

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Friday, October 14, 2011

2:00pm

VU 567

Present: Katie Vainikka, Patrick Stickney, Sara Richards (AS VP for Student Life, Iris Maute-Gibson (AS VP for Governmental Affairs), David Burgesser (AS Alternative Transportation Coor.)

Secretary: Katie Savinski

Guest(s): Daniel Benowitz, Skylar Hinkley, Andrea Osborn

MOTIONS

Sara Richards, VP for Student Life, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

I. CHANGES TO AGENDA

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Introductions

- B. Skylar Hinkley spoke on a developing 'bike loan' program that would allow Western students without cars to rent bicycles for the duration of a quarter or several weeks at a time. The Outdoor Center (OC) currently rents bikes to students for a daily rate, but renting for an entire quarter under this system becomes financially unreasonable. Hinkley hopes this would fill the gap in alternative transportation. Sara Richards pointed Hinkley in the direction of information about a previously attempted bike-share program. Hinkley and others have already used this as a resource.

IV. CHAIR REPORTS

A. History of ASTAC

Richards read the Charge and Charter aloud to the committee. She expressed to the committee that it has the power to be more action oriented rather than simply discussion driven, and acting on that concept could make some big differences for alternative transportation. Associated Students Transportation Advisory Committee (ASTAC) is an advisory committee that deals with the movement of all people on campus; buses, cars, walking, skateboards, bike riding, etc. The committee works with the AS Board of Directors and the Washington Transportation Association (WTA). Each quarter, Western Students pay a \$25 alternative transportation fee which provides for bus passes, the late night shuttle, bus pass employees at the beginning of the year, and salaried employees. Richards wants to direct the committee this year to bike safety improvements and other forms of alternative transportation that can be used on campus.

B. Master Plan

Two years ago, this committee revised the Master Plan, but those edits were never documented. Richards asked the committee to highlight areas they would like to see more focus on this year, or make notes of things they believe should be added to the plan. David Burgesser asked if the Master Plan extends to improvements in the community. Richards clarified that the plan does in fact extend beyond Western's campus.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Biking and Skateboard Policies

Andrea Osborn said that the policies on bicycle use have not changed this year, but safety is an ongoing issue. She is working on creating some strategies for educating students on locations of the shared paths of pedestrians and bikers, the 'shared zones' where bikers must ride no faster than at walking speed (3mph), and clearing up the general confusion about what times the 'walk zones' are in effect. In

addition, East College Way was opened back up this year as a safe cycling area. Osborn wants to get the word back out on that. There has been collaboration between Public Safety for walk zone enforcement, sandwich boards displaying shared zones and walk zones for increased awareness of these areas, and also a partnership with the Wellness and Outreach Center. Work study students from Wellness and Outreach have shown interest in demonstrating proper use of bicycles on campus in hopes of making that proper use a part of campus culture. Also, the map detailing the proper zones for bicycle usage will hopefully be posted in the bike shelters soon. Richards is looking into grant programs for promoting bike safety for both bikers and walkers. Severe injuries have happened on campus and Richards will be looking into the number of incidents in the past.

B. Update on WSS

Burgesser explained that Western operates its own shuttle schedule after WTA's service ends. The shuttle runs Monday to Saturday beginning its routes around 11:00pm and on Sunday begins its service at 9:00pm. It is completely run by the university and runs until 3:00am. There have been some maintenance issues with the shuttles, and Burgesser is looking into possibly purchasing new shuttles in the future. East year, an opt-in texting program was implemented to alert students on times that the shuttle was not in service due to inclement weather and for end-of-the-quarter announcements. Students can text "bus" to 68398 for alerts on cancellations. Richards reminded the committee of the guest policy on the shuttle. Students may give ridership to one guest, in addition to themselves, if they have a valid Western card. The card holder is responsible for any of the guest's actions. Burgesser explained that Sunday service was picked back up this year by WTA, so only the Sunday late night shuttle is serviced by the university.

flis Maute Gibson entered at 2:33pm)

C. Open say

Daniel Benowitz said he would like to see bike safety and bike lanes around Bellingham be a focus of the committee this year. Burgesser said that he could see the committee being a supporter of the developing car share and bike share programs. The programs might face issues of parking and public safety. He could see the committee as somewhat of advisory for those concerns. Richards hoped that the committee would be an advocate for the Alternative Transportation Fee when the fee goes up for renewal this spring. Burgesser wants the committee to come back to the next meeting with ideas via the Master Plan. Maute-Gibson updated the committee on several details regarding the renewal of the fee. The renewal would involve a renegotiation of a five year inter-local cooperative agreement contract with WTA bus service. She stressed that part of the negotiation will involve creating understanding of the value of Western students to WTA services. Examples of students being important to their service: Proposition 1, national ridership endowments, political support, etc. Maute-Gibson asked the committee to contact her if anyone was interested in trying to gather ridership information. Burgesser asked to continue the conversation with Maute-Gibson at the next ATF committee meeting.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE: October 21, 2011 from 2:00-3:00pm in VU 460

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 2:40 P.M.