

Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate
Tuesday, April 16, 2013 **VU 567**

Senators: Christian Correa (Chair) *Present:* Sarah Kohout, Joseph Levy, Neil Christenson, Matthew Hilliard, Marc Oommen and Glen Tokola. *Absent:* Bill Campbell, Evan Fowler, and Andrew Entrikin

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

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

Guests: Kehla Jefferson-Champion

MOTIONS

S-13-S- 04 Approve the minutes of Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:04 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION S-13-S-04 by Christenson
Approve the minutes of Tuesday, April 9, 2013.
Second: Levy Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

V. ACTION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Issue of the Quarter

Correa said that the Student Senate will discuss issues that they will want to take on as the issue of the quarter. Hilliard said that he had a few ideas. He said that the Student Senate may want to do two issues of the quarter. The first one is the real food challenge and examining that. He said that it would be nice to have a forum to educate people on the national movement that urges campus dining to have 20% of their food be local, sustainable, organic, or fair trade. Hilliard said the movement aims to raise awareness on what is healthy, what is in food, and how it is grown. He said that WWU is in the challenge currently and Aramark is currently at 15% real food. He said that the Students for Sustainable Food are trying to get that number up to 25%-30%. He said that no other campus has as much real food as WWU does, which means that a majority of food served on campuses is not real. Hilliard also recommended the issue of rental safety for students. He said that not many people know that it is illegal for more than three unrelated people to live in the same house. Celis said that the law has been in effect for a while, but that it is not enforced. Hilliard said that Patrick Stickney, the VP for Governmental Affairs has been working with the LIC on this issue. Kohout said that there needs to be more student testimony, but that a lot of students just do not know about the current laws and situation. Christenson recommended getting people involved and getting the rule changed. Celis recommended contacting Stickney. He said that last year, the Student Senate passed a resolution and took it to the Board who did not act because there was another

resolution. He said that Stickney has been working on this issue a lot. He said that rental safety is a different issue than trying to repeal the law regarding the three unrelated persons per household being illegal. Hilliard also suggested the coal divestment measures. Christenson dittoed. Hilliard said that it is important to educate people and to raise awareness on the issue. Christenson said he will be preparing a resolution regarding coal divestment to be on the agenda next week. He said that he is not sure if it will be the issue of the quarter. Celis said that the Student Senate needs to be careful about taking a stance on an issue that is related to a measure that is going to be on the ballot. Hilliard acknowledge that the AS cannot take a stance on the initiative. He said that these are issues that students are really passionate about and that students would benefit from a forum. Oommen is worried about conflict with the election code. Christenson suggested waiting until after the elections to make a final decision. Kohout said that there was already a forum on the coal divestment. Christenson suggested an issue from the teacher evaluation committee. He said the Tval committee would like to know what students think about the electronic evaluation. Levy wondered if student input is needed. Christenson said that both students and faculty input matters. He said a forum on this issue could be beneficial to students. He said that he also posted on Viking Village. Tokola suggested focusing on an issue with regards to the Office of Sustainability. He said that the issue of the quarter could be on sustainability and what WWU has done to be sustainable. He said that educating students on this issue could be beneficial. He said that it would give students the opportunity to talk about sustainability and the current efforts. Hilliard suggested contacting the environmental clubs to discuss issues that they are working on. Christenson said that Earth Week is this week. Correa said that sustainability can be combined with the real food measure. Correa wondered if the Senators wanted to do one or two issues. The majority voted in favor of one issue. Kohout said that focusing on one and making it really good would be better than doing two not as good. Tokola dittoed. Correa asked who was in favor of the real food challenge. There was concern with regard to the elections and the initiatives on the ballot. Celis said that doing the real food is possible, but that the Student Senate needs to be very careful about how they present it. He also suggested taking on one issue, then later, something more could be done. Vote count:

Real food: 0

Rental safety: 4

Tval: 1

Sustainable: 1

Correa said that Rental Safety would be the issue of the quarter. Celis suggested inviting Patrick Stickney to the next meeting.

VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Glen Tokola

Tokola had nothing to report.

B. Neil Christenson

Christenson said that LAC talked about the WA Senate Budget. He said they talked about how it affects students. He said that it was decided that student would accept a 3% raise in tuition in order to maintain standard of academic excellent. Campaign is happening and get educated on candidates.

C. Marc Oommen

Oommen said that he and Galloway went down to Seattle last Friday to meet with former Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Z Smith. He also reported that Fairhaven is doing a series of immigration reform discussions on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm in the Fairhaven Auditorium. He said the first one is this Thursday. He said the forum next week is on racial profiling.

D. Sarah Kohout

Kohout had nothing to report.

E. Joseph Levy

Levy had nothing to report.

F. Matthew Hilliard

Hilliard reported that the ACC talked about the final exam policy. He said that he will be working on a document to bring to the Senate. He said that there are a lot of underlying issues that affect students. He said it was brought up because Deans were concerned that professors were abusing and ignoring the policy.

VIII. BOARD REPORT/CONCERNS

Celis said the Board of Directors has been looking at the Structure and Programs Advisory reports. He said that the board has also been looking at job descriptions. Celis has been working on budgets this week.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Christenson noted that the Student Senate will need to cancel their next meeting due to the VP Debate. Correa said that there would not be a meeting next week. The next meeting would be April 30th. Lisa said that the Student Senate should encourage everyone to attend the debate. He urged senators to get in their documents on time. Christenson mentioned the terrorist attack during the Boston Marathon. There was a brief moment of silence.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:41p.m.