

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Wednesday, February 1st, 2012 VU 567**

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

Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg

Secretary: Marissa Jaksich

ASVP for Academic Affairs: Fabiola Arvizu

Guest(s): *Marriage Equality Resolution:* Ben Crowther

Ethnic Student Center: Daniel Espinoza

Other: Jessica Tolsma

Kendal Bull, Student Senate Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

- S-12-W-08** Approval of the minutes of Wednesday, January 25th, 2012. *Passed*
- S-12-W-09** Moving Arizona Cultural Studies Resolution to an Action Item. *Passed*
- S-12-W-10** Moving Marriage Equality Resolution to an Action Item. *Passed*
- S-12-W-11** Amendment of the Marriage Equality Resolution. *Passed*
- S-12-W-12** Approval of the Marriage Equality Resolution. *Passed*
- S-12-W-13** Approval of Arizona Cultural Studies Resolution. *Passed*

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-12-W-08 by Fowler

Approval of minutes of January 25th, 2012

Second: Celis Vote: 9- 0 - 0 Action: **Passed**

II. Revisions to the Agenda

MOTION S-12-W-09 by Glemaker

Moving Arizona Cultural Studies Resolution to an Action Item

Second: Fowler Vote: 8- 0 - 1 Action: **Passed**

MOTION S-12-W-10 by Olsen

Moving Marriage Equality Resolution to an Action Item

Second: Brown Vote: 9- 0 - 0 Action: **Passed**

III. Public Forum

Ben Crowther, the co-writer of the Marriage Equality Resolution with Senator Olsen, wanted to explain more how marriage equality was a student issue. It obviously affects queer students who want to be married to the same sex, and he said that alone makes it affect student lives. But in addition he explained how lack of marriage equality gives financial harm to same sex couples with a lack of access tax benefits, FAFSA, and scholarships, making financial aid for students with same sex parents more difficult to obtain. Currently in Washington they have domestic partnerships that grant all the same

state rights as marriages, but they cannot grant federal rights. This is because of the Defense of Marriage Act that prevents same sex couples from getting 1,138 rights associated with marriage. There is no federal recognition of domestic partnerships. If state passes marriage equality would be an important first step in granting equal rights. This issue causes some students to receive more financial aid than others and take funding away from students who may need it. He stated that this issue really did come down to affordability of higher education. Also this is a form of state-sanctioned oppression that leads to more bullying and harassment in places like a college campus. Taking a stand on Marriage Equality he believes sends a message of fairness. He believes that Marriage Equality is a student issue, and it is an important civil right issue that deserves to be recognized.

IV. Information Items

V. Action Items

A. Marriage Equality Resolution

Doc. 1

Olsen wanted to make two amendments to the resolution to change the two uses of “civil unions” to “domestic partnership” because domestic partnership is officially the term Washington uses.

MOTION S-12-W-11 by Fowler

Amendment of the Marriage Equality Resolution

Second: Brown Vote: 9- 0 - 0 Action: **Passed**

MOTION S-12-W-12 by Celis

Approval of the Marriage Equality Resolution

Second: McCardle Vote: 8- 0 - 1 Action: **Passed**

Celis remarked that it is important for senators to be at the AS Board meeting when they vote on the resolution to represent Senate’s recommendation on this issue. The Chair said that he would find out when the resolution would become an action item for the AS Board of directors so that he could inform the senators when they could go and show their support.

B. Arizona Cultural Studies Resolution

Doc. 2

Glemaker introduced a new copy of the resolution that was restructured earlier that day in a meeting with Iris, the VP for Governmental Affairs. He explained that the information item at the top was taken out and put on another sheet that outlined all the sources used in creating the resolution. They also changed the formatting to make it look more professional, changed the whereas statements to make them more powerful, and improved the resolve statement at the end outlining the end recommendation to the board. Glemaker then proceeded to give the senate some background into the issue, saying that it began back in 2010 when the House revised legislation 2281, adding some language that said classes that people should be taught not to resent other people and prohibits courses that threaten to overthrow of the US government. Earlier last month, the Board of directors at Tucson social injustice project saw that it was not meeting standards, so the superintendent ordered a \$110,000 dollar audit to prove that the curriculum was not aligned with the law. The audit actually found that curriculum was extremely beneficial to students, resulting in more students going to college and that

multi-ethnic studies actually taught value in diversity. However, a couple of weeks ago multi-cultural studies were removed from schools. Students responded with walk-outs, and schools responded by threatening to punish those students who continued to do so. Glemaker asked that Senate approve this resolution and strongly urge the Board to take this issue as an action item so that he can take it to the Washington Student Association conference the next weekend. Olsen motioned to pass the resolution and Celis seconded. Brown remarked before the vote saying that he had heard this issue was about saving money in the Arizona schools because they were having serious money problems down there. Glemaker explained that there had been talk about financial benefits because they would get a lot more funding being that it would be in line with the law, but that it was only a small driving factor. Fowler spoke up saying that recent legislation coming out of Arizona was in his mind despicable and culturally ignorant. He did believe that when it came to this particular issue and when it came to Rob McKenna, he that this would put him in a bad position going into an election year. He did make a comment that he preferred the formatting of the marriage equality resolution over this one because of its simplicity, but that this did not change his support for this issue. Glemaker agreed that the marriage equality resolution was much more accessible visually, but that they modeled the Arizona resolution off the American Library Association resolution that was submitted along with many other institutions in protest of this issue, and to maintain solidarity and professionalism, they kept the same format. Celis prompted the question on how they could promote this issue to students and why it would be important for Western to pass this issue, so that senators can be prepared to respond to any questions students might have on this issue. Glemaker replied saying that the resolution outlines the mission statement of WWU, and the reason why it is a student issue, he explained, is because the university's mission supports diversity and cultural critical consciousness and that it should back the right for other students to be offered the same liberal education. Glemaker clarified that many books were banned, but more specifically authors were banned. Celis asked if we pass this does this say that Western has a responsibility to support all movements that support our mission statement and was concerned that this might set a precedent for the university. Glemaker said that since Western encouraged students to be a "leader in active learning, critical thinking, and societal problem solving that it should be something Western stands behind, because Arizona students are basically being robbed of their education and their solidarity is being denied. Olsen mentioned that we should stand together in solidarity with all students and stand for the equal right of multi-ethnic education.

MOTION S-12-W-13 by Olsen

Approval of Arizona Cultural Studies Resolution

Second: Brown Vote: 8- 1 - 0 Action: **Passed**

VI. Discussion Items

VII. Board Reports/Concerns

Fabiola reported that the Outback is requesting new funds for an apprenticeship program because they are currently facing labor shortages by relying solely on volunteers and two student leaders. They are also hoping to receive a staff advisor that could help them grow their academic component. They are also looking at starting a food bank program because they have

the tools and ability to grow food and donate it to the Bellingham Food Bank. The board will be voting on Outback's funding request at the upcoming board meeting. As for university committees she reported that Amy was now on Committee for Undergraduate Education and is getting going on GUR revisions. If everything goes well, she expects the program would be introduced next fall.

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

Olsen reported that LAC found out that all the shared governance bills that had been going through the Senate and The House, including getting a student representative on the community and technical colleges Board of trustees, were all shot down as republicans pushed to start working on budgetary items, so a lot of the policy issues were pushed aside, which unfortunately closes the window for them to having a lot of access. He said that they went over what bills are still on the table, including the Veteran's bill that would give them priority registration. The concerns revolved around this issue were being dropped from classes and have to pay fees was all eliminated from the bill. So the committee decided to oppose House bill 2345, because it was not actually addressing a solution. He also said that they advocated for the need of more resources supplied to academic institutions to address veteran concerns more appropriately. He also mentioned that there is capital gains bill that would place a capital gains tax of 5% helping to raise revenues, which would ultimately contribute to the continued funding of higher education.

Brown reported that Parking Appeals Board has still not met, but is planning to meet the following week, so he will have something to report for the next meeting.

Fowler reported that the Green Energy Fee committee met for the first time and went over a proposal of how the process works in terms of submitting a proposal. He said that they also talked about establishing a permanent position on the committee, because the current coordinator, Katherine Freeman, does not really have a permanent position.

Espinoza stated that the ESC had community building trainings for student leaders in the Ethnic student center. He reported that ESC President's council really did not feel that the students were notified soon enough so they rescheduled and raised the issue that they needed to be more involved in the planning processes of trainings to ensure that leaders get proper notice and receive the full benefit.

Glemaker stated that since he would be unable to make AS Facilities and Services committee meetings that he has talked to Travis, the AS Vice President for Business and Operations about joining Budget committee, which would be starting up soon.

Celis reported that ACC met yesterday.

McCardle reported that SPAC subcommittees broke out into the individual offices they are reviewing, and went over the recommendations the offices suggested through their TAP reports. The recommendations are due soon to John Von Volki, the assessment director and chair to SPAC.

Vainikka reported that she was unable to make the ASTAC meeting on Monday, but that it had met.

Luvera reported that Academic Technology committee have been looking at the effects of the printing fee, and has found that since print quotas have been reduced, it has cut 1 million pages being printed and has proved very effective in cutting down printing costs at little cost to the

students. They have also been discussing the fair use policy on campus and censorship, and examining policies on those.

IV. Other Business:

Chair added that ASTAC master plan document they reviewed last week was not put on the meeting's agenda, because it is being put on hold until after the chair meets with Sara Richards, the committee chair on Friday about the changes. He did mention that it would probably be an action item for the following week's meeting. He also added that he is still trying to work out a work session date for the senate reform committee to work with the board, but that he should have that information soon and would be letting the Senators know the finalized date.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:05P.M.