

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting**

Tuesday,

October 21st, 2008

VU 567

Present: Annie Jansen, Chelsea Bourdess, Nikki Brown, Danielle Dickson, Chelsea Fletcher, Nick Gaddy, Justin Gazabat, Allison Hardesty, Wyatt Ho, Rebekah Johnson, Brianne Kumar, Dan McLafferty, Justin Van Dyk
Absent: Judah Corsini
Advisor: Greg McBride
Secretary: Brooke Hayter
Guest: Daniel O’Hair, Graig Hull

Annie Jansen, Student Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

None

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Item D. Committee and Item E. Senator Shinn were added to the agenda.

III. Public Forum

Daniel O’Hair from the Western front attended the meeting.

IV. Information Items

None

V. Action Items

None

VI. Discussion Items

A. Slacklining

An article from the June 6th edition of the Western Front regarding slacklining and the impact they have on trees at Western, was passed out to the Student Senators. Annie informed the Senators that during next weeks meeting Western gardener Randy Godfrey will be attending the meeting to give them more information on the topic. Slacklining is a sport that has caused property damage to the trees at Western. Annie wanted to know how the Senators felt about this issue. Nikki informed the Senators that there is a group who has been looking at permanently installing poles for students to use for slacklining, so that damaging trees can be avoided. Annie suggested teaming up with the art department and engineering students to possibly assist with the structure of the poles. The Senators began to wonder how they would enforce students to stop using the trees to slackline. They ultimately decided it was more an issue of prevention and education rather than enforcement. The Senators came to the conclusion that it would not be possible to eradicate slacklining on campus. Some Senators pointed out that they have noticed that since this particular article came out the

number of students slacklining on campus have gone down. Senators began to discuss ways in which they could educate students who slackline or are considering slacklining about this particular issue. They suggested holding forums, using events such as VU movie nights to inform people about the issue prior to the start of the movie. They also discussed writing a resolution or formal recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding this issue. Some Senators suggested labeling areas on campus where slacklining is not allowed.

Breanne Kumar left at 6:44pm.

B. Issue of the Month

Annie began by describing to the Senators the purpose of the issue of the month. She then asked Senators to share some of their ideas for the November issue of the month. Chelsea began by sharing with the Senators an issue that was discussed during the Academic Coordinating Commission meeting. Beginning this quarter all professors are required to pass out evaluations to the students at the end of the quarter. She felt this would be helpful to the members on the commission as they would like to have some student feedback. Dan suggested making slacklining the issue of the month. Other Senators suggested waiting until spring as this is more of a seasonal sport. Danielle suggested that she would at some point like to see something about accessibility on campus. The Senators decided that they would vote on the issue of the month in two weeks. Next week Senators will bring specific suggestions to look over.

C. Senate Logo

The new Senate logo that was suggested last year was never actually approved. Annie wanted to know what the Senators felt about this logo. Chelsea explained its significance. The infinity symbol, symbolized a connection between the Student Senate and the larger student body.

Chelsea Fletcher left at 7:00pm.

The Senate does not want the logo to be something intimidating and the logo that was designed last year does a better job of making the Senate seem less imposing. Next week the Student Senators will bring some possible alternatives to look over before they make a final decision on the Senate logo. Greg suggested going through the publicity center in order to get something very professional looking. He also suggested having AS marketing look over the logo.

D. Committees

Annie informed the Senators that they are all required to be on two AS or University committees. She passed out a list of committee descriptions as well as a list of committees that still have spots available. Greg informed the Senators that it was important for them to be on these committees because it is a way to engage the Senate with the rest of the University. The Senate is a sounding board, the more issues they hear about, the more the Senators have the ability to change.

E. Senator Shinn

Sarah Ishmael approached Annie and requested that the Senate co-sponsor a lunch with Senator Shinn, the Vice President Pro Tempore of the Washington State Senate. Sarah requested \$40 from the Senate. Nikki questioned whether or not the event was open to all students on campus; Annie informed her that it was not. There are about five spaces for Senators, six for Legislative Affairs Council members, and one for Sarah Ishmael, Erik Lowe, and the Legislative Liaison. The Senators requested that Annie asks Sarah for some more information about the lunch. After discussion was held it was clear that the Senators would not want to sponsor the event if it is not open to all students, They were uncomfortable using the Senate budget for something that would not better the student body.

VII. Senator Reports/Concerns

- **Annie Jansen** informed Senators where her office was located and told them that she had an open door policy. She is also always available through phone and email. She wants to discuss things that Senators are passionate about and make those things a priority in the Senate.

VIII. Other Business:

The average duration of the Senate meetings was discussed. Annie informed members that it will depend on how many issues we have to talk about. She also explained the importance of the ditto card and how it can have a positive effect on our discussions.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:26 P.M.