

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Student Senate  
Tuesday, February 5, 2013**

**VU 567**

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

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

**Secretary:** Kaylee Galloway

**MOTIONS**

**S-13-W- 07** Approve the minutes from January 29, 2013. *Passed*

**S-13-W- 08** Approve the Election Code with the amendments to section 2 and section 4 as submitted. *Passed*

*The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:02 pm*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTION S-13-W-07 by Levy*  
Approve the minutes from January 29, 2013.  
Second: Campbell      Vote: No dissent      Action: Passed

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**III. PUBLIC FORUM**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. 50/50 by 2020**

Celis said that the current document and topic is a different subject now that two bills have dropped. He said that this item is not as relevant now and that the bills should be discussed. Levy moved to table the discussion on 50/50 by 2020 until the bills are introduced and discussed. Kohout seconded. Christenson objected. He said that Senate should discuss this topic. Levy withdrew his motion. Christenson said that the two bills dropped are not that critical to the conversation. He said that LAC discussed the bills some and he said that the first bill includes 50/50 by 2020 and \$225 mil proposal language. He said that Ben Crowther, the legislative liaison, spoke with LAC and said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> bill is not really clear yet. He said that Crowther said it might provide some incentive, but was not sure of the exact details. Christenson brought up the exact language of SB 5420. Brown liked the bill. Levy did not think that discussing these bills is not an efficient use of time. Celis said he and a few other board members believe that the conversation has changed since the bills dropped. Christenson said that LAC did not discuss these bills. Campbell said that there are students who still want the Senate to discuss this topic. Christenson said the reason for bringing the topic up is to have the Senate comment on the proposal and to advise the board on whether Western should support this bill. Entrikin said that a tuition freeze sounds really convincing to a lot of people, but would like to understand the major impacts to why it should not be passed. Christenson said that from the state's standpoint, not freezing tuition would allow for the Universities to increase tuition. He said that universities want to increase tuition to raise revenue because the budget is tight. HE said the reason to enact a tuition freeze would be because there are many

people who are advocating for it. He said that freezing tuition would help make college more competitive. He said that students and constituents support it. He said that from the students standpoint, it would be wanted because students do not want another increase in tuition. He said that it means that tuition rate is guaranteed for the next two years and that it stops the upward trend of tuition increase. He said that the reason students wouldn't want to support this proposal because then students couldn't advocate for lower tuition. He said that there is a fear that if students accept a tuition freeze, then it would not be possible to advocate for a tuition reduction. Christenson said that there is a middle ground argument that holds that Western should support the measure but say that it doesn't address the problem, which is high tuition. Levy dittoed. Hilliard said that all students want lower tuition and that education is money well spent. Levy dittoed. Brown said that the state has shown little interest in funding higher education. He said that it is radical that there is even a tuition freeze being proposed. Christenson dittoed. Brown said that it is surprising based on the demographics of the legislature. He said that this is the best option. Kohout said that it is easier to ask for a tuition reduction first, and then negotiate down to a freeze. Hilliard said that it doesn't make sense to wait to take a stance. Campbell recognized that there is a negotiation component to consider. He said that there are legislators who think that higher education should not be free. He said that funding higher education 50/50 should be a constitutional amendment. Brown dittoed. Campbell said that other campuses have come out in support of the issue. He said that Western shouldn't want the legislative liaison to be laughed at for advocating for something that is not politically realistic. Christenson dittoed. Campbell said there is some legitimate concern. Christenson moved to extend time by 10 minutes. Levy seconded. No dissent. Levy said that there might be long term concern, but that it is important to advocate for issues that affect students now. Celis said that the bill only focuses on resident undergraduate. He said that his does not include out of state and graduate students. Christenson said that by supporting this bill, it does not mean that Western cannot amend their stances. He recognized that this bill will not support everyone, but that the majority of Western students are in-state and undergraduate. He said that supporting this measure would be the greatest good for the greatest number. He said that anything that helps any group of students should be supported. Campbell said that the legislature has been focusing on the present and that Western should consider the future ramifications. He said that last year, the legislature gave tuition setting authority to universities so that they could increase tuition to a certain percentages. He said that SB 5420 would be taking that power away. Christenson wondered if the Senate wanted to discuss the second bill. Kohout suggested waiting so that student senators could do more research. Levy dittoed. Correa said that it is the Senate's responsibility to research and discuss. Christenson said that this is an information item and that no decision will be made tonight. He said that senators can further research the bills to make a decision at a later date. Levy moved to table this discussion until two weeks from now and have it as an information item. Hilliard Seconded. Christenson objected. Campbell said he would support it as an action item, but that there needs to be more discussion. Christenson dittoed. Levy withdrew his motion. Christenson moved to extend time by 5 minutes. Hilliard seconded. Many dissent. Motion failed 3-4-1.

## **V. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Election Code Review**

Campbell said that he has some suggested changes. He mentioned the polling booth changes. He said that there were some changes to privacy. Campbell said that there were four key changes. He said that one change deals with the mandatory candidate meeting and excused exceptions for missing the meeting. He mentioned another change, which deals with the ballot and online voting. He said that last year was the first year that the AS did not have polling stations. He said that as a result, some of the candidates brought their own personal computers

out to Red Square to have people vote. He said that last year, there was an accusation made that candidates were clicking the back button on people's ballot to see who they voted for. He said that the code strictly prohibits that. Campbell cited the language regarding polling stations. He said that candidates will not be allowed to host polling stations. He suggested an amendment that would read: "polling stations', for the purpose of this code, are defined as instruments made available or advertised to the general public that enable an eligible voter to cast a ballot for the AS election." He said that if the resource was made available to use by others, then it would constitute a poll. Levy asked about what the "general public" meant. Campbell said that he could not find a good definition and that it would fall onto the interpretation of the Election Coordinator. Rosenberg said that the code should be as clear as possible to minimize people's confusion. Campbell said he would be happy to establish a definition for the general public if his amendment was accepted. Levy suggested saying made available in a public domain. Christenson was concerned that by saying public, it was eliminated people to encourage people to vote in the residence hall lounge. Campbell said that it wasn't what this amendment was aiming to do. Levy wanted to make sure that candidates can pass their computer to their friends to encourage them to vote. Christenson dittoed. Christenson said that it should not be advertised as a polling station, but that offering it to friends would not be the same as the general public. Campbell moved to extend time by 10 minutes. Entrikin seconded. Campbell suggested including advertising in the statement about polling stations. He also noted that he had several proposed amendments regarding the student initiative procedure. He referenced articles VI and VIII. Campbell said the current process is confusing. He suggested some amendments to Section 2: Student Initiative Procedure, section IV Authority, including amending the AS Bylaws. Celis said that the Senate does have the authority to change the code. Brown wondered if the initiatives would be binding on the AS board. Campbell said that most initiatives are one line initiatives presented in question form. Celis said that past initiative language is approved by the board to make sure that it is clear and understandable. He said that the document needs to be amended tonight and submitted to the board by morning. Campbell moved to extend time by 10 minutes. Hilliard seconded. No dissent. Campbell also suggested adding a new sub clause f, under Filing under Section 2: Student Initiative Procedure that would read: "At the time of filing, the initiative sponsor must declare under what authority the initiative is being proposed." Campbell moves to amend section 2 of the election code as submitted. Levy seconded. No dissent. Campbell mentioned section 4, definitions. Levy brought up the general public and was wondering about residence halls. Christenson said that people's rooms are private, but wondered about the lounge. Entrikin dittoed. Celis said people have the right to privacy in the residence halls including the halls and lounge. Christenson said that the general public should be defined, but can be done later. Campbell moved to amend section 4, definitions, of the Election Code as submitted. Brown seconded. No dissent.

*MOTION S-13-W-08*                      *by Campbell*

Approve the Election Code with the amendments to section 2 and section 4 as submitted.

Second: Christenson      Vote: 7-0-0                      Action:

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Prerequisite Discussion**

Christenson moved to postponed discussion items A, B, and C until the next meeting. Brown seconded.

### **B. Inclement Weather**

### **C. Dead Week Policy**

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

### **A. Chris Brown**

Nothing to report.

### **B. Matthew Hilliard**

Nothing to report.

### **C. Andrew Entrikin**

Nothing to report.

### **D. Sarah Kohout**

Kohout and Celis met with the Dean of Huxley to talk about the water bottle initiative and he was really supportive. The Outreach Committee met and we discussed the Student Technology Forum and there is a Facebook event. Everyone should join and invite all their friends. She has not had a bookstore committee meeting lately, but hopefully she will hear of a plan for a meeting soon.

### **E. Neil Christenson**

Missed SPAC. He showed the Outreach Committee minutes. He noted the issue of the quarter. Campbell noted that the event conflicted with the State of the Union. Celis said that it is important that students attend and thought that it should be moved. Campbell said that he is hosting another event on that night and that they could be combined. Christenson said that this event is more Senate and STF. Celis said that he could go to the event and let students know and then move the date back. He said the goal is to have as many people know as possible. Kohout wondered if Senate would still have a meeting that night. Celis said that if the Senate plans to cancel the meeting, then the Outreach event should not be held on a Tuesday because it would be bad to miss two meetings. Christenson dittoed. Correa said that Senate meeting would be cancelled next week due to the state of the union. He said that the event can be February 21<sup>st</sup> (Thursday after next meeting). There will be a meeting the Tuesday after next. There is no dissent. Christenson said that the subcommittee also discussed polling questions and doing a survey monkey with a prize. He said there was also discussion about co-chair swap. He said that the committee would like to have Kohout as the co-chair of the Senate Outreach Sub-committee. Campbell moved to have Kohout as the co-chair of the Senate Outreach Sub-committee. Levy seconded. Christenson said that LAC is discussing the Federal Legislative Agenda.

### **F. Joseph Levy**

Nothing to report.

### **G. Bill Campbell**

Campbell said STF will be meeting on Thursday. Senate reform subcommittee will meet next week. He will let everyone know so people can attend.

## **VIII. BOARD REPORT/CONCERNS**

He said that there was only one item at the meeting regarding GEF change to the Rules of Operation regarding maintenance. He said that he has had some really great meetings regarding the water bottle initiative. He said that he has more meetings with the deans.

## **IX. OTHER BUSNISS**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.*