

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Student Senate  
Tuesday, January 15, 2013**

**VU 567**

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

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

**Secretary:** Kaylee Galloway

**Guests:** Andrew Taylor, Patrick Stickney, and Deng de Duot

**MOTIONS**

**S-13-W-01** Approve the minutes of November 27, 2012. *Passed*

**S-13-W-02** Approve the Senate Rules of Operation. *Passed*

*The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:00 pm*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION SS-13-W-01 by Christenson*  
Approve the minutes of November 27, 2012  
Second: Levy                      Vote: 7-0-0                      Action: Passed

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Campbell wanted to add the student technology fee renewal process as a discussion item. Christenson seconded.

**III. PUBLIC FORUM**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Issue of the Quarter**

Correa said he would like the Senate to brainstorm some ideas for the issue of the quarter. He it would increase civic engagement. Christenson said that LAC has been struggling with creating specific asks for the legislative liaisons. He said that the Student Senate may want to take on the issue of raising revenue, since that has been a huge issue on Western's legislative agenda. Campbell said the Student Technology Renewal Fee committee requests the student senate to adopt the renewal of the Student Technology Fee (STF) as the issue of the quarter. He said the committee is looking for feedback. He said that the fee should be on the spring ballot. Celis confirmed that it would be on the spring ballot, which means that it needs to be written and approved by the Board as a referendum by the end of winter quarter. He said if there is no specific plan, then the Board has the option to extend the current fee. Oommen suggested an issue that would highlight the AS elections. He said it can be a part of outreach. Christenson suggested taking on that issue next quarter. He said either the STF renewal or revenue are time sensitive and would be important to do for this quarter, rather than later. Oommen said the tech renewal is an AS issue. He said the sooner the issue can be determined, the better, so people have more time to think about it. Stickney said the deadline is the beginning of April for the election. Celis said the issue of the quarter is one thing the Senate would focus on. He said that it does not limit the Senate in how many issues they take on. He said that the senate could take on all three ideas. Oommen mentioned having a campus pub. Campbell mentioned the expansion of the Senate and talked about Senate reform. He said if Senate wants to justify the expansion, then the senate needs to take on issues that are most

important to students. He said that Senate needs to establish what issues students want changed around campus and keep that in mind when deciding the issue. Levy composed a list of issues important to many students. Toews said that the Outreach Subcommittee has not met this quarter yet. He said that the committee can put together a plan for getting more people involved and interested. Campbell suggested sustainable food options as an idea. Christenson said that voting on the issue should wait until next week. He said it could be a document or an action item, but that people are not ready to make a decision. Campbell said this is not something we should have to officially vote on. He said that if the senate wants to make a decision now, then it should. Correa agreed. Celis said it would be easier to decide on what to vote for if there was a question that is framed and presented. He said that can be brought to the Senate meeting next week. He said that historically, questions would be prepared and brought to the Senate. Christenson said that it should not be decided now. He moved to table the discussion to resume at the next meeting. Levy seconded. No dissent.

## V. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Rules of Order

Christenson added back in the motion to table. He also edited the preamble. The title has been changed to Rules of Operations. He said many of the other changes were clerical. Oommen appreciated the intent of the document, but said that it is important to actually have specific rules for discussion. He also asked about adding discussion items on the agenda. Christenson said that means the Senate can start discussing an item before a move to adopt it. Oommen wondered how that fit in with the motion to extend debate. Christenson said that Correa does have the ability to put time limits on the debate and exhaust the speakers list. He said that it is important to have the ability for the senate to override that. Oommen also mentioned the notion to suspend the rules. Christenson said that it allows the senate to suspend the Bylaws if something unforeseen happens. Oommen said that it seems to be in conflict with the Charter. Celis said that this can be helpful for time-sensitive issues. He said, for example, the Election Code has to come to the Senate. He said the Senate can suspend the Bylaws to move it to an action item and vote if it is a timely manner. Christenson said for unseen events, it is important to provide the Senate the option to suspend the Bylaws. Oommen said that it is fundamentally problematic in terms of the structure. He said the issue is that this is in the rules and not the Bylaws. He said the Bylaws are the specific structure whereas rules are based for discussion. He said it supports the rules generally speaking, but wanted to bring up this issue. Celis said that in the Bylaws, article 10, it states that the Senate can amend the bylaws where as it is the charter that needs a vote of approval from the Board. Celis said that amending the bylaws is long-term whereas suspension is short-term. Rosenberg said that it requires a 2/3 votes to suspend the Bylaws. Christenson moved to postpone to after discussion A. Levy Seconded. Levy called to question. Campbell seconded. No dissent. *Brown entered at 6:30pm.*

*MOTION SS-13-W-02 by Christenson*

Approve the Senate Rules of Operation

Second: Kohout

Vote: 7-0-1

Action: Passed

## VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Legislative Agenda and Strategy

Stickney said the legislative agenda was approved by the Board in December. He discussed the guiding principles. He said that it focuses on the idea that higher education is a moral imperative and therefore should be affordable and accessible. He said it is important to not marginalize people. He also mentioned that student lives continue off campus and that should be considered. He said that the guiding principles set up the legislative agenda. He said that there is a priority legislative agenda and a values based legislative agenda. He said that the priority agenda will be

used for lobbying at Viking Lobby Day. Stickney said that there will be a series of smaller lobby trips that will be dedicated to the values based issues. He said that there are three priority issues: financial aid, revenue, and access and attainment. He said that it is important to make sure that all students who qualify for financial aid get it because there are more people who qualify than who get it. He also mentioned providing financial aid to students who are undocumented. Christenson dittoed. Stickney also noted that revenue is an important issue and that it is needed to fund many of the necessary programs. He said that the legislative agenda has spelled out some ideas, but does not have a lot of detail so that the Legislative Liaison can lobby accordingly. Sales taxes have been raised too high. Toews dittoed. Stickney also mentioned the Childcare Matching Grant and funding the childcare program. He said the legislative agenda also includes helping student veterans. He said that many veterans are not considered residents and therefore they are not getting in-state tuition. Stickney talked about the values based agenda. He discussed accountability and student representation. He specifically mentioned Western Governor's University which has not proved to be an effective form of higher education and should be held responsible by the state. Another value is health and safety. He said it includes mental health. Another value is diversity. He said that it ensures that students are not being marginalized. He said that it also asks for a holistic review. Another value is the environment. He said that includes opposing the coal terminal and a decrease use of water bottles on campus. The last value is faculty and staff and advocating for increased salaries. Stickney said if people are interested in getting involved, there is Western Votes. He also said that there will be a rally and that it is also important to contact legislators and the governor. He said that Inslee does not support revenue increase, so it would be influential to call him. Brown wondered by LAC branched out in a wide range of topics. Stickney said that all of these issues affect students present and future. He said that all of issues affect the quality of education and the lives of students. Christenson said that it also shows that people are more than just students. Celis said that another way to get involved is in encouraging others to get involved. He said that it is important to get more people involved. Celis also encouraged getting family members involved and advocating for higher education. Stickney said that it is important to include both family and friends, because all of these issues affect everyone. Christenson said that LAC has funded 7 smaller lobby trips in addition to Viking Lobby Day.

#### **B. Student Technology Fee Renewal Process**

Campbell said that every four or five year, the AS looks into renewing the fee. He said that these fees ensure that students have certain technologies available to them. He said that the student tech fee is currently up for renewal. He said that it is ideal to come up with a list of benefits and present that to students and have them vote. He said that it would be great to talk to respective colleges, faculty, and students about the fee. Campbell said that the Board will either present a new fee to the students, or will opt to extend the current fee for another year. He said that this fee is incredibly important because it funds many important benefits. He said the senate can help facilitate the conversation and help pass the measure. Christenson wondered if the amount was going to be voted on and explain what the fee would be going towards. Campbell said that is correct. He said the goal is to have a very specific and detailed explanation to present to the students. He said there will probably not be a huge issue in trying to pass this measure. Duot said that students should consider how much they want to pay towards technology. He said it is important to figure out what students want. He said that some students might not be able to afford the fee especially if tuition increases. Celis said the STF committee needs help from the Senate to figure out what students want. He said that it is important to know if students want the fee to decrease, stay the same, or increase. Campbell said that the fee includes many great benefits, but that it is important to know what the students want. Celis said the STF does not have a set idea if they want to increase, maintain, or decrease the fee. He said he would like to see the fee increase, but that it is ultimately up to the student body. Deng recommended that the document passed in 2008 be looked at. He said it is important to educated people on it. Celis said

all of the documents for the STF committee are online at [www.wvu.edu/STF](http://www.wvu.edu/STF). Correa said that this is definitely a strong issue and said that it could be used as an issue of the quarter.

## **VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS**

### **A. Matthew Hilliard**

Hilliard said that at ACC, the nursing program through Woodring just passed. He said that this means that many of the nursing students from Whatcom Community College can come to Western and finish their degree. He said that this is a phenomenal improvement. He said that the new academic dishonesty policy was passed at the end of last quarter. Celis said that the nursing program is under the human services and is for a bachelor in science. He said that it also allows for students to transfer to Western. He said there is a high demand for nurses.

### **B. Chris Brown**

None of his committees have met.

### **C. Neil Christenson**

Outreach committee has not yet met. He said there has been discussion of setting a time. He said there was discussion at the LAC of the Council of Presidents' proposal requesting an additional \$225 million in funding to account for a tuition freeze. This is with regards to the 50/50 by 2020 plan.

### **D. Sarah Kohout**

Kohout said the bookstore committee met for the first time. She said the committee is working on the relationship between the bookstore and the AS. She said also that the committee would like to appoint a faculty member.

### **E. Brian Toews**

Nothing to report. He said he would like to create a process for outreach committee.

### **F. Joseph Levy**

Nothing to report

### **G. Marc Oommen**

Oommen said he met with the Cold Beverage Contract committee. He said the funds are obtained when people purchase any beverage on campus and that the money goes to some really great programs and opportunities, such as speakers and events.

### **H. Bill Campbell**

Election Code Review committee is almost done with the code. He said they are hoping to have it complete by Friday. He said that after it is completed, it will be coming to the Senate the meeting after next and then to the Board. Subcommittee for senate reform has not met. He is concerned that there is a limited number of people able to attend. Christenson dittoed. He emphasized the importance of getting more people

## **VIII. BOARD REPORTS/CONCERNS**

Board passed an amendment to the AS hospitality regarding the water bottle. It is encouraging that all AS offices to reduce the use of nonreusable plastic water bottles. He said that a lot of the work has been done by the students for sustainable water, who has done a lot work on this initiative. He said that it is important to talk to the different colleges to see what they can do to reduce the use of water bottles. GEF and STF met today. STF has 18 proposals to review over. GEF is developing a smaller project proposals pilot. He said that it is a quicker time frame so more projects can be done.

## **IX. OTHER BUSNIESS**

**A.** Please keep Correa informed when the subcommittees meet.

*The Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.*