw more than 1000 people it could not possibly qualify as a community-building event.

^v Many Live-At-Lerner events take place while most students are in class. On the other hand, if they were scheduled later in the day when more students were free to attend, they would conflict directly with student-run events.

^{vi} The Student Affairs Barbeques, which are typically scheduled on Friday afternoons, could not possibly include student music performances because of university rules prohibiting amplified noise before 4pm on Fridays.