Discussion Items for AS Senate Meeting 2/5/2013

* Getting students feedback on self-funded programs at WWU, such as the new Nursing and Computer & Information Systems Security programs. It is important for us to discuss these new programs as well as the overall idea of self-sustaining programs because they cost students more to obtain the same quality of education that every program at WWU is supposed to provide. I hope that by discussing this, we can persuade the Business office and Extended Education to work really hard on figuring out a way to provide dual-enrollment to students, so they may take new courses created by these majors and other courses at Western for the same price.
* Should students be allowed to take 100-level courses (such as BIO 101) and certain 300-level courses (many in the Liberal Studies department) that are also GURs without completing any prior classes in the discipline? This issue has come up repeatedly at the Academic Coordinating Commission, and I haven’t been able to provide any student feedback aside from my own, so I feel the issue should be discussed by the Student Senate so that I may provide the ACC with a more diverse opinion on the matter.
* In regards to the Inclement Weather Recommendation: how can we make it more available to students so that they know what their responsibilities are and what they should do in the case of inclement weather (e.g. snow days, flooding, etc.). It is important for us to discuss this issue because many students risk life and limb trying to make it to school (thinking they will be penalized if they do not) only to find out their class was cancelled and the teacher wasn’t able to send out a notice in time for the student to make a proper judgment. I’m hoping the Outreach Sub-committee could find a way to make this recommendation more available to students so that they make the right call in the case of inclement weather.

Dead/Finals Week Policy: It is against university policy to introduce graded assignments including essays, papers, research projects and class presentations or quizzes during Dead Week. It is also against policy to administer exams during Dead Week, and so is changing the date of a final exam. Apparently this policy has not been enforced for at least a few years now, so it seems pertinent to discuss whether we as students are affected by the lack of enforcement and whether or not we want this policy to be enforced. I am hoping we can come to a conclusion on whether these policies should be enforced or not, so I can return to the ACC with a clear stance on this issue.