

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate**

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

VU 567

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

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

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

Guests: Glen Tokola

MOTIONS

S-13-W- 13 Approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 26, 2013. *Passed*

The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:05 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTIONS-13-W-13 by Christenson

Approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 26, 2013.

Second: Kohout Vote: No dissent Action: Passed

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Polling Questions

Christenson said the draft of the polling questions are done and he showed the Student Senate the Survey Monkey he created. Levy suggested that people leave the comment box empty if they do not know any of the Senators' names. Christenson showed the Senators the administrative side of the Survey Monkey. Galloway suggested structuring question 2 like question 4 or structuring it as a range. Kohout said that she liked the range idea so that people do not have to worry about the spelling of the names. The senators took an informal vote and they seemed to prefer the range. Campbell said that it depends who the audience is. He said that well informed and invested people, the essay box would be better. He said that if it is a broader audience, then a range would be preferred. Christenson said the goal was to have the survey reach out to a broader audience. He said that providing an incentive or sweepstakes to increase number of students participating. Christenson said that this is a joint survey between the Student Senate and the Board. Galloway said she was not sure of the specific purpose of the survey, but suggested including a section that would allow students to elaborate how they know Senators or Board members. She said that peoples' responses could provide constructive feedback with regards to effective outreach efforts. Campbell and Kohout said that it was a good idea. Campbell wondered if all of the questions were required. Christenson said that it could be either required or optional. Campbell said that some people might not want to fill out all of the questions on the survey. The Student Senate seemed to like the idea of not making the questions required. Galloway said her last suggestion was to create a Student Senate email that all Senators have access to so that students can email questions, comments and concerns. Levy said that there is the Facebook page that all the Senators have access to. Galloway said that the Facebook page link could be included in the survey. Tokola noted that each Senator represents a specific college and that students should be able to email their specific Senator. Christenson said that all of the Senators' emails are on the AS website. Correa said that it will be good to get feedback from students. Kohout suggested including the Facebook page and the link to the "Student Senators" section on the AS website. Campbell said that Facebook is an informal means of communication and that he liked the idea of a collective email. He also suggested changing the language on question 3 to read "AS WWU

Student Senate” and to change others questions to that language. He also wanted to make sure the language is gender neutral. Levy said that if students do not know where or when the meetings are, then the answer should be provided. Galloway said that was the rationale for having an email at the end. Rosenberg said that including the AS website link will be helpful. Campbell said that asking about issues important to students is imperative. Hilliard agreed. Campbell suggested replacing “think” with “believe” for question 9. Galloway suggested adding a 4th option to question 10 as “I don’t know”. Campbell suggested saying “do you believe that the AS Board of Directors or Student Senate is capable of establishing a change or resolution to your issue at hand”. Kohout and Christenson both said it was too formal for the purpose. Christenson suggested changing “feel” to “believe”. He also wondered about prizes. Campbell said that it could be a \$25 iTunes gift card or more if the Board can pitch in. Kohout said that the Bookstore sometimes donates. Rosenberg said there is a process to go through Activities Council to request the donation. She said that they also require some promotion of the Bookstore. Tokola suggested Viking Dollars as an option. Correa said that he would talk to Celis to see what the options are. Campbell wondered if there was a process for a small request and if Hung Le could just take it out of the operational budget. Rosenberg said that any funding requests need to go through a process to be approved. Campbell wondered how it would be advertised. Kohout said that the goal would be to get email lists such as students who are on committees. Christenson also suggested Fairhaven. Kohout suggested discussing that at an outreach meeting. She said that handbills could be made and printed. Correa said that it could just be printed off for less than \$25 at copy services. He said that they could be given to the Publicity Center to distribute. Rosenberg said that the Student Senate would need to see if the Publicity Center would be willing to distribute. Rosenberg wondered if Kohout and Christenson were going to bring the survey to the Board. Kohout said that she is not sure if the Board is still interested and that it might be for internal Student Senate purposes. Correa said that he would ask Patrick Stickney, the Board member who requested the questions originally.

V. ACTION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Civic Engagement Week Activity

Correa said that the Civic Engagement Week Activity will be held April 15th-19th. He said that Jered McCardle, the AS REP Associate Director, asked if the Student Senate would be willing to do an event. Campbell said that this is an event that aims to increase student engagement. He said that last year, there was a political trivia night that was co-sponsored by Political Science Association and the Student Senate. Rosenberg said that the Secretary of State will be visiting campus April 16th. She said that it was a well-attended event last year. Christenson suggested getting the Whatcom County auditor who could talk specifically about local positions. Kohout supported the idea because it is really important to have local representation. Campbell said the county auditor was there the day the Secretary of State came. Christenson said that if the auditor cannot come, then maybe there could be representation from the WWU Young Democrat and Republican groups. Rosenberg said that Jered McCardle has some connections that might be helpful. Hilliard suggested informal debates on specific issues. Levy said that extremely controversial issues should not be included. Christenson liked the idea of a debate and that it should be considered. Fowler said it is a great idea, but that debates are huge to plan for. He said that the Student Senate’s reputation is on the line. He is worried that a debate could be more harm than good. He said that people may take things personally if they are not use to debating. He said that topics chosen, rules, how it is organized, and who is debating all have to be well thought out and planned. He said that he has experience with planning debates and there are many considerations that have to be taken into account. Kohout recognized that a heated debate might be detrimental. Rosenberg said that the Student Senate needs to consider the time parameter in planning this event. Fowler said that two of the Senators are PSA board members

and that precedent has already been established for the political trivia night. Campbell said that debates take a really long time to plan. He said that decent debates take months. He said that a political open mic might be an option to consider and that it would be easier to put together. He said that getting people to show up to a debate is really challenging. Christenson said that an open mic could become an issue and that maybe selecting people beforehand might be the best. Kohout agreed. Correa said that he would talk to people to find out more information. Rosenberg said that the Underground Coffeehouse is doing a few themed trivia nights a quarter.

B. Legacy Document

Correa said that document two offered a list of the topics that would be included in the legacy document. He said that sections can be split up to different Senators. Christenson suggested having subcommittees do work sessions or just having a few people work on it. He said that splitting the legacy document can lead to inconsistent writing styles. Fowler said that this is a pressing issue. Christenson dittoed. Hilliard said that the legacy document does not need to be delegated. He said that it should be worked on for as long as possible and that 20 minutes of every meeting should be devoted to working on it. Christenson said that doing it as a committee would be to have it be like a work session. He said that meetings could end early and then break into an informal work session. Campbell said that by spring, there should be around four more senators. He said that there will be more students joining and have people who couldn't make the meetings this quarter coming back. Kohout said that meetings would be too formal to be working on the legacy document. Correa said that the Student Senate could take this process slowly and one section at a time. Campbell said that everyone needs to have their perspective heard. Rosenberg added that this legacy document format is what AS employees use. She said that there are some sections that will be more relevant than others and that the templates can be flexible. Fowler said that the legacy document is the best way to provide feedback based on experience.

VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Sarah Kohout

Nothing to report.

B. Neil Christenson

Nothing to report

C. Bill Campbell

Campbell said the Student Technology Fee Renewal committee will be having their last meeting. He said that there are many topics that will be brought up such as the Microsoft contract, computer labs, virtual labs, print quotas and others that will be voted on Thursday and going straight to the Board. He said that he brought in an initiative regarding Student Senate reform and that it can still be amended. He said that the initiative is a potential option.

D. Matthew Hilliard

Hilliard met with the ACC with regard to extending education programs. He said he will be bringing it as a discussion item next quarter

E. Joseph Levy

Nothing to report

F. Evan Fowler

Nothing to report

VIII. BOARD REPORT/CONCERNS

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be informal at Pho. Campbell said that there was an initiative last year regarding Higher One that passed. He said that there is a large lobby group that is taking this to congress. He said that they want student feedback. He said the lobby group is trying to get a law passed that would not allow for higher one to do what it is doing

The Meeting was adjourned at 7: 19p.m.