



Western Washington University Associated Students  
Ethnic Student Center Presidents Council Meeting  
Monday, April 16, 2012

**Voting Members Present:**

BSU - Hayley Penor, CSA - Shirley So, FASA - Marie Serica, HOH - Leigh Berry, KhSA - Devin Porter,  
LSU—Alyne Sanchez, MEChA -Nadia Saldana-Spiegle, MISO - Felipe Espinoza,  
QPOC - Jolene Manibusan, SASA - Mahin Khadeer, VSA - Connie Owens

**Voting Members Absent:**

ACC, NASU

**Non-Voting Members:**

**Secretary:** Erin Curran-Tileston

**Advisor:** None

**Chair:** Deng Duot

**Guestfish:** Victoria Do, VSA; Nadia Saldana-Spiegle, MEChA

**Motions**

<b><i>ESCPC-12-S-01</i></b>	Approve the ESC-Presidents Council meeting minutes from Monday, February 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012, as written. - <b><i>PASSED</i></b>
-----------------------------	--

Deng Duot, AS Vice President for Diversity, called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

***I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

***MOTIONESCPC-12-S-01*** by Devin Porter

Approve the ESC-Presidents Council meeting minutes from Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, as written.

Second: Hayley Penor

Vote: 8- 0 -0

Action: ***Passed***

***II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA***

None

***III. DISCUSSION ITEM***

***A. Mission Statement***

Duot said that there was a committee formed to discuss the mission statement and whether it is working or not. He asked if any council members had any questions about the committee or any updates. Alyne Sanchez suggested getting a member from the committee to come and talk to the council. Porter suggested setting a deadline for the committee to be finished making changes. Nadia Saldana-Spiegle asked if someone from Presidents' Council would sit on the committee. Duot wasn't sure. Shirley So asked who was in the group. Saldana-Spiegle said that she thought Daniel Espinoza-Gonzales and Filipe Espinoza were both on the committee. Penor asked if anyone knew if the committee had met. Porter said that she was going to see Espinoza-Gonzales later that evening and offered to talk to him and get an update on the committee's progress.

***IV. INFORMATION ITEMS***

***A. Russian Club***

Dmitry Spiridonov said that the Russian club recently held their first event, Taste of Russia, at which they had over 200 people attend. He said that there is a group of 7-10 students attending the meeting and 15-20 students who are part of the club via social media. Spiridonov said that

the original purpose of the club is to create a place on campus for students of Russian decent and Russian speakers. He said that they had tailored their mission since talking to the ESC. They now work with Russian Professors on campus to educate people on Russian language and culture. They use these resources for some of their meetings, whereas in other meetings they watch movies in Russian with English subtitles. Spiridonov said that they are trying to hold more events that will hopefully be larger and will be come annual. He said they are planning to charge for their next event. Spiridonov stated that the goal of the club is to have students get a sense of what it is like to live in Russia and to be Russian. They also work to advocate for Russian students on campus and attempt to bring awareness to the stigma against the culture. The aim of the club is really to educate people about what it means to be Russian. Saldana-Spiegle said that Spiridonov focused on the idea of educating Americans on Russian culture, but then had added people from multi-cultural backgrounds. She asked him to clarify this. Spiridonov said that they wanted to try to educate anyone they can about their culture. Traci Watanabe asked where and when the club meets. Spiridonov said they meet in the Communications Facility every Thursday. He went on to add that at the meetings they usually will split into groups at some point based on people's Russian-speaking-abilities. Duot asked if this was considered a language club. Spiridonov said that language makes up a large portion because the language relates directly to the culture. Duot asked how the Russian Club fits into the ESC. Spiridonov said that the Russian culture is underrepresented and underappreciated, and if it is represented it is in a bad light. He said that he believes that the club fits into the ESC because it is about educating people about the culture. He said that he believes the ESC is about teaching people about culture and tradition. He stated that has been to a number of events and he was a performer in Culture Shock, and he said it was about looking at the positive side of different cultures. He said he wants to show the positive side to the culture and allow people to understand and how that can benefit people. He repeated that the Russian Club is about educating people about Russian culture and makes people look at their culture differently. Saldana-Spiegle read the ESC mission statement and pointed out that everything Spiridonov said aligns with the mission statement. She said that some people feel that ESC is the one safe place for people of color, but that for her it is people from any other country who will experience cultural differences and needs a safe space. She added that the title Ethnic Student Center applies to every other culture around the world. Sanchez asked how the club remains inclusive for people who don't speak the language. Spiridonov said that when they split into groups they have a group for people who don't speak any Russian. These people will go with the professors to learn more of the basics from a professional teacher. Saldana-Spiegle said that the majority of ESC clubs allow space for people who identify with that culture, for people who want to learn about culture, or people who want to maintain it. She asked how Russian Club aligned with this. Spiridonov said that anyone who wants to represent culture. Porter asks that the club does besides learning language. Spiridonov said that they want to teach people how to work and communicate with the culture and not just focusing on the language. Saldana-Spiegle asked how they envision their interaction with other clubs in the ESC and the space. Spiridonov said he sees the ESC as a family and he wants to join that family for them to support the other clubs in the ESC and to receive help from the ESC clubs as well. Sanchez asked how people who don't want to learn the language will fit in. Spiridonov said they will be exposed to the language, but there will be different activities that they can participate in without having to know the language. Penor asked if they have held elections for next year's officers. Spiridonov said they will be holding them next week. So said that it is important to make a family within each club. She asked he is willing to accept other people from different backgrounds and interests into their club family. Spiridonov said the more underrepresented people they have working towards equal representation the more they will succeed.

**B. ESC Fundraising**

Leigh Berry said that she is concerned about ESC fundraising because there is a lot of talking and good intentions but there is no action behind those words. Espinoza said that he told Steering that the issue needed to be fixed. He said that Steering's response was that they were only going to be Steering Representatives for this academic year and they did not feel comfortable creating

rules for next year's committee to follow. Espinoza said he disagrees with this, and that the current committee should set down the rules for next year's committee to follow. He says he feels there is a lack of getting work done in Steering Committee and they are just pushing it off to next year's committee. Porter suggested making this a topic at the next Building Unity during spring quarter. Duot said that they need to work as a community to fix this issue and support the clubs.

**C. ESC Website**

Duot said that the website had be finished and asked if the council feels the ESC is accurately represented by it. The council agreed that the website is now representative of what the ESC is.

**V. CLUB REPORT**

None

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

THE OFFICIAL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 4:55 P.M.