

Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting
Tuesday, October 30, 2012 **VU 567**

Senators: Christian Correa (Chair) *Present:* Bill Campbell, Sarah Kohout, Alex Holland, Evan Fowler, Joseph Levy, Chris Brown, Neil Christenson, Brian Toews, Marc Oomen, Amanda Squires, Paige Robins
Advisors: Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities;
Victor Celis (AS VP for Academic Affairs)
Guests: Deng de Duot, AS VP for Diversity

MOTIONS

- S-12-F-2** Suspend the applicable bylaws and hold voting elections this evening as an Action Item for both Vice Chair and Parliamentarian. *Passed*
S-12-F-3 Elect Neil Christenson as the Senate Parliamentarian. *Passed*
S-12-F-4 Elect Evan Fowler to the office of Student Senate Vice Chair. *Passed*
S-12-F-5 Create an ad-hoc committee on Student Senate Reform. A chair will be appointed and the chair will solicit volunteers to sit on the committee. *Passed*
S-12-F-6 Suspend the vote on the Senate Outreach Subcommittee until the next meeting. *Passed*
S-12-F-7 Elect Campbell as chair of the Senate subcommittee on reform. *Passed*

The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 7:02 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA-

Add a Discussion Item regarding a standardized message to students about what the Senate does.

Move the Parliamentarian to Item A. and Vice Chair Nominations to B.

There was confusion as to why this was still an Info Item and not an Action Item. Correa said per the bylaws, nominations start the third meeting and will be a two week process. Rosenberg said that the bylaws say the elections will begin the third meeting and voting will be held the next week. She said that they could make a motion to suspend the bylaws if they wish to take action. Christenson felt that they began the discussion of the nominations last week. Oomen feels that it is important to establish their leadership now and feels this doesn't stray too far from the intent of the bylaws.

MOTION S-12-F-2 by Christenson

Suspend the applicable bylaws and hold voting elections this evening as an Action Item for both Vice Chair and Parliamentarian.

Second: Oomen Vote: 8-0-3 Action: Passed

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Issue of the Quarter/Outreach Event

Fowler said that in having the conversation last week about the issue of the quarter what became clear was that in order for the group to become functional they need to let people know they exist. In the past they have looked at issues like higher one and the coal train. There were suggestions such as littering, campus food and water bottles. Celis reported that Katie Savinski is planning on bringing the Water Bottle Initiative to the Senate, even though it is in the early stages of development. She is excited to get their input. Toews said that they discussed stances they should be taking on community items versus working on university issues. Squires said that in having the outreach event they will be able to hear what issues are important to

students. Toews dittoed. Christensen has talked to a couple of classes and feels that not many people know that the Senate exists and the kinds of issues they discuss. Toews feels they should fix the infrastructure of the Senate. Levy feels that they could put on an event as opposed to just tabling at Red Square. Campbell feels that the issue of the quarter was created as an outreach tool. Toews feels that being realistic, they need to work within the proper channels; fixing their infrastructure, creating common language, tactics, and how to outreach will lay the groundwork necessary to move forward. Correa said that historically this is what the issue of the quarter has not given the Senate a lot of presence on campus. Oomen agreed that fixing the structure of the Senate is important as well as deciding how to get that message out. Squires doesn't feel that this is an issue only with the Senate, there is the same issue with people knowing about the Board of Directors. She feels that Senators should begin by speaking in classes to students about issues that are important to them. She feels this will help ensure that people are aware of their student representatives. She doesn't think that starting with a topic like littering is going to get a lot of people involved. Toews and Christenson dittoed. Christenson feels that the chair should be planning the big events and when they will happen. The Senate should support and attend those events. Correa would like to come up with some tangible ideas. Toews asked about the discussion of creating a subcommittee to focus on outreach. He thinks it would be a benefit to the large group. Fowler feels that people can informally discuss after the Senate meeting ideas. During election night, there is an event being held in Zoe's Bagels and perhaps the Senate can look at it as an outreach opportunity. Christenson dittoed. Campbell feels that the ideas that individuals can do for outreach are great, but he would like to discuss something that will bring everyone together. He suggested creating a video presentation to share with classrooms. He suggests planning the outreach and implement the idea in the Winter because there is not a lot of time left in the quarter. Kohout dittoed. Duot feels that outreach is very important and suggested using AS resources such as AS Review or the Western Front. Fowler dittoed. Duot suggested using information from previous Senates to see what was useful and what will help the Senate reach their goal. Squires volunteered to help with Facebook.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Parliamentarian Nominations

Neil Christenson is the Student Senator for the College of Humanities Social Sciences. He would like to be parliamentarian because he enjoys *parli pro*, knows it well and can serve well in this capacity. Also he seems to be the only person who wants to do this position.

MOTION SS-12-F-3 by Oomen

Elect Neil Christenson as the Parliamentarian.

Second: Fowler Vote: Acclamation Action: Passed

B. Vice-Chair Nominations

Fowler would like to be vice chair. This is his second year in the Senate; he was the Senior Senator and became the Parliamentarian. In terms of outside experience, his is the President of American Campaign Transparency, President of the Partisan Reduction Organization and a Board member in the Political Science Association. He would like to be vice chair to help support the ideals of Senate Reform, he also loves to work with people, loves organizing (he helped plan the event just before meeting) and is a fan of team work. Campbell said that he is looking forward to getting to know everyone better and reaching out to constituents. He is seeking Senate reformation and is also attending every BOD meeting possible. Main focus is senate reformation; he would like to see it be relaxed but have better organization. He would like to be the leader of the Ad Hoc and withdraws his nomination as vice chair.

MOTION SS-12-F-4 by Oomen

Elect Evan Fowler to the office of Student Senate Vice Chair.

Second: Toews Vote: Acclamation Action: Passed

C. Ad hoc Committee

Toews believes that the Senate is in agreement that outreach is important. He feels that word choices are important; he thinks that the bureaucratic process and parliamentary procedures scares students. He encourages them to think about how to make the Senate more approachable. Christenson wondered if they should make two committees or just one for reform and outreach. Oomen's intent was to have a subcommittee that is just focused on senate reform. He thinks that they could also have a committee on outreach but feels that they should be separate. Christenson and Kohout dittoed. Oomen worried that without separating them, it would just become another Senate meeting. Paige feels that if the Senate is focusing on outreach as the Issue of the Month, it should not be a separate committee. Levy dittoed. Christenson feels that outreach is something that needs to be focused on throughout the year, so it is not just for this quarter. Squires is confused as to why a committee for outreach is needed instead of individually taking initiative. Fowler is a fan of informally handling items. He is not in favor of having a stiff atmosphere with strict parliamentary procedure. He doesn't feel they need worry as much about formalizing the ad hoc committees as they need to focus on the issues at hand. Campbell agrees with Fowler, the ad hoc committees should be informal. However, he thinks that these are serious issues. He feels there are times where they need to follow parliamentary procedure to ensure that all are heard. 3 dittoed. He encouraged that if at any time a Senator feels that their voice is not being heard they should speak up, either at the meeting or to the leaders of Senate such as the Parliamentarian. Levy asked to divide the question. Campbell seconded. Oomen would like to see a list of recommendations from the subcommittee, but he doesn't care how they arrive at that list. Celis provided context: two years there was a small group that created that met informally and had one point person. Christenson said that the point is to have a small group of people working on this issue. The reason he made a motion was to make it clear and formalized. He doesn't expect minutes to be taken or the committees to be formal. Toews would prefer not indicating the number of Senators on each committee. It should just be anyone who is interested. Campbell doesn't feel that they need to change the numbers because anyone could attend the meeting, this would just set a minimum number. Fowler feels that these committees are basically being created to help coordinate the meeting times and ensure that people are meeting, they can be informal. There was discussion about the best way to have members. There was originally a chair appointing members but there was resistance to this. There was an amendment to have a chair appointed and then volunteers solicited. Christensen would like to include reporting to the Senate by February. The Senate did not feel it was necessary to put a deadline and hoped that there would be reports at Senate meetings.

MOTION SS-12-F-5 by Christenson

Create an ad-hoc-committee on Student Senate Reform. A chair will be appointed and the chair will solicit volunteers to sit on the committee.

Second: Campbell Vote: Action:

Toews left the meeting at 8:13pm

Robins feels that they have not made a final decision about removing the Issue of the Quarter and making outreach the priority. Oomen feels that there could be informal discussions about outreach. Squires felt that there should be a point person in charge of coordinating outreach such as creating a Facebook, etc. Levy sees no harm in making this committee now. Campbell moved to suspend the motion about the Outreach Committee until a later date. Christenson thinks that instead of having this discussion every week, he suggests creating this informal committee to discuss it. Campbell moved to suspend because they haven't made a final decision on the issue of the quarter and he feels that they can create it next week and still be effective.

MOTION SS-12-F-6 by Christenson

Suspend the vote on the Senate Outreach Subcommittee until the next meeting.

Second: Campbell Vote: 7-2-1 Action: Passed

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Standardized message

Christenson feels that it would be helpful to come up with a few talking points about the Senate for classroom speeches. Kohout dittoed. Celis suggested that the Senate discuss this next week when discussing outreach. He also requested Christenson write up a proposal and submit it by the deadline. The committee agreed on postponing the discussion until the next meeting.

B. Next meeting

Campbell feels that the Senate meeting is happening at the exact time that Election Results will begin to be announced. Kohout asked if they could move the meeting to a different day or time. Oomen suggested having an informal gathering during the normal Senate time. Celis suggested having an informal time if people are interested in the subcommittees. He suggested having people communicate via email about what time would work best. There were several people who were interested in having an informal gathering at the normal senate time. Celis asked everyone to email their availability for Thursday, if there is a time that works, they will call a meeting.

VII. BOARD REPORTS/CONCERNS

Celis is looking to update the AS website. He asked if there were any objections to having student emails posted to student senate website. If there are objections please contact him after meeting or via email. He has been working with Marissa Jacksich, AS Committee Coordinator to identify Senators who aren't on committees. According to the bylaws, Senators must serve on at least one more committee.

Duot really appreciated the opportunity to listen to the Senate. He encouraged the Senate to talk to the Board and introduce themselves.

VIII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

Campbell reported that his committees have not yet met. There was a concern expressed about the Blood Drives and he will draft something and bring it to the committee.

Christenson met with all but 4 or 5 of the chair persons of the departments of the college that he represents. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences has 13 colleges. He suggests looking at having two positions handle the college because of its size. He spoke to some classes: history, French, linguistics, etc. He is still working out more times with professors, he has been getting good responses and people are appreciating the outreach. He met the Journalism chair who introduced him to The Western Front. They were excited to help with outreach. He is more than happy to work as a point person with the students publications on campus.

Squires reported that the bookstore committee hasn't met yet. She will be setting up meetings with professors.

Fowler reported that he is serving on Legislative Affairs Council and they are looking at background on legislation and he was elected Senate Vice chair.

Levy talked to constituents about some internet issues in Higginson Hall. He will be looking into how to help them out. Celis suggested he touch base with the VP for Student Life.

IX. OTHER BUSNIESS

A. Chair of committee for senate reform

MOTION SS-12-F-7 by Christenson

Elect Campbell as chair of the Senate subcommittee on reform.

Second: Levy Vote: 7-2-1 Action: Passed

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.