

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate**

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

VU 567

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

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

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

MOTIONS

S-13-W- 09 Approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 5, 2013. *Passed*

S-13-W- 10 Postpone the 50/50 by 2020 topic indefinitely. *Passed*

The meeting was called to order by Evan Fowler, Vice-Chair at 6:05 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION S-13-W- 09 by Oommen
Approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 5, 2013
Second: Kohout Vote: no dissent Action: Passed

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Oommen added the DREAM Act resolution as discussion item D.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. 50/50 by 2020

Celis said that he has requested this from Christenson and Correa. He said this issue is really old language. He said that there are two bills that have been introduced using the same language. He said that WSA has unanimously voted in favor of these two bills. Fowler said that this information is obsolete. Brown mentioned that there are two additional bills that Patrick Stickney said that Western should stay neutral on. He said that these bills include one on dedicating 14% of sales tax to higher education and another for prioritizing higher education second after K-12. Oommen spoke in favor of this motion so that this topic can be removed from the agenda. Celis said that he can discuss the two additional bills that Brown mentioned later.

MOTION S-13-W-10 by Oommen
Postpone the 50/50 by 2020 topic indefinitely.
Second: Kohout Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Prerequisite Discussion

Hilliard said that he wanted to discuss information that was talked about at the ACC. He said there has been debate on whether or not certain 101 classes should have prerequisites. He said, for example, Biology 101 requires Math 107. He said that the consensus from a lot of professors is that introduction, GUR courses shouldn't have prerequisites. He said there was

also discussion whether or not Freshmen and Sophomores can take certain 300-level GUR classes. Hilliard said that there is mixed feedback. He said that some commissioners think that Freshmen and Sophomores should not take 300-level courses. He said that he discussed with the commissioners that he had taken a 300-level course as a Sophomore and that it was great. He said that many of the professors are fine allowing Freshmen and Sophomores to take the 300-level courses. He said that one of the commissioners said that Freshmen and Sophomores wouldn't take full advantage of the course because they would not be fully prepared. Hilliard said that if there are seats open, then why not let students take the courses. He said that some people think that the 300-level courses should only be offered for Juniors and Seniors. Celis said there has been an increase in 300-level GUR courses being offered to increase accessibility for Juniors and Seniors. He said that there was concern that Freshmen and Sophomores might not be ready for the courses and might not have the necessary prerequisites. He said this leads back to the prerequisite discussion. Squires said that it would be beneficial to have prerequisites for some courses to make sure that students do not fail it. She said that many students struggle in Biology 101 already. She said that as long as Juniors and Seniors get priority over Freshmen and Sophomores, then she thought that Freshmen and Sophomores should be allowed to take the courses. Kohout said that she has taken a 300-level course as a Sophomore and that she really enjoyed it. Fowler said that he took many 300-level courses his Sophomore year. Entrikin agreed with Squires in that prerequisites are necessary.

B. Inclement Weather

Hilliard was hoping the Senate Outreach Committee could help broadcast the inclement weather issue. He said students need to know and consider the recommendations that are given. Celis said that faculty members were having trouble articulating how they should let students know about inclement weather. He said that faculty members wanted to develop a clear way to go about the process. He said that the recommendation presented seems very clear. He said that the changes are for faculty, but that it is really important to let the students know about this issue because the process is more official now. Oommen wondered if Facebook could be used. Hilliard said that broadcasting the issue doesn't have to be very official, just so the word gets spread. Entrikin wondered if driving hazards were the main concern. Hilliard said that it was. He said that it was made clear at ACC that 95% of students do live close to campus, and that they should still come to campus if they can. He said that there are other students and faculty who live farther away and that the potential dangers need to be known. Entrikin said that most instructors allow a couple absences. He said that it would be frustrating to come to class and find out that it has been cancelled. Celis said that this would ensure that faculty let students know in advance that their classes are cancelled. He said that this is being considered at the Faculty Senate now. Squires said that Western and faculty send out emails. Celis said that sometimes faculty cannot make it in, even if the campus is open. He said that it is their responsibility to let students know that class is cancelled.

C. Dead Week Policy

Hilliard said that some professors have not been following this policy. He said that it is against policy to introduce assignments during dead week including projects, essays, quizzes, etc. Squires said that often times, professors treat dead week like finals week. Celis said that assignments cannot be added to dead week. He said that policy states that exams and projects presented need to be during the course schedule. He said that students should consider essays being due during dead week. Celis said that it could be an issue when faculty members don't work during finals week. Brown said that he would get behind a dead week policy that restricted 2 hour finals exams during dead week. He said that most professors have a project or essay due during dead week. He said that he did have a professor that had their final during dead week which was difficult to balance with all of the other assignments due during that time. Entrikin that it comes down to planning and that it is acceptable if everything is revealed

on the syllabus at the beginning of the quarter. Fowler said that many of his courses have had essays and presentations on dead week, but the exams during finals week. Brown said that he is ok with projects and essays due during dead week. He said that some courses have that as their final and others have an additional final exam. He said that studying for the final can restrict from other work. He said that only written final should be due dead week. Kohout said that having an exam during dead week would be challenging.

D. Resolution in Support of the DREAM Act

Oommen said that the DREAM Act will make sure that students who are undocumented have access to in-state tuition and state financial aid. He said that the DREAM Act has passed the House and is in the Senate now. Celis said that the DREAM Act is a priority on Western's legislative agenda. He said that the WSA has also taken a stance in favor of the DREAM Act. He said that Crowther has testified in favor of the DREAM Act. He said that it is also in the federal agenda. Oommen recognized that there was active lobbying. He said that it is always great to have something in writing so that letters can be written to legislators. He said that it can further support the lobbying efforts. Oommen said there are specific points in this resolution to why the DREAM Act should be passed. He said that this can be in addition to the current lobbying efforts. Folwer said that this seems to fall under the purview of Western Votes. Squires said that she supports this effort and has been lobbying on it. She said that this is a great way to express the Senate voice. Oommen said that a few of the Republicans said that they do not support the DREAM Act the way that it is currently written. Squires said that in talking to a legislator, he said that Republicans will not support this issue. Celis said that he supports motivating and mobilizing students on these issues. He said that it is up to the Senate to determine whether they want to pass this resolution. Celis said that it might be good to work with Western Votes to help mobilize students and to voice these issues. Oommen said that it is really important to talk about where the Senate is going to be in the future and that it is good to have these types of issues and resolutions originate in the Senate. He said that this resolution is relevant. Oommen will be emailing the document to Correa.

VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Amanda Squires

She had a meeting that discussed awarding professors. She said that it was decided to be for March 8th.

B. Evan Fowler

He said the federal agenda was passed. He said the budget committee is working on training.

C. Andrew Entrikin

He met with the Parking and Transportation Committee. He said that it was the first meeting.

D. Matthew Hilliard

Nothing to report.

E. Chris Brown

He said that Parking Appeals Board had their first meeting of the year. He said that it was decided to have a clearer pamphlet to make the information clear.

VIII. BOARD REPORT/CONCERNS

He said that the board saw the election code and passed it. He said there were a few changes made. He encouraged the Senators to read the minutes. He said the STF forum is set for this Thursday. He said to invite friends. He said there was flyers.

IX. OTHER BUSNIESS

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.