



## Western Washington University Associated Students Ethnic Student Center Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

### Voting Members Present:

BSU - Leroy Mwangi, CSA - Howard Kwon, FASA - Traci Watanabe, HOH - Sarah Kim, KhSA - Routhea Doung,  
MISO - Timothy O'Connor, NASU - Kylie Gemmell, SASA - Mahin Khadeer, VSA -- Tien Nguyen

### Late Voting Members:

### Voting Members Absent:

ACC - Hintset Tekiu, LSU - Victor Celis, MEChA - Alejandra Escobar, QPOC - Alejandro Llamas

### Non-Voting Members:

Erin Curran-Tileston (Secretary)

**Chair:** Deng Duot

**Advisor:** Fabiola Mora

**Co-Chair:**

**Guest(s):** Australia Hernandez Cosby, Human Services Program; Carly Schmidt, Human Services Program

### Motions

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| SC-12-W-09 | Approve the ESC-Steering Committee meeting minutes from February 15, 2012, as written.<br>- <i>Passed</i> |
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Deng Duot, AS Vice President for Diversity, called the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

*MOTION ESC-12-W-09 by Leroy Mwangi*

Approve the ESC-Steering Committee meeting minutes from Wednesday, February 15, 2012, as written.

Second: Timothy O'Connor

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: *Passed*

### II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA -

None

### III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Fabiola Mora said that there is \$602.55 in programming and \$1,000 in travel. She added that there will be travel requests being proposed by MEChA and QPOC soon.

### IV. PUBLIC FORUM -

Australia Hernandez Cosby and Carly Schmidt came to represent the Human Services Program. They are in a program planning and evaluation class and they are evaluating the ESC clubs. They talked to Janna Cecka and Mora to see what each club needs to be successful. After which Hernandez Cosby and Schmidt went to clubs, observed, and took notes. From that they put together a survey in order to get an accurate idea of what makes a club successful. This research will help ESC clubs be more efficient and effective. Hernandez Cosby said all the data will be gathered, compiled, and given to the ESC to help clubs become stronger, get new members, and retain old members. They handed out paper surveys to council members to take to their clubs. They also want to do focus groups with leaders and members from each club. This would give them a better idea of what very involved members think are each club's strengths and weaknesses are and where each club could use help. They would like at least one person from each club at the focus groups, but as many people as possible from each club are welcome. The purpose of the focus groups is to qualitatively enhance the data in the surveys. They said that these focus groups would only last 30 minutes and will be held the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### V. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests/Other Business

None

**VI. ACTION ITEMS-**

None

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Steering Representatives**

None

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS -****A. Russian Club**

The council looked over the Russian Club's constitution. Howard Kwon said that he went to the club meeting and they showed a clip that was in Russian but there was no clarification, so he felt like it was much more of a language club. He only said that he stayed for half the meeting. He added that the professor was present and there were seven people there that were non-officers and four officers. Mwangi said that he did not think Dmitry Spiridonov did not understand what he meant by his question last week about a Steering Representative because it is not reflected in the Constitution. Kylie Gemmell said that there would be no Steering Rep until they were in the ESC because it would not be necessary before then. She added there are also election regulations/requirements in the ESC, so that would have to be changed if the club joined. Tien Nguyen said that there should be a conscious effort made by committee members to go to Russian Club meetings in order to understand exactly what kind of club they are. Mwangi, from Kwon's description still isn't sure if the club's purpose is based on language or culture. He said that he would be open to hearing club members come to Steering Committee to talk about the club in order to further understand the mission and purpose.

Nguyen said she is okay with being part of the ESC as long as they have a cultural aspect in the club. She said they shouldn't be eliminated because they are more language based. Mwangi said that he did not want to reject the request because of the language aspect but because there seems to be no plan for outreach to students who do not know the language. The way the club intends to focus on language makes it difficult for non-speakers to understand and participate.

Mora asked how Kwon felt at the meeting. Kwon said that they were nice but could not participate in activities because he did not know the language. This was part of the reason why he left early. Another reason for his early departure was because they mentioned they would split in groups to practice Russian. He felt there was more of an emphasis on language than culture.

Kwon added that elections are decided by President and the Constitution does not say who is eligible for the positions. It was unclear how people would be elected. Duot pointed out that their Constitution states that the duties of the executive board will be decided during their meetings. Mwangi said that this sounds to him like while each officer has their pre-assigned tasks, this section may involve each executive board member's auxiliary tasks. Khadeer said that there are specific position duties that are known and those should have been included to the Constitution so people know what is required by the position.

Gemmell said that at the last meeting she felt Spiridonov was just trying to say what the committee wanted to hear and that there were no real answers given. Sarah Kim said HOH talked about Russian club and while they like the club and the club is doing a great job, they think it is more of a language club. She said that HOH believes that Russian Club should not change their vision for the club just to join the ESC. She concluded that they have a good start and have a clear vision and shouldn't necessarily try to stray from that at this point.

Duot clarified that there were only 12 out of the 60 people on the email list at the meeting. Khadeer said that while a club has a large number of people on their email list turn out percentage is usually much lower, and Russian Club seems to be on par with average turnout. Duot also pointed out that the Mission of the ESC is to represent under-represented minorities and that Spiridonov said that Russians fit into that category. Duot said that Spiridonov should not just say that to join the ESC and asked the council if they thought Spiridonov made a good case for Russians being an under-represented minority. Mwangi said that Spiridonov might have had a point because there are bad stereotypes in the media and this does fit into the ESC mission. Mwangi, however, didn't feel that the club's vision worked with that idea. He is still not sure if it is a language club, a language amalgamation, or a club that deals with Russian issues and topics.

Duot said that the club's goal was a little confusing. Kim said that she thinks that he was getting confused about the purpose of the ESC and expected different things from them. Duot also pointed to the point when Spiridonov talked about funding and that Duot thinks he just wants to get funding and that the goals do not line up with the club joining the ESC. Watanabe was confused because she thought the club already received the

funding and it was clarified that they had received funding from Activities Council. Duot said that his reason for joining the ESC that he told the committee was different from what he was told before and that's where he had a problem. Gemmell said it was interesting that he didn't know what the difference between ESC meetings and dinners/events is and also didn't know which clubs are part of the ESC so if he wanted to join he hadn't done the research in order to be a part of it.

Duot asked the council what they wanted to do about Russian Club. Nguyen said that Gemmell had a good point by pointing out his lack of knowledge about the ESC, but they should go to the club and learn more about it before rejecting them outright. Duot asked Mora if Spiridonov talked to her about joining the ESC. Mora said that Spiridonov had but they didn't talk too much about why. She said that to be fair to Spiridonov he was probably not expecting the amount and scope of questions that were posed to him last meeting.

Mwangi said they should go with Nguyen's suggestion, and have some members attend the meetings. After which time the committee members could present the information to the clubs and everyone will be able to make an informed decision. Nguyen said that she does not want to send Spiridonov questions because she feels like he would just write what they want to hear and this will end up changing the mission of the club and she does not want him to do this simply to join the ESC. Gemmell said that they couldn't send questions anyways because Steering is a committee. She also said that she agrees with Mwangi that Russians can be under-represented or stereotyped, but dealing with this issue doesn't seem to be what the club is trying to do. Gemmell said that the club seems to be created to have a space for Russian students who wanted it, to have a place to practice the language.

Mwangi said he can't tell exactly what the purpose is and why they should join ESC, but to make a decision he needs more information. Watanabe asked if the Russian Movie Club and Russian Club are run by the same people. Duot said that a professor sent him an email about starting a movie club and he told her that it would not be under the purview of the ESC to create a film based club. After this Spiridonov came to him about creating the Russian Club and having them join the ESC. Duot said he could come to Steering to ask to join the ESC. He explained that at the time there were two separate clubs but Duot isn't sure if the two clubs have combined into one. Kim said she is sure he was confused about the ESC and he was just trying to make the club fit into the mission of the ESC. She said she likes his vision of trying to get the language clubs together to create their own version of the ESC. Duot said they should give the club time and wait and see if they are going to come back, because if they make a decision now they might not have all the information. He asked the council if they are okay with waiting to make a decision. Mora said that it would be a good idea to go to the meetings to understand the club more and this would give them more time and information in order to make a better, more informed decision. Nguyen also suggested inviting Spiridonov to ESC club meetings so he knows what they are like. Kim said she wants to let Russian Club reevaluate what the ESC is and decide whether they fit into that idea without having to sacrifice their vision. The council decided to wait to make a decision on Russian Club through consensus.

**IX. ROP REPORT**

None

**X. CLUB REPORTS -**

Duot said ACC's Heritage Dinner is on the 25<sup>th</sup>, doors will open at 5:30pm, and tickets are on sale now at the PAC Box Office.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS -**

- A. Duot said that AS jobs are opening soon.
- B. Duot said that AS Scholarships will be online March 1<sup>st</sup>
- C. Duot said the MAPP Scholarship will be online Spring Quarter.
- D. Duot pointed out that spring quarter registration begins on \_\_\_\_\_ the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Mora said ESC Scholarships will be available April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be open to current students. The scholarship committee will be made of people outside of the ESC.

**THE OFFICIAL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 6:10 P.M.**