

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate**

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

VU 567

Senators: *Present:* Christian Correa (Chair), Bill Campbell, Sarah Kohout, Evan Fowler, Joseph Levy, Chris Brown, Neil Christenson, Brian Toews, Marc Oomen, and Matthew Hilliard *Absent:* Amanda Squires, Alex Holland, and Paige Robins

Advisors: Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities;
Victor Celis (AS VP for Academic Affairs)

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

Guests: Tom Durham, Paul Grzelak, Amy Darst, Danny Canham, Ben Crowther, and Patrick Stickney

MOTIONS

SS-12-F-10 Approve the Resolution Regarding Name and Gender-Marker Change Policies with the change to the first whereas “policy only allows students to update their legal name, not their preferred name by providing” and adding a third whereas “a student’s legal name populates multiple documents, including Web4U and class rosters where preferred name ought to populate instead” and add in the eighth after parenthesis add “in order to change their gender-marker” and replace the Be it Resolved with” The Associated Students calls upon the University to adopt policies allowing a student to change their gender-marker and update their preferred name that do not impose financial or legal burdens upon students. *Passed*

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Crowther said that today is the 14th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. The committee took a moment of silence. Christenson welcomed all of the guests at today’s meeting.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Polling for the Board – Outreach Committee

Correa said that Christenson and Squires through the Outreach Committee will be working on polling questions for the board. He said that they will be going through the questions and figuring out which ones will help the Senate. He said senators can table in red square.

Christenson requested that it be an action item at the meeting after next because the extended holiday weekend will not give enough time to prepare.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Name Change/Gender Marker Resolution

Crowther read an email sent to Correa from a transgender student at Western who struggles with outdated name and gender markers and is in support for this resolution. Darst said that this directly affects her as a transgender student. She said she did not feel safe in Kentucky, where she lived before coming to Western. Here at Western, she has been provided the opportunity to express herself, go through the transition, and be authentic to her identity. She

has recently been through the process of name and gender marker changes. She eventually was able to save money and appear in court to have a legal name change. Darst said there are students who do not have the resources or the opportunity to get their name changed. She said that getting her name and gender markers changed for university documents was more hoops to jump through. She said she had to go to the registrar to prove her legal name change, but she was denied and told that she had to present a license or a new social security card even though the current process at Western only requires a court document. She said individuals should have the right to change their names in a way that is accessible to all students. She said the preferred name option is not really used in Web4U and myWestern. She supports that the preferred name should be more connected and more easily updated to accommodate the students and feels that having an accessible and lenient process is imperative for Western. Darst has had to stop teachers and TAs before they revealed her previous name and would have outed her in front her peers. She said she does not wish to disclose that she is trans. She is at school to learn and not to be looked at as a specimen and talked about by students. She said that when people see her previous name they use the wrong pronouns and she feels invalidated. Crowther said that the current system for name changing requires a court order, changed social security card or a document that shows the social security card is being changed. Canham said that as an employee of the Women's Center, he has been dedicated to education and that this has become a gender equality issue. He said everyone has an expression of their gender. This measure would help with the process. Christenson brought some amendments to discuss. Campbell said that this resolution aims to accomplish two aspects: taking a stance on the legal name change and try to advocate a change in Western's policy. He said that if the issues were separated, it would be more effective and suggested that the aspect regarding the legal name change be taken out. Crowther said that the university, and people from different departments, are already working on this issue and know exactly what students are asking. He said that what the university is looking for a statement from the Associated Students that broadly says that students support what the university is doing and the processes that aim to make the policy more accessible. He believes this resolution achieves that purpose. Fowler said that this is a time sensitive issue. Christenson said that the legal issue and the university process go hand in hand and need to be kept together. This document doesn't say that the law should be changed; the LAC is working on that. Ooman said that the most important aspect is the resolve clause which is AS asking the University to change its process. Christenson is concerned that the preferred name does not show up on Web4u and university documents. The preferred name is the name that should be used because it is the most accurate and up to date. Crowther said the utility that comes from this change for students outweighs any sort of douchebaggery. Christenson dittoed. Crowther said gender as an identity is claimed and that should populate, not what a surgeon or doctor says it should be. Christenson had a suggestion for rewriting the resolution clause. Brown would like to strike the eighth clause because it is too broad a statement. Christenson said the amendment was made to clear up the confusion. Campbell suggested removing the examples in the eighth whereas clause to make it less confusing. Brown dittoed. Crowther said the examples are necessary in the clause to establish the intent of the clause. He said that to just say authority would be too vague. Christenson and Toews dittoed. Crowther wants asking for gender confirmation to be framed as a negative because students should not need an authority to verify their gender.

MOTION SS-12-F -

by Christenson

Approve the Resolution Regarding Name and Gender-Marker Change Policies with the change to the first whereas "policy only allows students to update their legal name, not their preferred name by providing" and adding a third whereas "a student's legal name populates multiple documents,

including Web4U and class rosters where preferred name ought to populate instead” and add in the eighth after parenthesis add “in order to change their gender-marker” and replace the Be it Resolved with” The Associated Students calls upon the University to adopt policies allowing a student to change their gender-marker and update their preferred name that do not impose financial or legal burdens upon students.

Second: Levy

Vote: 9-0-0

Action: Passed

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VII. BOARD REPORTS/CONCERNS

Celis said the Student Technology Fee Renewable Committee is looking for one more student at large and hopes to hold one meeting this quarter. The second committee, Student Technology Fee Committee also needs another student at large. He said the meetings will start next quarter. He met with the Students for Sustainable Water who has been working on the water bottle initiative. They are currently looking for ways to outreach. They also brought something to Management Council who passed it. The Board meeting is next Wednesday at 6pm in VU 567. He said that there are still other committees looking for students.

VIII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Hilliard

The Academic Coordinating Committee continued discussion on the Masters of Fine Arts. He said the ACC also discussed articulation agreements between departments and community colleges regarding specific majors and classes to determine what classes transfer. He also noted that there will be more discussion on the Academic Dishonesty policy. Faculty on the ACC would like student input if students feel they are not being sanctioned fairly. Many students do not even know what the academic policy states. Also, he said that a professor brought up the purpose of higher education and noted the importance for students to understand the purpose of a liberal arts education.

B. Campbell

Election Code Committee will meet for the first time next week. It will discuss changes to the election code. It will be presented to the Senate by January and passed by the board in February. He still he would like to hear from others regarding Student Senate reform.

C. Christenson

SPAC has been meeting weekly. It is still in the process of working with offices to write their reports for review in the near future. He has been working with the environmental center. He said that the Outreach Committee has not met yet. If senators are interested, talk to Christenson about meeting times. He also set up a Twitter and Facebook page. Western Front was invited tonight. He is hoping the committee can meet next week or the week after. He hopes to have an event in the residence halls to raise awareness. He has submitted a resolution about student parking. He has prepared a Senate Rules of Order and a brief guide on parliamentary procedure.

D. Levy

He said he would like to help with the residence halls. He said that students in Higginson Hall are not happy with the location of the trash bins.

E. Ooman

The Cold Beverage Contract Committee spent money on Outerspaces, an event sponsored by the AS SIRC, QRC, ESC, WC, and SAC. They will have performers and workshops. It is on November 28th in the MPR. The committee also allocated money to the Middle Women Project, which is an event that is being sponsored by MISO on November 30th.

F. Toews

Nothing to report. He was unable to attend the University Planning Resource Committee. He plans to get involved with the Outreach Committee.

G. Kohout

The Bookstore Committee has not met. She wants to do something about safety especially in light of the assault on Bill McDonald last night. Holland suggested expansion of the Green Coat services. Celis said that might be something ASTAC can work on and that it can be included in the master plan. Campbell said funding for expansion can be from the ticketing budget. Christenson said expanding the Green Coat program would be a great idea and beneficial to many students. Toew said that there should be more transparency and increasing student knowledge of the Green Coat program so students know their options.

H. Brown

Nothing to report

I. Fowler

LAC discussed Western's values. The next meeting is next Monday, at 2pm in VU 567. Christenson added that the legislative agenda is being finalized at the next meeting. Celis added that the agenda will also come to the board because the BOD has final approval.

IX. OTHER BUSNIESS

Neil will be bringing a couple documents to the next meeting. He said the Outreach Committee will be discussed. Correa is going to start bringing discussion items.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.