

Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate
Tuesday, January 29, 2013 **VU 567**

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

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

Secretary:

Guests: Jered McCardle, Andrew Taylor, Patrick Stickney, Carly C Roberts, Polly Woodburn, Graham Marmion, and Ethan Glemaker

MOTIONS

S-13-W-05 Approve the minutes of January 15, 2013. *Passed*

S-13-W-06 Approve the minutes of January 22, 2013. *Passed*

The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:14 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION S-13-W-05 by Oommen
Approve the minutes of January 15, 2013.
Second: Fowler Vote: No dissent Action: Passed

MOTION S-13-W-06 by Oommen
Approve the minutes of January 22, 2013.
Second: Fowler Vote: No dissent Action: Passed

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Election Code

Marmion said the Election Code Review Committee has completed a revised version of the Election Code for 2013. He said that there was a standard updating of dates and times to reflect this year's schedule. He said that elections starts in April and end in early May. He said that the committee clarified some information on required forms to turn in when candidates file. He said that the committee also edited the section on reasons why candidates can miss the mandatory candidate meeting. He said that the section regarding voting booths was edited with the idea that no candidate can campaign within 60 feet of a booth. He said that there is a mandate for at least one polling station in red square and have the Election Coordinator would try to have an additional polling station on south campus. He said that protection for voter information was added to the code. He said that these were the main changes. Celis said that if anyone has any questions, then they can ask Marmion, who chaired the committee, and Celis or Campbell who also served on the committee. Marmion said that there is a number that is subject to change which is the one for number of signatures required to bring about an initiative. Rosenberg clarified that the election code will be with the senate for two weeks, and that any concerns or changes made will be recommended to the board.

V. ACTION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 50/50 by 2020

Christenson said that this is a plan that has been introduced by the Council of Presidents. He said that the Council of Presidents has requested an additional \$225 million in funding in return for a tuition freeze. He said that it is about strategy. He said that there are two groups of thought. He said that one group thinks the idea is a great option, but the other thinks that it will deny students from the ability to advocate for tuition reduction. Stickney noted that there was some legislation dropped today. Crowther does not know much about the bill. He said that it included the broad idea of 50/50 by 2020. Stickney said that since there was actual legislation that has been dropped, it changes a lot of things. He said that it was dropped by the Senate Democrats and that it would give the funding. Hilliard wondered how difficult it would be to achieve tuition reduction if students did not support 50/50. Crowther said that after talking with other campuses, liaisons, legislators, and the Council of Presidents, it seems that tuition freeze alone will be a fight. He said it will pass through the House, but the Senate is questionable. He said that the next likely option would be a tuition increase. He said that a tuition reduction has a very low likelihood. Crowther said that it is difficult to estimate how much influence Western support would have. He said that Western would be the only group lobbying for a tuition reduction. He said that if students were to support the Council of Presidents' proposal, then a tuition freeze would be more likely. Stickney referenced some of the language in SB 5420. He said that it would reduce tuition to the point where it would bring state portion down to 60%. He said that this bill has a lot of good aspects including funding and tuition reduction in future years. Celis said that this conversation is confusing and that it should be focused around the Council of President's proposal. Stickney said that the content of the proposal is important, but that the actual proposal is obsolete because the SB was dropped today. He said that he and Crowther have not had a chance to look over the legislation just dropped. Crowther said he was looking at the bill, and that the language of the bill is effectively equivalent to the proposal that Western has been discussing. He said that it is appropriate to have this conversation. Stickney said that there were two other bills that were also dropped and that effect higher education. He said that one bill actually included tuition reducing measures. Glemaker said that the 50/50 by 2020 is a broader proposal and the \$225 mil in funding is a specific measure. He said that the conversation should be had later because there is more research to be done regarding the bill that was just dropped. Crowther said that students can talk about the SB 5420 in the same way the Council of Presidents' proposal was discussed. Stickney said that the bill talked about an incentive mechanism for tuition reduction. He said that it changes the scope of the discussion because there is additional information. Oommen said that all comments are relevant. Celis that the bills are relevant, but that there can still be conversation that can be beneficial that does not specifically involve the bills. He said that if there needs to be another discussion on the details of the bills, that it would be better fit for the LAC to discuss. Christenson dittoed. Brown said that Western should definitely support a tuition freeze. He said that tuition has been increasing. He said that even good years, tuition was increasing 7% and as bad as 16%. He said the fact that there is a proposal that includes a tuition freeze is really good. He said that Western should definitely get behind it. Fowler agreed with Brown. He said that if inflation is included, then it essentially is a tuition reduction. Oommen said that since it has not been resolved from a legislative side that taking a stance would be premature. He said that Crowther should be encouraged to advocate for a tuition reduction. He said that it is not too radical. Stickney said that there were concerns with the Council of Presidents' plan. He said that by supporting a tuition freeze, students are

accepting the current level of tuition. He said that tuition is too high. He said that a bill dropped with an incentive to reduce tuition changes the conversation. Crowther said that students are not constraining themselves by supporting this issue. Christenson dittoed. Crowther said that a tuition freeze is the first step in the direction of a tuition reduction in two years and that it would stop the accelerating tuition increase. He said that this would be the first tuition freeze in 30 years and that it would be an incredible and monumental achievement. Crowther said he doesn't want people to think that supporting this proposal would not be advocating for student needs. He said that every other campus in the state is supporting it. He said that the overall consensus at the WSA was that campuses are in support of the issue. He said that his impression would be that students would be "laughed out of the room" if lobbying for tuition reduction. Christenson dittoed everything Crowther said. Crowther urges the Student Senate and Board to support the Council of Presidents' proposal. He also mentioned the argument against the plan from the organizing perspective, but that supporting the proposal is what is politically feasible from a lobbying perspective. Christenson said that it is important to determine short and long term goals. He said that the purpose of the conversation tonight is to see whether the Senate should support the tuition freeze and \$225 million in additional funding. He said that most students would see this as the best possible option and something that can help students in the short term. Taylor emphasized the idea of low tuition as the best form of financial aid as stated in Western's legislative agenda. He said that current tuition is not low tuition. He said that by supporting this proposal, Western is going against what is said in the legislative agenda. Stickney said that the conversation should be framed around what is important to students. He said that the bills dropped changes the conversation and that discussion has to adapt to the changes. Glemaker has talked to other AS presidents, and they all have expressed some concerns and therefore are not whole-heartedly in support the this proposal. He said that of the 15,000 students at Western, not all are resident undergraduate students and that Western should be representing and supporting everyone. Brown wanted clarification between the bills. Crowther noted SB 5390 and that it was discussed that there would be incentives through tuition for two and four year schools. He said that it wouldn't be in tuition reduction, but that it would be coming from state funding to universities. He said that it would be performance based funding for universities. He said that it would not reduce tuition. He said that legislators are anticipating that there will be tuition increase. He said that universities will have to compete for any funding from the state and that it will be competitive. Crowther said, with regards to the legislative agenda, that keeping tuition low is ideal. He said that keeping tuition the same as opposed to tuition increasing, is consistent with what is being said in the legislative agenda. Christenson and Brown dittoed. Crowther said that this proposal does freeze tuition and that there is no proposal that suggests a tuition reduction. He said that this is not in conflict with Western's legislative agenda. Fowler agreed with Crowther. Fowler said that there is not as much to talk about because of the new information. He said that it would be wise to have this conversation next week when everyone has more information. Roberts was concerned that this was not a well-informed discussion because bills were just dropped and there was not sufficient information. Oommen agreed with what Fowler said. He said that this conversation should be directed back to the LAC. Oommen said that there is still three weeks before a stance on legislation needs to be taken. He said that it would be best to revisit after a LAC discussion. Christenson moved to close discussion, let LAC meet, let people learn more about the item so there can be a good discussion. Christenson said that he would put together a resolution and the goal would be to advise the board. He said that it would be important for the Board to be advised by both LAC and Senate. Crowther said that for anyone interested in talking more about this information, he said to use him as a resource. He said contact him via email or call.

VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Joseph Levy

Facility and Service committee talked about rearranging the tables in this room to a round table. He said that it would cost \$9000.

B. Evan Fowler

Nothing to report

C. Brian Toews

Toews said the Student Tech Fee Committee met and went through the first 6 proposals. He said that they are establishing site visits to see if the proposals meet the standards of the tech fee. He said that he sent out a doodle poll for outreach committee. He said the meeting times throughout Winter quarter will be Thursdays from 4-5pm.

D. Neil Christenson

He said that minutes from the last outreach meeting was posted on the senate Facebook page. He said that polling questions and issues of the quarter were discussed.

E. Chris Brown

Nothing to report

F. Andrew Entrikin

Nothing to report

G. Matthew Hilliard

He said that ACC discussed a few self-sustaining programs. He said that there is a lot of money being paid by students and that there is work being down. He said that he would like to have a discussion about this next week. Celis recommended having a few more weeks. He said that he will be having meetings and acquiring more information.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS/CONCERNS

He discussed teacher evaluations. He said that there would be online teacher evaluations. He said that there needs to be students on the committee. He said that there is a calendar committee that two students will be needed for. He said this would be regarding the school calendar and such things as when school should start. He said that he has looked for times and dates and rooms for a forum that the senate could put on. He said that the tabling was not as successful as planned because they took the table away halfway through. He said that a student forum has been done in the past and that there is some money that is set aside for this. He said that that he has set aside some days to look at. He said that he needs information fast. He said that he would like to have as much student feedback by February 14th. Dates he was looking at were February 11th, 12th and 19th. He said that the 12th and 19th would be at 6pm. He said that these are during the Senate meeting, but that it would be nice to have all the senators there to help. Christenson suggested the 12th. Correa said that there is no need to worry about missing a meeting. Celis said that he will reserve the room VU 552. He said he will be sending out information to outreach to help spread the word.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Christenson said that he spoke with Squires and that she feels that she cannot serve as co-chair of Outreach committee and that she would like to see Toews take her place. Roberts announced that Elect Her will be held February 23rd. She said that the event is being put on by the REP and is co-sponsored by AAUW and Running Start. She announced that Susan DelBene will be the keynote speaker. She said that there will be a form that needs to be filled out available on the REP website. She said that a Facebook event will be created soon.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.