

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate
Tuesday, January 22, 2013**

VU 567

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

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

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

Guests: Shannon Kuest (Western Front)

MOTIONS

S-13-W-03 Approve the Student Technology Fee as the Student Senate issue of the quarter. *Passed*

S-13-W-04 Amend the rules as set out in document 2. *Passed*

The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:08 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA-

Christenson moved to add Senator Involvement as Discussion Item C. Hilliard seconded. No dissent.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Issue of the Quarter

Campbell said that he brought up this idea at the last meeting. He said that the Senate should consider other options such as sustainable foods, though he is in support of this issue. Hilliard wondered if the senate could have more than one issue of the quarter. Correa said that if the Senate feels like they can take it on, then they can. Christenson said that if the senate was to make the student technology fee the issue of the quarter, then there should be more discussion. He said that this issue is one that the Senate can encourage dialogue with students. He said that sustainable foods can be included in an outreach poll. Celis said that there doesn't necessarily have to be more than one issue, but that more than one issue can be discussed. He said that there is the opportunity and the ability to take on more issues throughout the quarter. Rosenberg asked about language for the student technology fee. Celis said that some language has been developed already. Correa said that some other ideas include sustainable food, revenue, campus pub, and AS Elections. Brown said that the suggestions that the Senate provided to the student technology fee last year was influential. Christenson wondered what language Celis had. Celis said that the language was not meant for this purpose, but briefly shared with the Senate some example statements. Christenson said that the issue of the quarter should be short and sweet. Toews asked Shannon Koest, from Western Votes, if she knew what the student technology fee was. Koest said that she didn't really know and figured that not many of the Western Front readers know either. Celis said that there is a huge piece of education that needs to happen with this issue. He said that he has some quick language that can be used to help educate students. He said that educating students is imperative.

MOTION S-13-W-03 by Christenson

Approve the Student Technology Fee as the Student Senate issue of the quarter.

Second: Kohout

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Secretary-Friendly Techniques

B. Small Grant Pilot Proposal Discussion

Celis said that this is a proposal from the Green Energy Fee (GEF) committee. He said that it aims to make the GEF more accessible. He said that historically, the GEF has been made for larger projects. He said that the small grant would allow smaller projects to be implemented. He said that the request amount is \$500-\$2000 with shorter deadlines. He said that if this pilot was implemented, that there would not be conceptual projects in the spring. He said GEF will be voting on funding for the conceptual projects from last spring. Campbell said that this pilot is a good move to make and beneficial to students who are interested in the projects, but then also can benefit the university as a whole. He said that the GEF has been morally great, but a financial blunder. He said that this pilot would help to fix that issue. Celis said that the committee is looking into the longevity of the large-scale projects. He said the committee is also looking into being able to do large and small scale projects for next year if this pilot works.

Evan Fowler entered at 6:30pm.

C. Senator Involvement

Correa said that there are ten voting members and that it requires at least 6 for quorum. He said that they are looking for a few replacements. He said that the current meeting time is really the only time that works. He also wondered if the meeting should be moved back. Fowler said that this time works for him, but that he missed the last meeting and was late to this one for special circumstances. Celis said that this time worked for him and for most of the Senators. He also reminded everyone that senators are only allowed 2 absences until they have to be reinstated per the Bylaws. Christenson said that there are four senators that have had to drop. He is hoping to find a way to keep those individuals involved even if they cannot make the meeting. Hilliard agreed. He said that since some of the students already have conflicts, he was wondering if they could listen to the audio recording. Correa said that of the three senators that are unable to make the meeting, only Amanda Squires will continue to serve. He said that the other two have stepped down and that replacements will be found. He said that Squires will be involved in every way possible, but that she will not have voting rights. Toews said that there should be some accountability in that there can be an exit survey about whether or not students are going to stay in the committees or if they are serving on different ones. Fowler said that last year, there was a Senator that was gone for a quarter and then came back. He said that if the Senators cannot be replaced, then they can come back the next quarter. Brown announced that he is unable to serve on the Student Senate next quarter. Correa requested that Brown find a potential replacement. Campbell is concerned about the prospect of barely making quorum. Christenson dittoed. Campbell said that the goal should be to make the Senate very important. He said that it is difficult to give the body more power when representation is down. He said that it is imperative to have a broad university representation. He said that it is concerning that there is a struggle of retaining senators. Campbell said that the senate needs to have more scheduling options. He said that it is a significant concern and that the status quo is not working. Fowler agreed with Campbell that there are other rooms that the meetings can be held in. He also mentioned that he and others have developed some Senate reform ideas that he would like to bring to a future meeting. Correa said that the majority can make it at this specific time. He said that there will always be people who cannot meet. He said that at this point, Squires is the only one who cannot make the meetings. Kohout recognized that senators are very busy. Toews dittoed.

VII. BOARD REPORTS/CONCERNS

Celis thanked everyone for coming to Viking Lobby Day. There were 59 students and 89 meetings. He appreciated the comments on the GEF. He said that the Board has it as an action item for this Thursday. He said that there will be tabling in the 6th floor of the VU. Sign-up sheet was passed around.

VIII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Evan Fowler

Fowler went to the YMCA College youth government conference. He said that it was a very interesting experience.

B. Bill Campbell

Campbell had a great time at Viking Lobby Day. He said that the next STF meeting will be Thursday. He said that there will be two tabling days, Tuesday and Thursday. He requested that senators volunteer. He said the Election Code Committee has completed the code and it should be to the Senate next week.

C. Neil Christenson

Christenson said that LAC discussed the Council of Presidents' proposal and 50/50 by 2020. He said the Council of Presidents' proposal will freeze tuition in addition to providing \$225 million in funding to universities. He said that it seems good at first sight, but that it is important to note that Western is advocating for lower tuition. He said that Ben Crowther, the Legislative Liaison, has suggested that this proposal be a discussion item at a future meeting. He said that SPAC has also been meeting. He said that SPAC has been focusing on assessments. He said the committee has been reading over office reports. He said that there will be discussion with the offices. He said that the Senate has also been under review and that he will have many questions to ask. He also noted that lobby day "kicked ass". Fowler said that the 50/50 by 2020 should definitely be a discussion item. Christenson intends of submitting a document for a discussion item for next meeting.

D. Brian Toews

Toews noted that the outreach committee has not met. He suggested that there be a doodle poll created and sent to all of the senators. He said that it can be determined when everyone can meet. he said that he will send out the doodle poll tonight or tomorrow. He said that Christenson and Squires are co-chairs of the subcommittee.

E. Sarah Kohout

Nothing to report

F. Chris Brown

Nothing to report

G. Matthew Hilliard

He said that the ACC just drafted the inclement weather policy, which affects students. He said that they are discussing the extent of weather and when courses should be cancelled. He said that finals and dead week was discussed and whether or not assignments should be due dead week. He said that there is policy about it. Celis said that they cannot have any new assignments due during dead week. He said with regards to weather, he said that it is just a recommendation not a policy. He said that students have the right to make a judgment to whether they attend. He said that if it was a policy, then no one would enforce it.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Rules of Order

Christenson said that there were some clerical errors that needed to be edited. He said that the changes can be seen on the document.

MOTION S-13-W-04 by Christenson

Amend the rules as set out in document 2.

Second: Fowler

Vote: 6-0-1

Action: Passed

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m