



Western Washington University Associated Students
Ethnic Student Center Presidents Council Meeting
Monday, April 30, 2012

Voting Members Present:

BSU - Hayley Penor, CSA - Howard Kwon, FASA - Marie Serica, KhSA - Devin Porter,
LSU - Alyne Sanchez, MEChA—Nadia Saldana-Spiegle, MISO - Felipe Espinoza, NASU—Ashley Alvarez,
QPOC - Jolene Manibusan, SASA - Mahin Khadeer, VSA - Connie Owens

Voting Members Absent:

ACC, HOH

Non-Voting Members:

Secretary: Erin Curran-Tileston

Advisor: None

Chair: Deng Duot

Guestfish: Shawn Ly, VSA; Dimitry Spiridonov, Russian Club

Motions

ESCPC-12-S-02	Approve the ESC-Presidents Council meeting minutes from Monday, April 2 nd , 2012, as written. - PASSED
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Deng Duot, AS Vice President for Diversity, called the meeting to order at 4:09 P.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTIONESCPC-12-S-02 by Nadia Saldana-Spiegle

Approve the ESC-Presidents Council meeting minutes from Monday, April 2nd, 2011, as written.

Second: Alyne Sanchez

Vote: 6-0-2

Action: **Passed**

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Project Leadership

Duot said that Project Leadership wants to partner with the ESC to put on a workshop. He said that if anyone is interested they should send their names to Duot so he can pass them on.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Russian Club

Dmitry Spiridonov said that the club's goal was changed to emphasize that the club will focus on culture, language, music, and other Russian cultural aspects. He said that meetings will be centered around those ideas and the activities will change depending on their focus for the week. He said that last Thursday they watched a movie, but they will change between culture, language, and other things. Spiridonov said his grandparents will be presenting to the club when they come to visit from St. Petersburg. He said that the Taste of Russia event was voted event of the month, and he is trying to make sure that transition into the ESC will be easy and is creating a document to make collaboration with ESC clubs easier. He hopes that Russian Club can collaborate with other clubs and that these possible collaborations and being part of the ESC will bring awareness for their club on campus. He said that they want to use the ESC space and use the larger amount

of funding that the ESC has available to put on more and larger events. He said that they also want to work with the larger events put on by the ESC and make them more successful and be better events overall. Spiridonov said that he believes the dinners are successful, but could be better. He pointed out that the LSU dinner wasn't sold out and he doesn't think that's okay. He said that his club would try to help with that if they are part of the ESC. He said the club's experience and drive will help clubs he thinks are struggling within the ESC. Duot explained that the council will talk and make a suggestion to Steering, then Steering will make a suggestion to the ESC, and then the ESC members will make a suggestion, and Steering will make the final vote after they receive all their feedback. Alyne Sanchez asked how long Russian Club has been an official AS Club. Spiridonov said that it had been roughly two quarters. Howard Kwon asked if the club had enough members to cover the necessary positions to be a part of the ESC. Spiridonov said that they don't currently have the positions in the constitution because the AS doesn't require it, but they have enough members to fill those positions. Sanchez asked how Spiridonov would make sure the club continues after he leaves. Spiridonov said that he will be in Seattle and will remain in contact with a professors and students involved. He is also putting together documents to help people to transition into the role of president. Saldana-Spiegle asked if the members of the Russian Club are aware of the conversations Spiridonov has been having with the ESC. He said that he is doing a lot of the research himself, but he is sharing the information with the club members. Kwon asked if there are people in the Russian club who will continue the club. Spiridonov said that was why they incorporated the professors and their curriculums into the club so they can make sure it continues. He added that there is another member who is also very committed and will help to make sure the club continues. Filipe Espinoza said that this process of approval is how they work in the ESC. He explained that the difference between a lot of other organizations and the ESC is that the ESC is student driven. He suggested that it is important that students take charge of the clubs, not necessarily the professors.

Duot asked for the council's opinion after Spiridonov left. Porter said she believed they should change their name in order to incorporate students. She added that people shouldn't be terminated from the club as well. Porter also said that this club doesn't seem to have a very strong structure and that they should try to figure out exactly what they want to be as a club before applying to be a part of the ESC. Porter also pointed out that they are dependent on teachers and that Spiridonov is leaving. She continued to say that Spiridonov is that only one who has been in the ESC and to meetings. She said that the members of the club should become more involved, figure out if they want to be a part of the ESC, and then apply again in the future. Many council members thought Spiridonov's comment about LSU's dinner was rude. Khadeer said she didn't think he meant it negatively or to be disrespectful, he just did not communicate his idea effectively. She said that it seems that he wants to help other clubs get better attendance, which is a positive thing. Sanchez said that she believes that the rest of the do not have enough experience with the ESC. Porter said that the club can't just focus on language, and when he was told he couldn't just focus on language he said that it would be language and culture, but language always had to be there. Espinoza said that he wants them to be a part of the ESC, but that language shouldn't be the main point of the club if they want to join the center. He said that Spiridonov may not know exactly what the ESC is about, even though he has good intentions and could be an asset to the center. Espinoza finished by saying that he doesn't know how to make them more like an ESC club. Sanchez suggested putting them on probation for a year. Shawn Le asked if there would be any negative effects if they joined the ESC. Espinoza said that clubs in the ESC have sometimes been included but don't participate. He said it is a question of how seriously the center takes itself and its mission. He posed the question that if the club hasn't tried to get involved more since they have proposed to be an ESC club, then what are their true intentions. Espinoza also asked if the club gets what they want will they support the rest of the center. Le said that it might be hard for them to get involved and if they were let in the other clubs could support them. Le once again asked if there would be anything negative about letting them in. Ashley Alvarez pointed out that Steering has a negative balance in the budget so their idea that the ESC has more money available is unfounded, and letting them in might negatively affect that

more. Sanchez said money shouldn't be the reason. Porter said that that is true but the money is what they focused on when they originally asked to join the ESC. Duot asked what the basis of the club is when most people in the club are not of Russian decent. Espinoza said it seems mostly to be made up of people speaking Russian in an academic sense and not necessarily in a cultural sense like other ESC clubs. Le said the Spiridonov and ESC clubs want to invite everyone to participate. Espinoza said he does want them to be a part of the ESC, but he isn't sure about some things. Sanchez said that a lot of people may be sketchy about the club but they can't expect them to be exactly like an ESC club. Duot said that this is a hard decision to make. Espinoza said he liked the idea of giving them a chance. Le pointed out that the club will still have to ask for money, so they can't just take money from the ESC. Porter suggested coming up with a suggestion for how to deal with the club. Marie Serica suggested holding a panel with more of the club members. Espinoza said that that would push the decision back more. Le said that then they could get a better sense of the other people in the club. Porter said that this has gone on too long and she wants to stop talking about it. Sanchez suggested probation. She asked what status that would give them in the ESC. Kwon said that the name would be part of the roster but they would not get funding. It was pointed out that it might be better to put them on probation but not have them have their name as part of the center so they can still get Activities Council funding. Duot agreed with the idea of probation.

The council recommended that the Russian Club should not be made a member of the ESC. For the next academic year they will be put on probation where they will not be a full member, but will be expected to attend all meetings and required executive member/officer activities to demonstrate their commitment to the organization. Next spring quarter the question of the Russian Club's probation will be discussed and voted on again. They will not receive any ESC funding but will still be able to apply for Activities Council funding because they are not an official member of Russian Club.

V. CLUB REPORT

None

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None

THE OFFICIAL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 4:58 P.M.