

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2012 VU 567**

Student Senators: *Present:* Kendall Bull (Chair), Jered McCardle, Ethan Glemaker, Katie Vainikka, Christopher Brown, Ean Olsen, Felipe Espinoza, Jamie Hamilton, Evan Fowler
Absent: Jacquelyn Gratiyas, Victor Celis, Mason Luvera, Amy Stavig, Matthew Yoo
Advisor: Lisa Rosenberg
Secretary: Marissa Jaksich
ASVP for Academic Affairs: Fabiola Arvizu
Guest(s):

Kendal Bull, Student Senate Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm

S-12-W-14 Approval of the minutes of Wednesday, February 8th, 2012. *Passed*

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-12-W-14 by *McCardle*

Approval of minutes of February 8th, 2012

Second: Olsen Vote: 8- 0 - 0 Action: **Passed**

II. Revisions to the Agenda

III. Public Forum

IV. Information Items

V. Action Items

VI. Discussion Items

A. Campaign Transparency

Fowler, the president of Western's American Campaign Transparency (ACT), introduced this issue of campaign finance regulation in the United States and its current situation. The concern is that there is a lot of money fueling politicians and they have no idea where it is coming from and how much. He wants to make an action item in the next week of the transparency pledge ACT has been working on, and they are trying to get it signed by the board and clubs on campus to show that Western advocates for campaign transparency. Eventually he said they are hoping to send it to local businesses and the city council to get Bellingham behind advocating for campaign transparency. Olsen enquired whether there were other branches of ACT at other universities. Fowler responded that it was in its first year here at Western, but that they are looking to potentially expand it to other universities. Chair asked how this would pertain to the AS and be a student issue rather than a national issue. Fowler replied that the pledge was written to be fairly vague on purpose and it's the idea of being a proponent for something like transparency. Brown is a strong supporter of having things disclosed because certain people are

likely to benefit from more money based on their views, which makes the situation more lopsided. Fabiola wanted to let Fowler know that the focus of what the AS Board approves has shifted and they are more focused on the correlation between higher education and the resolutions they hear. She recommended to Fowler that they should set up a meeting together with Iris, VP of Government Operations to discuss the issue further.

VII. Board Reports/Concerns

Fabiola reported that last week the Board passed the Election Code Review with some minor changes. She said there was a recommendation to allow candidates to declare candidacy at the beginning of winter quarter, but the board decided to stick with the original timeline because job descriptions are not ready by then and potentially people could be campaigning for a position that might change and would create a disadvantage for candidates who are not familiar with the AS and the job descriptions. She informed the senate that the Board really appreciated the input of the senate and election code review committee on the Election Code Review. She reported that they are currently in the process of updating job descriptions and that there might be some changes in AS structure and vice presidents' advisory roles of AS offices. They will be having a meeting the following day to discuss the matter further.

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

Brown reported that Parking Appeals Board had not met since the last senate meeting.

Hamilton reported that the Senate Library committee did not meet, but she was wondering if senators could email suggestions on how they would like to improve the library.

Olsen reported that Legislative Affairs Council began to work on the federal agenda focusing on the grace period for direct loans, Pell grants, and the Dream act, which would allow students who have excelled in education who are not legally a citizen could be eligible for direct loans. Some other things they will be discussing is compass compact and the funding for national community service and many scholarship programs. Once he has more information on that he will be making a proposal to LAC and will bring more information to the senate as it develops. They are also getting ready for the United States Student Assembly.

Fowler reported that Green Energy Fee committee approved a full time salaried position, and also approved the proposal outline so the green energy process can now be underway. He reported that budget committee met for the first time last week and that they went over a review of the budget process.

Espinoza reported that ESC President's Council did not meet, but heard that there is a proposal for a new Russian club to be part of the Ethnic Student Center, which they will be discussing in the coming week.

McCardle reported that SPAC approved recommendations that were offered by each individual office. The subcommittees reviewed passed all the suggestions but one recommendation from the Women's center that they will be discussing further at the next meeting.

Vainikka reported that ASTAC had a forum and presented the ASTAC Master Plan to the student body.

IV. Other Business:

Chair brought up that in two weeks, dead week, senate will be going out for dinner and asked if senators had any restaurant ideas or suggestions.

Fabiola mentioned that the town hall met earlier in the day and passed the green energy fee panels, so that the project on south campus can get underway.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 6:52 P.M.