

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate**

Tuesday, November 13, 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:** Patrick Stickney (AS VP Governmental Affairs), Ben Crowther (AS Legislative Liaison)

MOTIONS

SS-12-F-8 Approve the minutes of 10-30-12 and 11-06-12. *Passed*

SS-12-F-9 Approve the creation of an Outreach Committee. *Passed*

The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:47 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION SS-12-F-8 by Christenson

Approve the minutes of 10-30-12 and 11-06-12.

Second: Fowler Vote: 9-0-0 Action: Passed

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Gender Marker/Name Change Resolution

Crowther explained the purpose behind this resolution. The current policies regarding legal name change at the university involves getting a court document reflecting the name change or a social security card with the name change. The issues with this are that it costs \$155, involves a trip to visiting a judge, as well as has the potential to out a person to a judge. Crowther believes that this procedure is too involved for someone who just wants to change their preferred name. There is currently no procedure in place for someone who wants to change their gender marker in their records. In order for a student to update their gender on their social security card it requires gender confirmation surgery, which ultimately requires that students modify their bodies. This is an issue because students should not be required to modify their bodies in order to have accurate and up to date records, and there is no single surgery that reflects a gender change. These surgeries are also not covered by insurance. Policies as they currently stand are inaccessible to students as they are too burdensome. This places an unfair burden on students are just trying to update their records to accurately reflect their identity. Celis said that the registrar and the Equal Opportunity Office want to help make change but they are looking for students to take a strong stance on this issue. Christenson wondered whether this would run into legal issues with the definition of gender identity and how that is reflected on a legal document. Crowther explained that there are many identity documents that reflect gender identity, and there is no legal point at which someone's gender is changed with the government, only the legal documents that are associated with a person's identity and university documents fall into that category. Christenson also questioned whether "outing" a person to a judge by going through this process is a serious concern. Crowther said that it is not

fair to ask students to go in front of judge because this has the potential to emotionally harm the student. Campbell appreciated Crowther bringing this resolution to the Senate. Campbell echoed Celis in how this resolution can bring about actual action. Campbell also brought up the point that legal names and social security numbers need to be accurate in order to ensure that legal documents are sent to the correct people. Christenson dittoed. Crowther clarified that the name change process would update the “preferred name” field, but the “legal name” will remain the same. Crowther believes that this is a piece of a larger conversation in order to reflect what students want. Fowler reiterated Crowther’s point. Fowler believes that this resolution will encourage the registrar to proceed forward with this. Squires dittoed. Crowther does not believe that there are any other schools in the state that have adopted this policy, but there are schools nationally that have. Correa encourages Senators to email Crowther if they have more questions.

B. Polling Questions Issues

Stickney discussed the conversations had by the AS Board this summer in order to ensure that the AS is doing things the students want to do. Stickney and Correa brainstormed on topics that could be asked of students such as what students know about the AS and the AS Board, what they think needs to be changed and what can be improved upon. The Senate is particularly necessary for this because the Senate is the direct way that students can get involved. Stickney encourages Senators to look at the report put out by the Communications Office about how the AS communicates. Correa asked if there were any Senators who wanted to take these documents and bring back questions to the next meeting. Stickney said that this would be something that Board members and Senators would stand in Red Square and ask students face to face. Christenson was concerned that this would not be statistically relevant. Fowler said that this would not be statistically relevant but it does allow for students to meet Senators and VPs face to face. Squires feels that once the outreach committee is formed then there could be a large number of students reached. Campbell thinks the goals behind this are excellent, but the Senate needs to make sure it is realistic about the outcomes of this. Stickney said that this is a way to get some action. Correa said that there are no right or wrong answers with surveys like this, just innovative ones. Hilliard suggested that the Senate take emails or W#s to ensure that the person being surveyed really is a student.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Outreach Committee

Christenson wants the Senate to really get some action going, and he believes this committee is the first step to do that. The idea of this committee is to have one or two point people to run outreach, a Facebook page, and a twitter account, in order to represent the Senate. There has been a concern year to year of not having enough outreach. Christenson led a discussion about what this committee would look like. Fowler thinks it should be an informal committee where there was one person in charge of a group. Squires thinks the work should be divided up between multiple people, such as one person in charge of classroom outreach and so on. Squires suggested that the Senate have weekly video updates similar to what the AS Board does.

MOTION SS-12-F -9 by Christenson

Approve creation of a Special Subcommittee on Senate Outreach, with Christenson and Squires as Chairpersons, who would solicit volunteers to work on increasing Senate outreach to students. The subcommittee would create ways and propose events and means by which the Senate may advertise itself and/or gain greater input from students. Furthermore, the co-Chairs would work with the Senate Chairperson to administer any social media or other advertisement campaigns that the Senate undertakes

Second: Campbell

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation

Celis gave a presentation about where Student Senate has been and where Senate is going. The purpose of this presentation was to share what has happened in the past, to view past recommendations, and to see where the Senate can go. Previous Senates have been larger and more formal. There have been formal work sessions with the AS Board to discuss the future of the Senate. Main discussion points have been why the Senate exists, how it can be more representative, and how can/does the Senate advise the AS Board. These discussions led to different resolutions being brought to the Senate before being passed on to the AS Board. Continuing along this vein, the Senate can continue to find ways to improve, and continue to implement the practices of previous Senates in terms of making recommendations to the AS Board.

VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

Hilliard The main concern from the academic board that met last week was the course changes to the graduate program for Communications Sciences and Disorders. Some of the classes were not properly certified which would affect the certification of the students taking those classes.

Christenson There is a Senate Facebook page. Contact Neil if you want to join. He has also written a guide to Parliamentary Procedure that will be available soon! Christenson overheard some students talking about how the potholes in the C-lots are getting worse. There was a concern about there not being books available from Summit. He is working with the Environmental Center for SPAC. LAC is happening.

Campbell's committees have not started meeting yet. Campbell sent out an email for the reformation committee and would like people to respond if they have any ideas.

Squires met with Cindy Shepard to discuss Woodring. Her other committees have not met yet. Squires went to 3 classes last week and people were excited to get to know Senators. Squires also suggested that the website be updated with the correct names and emails of the current senators.

Holland had nothing to report.

Robins issues of parking were also brought up by Robins. There was also an issue with the possibility of a hidden fee with TESL that may not be covered by financial aid. Robins will look into this more and bring it up again when she knows more.

Brown spoke to the pothole issue, and there has been discussion about this, but there are environmental concerns and it is costly. There is a possibility that they may be removing the 10 discounted parks per quarter for faculty. There may also be a fee for after-hours parking.

Discussions about painting bike lanes across campus have started.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS/CONCERNS

Celis The AS Board passed the Outback Summer Apprenticeship program, which was a pilot program, to continue next summer. They were able to grow a lot of food and donate it to the Bellingham food bank. PE classes are going to be self-sustaining, meaning that tuition on it will increase to \$250 per credit hour. There is concern that this will seriously decrease enrollment because students cannot afford it. Robins thinks there needs to be discussion about this in order to show that this is not something that students want nor can they afford. There was a lot of support for this. Celis said that the money will go directly to the cost of equipment usage and the salary of the professor teaching it. This will start next quarter. There are some dance classes that are similar to this, but not all of them will be affected. Christenson wondered if this would create more issues during the summer since Carver Gym is being renovated. Celis asked that anyone who does not want their student email posted on the website to let him know and it will be taken

off. The website will have names and the group each Senator represents.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. There will be a meeting next week on Tuesday.

B. Correa also asks that since time was changed that Senators arrive on time to be respectful of others time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.