



## "SPAC Recommendations - DOC, EC, REP"

**Proposed Motions:** Approve the SPAC recommendations for DOC, EC, and REP.

**Sponsor:** Vice President for Business & Operations

**Persons of Contact:** VP Business & Operations, Assessment Associate Director

**Date:** April 2013

### **Attached Recommendations:**

Disability Outreach Center

Environmental Center

Representation and Engagement Programs

### **Summary of SPAC Process:**

Fall - Gather data & information from offices via office reports

Winter - Develop Strategic Recommendations from office reports

Spring - Present Recommendations to Board of Directors

### **History**

Over the past four years, AS assessment practices have been a work in progress, with the norms and scope of committee and administrative work fluctuating in the process. The first year of Structure and Program Advisory Committee work was characterized by a centralized executive model, in which the then-Vice President for Business and Operations held more the lion's share of influence in crafting recommendations and shaping procedures. The second year (2010-2011), saw an unfortunate turn in tone and continued reputation deficiency within the Associated Students. 2011-2012 saw an alleviation of those and other issues (i.e. timeline), but relied on a problematic subcommittee model. The 2012-2013 AS Assessment Process saw vast improvements of previous years consolidated, and has solidified the place of internal and external assessment in our organization.

### **Currently**

The recommendations you see before you are substantive in their content, while emphasizing long-term commitments to continuous office improvement. The September-February timeline for SPAC work is now solidly precedential; the tone one of long-term outcomes and strategies, and most importantly, assessment is something of which each office and department is thoroughly aware.

### **Future**

Though improvements and assessment infrastructure will continue to be strengthened through Spring Quarter 2013, it is again time for change in the AS Assessment Process. Next year, the AS Office of Assessment will cease existence. AS Assessment will merge back into the AS Board Office - its rightful home. Administrative offices (Personnel, Communication, Club Activities, Business) will begin their integration into the AS Assessment Process in an effort to make assessment an organizational tenet, not simply an obligation for select entities.

# **The Disability Outreach Center**

AS Office of Assessment  
Structure & Program Advisory Committee



The AS Assessment Committee  
2020-2023 Board Recommendation



Mission Statement: *The AS Disability Outreach Center (IASC) is a disability organization that serves people with physical and mental disabilities. The DOC provides information, referrals and educational programming targeting disabled students with a connection to community resources and to promote human and civil rights. The DOC also provides space for people, social programs and promotes community pride for students with disabilities.*

The office was approved for institutionalization by the AS Board of Directors in Spring Quarter 2010. The DOC was, in fact, proposed in the first year of the AS SPAC process, and following Board approval, a Coordinator was hired during spring hiring 2010. The proposal to create the DOC was initiated by leaders of the AS Students for Disability Awareness club who worked in conjunction with the 2009-10 ROP Director, Casey Hall. Students for Disability Awareness (SDA) was founded in the fall of 2007 by two freshmen, Daman Wandke and Brittany Otter. After having success in their educational, community building, and awareness raising efforts, they proposed the creation of the DOC as an office within the Resource and Outreach Programs department to ensure the continuity of these efforts.

## **Programs/Services Provided**

The DOC is known for its Disability Awareness Week events, as well as the highly successful Halloween Costume Ball (which has been co-sponsored by another ROP office each year). The office specializes in dialogue, issue- and ally-based events such as the Label Jars Not People rally.

The office provides a safe space for students and community members with disabilities as well as their allies and those who seek more information on allyship and resources.

## ***Strategic Recommendations***

### **1. Move the AS Disability Outreach Center to a more accessible and appropriate space in the Viking Union building.**

- a. The first step in making the DOC welcoming to those it serves is by moving it from VU 528 to VU 513. The AS Business Office, in turn, would move to VU 528.
  - i. This would create a VU layout in which all ROP offices would be adjacent to one another, and three core administrative offices would be adjacent as well.

### **2. Strongly advise DOC coordination with WWU disAbility Resources for Students.**

- a. This direction will help not only to establish distinct roles for both offices as well as enrich their respective knowledge bases, but will in fact align the DOC with the AS' strategic plan which calls for university engagement,
  - i. A number of objectives can be met through this strategy:
    1. The creation of a community needs inventory at the beginning of the academic year, which would then be followed by a mid-year assessment by the DOC, to be conducted by the ROP director and DOC staff.
    2. The development and establishment of procedures and standards regarding accessibility accommodations at AS events.
    3. The clarification of roles and resources offered by each entity, and the development of ways to spread awareness of these roles on campus.
    4. Encouragement of diversified advertising to meet the needs of students of all abilities.
      - a. This would also benefit from ResLife, faculty, and KUGS collaborations.

### **3. Advocate the continuation of disability awareness programming.**

- a. Though the 2012 Program Saturation directives discourage the institutionalization of annual events, the Structure and Program Advisory Committee believes that the continuation of awareness programming is beneficial to the DOC office and the Western community. The importance of this type of programming should be emphasized to future office coordinators.