

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 9th, 2011 VU 567**

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

Absent: Amy Stavig

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Marissa Jaksich

ASVP for Academic Affairs: Fabiola Arvizu

Guest(s): *Journalism Department:* Kristen Stanovich, Stephanie Robinson, Brandon Oln, Osa Hale, Jeremy Smith, Marya Purrington, Becky Tachihara

Western Front: Olena Rypich, Lillian Furlong, Paige Collins, Rachel Lerman, Celeste Erickson, Erin Nash

Klipsun: Brian Corey

Kendall Bull, Student Senate Chair called this meeting to order at 6:30pm

S-11-F-05 Approval of the minutes of Wednesday, November 2, 2011. *Passed*

S-11-F-06 Approval of “The Removal of Student Information from the Western’s Publications Websites In Cases Where Harm Can Be Shown” resolution. *Failed*

S-11-F-07 Motion to table Issue of the Quarter. *Failed*

S-11-F-08 Approval of Celis’ Revision to Issue of the Quarter as stated: “What is one recommendation you have to improve Western’s refunding process involving the HigherOne Choice card?” *Passed*

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-11-F-05 by McCardle

Approval of minutes

Second: Olsen Vote: 11 - 0 - 0 Action: **Passed**

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Celis motions to move “Issue of the Quarter” and “The Removal of Student Information from the Western's Publications Websites in Cases Where Harm Can Be Shown” from Information Items to Action Items. 11-0-0 moved this item to an Action item.

III. Public Forum

Jennifer Karchmer, a WWU Communication professor, part of Reporters Without Borders. She urges senate to reconsider the resolution. She believes it impinges on the first amendment and the rights of freedom of the press. There is sometimes a stigma that student journalists are not as accountable as public. However they pride themselves on Professional communication. These are “real” students doing “real” work, at a “real”

newspaper. They hold themselves to high standards and accountability, and provide correction or clarification when needed. Merely omitting from the online archives lowers their credibility. She is glad that students are more aware of their online presence and appearance through social media outlets, but she believes that it's the student's responsibility to take preventive action beforehand by recognizing and removing themselves from any event where they do not want to be subject to the press and exposure.

IV. Information Items

V. Action Items

A. The Removal of Student Information from the Western's Publications Websites In Cases Where Harm Can Be Shown

Doc. 1, 2, 3

Chair moves to begin discussion. Fowler second motion for discussion

Olsen defended freedom of press. He stated he was opposed to this resolution, and urges the other senators to consider his position. Brown seconded Olsen's position. He made the point that all the other websites, such as Facebook, and other social media outlets do not remove material. Students should be aware that once material is on the internet, it remains there forever. He did not see merit in passing a resolution to enforce Western Publications to remove content if other bodies do not do the same. McCardle believed that Senate does not have power over this issue. It doesn't matter what senate does; it has no effect.

MOTION S-11-F-06 by Celis

Call the question, and motion to approve "The Removal of Student Information from the Western's Publications Websites In Cases Where Harm Can Be Shown" resolution.

Second: McCardle Vote: 0 - 9 - 2 Action: **Failed**

B. Issue of the Quarter

Chair moves to approve the following Issue of the Quarter, "The issue of the HigherOne Card has drawn concern from students. If one thing could be changed in regards to the HigherOne Card what would that one thing be?" Senators wanted to examine and reevaluate the wording of issue of the quarter. Vainikka believed the issue of the quarter statement read too passively, and suggested we change the language to give it a more active voice. Hamilton thought they needed to be focusing more on the process as a whole, not focusing solely on the "HigherOne Card" as it appears in the statement, but more the "process" or "program." She suggested replacing card with one of these words would be more encompassing to the entire issue. Celis thought "change" was addressing what was in the past, and that the issue of the quarter should be instead directed towards the future. He recommended that the issue of the quarter ask one recommendation for the future in regards to the HigherOne card rather than one change from the past. Fowler moved to discussion the rephrasing of Issue of the Quarter. Celis seconded. Brown brought up the discussion of other refund methods. He noted that the university leaves out that they gave our Social Security numbers to HigherOne and this would concern most students if they were aware. The problem is that not enough information was presented to the students about the HigherOne process. Hamilton enquired if students have signed something to allow the university to use private information like

that. She reiterated her point that there is a lot more behind the scene of the process and that the Issue of the quarter should cover more of the entire system rather than just the card. Brown suggested leaving the question open for comments, rather than a specific answer, since many senators were having concerns. McCardle responded saying that they want a specific answer because it is easier to gather data to pass on. Celis noted that they want to encourage student input in how to make the process better, not steer towards what students are upset about. Celis made it clear that they are not looking for only one recommendation. They welcome any recommendations in reforming the card in its current existence. Hamilton suggested we question whether students want the HigherOne Card to be mandatory. McCardle stated many students hear that it is bad, but don't know the reasons why. He thinks Senate should steer more towards other ways to get refunds back. Celis thought the issue of the quarter question encompasses the refunding process in general not just HigherOne. He said in the past there have been other ways of refunding and is something to look into. Arvizu stated if they want educated comments on this topic, they should encourage people to attend the HigherOne forum occurring the following Thursday, November 17th. She suggested that Senators tell people the forum is happening, or find a creative way to give people information and an opportunity to ask questions. Fowler expressed mixed feelings on the HigherOne Card and wanted to know more about the fee everyone was complaining about. He did, however, like the revised question as it initiates dialogue and is not so passive. Savage moved to table the issue because they did not have enough student input. It was suggested that Senators pick this up at the next meeting. Arvizu thought this to be wasting time, and that senators should settle the issue at the present meeting rather than the following week. Evan seconds this. McCardle calls the question.

MOTION S-11-F-07 by Savage

Savage moves to table Issue of the Quarter

Second: Hamilton Vote: 1 - 8 - 2 Action: **Failed**

Espinoza raised the question of how Senators are planning on presenting this issue to students. Chair replied that the forum, which is posted on the Student Government page of the Associated Students website, is where students can be informed on the issue and respond. Espinoza says he is going to bring up this topic with the ESC.

Celis recommends his revision, so that the final question would appear as the following "What is one recommendation you have to improve Western's refunding process involving the HigherOne Choice card?" Brown believes Celis' revision of the issue of the quarter question is too specific and likes the more general one.

MOTION S-11-F-08 by Olsen

Approval of Celis' Revision to Issue of the Quarter as stated: "What is one recommendation you have to improve Western's refunding process involving the HigherOne Choice card?"

Second: Celis Vote: 4 - 3 - 5 Action: **Passed**

Senate chair broke the tie with his vote

VI. Discussion Items

A. Issue of the Quarter

Senators agreed to continue discussion the following week on the passed Issue of the Quarter question.

B. Dead Week

Senate Chair noted that Senate will not be meeting Thanksgiving. As for dead week, he proposed the idea of doing a senate social at Pho 99 in place of a meeting. A few Senators were unsure about what Pho was, but other students familiar with Pho explained. McCardle liked this idea. Olsen questioned which Pho place the senators would be going. Senate chair responded that they would go to Pho 99 as it is closest and directly on a bus route. Senators seemed to like this idea and it was decided that this event would take place.

C. Thanksgiving

Senate Chair stated that Senate would not meet the following week on November 23rd.

D. Listing of Senators Information on the Website

Senators seemed fine with their emails being listed on the Student Senate web page, but some concern was raised about which email would be listed. It was decided that if senators preferred a different email other than their Western student email addresses, they should email the REP Assistant by the following week requesting their preferred email.

E. Talking to the Press

Senate chair presented the possibility of inviting a representative from the new Communication and Marketing department in the Associated Students to come and discuss how Senators should deal with the media. Senators thought this would be valuable and showed a strong interest in this. Arvizu clarified that the new Communication and Marketing office is there as a resource and guide in dealing with the media and making press releases. Natalie Eitel is the office's director and Ariana Lopez is the assistant director.

F. Credit for Senators

Arvizu has talked to the Political Science department about an independent study credit that Senators could receive for their participation in Senate. The only thing is the registrar's office needs senators to have a faculty sponsor in order to receive credit. She is hoping to have more concrete information for next week in time for winter quarter registration.

VII. Board Reports/Concerns

Fabiola wants to get the senate's advice on some of the decisions being made in the Academic Advising center. The advising Center wants to encourage students to apply for their major sooner rather than later. Currently they place holds on registration when a student has reached 105 credits, but they are actually looking to lower it to 90 credits. The Academic Advising Center's goal is to get students to graduate as soon as they can to avoid prolonging completion. Another issue they are discussing is implementing a process when students register for students to update academic interests. This would allow the advising center to help guide students better, so they can send students information pertaining more closely to their interest. Many students do not end up with the major they originally thought. The Advising center has no way of keeping track of changing student interests. They want to know if asking academic interests while registering would be a good idea and if so want to be move forward with this for

registration the following week. Hamilton thought this was a good idea, but stressed that it should not delay a student's registration. Celis agreed with not doing it immediately before students register. Lisa suggested having it before closing registration, but Savage did not understand logistically how this could work.

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

Espinoza reported that ESC is doing a clothing drive in room 420 in the VU as well as collecting Box Tops in a very colorful box in the ESC.

Olsen reported LAC continued working on the packets they will be giving to Legislators. Members were tasked with creating a draft to bring to next week's meeting

Brown discussed that Parking Appeals Board met for the first time and it was interesting. They took action in reducing a person's parking violation fine. He noted that this was the second round of appeals.

Fowler reported that he has applied to be a member on Election Code Review that should start meeting very shortly.

Celis stated the Refunding Taskforce was gearing up for their second HigherOne Forum that will be taking place the following Thursday November 17th. They had gained valuable feedback and info through their tabling efforts that day.

McCardle reported that SPAC everybody got their department assignment and they were tasked with reaching out to their departments and getting friendly. They are also going over SWOT analysis, which is reviewing strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats.

Gratias reported that she is pending approval for Bookstore Advisory Board

Vainikka discussed how ASTAC can be brought more to the students, so they can gain feedback on what students want.

IV. Other Business:

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:30 P.M.