

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 16th, 2011 VU 567**

Student Senators: *Present:* Kendall Bull (Chair), Jered McCardle, Victor Celis, Ean Olsen, Chris Savage, Chris Brown, Amy Stavig, Katie Vainikka, Evan Fowler, Jamie Hamilton, Felipe Espinoza, Mason Luvera, Jacquelyn Gratias

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Marissa Jaksich

ASVP for Academic Affairs: Fabiola Arvizu (absent)

Guest(s): Student Journalist

Kendal Bull, Student Senate Chair called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm

I. Approval of Minutes

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Approval of Minutes was postponed to the next formal Student Senate meeting. Public Forum item “AS President Anna Ellermeier, and VP of Business and Operations Travis Peters” was moved to be removed from the agenda by consensus.

III. Public Forum

IV. Information Items

V. Action Items

VI. Discussion Items

A. Talking to the Press

Ariana Lopez, from the Associated Students Communication and Marketing Office, came to help Senators with how to deal with the media. She began by giving tips for Public Relations. She said before giving details to the press to remember that senators are “on the record” and that anything said to the reporter can be used in the press. She also said that Senators can decide not to comment to a reporter or ask to call the reporter at a later time. She told them to ask if they can have the reporter’s phone number to call them back, and when the publication will be released and if there is a deadline. Ariana stated that the worst thing senators could do is to voice different statements on issues. Senate is referred to as a group, so it helps to be in unison with the statements of fellow senators. She then closed by saying if they had any questions that they are not sure about, be sure to ask Kendall, the Senate Chair, for information of clarification before speaking to the press.

B. Issue of the Quarter

Senator Celis introduced the HigherOne Card issue as he is on the HigherOne Taskforce. He began by giving out handouts to the senators detailing the results found at the task force's Student Rally that was held last Wednesday, November 9, in order to gather student input on the HigherOne Cards. Celis first explained the various categories of comments that were expressed on HigherOne Card. The first is the process of the selecting HigherOne, and concerns were raised about the lack of student input that went in to the selection process. Second category was the banking practices of HigherOne, in which students raised issues about the fees, charges, and general practices of HigherOne as a bank. The third category involved the education of the bank facts, and how students felt they should have been more educated prior on the banking practices of HigherOne. The fourth category revolved around the general distrust of HigherOne. The next category addressed the issues with privacy and information being released, specifically referring to the concern of students' financial information being released to HigherOne without their consent. The next category of comments described the marketing of the card and ease of use, which reflected mixed feelings on the various emails, cards, and other contact from HigherOne, as well as the easiness of either setting up direct deposit or bypassing Higher One altogether. Another category of comments dealt with the making HigherOne an "Opt-in" system rather than an "Opt-out" one because students had difficulty trying to get out of the HigherOne system. The last category represented the comments that were simply unproductive and consisted of angry comments toward HigherOne and the University. Celis then reviewed all the questions that students had stated on the comment cards regarding HigherOne. Celis stated that there were a total of 79 comments, 11 comment card questions, and 62 comment cards. He then mentioned that the Higher One Taskforce was holding a public forum the following day, November 17th, and that the senators were welcome to come and partake.

C. Parliamentary Procedure

The Senate Chair introduced parliamentary procedure (*parli pro*) into discussion. The question was whether or not Senate should use a more formalized way of doing parliamentary procedure; or rather keep it informal in some areas to make it simpler and easier for senators to follow. Senate Chair directed this discussion to Chris Savage, Senate Parliamentarian. Savage reviewed the different ways of doing *parli pro*. Celis expressed his view that senate should take on a more informal version of parliamentary procedure because senate is not as familiar with formal parliamentary procedure. He feels that formal procedure requires too many motions and would make the discussions very convoluted. He thinks senate should go straight into discussion, make a motion, and then second it. McCardle reminded senate that parliamentary procedure is there to help make the meetings more efficient. Savage replied saying this only works if everyone knows it and knows how it is used. McCardle believes parliamentary procedure is worth learning in more detail in order to improve the structure of the meetings. Senate chair mentioned that he would begin enforcing time limits on discussions as another effort to improve the flow of meetings. Fowler believes knowledge of parliamentary procedure has improved throughout the quarter by participating in the meetings, and believes that as more meetings take place, senators will become more efficient and know *parli pro* better. He also seconded chair's idea of time limits. Vainikka expressed concern about the open-mindedness of discussions when they are led by a motion. Savage addressed her concern that discussions are

meant to be open and you should be free to voice your opinion either way. Olsen voiced hearing a motion before the discussion does drive people in a certain direction, but this is what makes parliamentary procedure efficient. However he thought that in a small group setting, it might not be the most effective method. He is okay proceeding either way. McCardle agrees and says that no matter what parliamentary procedure they decide to use it will be a learning process and will take time to get used to. He added that it took a while for the previous year's senate to become proficient in parliamentary procedure as well, and should be expected to take some time. The Chair is leaning more towards an informal version of parliamentary procedure as he thinks it will improve the flow of senate meetings.

VIII. Board Reports/Concerns

McCardle gave a brief board report since he attended the last AS Board meeting. He reported that the board is reviewing the senate bylaws. There is concern that the senate bylaws have more to do with how senators should act and be rather than typical bylaws.

VII. Senator Reports/Concerns

Espinoza reported that Michael Vendiola, the Ethnic Student Center Coordinator/Advisor was leaving November 21st. They talked about the future of the ESC and feel that the ESC is not large enough and does not reflect the importance of diversity on campus. They are thinking of teaming up with the resource centers or SOS in the future.

Olsen reported LAC drafted the wording for their value based legislative sheet they will be putting out. They talked about how they all felt about the topics that were discussed. He hoped that the document would be created rather quickly because special session will start on November 28th. Washington Students Association's general assembly will be happening at University of Washington on the upcoming Saturday. They also talked about the legislative action fund, what it is and what it can be used for.

Brown reported that Parking Appeals will meet again Friday.

Fowler reported that GEF met earlier and covered how to make proposal system more efficient to students in a more timely manner. They also talked about the lack of exposure the GEF has on campus, and how to better market of the GEF. The following day he will be meeting for the election code review committee.

Celis reiterated that the Refunding Taskforce is holding a HigherOne forum the following day. They will be meeting next week to draft a recommendation to present to the university's Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs and for Anna Ellermeier, the AS President. He also reported that ACC had met the previous day, and talked a lot about procedures including academic grievance policies, and the appeals process. They feel the current procedures are somewhat vague, and are working on making the process more clear. They are also looking at finals week policies.

Savage reported that that Rec Center Advisory Committee (RCAC) was meeting later in the week. He did want to get feedback though from senators about their opinions on the Campus Recreation Center. Brown brought up that he thinks prices for lockers for the year are very steep considering students are already paying the quarterly fee. Stavig responded saying lockers were available to rent daily at no cost with a Western Card. Overall, she loves the rec center, goes often, and does not mind paying the quarterly fee. Senate chair expressed that he wished it to be open until midnight.

McCardle reported that SPAC met and continued going over office assignments and individuals getting in contact with their office, learning about what they do, and gaining insight into the stories behind their logos. They also went over Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the offices under review.

Stavig stated that Election Code Review will have its first meeting the following day.

IV. Other Business:

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:19 P.M.