

Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2009 VU 567

Present: Annie Jansen, Jadon Berry, Justin Van Dyk, Justin Gazabat, Brianne Kumar, Rebekah Johnson, Nikki Brown, Danielle Dickson, Wyatt Ho, Chelsea Bourdess
Absent: Dan McLafferty, Nick Gaddy
Advisor: Greg McBride
Secretary: Teaira Lacson
Guest: Virgilio Cintron, Matt Jarrell, Erik Lowe, Sarah Ishmael, Brynn Regan

Annie Jansen, Student Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

I. Approval of Minutes

No approval of minutes will approve two meeting minutes at next week's meeting.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

III. Public Forum

Brynn Regan from the *Western Front* is in attendance.

IV. Information Items

A. Federal Legislative Agenda

Sarah Ishmael talked about the main revisions regarding the Federal Legislative Agenda were about formatting and reorganizing sections. The changes made included: Student Control Section, it would be better to address it at the Federal level rather than State level; Diversity Section, Environment Section, Student Loans it is not clear about interest rates. Sarah said the LAC, Legislative Affairs Council, talked about two items that were really important. The first item is a Student Loan Forgiveness Program—having more funding for those programs. The second item is the objective on the Federal Agenda: under environment section, creating a fund programs that would train students in the green job sector. Comments about the Federal Legislative Agenda: Annie Jansen commented on the language about diversity and if the statements about diversity are consistent with program standards. Sarah replied that it is not directly consistent with the program standards. Erik Lowe said that it this agenda, in historical context, is consistent. Justin Gazabat had asked for further clarification regarding state and federal levels. Annie said it was about the language about diversity; it is more condensed than other statements about diversity. Jadon Berry suggested picking out three things at the top because legislators tend to not look at documents that are two pages. Sarah replied that she liked his idea about reformatting and having a “top” list saying that these are their values, followed by what their priorities are. Justin Van Dyk said he liked the inclusion of Independence in this agenda. Danielle Dickson noted a grammatical error: “a student’s personal...” inconsistent with “them.” Annie said that next week this will be an action item.

V. Action Items

A. Schedule for Tabling

Not finalized tonight because Annie does not have everyone's schedules: but it will be on a Friday.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Service Projects

Dan McLafferty was not present to inform the rest of the Senators regarding the food bank. Annie wanted to talk to Brianne about Earth day. Brianne said that she will talk to her dad about it.

VII. Other Business:

A. WSL Fees

Erik said that he has not been getting enough feedback about where the students would like to go with these fees. He would like more information about how much students are willing to pay towards the fee. Justin Van Dyk had asked about the minimum amount. Erik said that until this academic year was \$2,500. With out any advertising the funds collected are \$13,000-\$16,000; Western needs at least \$9,000—so there is a lot of extra money and there is no formal agreement about getting it back. Sarah asked what kinds of questions you want to ask, soliciting what they are doing to the rest of the student body. Brianne asked if they want to raise the fee and why are sending all this extra money when it is not necessary. Erik said that they wanted to change the system so that students get their money's worth from the \$2.00, but do not see any direct benefit. Erik said that he would ask if students would want the fee to be higher or lower, and if the method of collection was proficient. Brianne replied to Sarah's question about letting the student population more knowledgeable about the WSL fees. Erik said that part of the problem is that there is not enough time to educate students and typically they do not respond as often as they would like. Annie said that more talk about this topic will occur next week.

B. Viking Village

There was a post about the post of the friendliness of the offices. The reason that Annie wanted to talk about this topic is because it was relevant to the student body and their services. There was general agreement about the university offices. She advised to use friendly language. Justin Van Dyk said that he had attempted to be an Arabic tutor and said the woman was not very helpful and unfriendly. Jadon said that before there wasn't a registrar's office and that could have something to do with the issues there. Annie said that the employment pool of registrar's is not very large. The qualifications are somewhat steep: it can be difficult to learn if you are not familiar with the Banner program and the hiring process for this position was difficult. Brianne asked if students could work there. Annie said that it was work stud Erik said the current registrar is only there on an intern basis and a large portion of the work study position; the staff needs to pick up the slack with the temporary work study students. Annie said the environment in the registrar's office is different. Brianne said, in defense, that people who go there are already in a stressed/moody state—which in turn affects the people who work there. Annie encouraged the Senators the read the post. Brianne said that the Senate could do small things for offices like that, an example is to give cookies. Greg said that he was in agreement with Brianne's statement about 'working in the Registrar's office is a thankless job'; he cautioned that it is within the human resources and that the department should handle it. Erik said the Registrar's Office

compared to other division said that it is severely underfunded and has been a while due to continual loss of state funding, with the current budget crunch it could get worse.

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

- **Chelsea Bourdess:** nothing really happened; parking Appeals Committee is to meet. It was sunny today.
- **Danielle Dickson:** working on the issue of the month
- **Wyatt Ho:** nothing reports, but did see that post
- **Nikki Brown:** Student Technology Fee met and they went over the rest of their site visits, talked about proposals and ACC met today
- **Rebekah Johnson:** has not heard anything from her committees. Concerns: he has noticed that due to the nicer weather smokers have been throwing their butts in a lot of inappropriate places; she is talking with her RD about one particular area. It is not the smoking that is bothersome but the littering.
- **Brianne Kumar** is also on STF. She will be going to the ACC in the next week
- **Justin Gazabat:** he will be attending one of his meetings; his concern was about tuition and thought about who plays what in deciding tuition
- **Justin Van Dyk:** had his first Budget Committee Meeting with Virgilio. His concern is the stop in front of Nash/Higginson where students get on from the Ridge or Haggard and get off there.
- **Jadon Berry:** his committee has not met. His other University Residences Sustainability Committee and they are developing a plan for sustainability.
- **Erik :** there was a very enlightening meeting with the Board of Trustees about tuition, you can listen to the meeting. There was a lot of talk about the direction of the university.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 6:43 P.M.