

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2011 VU 567**

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

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Marissa Jaksich

ASVP for Academic Affairs: Fabiola Arvizu

Guest(s): *The Western Front:* Gina Cole, Kyle Gootkin, Lillian Furlong, Erin Nash, Osa Hale, Paige Collins, Jack Keith (advisor), Alexa Zaske, Rachel Lerman, TJ Cotterill, James Kozanitis, Christina Crea, Alexandra Kocih, Celeste Erickson, Olena Rypich, Stephanie Robinson
Klipsun Magazine: Marya Purrington, Sydney Brusewitz, Jonathan Kull, Sarah Aitchison
The Planet: Becky Tachinera, Brianna Gibbs, Raymond Flores, Liza Weeks, Susannah Edwards
Student Publications Council: Alethea Macomber, Peggy Watt,
AS Review: Adrienne Woods, Anna Atkinson
Other: Brian Corey, Sarah Wehmann (Journalism Dept.), Green Johnson, Jacquelyn Gratias (prospective senator), Colin Diltz (Freedom of Press), Elysia Nazareth (Public Relations Organization), Jeff Entman (KUGS), Carol Brach (Journalism Dept.)

Kendal Bull, Student Senate Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

- S-11-F-01** Approval of the minutes of Wednesday, October 26th, 2011. *Passed*
S-11-F-02 Amendment to replace “Tuesdays” with “Wednesdays” in Article V of the Bylaws from the Doc. 4 version. *Failed*
S-11-F-03 Amendment to eliminate “on Tuesdays” in Article V of the Bylaws from the Doc. 4 version. *Passed*
S-11-F-04 Approval of Revised Bylaws as stated in Doc. 4, including the elimination of “on Tuesdays”. *Passed*

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-11-F-01 by McCardle

Approval of minutes October 26, 2011

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

II. Revisions to the Agenda

III. Public Forum

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

Peggy Watt is chair to the Student Publications Council (SPC), which governs the student publications that get funding through DRAC including the Western Front, Klipsun, The Planet, and Jeopardy publications. All have sent their editors as representatives, with the exception of Jeopardy. She is also a faculty member to the Journalism department and teaches media law. She as well as many the others present found the proposal problematic, partly because why the SPC exists is to deal with issues like this. If students have a problem they are encouraged to talk to the advisors of Western Publications and then come to the SPC. The council exists to review and interview applicants for the editor and chiefs of the publications, but also to deal with any issues that come up with the publications. Western publications have a 40 year history of independence. The editorial management team is hired and runs the publications on their own with only the advice of advisors. Editors take pride in running and independent operation professionally, and they follow professional procedures of fact checking. Online additions for Western Publications have been present for around the last ten years. The only time publications would remove archival material, is if there was a case of plagiarism. To her knowledge this had occurred only on one occasion in the last ten years. For all journalists, credibility is their currency. Her worry with this resolution is that if people realize that things can be changed, back-edited, or omissions made without explanation, it damages the credibility of any publication.

Becky Tachihara, the editor in chief of The Planet Magazine, an environmental journal, reiterated Watt's point that a great deal of care is put in to ensuring the accuracy of what is written. Fact checking is a serious part of what they do. She personally finds this resolution not only in violation of the first amendment but feels it is also severely unethical, speaking as a journalist and someone who's studied media law extensively. Many of the arguments against this proposal can be found in the November 2nd, 2011 edition of the Western Front in the opinions section.

Gina Cole, the editor of the Western Front, feels this should have gone to the SPC. She also believed this to be distressingly anti first amendment, and was censorship. She does not see what is right about enforcing something like this.

Marya Purrington, the editor in chief of Klipsun Magazine, wants to emphasize that as student journalists, their reputation relies on accuracy, credibility, transparency, and fact checking. Fact checking is actually part of the writers' grades in the class. They are required to fact check other stories as well as read back quotes so that people understand that they are being interviewed for a publication. It's always very clear to people who are interviewed, especially while they're being interviewed and that what they are saying is going to appear in a publication and its online edition.

IV. Information Items

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

Doc. 1, 2

Savage started off by asking a question about how fast a statement or editorial could be retracted if deemed not credible. Cole replied that if it was fabricated it would be removed almost immediately and is not a lengthy process to remove from their website. Fowler asked how many times things have been retracted. Watt responded that no one could speak for the 40 year history of Western Publications, but that there had been one case in the last ten years in the Western Front due to plagiarism, as she had previously stated. Purrington reminded us that most plagiarism is caught before being publicized because it passes through a series of editors, who fairly competent on picking up on plagiarism. Cole clarified that there have been instances where individual facts have

been corrected online as well, if they were found to be false or misleading. Brown wanted to know from the panel what they would say to a student journalist who thought the opinion they expressed in article might harm their chances of getting hired by a publication. Cole emphasized that she would not take anything down, but addressed an inherent issue that if the article was not in the opinions section it should not have shown bias in the first place. Tachihara said that checking for bias was included in the editing process to ensure that articles are balanced and fair to avoid conflict of interest and something they take very seriously.

Espinoza brought up the issue of context, saying a journalist may correctly quote an individual, but if it is taken out of context, that quote isn't exactly accurate. He suggested allowing sources to see drafts of an article before publication to ensure their words aren't misrepresented. Cole replied if something was taken out of context, and was so misleading to be incorrect it would warrant a correction. However on the issue of showing entire articles to resources, publications do not allow this because it is protection of their content. Vainikka then wanted to clarify whether people could refuse to provide information to the press, and if so wouldn't they understand the risks and be accountable for quotes and opinions expressed. The panel all agreed that anyone could refuse to talk to a reporter and that if they do it's always very clear that they are being interviewed.

Overall the publications agreed that removal of damaging material would be warranted for plagiarized or falsified material, however if true, no matter whether it was damaging to the reputation of a student or the university. Western publications are in the business of giving facts and true stories, not in the business of protecting the school. Therefore the material in question would probably not be removed. However contact information for editors and advisors can be easily obtained on the publications themselves or their websites if students have any comments, questions, or concerns.

B. Issue of the Quarter

Doc. 3

Vainikka proposed the Higher One Cards as an issue of the quarter as it is a confusing issue facing students currently. McCardle brought up the point that the issue of the quarter should be a double-sided issue, reflecting that we should pursue something other than budget cuts because we already know how the student population feels about budget cuts, as it is a very one-sided issue. Fowler agreed with McCardle about the budget cuts, and added that the state of Washington doesn't have much control over budget cuts due to the limited, fluctuating revenue it brings in through sales tax, and that he rather the senate do an issue that senators could truly have a direct impact.

It was then brought up that there were very few meetings remaining in the quarter to deal with the issue of the quarter. McCardle seconded Higher One and also reintroduced the Occupy movement as a topic as well. Brown leaned toward the Higher One topic because he wanted to direct more towards a campus related issue, which he thought pertained more to our roles as Senators.

Chair brought up if they wanted to pursue the Higher One accounts issue they could join up with the Higher One taskforce to gather public comment at the upcoming forum that would be taking place in a few weeks. Hamilton raised the question about what the actual benefits were to the Higher One cards in the first place and why were they necessary. Luvera replied stating that the Higher One cards cut out the costs of writing checks for refunds to students, and saves the university a substantial sum of money. Senators expressed some concern about Higher One being a hard issue to census a response. Stavig suggested that the issue be limited to if you could change one thing

about higher one what would it be, which was seconded by many of the senators. Savage still voiced a strong interest in the resolution as issue of the quarter as it was still in its infancy, and that senators could play an important role in shaping it. Fowler liked Higher One as a topic senators could discuss in the short term, and that the Occupy movement does not look like it will be going anywhere. It could possibly be revisited as issue of the quarter for winter. Discussion broke out among the senators on how they would go about gathering information. McCardle brought up that they had tabled in the past, Vainikka suggested a word of mouth approach, and Stavig proposed handouts in large classes to gather written census. Issue of the quarter will be compiled into an action item for the following week.

V. Action Items

A. Vice Chair Nomination and Elections

McCardle and Celis were nominated to run at the October 26th meeting.

McCardle said that he knows how to run flowing meetings, and has been involved with a lot of committees.

Celis submitted a written response

Voting via ballots. 7 votes for McCardle 3 votes for Celis. McCardle was declared Vice Chair.

B. Parliamentary Nominations and Elections

Savage enquired whether senators could have a vote of no confidence, since he was running unopposed. The chair saw no point to the no confidence rule.

By default Savage won Parliamentary nomination.

C. Revision of the Bylaws

Doc. 4

McCardle brought attention to that in Article V of the Senate Bylaws it says “The Senate will hold regular weekly meetings on Tuesdays” but now that senate was convening on Wednesday nights it was suggested to change “Tuesday” to “Wednesday”. However concern was raised about the possibility of the senate meeting time changing again, and it was suggested that the day be made nondescript by just eliminating “on Tuesdays,” so the bylaws do not have to be reapproved if the meeting day ever changes again.

MOTION S-11-F-02 by McCardle

Amendment to replace “Tuesdays” with “Wednesdays” in Article V of the Bylaws from the Doc. 4 version.

Second: there was none Vote: 0- 11- 0 Action: **Failed**

MOTION S-11-F-03 by Savage

Amendment to eliminate “on Tuesdays” in Article V of the Bylaws from the Doc. 4 version.

Second: McCardle Vote: 10 - 0 - 1 Action: **Passed**

MOTION S-11-F-04 by Olsen

Approval of Revised Bylaws as stated in Doc. 4, including the elimination of “on Tuesdays”.

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

VI. Discussion Items

VII. Board Reports/Concerns

Fabiola Arvizu Associated Students Day of Service is happening on Saturday for all hourly, salaried, and work study employees who will be giving support to the community. Also the board is almost done updating all the charge and charters for the AS committees this year. She is also working on getting all of the AS Board to come and introduce themselves at a senate meeting. She urged senators to send emails to the board members to encourage them to come and visit.

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

Espinoza reported that ESC President's council was inviting some university officials to partake in an open discussion about how Western is faring in terms of diversity and what they could do to improve diversity. The council is also looking at how the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) can become more known on campus, and if it would be possible for the ESC be moved and to what location, so that it would be more visible to students on campus and not in the basement of the Viking Union.

Brown discussed how Western Democrats was having an event, Get out the Votes Party from 7- 9pm on Wednesday, and everyone was invited. He also mentioned that Western Votes was currently working on a campaign to switch from banks to credit unions and had organized a group public withdrawal for Friday November 4th.

Olsen reported that LAC elected its Vice Chair, Patrick Stickney from Western Votes and talked more about what the legislative agenda will look like for the year, the packets they will be handing out to legislatures, and the role they are going to play in the district. The hot topics will be funding tuition and financial aid.

Hamilton discussed Senate Library committee and how they planned a presentation to give to faculty senate about the library only receiving about half of what other libraries are receiving. There is also a proposal to make the library more online that would have more temporary licenses for material instead of permanent resources, which saves a lot of money, but also raises concern that material would only be temporary.

Fowler reposted that Green Energy Fee is still gearing up and are going through important information about the committee. He also noted that senate should think about writing an email to Westerns Publications just to clarify our role more clearly for them. Fabiola reminded the senate that if an abed was written it had to be as an individual and not as a Senator.

Savage talked about Campus Dining Committee and how they are discussing special hours in the dining halls for Veterans Day, a proposal to reinvent the music they play in the dining hall that could include satellite radio. They will be setting up Dining Direct, a way to get more feedback from the students. They also talked about having a chef table, and are also looking at the possibility of starting some cooking classes for students.

McCardle reported that SPAC's chair, John Von Volki, has assigned them into teams and has decided which offices each team will be looking at for the next year.

IV. Other Business:

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 8:08 P.M.