

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate**

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

VU 567

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

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

Secretary: Kaylee Galloway

Guests: Quinn Welsh (Western Front), Hung Le (AS VP for Business and Operations),
Carly Roberts (AS VP for Activities), and Katie Savinski (AS VP for Student Life)

MOTIONS

S-13-S-05 Approve the minutes of Tuesday, April 16, 2013. *Passed.*

S-13-S-06 Move to table resolution until the next meeting as an action item. *Passed.*

The meeting was called to order by Neil Christenson, Parliamentarian at 6:03 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION S-13-S-05 by Levy
Approve the minutes of Tuesday, April 16, 2013.
Second: Seconded Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Levy would like to add a resolution to the agenda to adjourn the Student Senate. Seconded by Oommen. Levy requested that this be added as an action item. Christenson read the language of the resolution. Campbell said that it would need to be added as an information item or else the Student Senate would need to suspend the rules. Oommen said that the bylaws are already suspended to have Christenson chair the meeting. Christenson said that he will accept Campbell's point of information and will keep the resolution as an information item. He said that the only suspension of the rules was with regard to having him chair. Oommen objected to the motion to have the Parliamentarian chair the meeting. Levy seconded. Motion failed 3-4-0. Campbell said that overturning the rules regarding the chair requires a 2/3 votes. Failure of the motion will still allow for Christenson to chair the meeting. Christenson went back to considering the resolution as an information item. Oommen wondered where it said that it had to be an information item. Celis said that it would be in the chair's discretion. Christenson said that he will allow for it be an action item. The motion to have the resolution on the agenda as an action item. Oommen said that there needs to be more discussion. Christenson said that discussion was exhausted and that his authority as the chair will entertain the motion to have the resolution on the agenda as an action item. Oommen disagreed with Christenson and moved to appeal the decision of the chair. Kohout seconded. Motion to appeal the decision of the chair and to have discussion on adding the resolution to adjourn the Student Senate as an action item. Passed 7-0-0. Christenson said that the opinion of the chair to have was overturned. Oommen said that getting this item on the agenda as an action item needs to be discussed. Levy said that this item needs to be on the agenda so that the senators can discuss it. Campbell said that this needs to be an information so that people can voice their opinions. He said that having it as an action item would mean that the Student Senate needs to be prepared to act. He said that it is important to uphold what the Student Senate has done in the past. He said that it should not be an action item and should be an information item to uphold the rules. Levy said that if this resolution is information, then the process is longer and would waste the time of the Senators. He said that this is time-sensitive and needs to be decided now.

Christenson said that it would be an information then action so only two weeks. Tokola thought that it could be just discussed this week and decided next week. Levy said that he would rather have the decision tonight unless people need more time. Oommen said that this resolution is to adjourn the Student Senate and that it should be an action item tonight. He said that the Student Senate should be able to vote and decide tonight. Motion to add this resolution to adjourn the Student Senate as an action item. Passed 5-2-0. Resolution added as Action Item A. Kohout moved to have discussion before action. Celis said he had to leave and that he has a lot to say about the resolution. Kohout withdrew motion.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolution to adjourn the senate

Levy said that there are only four more weeks. He said that the last several meetings, the Student Senate has struggled to meet quorum. He said that he is not sure what the Senate hopes to accomplish in this time frame. He said that he suggests that the Senate still should meet for developing the legacy document or contact Patrick Stickney to work on the issue of the quarter. He said that this resolution would just end the official meetings. Celis said that he is against this resolution. He said that there are serious personnel issues with regard to Correa's job. He said that for people who do not feel that Student Senate is worth their time, then there is nothing holding them to stay. He said the way that this was brought up was not appropriate especially since Correa was not there to chair the meeting and he was not able to make the meeting either until he found out about the resolution. Christenson dittoed. Celis said Lisa Rosenberg was not able to be here at this time. He said that they were not informed about this resolution and they had no time to prepare for it. He said that it is a little shady. Christenson dittoed. Celis said that he talked to Ethan Glemaker and that he does not know if the Student Senate has the authority to end itself. He said that this resolution should not pass. *Celis left.* Kohout moved to postpone action item A until after Discussion. Levy seconded. Campbell objected. He said that discussion should be continued especially since Celis had to leave. Kohout withdrew her motion. Oommen said he respects where Celis is coming from and the Student Senate is important. He said that the Student Senate has not been as effective as it could have been. He said that it speaks to the fact that the Senate has struggled to meet quorum and that it shows the failing structure of the Senate. He applauded Hilliard for all of his hard work. He said that Senate reform discussion has been considered and the Senate has no further say in the process. To speak to Celis's point about wasting student dollars, Oommen said that the Student Senate does not have control over that decision, but that it does not end Correa's position. Oommen said that the Student Senate has not been a waste of time and that Correa has done a great job, but that there is no need to continue to meet regular. He said that Senators should not just quit, he said then no one will show up. He said that there are only three weeks until the end of the quarter and that the Student Senate should just adjourn. He said that ending the Senate does not stop the representation and student advocacy. He said that the Senators are on other committees that are working on advocacy. Savinski said that her concern is that there is a lot of interest with the issues that the Student Senate is considering outside of Senate. She said that if official meetings cannot even bring people together, then how does the Student Senate expect to have accountability from Senators without official meetings. She said she doesn't understand why Senators would want to give up when there is still three weeks left. She said that it affects Correa and that it affects the way student dollars are spent. Campbell objects to the process. He said that he has not been a proponent of revising

the agenda. He said that it should be expected to get documents to the chair on time and that moving this to action is stripping the process. Campbell said that there are many people who are affected by this decision and that there should be more of an opportunity to discuss it. Campbell also acknowledged the personnel issue. He said that Correa would essentially lose his role. He said that it is important to reflect on what the Student Senate has done and will do and its purpose. He said that the Senate has not had the opportunity to be as effective as possible because of the process. He said that he personally wishes he could have made more of an impact. Campbell said that there are still things that the senate can do. He said that there are two new senators, Tokola and Jefferson-Champion, and that they should be given the opportunity to serve on the Senate. He said that there should be an opportunity for students to come forward. He said it is important to keep the senate around because the senate can still make an impact. Jefferson-Champion said that she was really excited to come to her first meeting. She said that it was disheartening to hear about the possibility of adjourning the Student Senate. She said that she has talked to her friends and that they were not aware of the Student Senate. She said that even though she is a senior, there are others who will still want to contribute in the future and that it would be most beneficial to help improve the Senate rather than adjourned it. Levy said that there has not been accountability with the Senate. Tokola said having discussion in the minutes can help the individual working on Senate reform next year. He also wondered if this issue has been brought up with Sara Richards and Hung Le. Tokola said that he is drafting a resolution that he was hoping to bring to the Senate that would help with increasing representation. He said that his resolution would also help with Senate reform and more actively reaching out to people. He said that the Student Senate has provided a structure for others and can be an avenue for clubs. Hilliard said that the senate is an advisory body and to advise the board in enacting binding resolutions. He said that various groups should be coming and contributing to the conversation. He said that adjourning the Senate is closing the door and to help students make a difference. He said that Christian wouldn't like not having a job and that the students wouldn't like not having the Senate as a resource. Christenson noted that this meeting was the best turnout of senators all year and that Correa has only missed two meetings all year and that one of the meetings was cancelled. Rosenberg said that Correa's main responsibilities involve the Senate, but that his job description could be altered and he can work on other issues. Roberts said that no one is going to lose their job even if the Senate was adjourned. Oommen said that Correa has done a great job, but that a lot of the work is done outside of the body. He said that Correa can work with Senators individually on the legacy document. He said that it is interesting that the Senate is being suspended next year for reform. He wondered what the utility would be for the next three weeks. Levy agreed with Oommen. He said that Correa can use this next three weeks to work on the legacy document to help reform next year. He said that it would not be worth the time to meet. Campbell said that there is a Senator that hopes to bring a document and that a new senator wants to raise awareness of the Senate. He said that this is a resolution and that it would be taken to the board as an information item then action. He said that he does not think the Senate has authority to adjourn itself. He said that bringing another document, educating people, and drafting the legacy document is worth something. Kohout said that she is torn on this issue. She said that she has been frustrated all year. Roberts said that the Board could see it as an info-action or consent item. Christenson said that he could adjourn sine die the meeting and then have the board determine whether that is final or if the senate would reconvene. Oommen said the resolution is specific about when Senate will reconvene. Hilliard wanted to talk about accountability. He said that it is difficult to show up to meetings and have other people not show up. He said that it is important to remember that being a senator is volunteer and that Senators that are not happy don't have to come to the meetings. He said that instead of adjourning the Senate for everyone, just leave. Oommen moved to expand the speakers list

by two speakers. Tokola seconded. No objections. Levy said this is not about wanting to come. He said that he wanted to see where everyone stood on the issue. Christenson objected to the way in which this was brought. He said that it is shady though he respects the motive. He is not sure how cutting off early would be beneficial. He said that there is a process and that it should be followed. Campbell said that there was no intention of being shady, but that the process needs to be respected. Kohout said tabling can help remove shadiness.

MOTION S-13-S-

by Oommen

Move to table resolution until the next meeting as an action item.

Second: Kohout

Vote: 4-1-2

Action: Passed.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Issue of the Quarter

Christenson said that Patrick Stickney was not able to make the meeting. He said that it might be more effective for the Student Senate to table in Red Square with a petition for people to sign. He read the language to the Senate. He said that this idea was brought up by Patrick. He said that this time is to discuss the options. Roberts wanted to encourage the tabling and petition and adding a section on shocking facts or checklists to make sure students can ensure they are living in safe housing. Kohout said she is not sure how effective it would be. She said that it would be more effective to collaborate with the LIC. Jefferson-Champion said that it is a great idea. She said that it is very helpful to have a table with information for people. Tokola said he liked the idea of tabling. He said that the LIC has low visibility and that it would be a great opportunity for the LIC to get more publicity.

B. Dead Week Policy

Hilliard said that he has brought this policy to the Senate before because the policy has been abused and not enforced by professors. He said that it is an important policy to ensure that students have a more manageable work load. He said that it calls for the professors to maximize the students time including the last week of the quarter. He said that at the ACC, teachers have had students write in their evaluations about having finals during finals week. He said that some professors do not follow policy so they can end the quarter earlier. He said that students were critical of professors that follow the policy. Hilliard said that it is wrong to pay for college and not have it be fully utilized. Christenson said that he has not had a problem with his professors. He said that he does not mind having finals during dead week so that he can have more break time. Roberts wondered what Hilliard was hoping to accomplish. Hilliard said that he would like to get Senate consensus and take it back to the ACC. He said that emails can be sent to faculty to remind them to follow policy. Roberts said that this is a strong statement using the math and she wanted to confirm that the calculations were accurate. She said that it doesn't weaken the statement, but that it should be checked. Levy pointed out another miscalculation. Hilliard said that he would work on the math. Levy said that he likes going home early, but recognized that students are paying money. Oommen wondered if there would be an action. Hilliard said he probably won't bring an action item to the Student Senate, but that he wanted to provide an opportunity to voice any concern. He said that the ACC already has a plan, but that he wanted them to be educated on the student perspective. Kohout said that she was not aware of the policy until this year and that she was talking to a friend about it who raised concern with a professor who cancelled the quiz. She said that the Senate should raise more awareness of the policy. Campbell said that he supports this policy. He said that dead week is available to de-stress and adequately prepare for finals. He said that there are other universities who have similar policies. Jefferson-Champion agreed. She said that this policy talks about assignments being due during dead week as long as it is mentioned in the syllabus. Senators seem to generally support the policy.

VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Bill Campbell

Campbell had nothing to report.

B. Glen Tokola

Tokola had nothing to report.

C. Matthew Hilliard

Hilliard had nothing more to report than what was discussed in the dead week policy. He encouraged everyone to take a look at the policy so that there can be further discussion at the next meeting.

D. Marc Oommen

Oommen said that there will be an immigration law presentation on Thursday at the Fairhaven Auditorium. He said that there will be some community members there to present.

E. Sarah Kohout

Kohout had nothing to report from committees. She said she has been working at the voting booths for AS Elections. She said that she was at the Rick Larsen meeting. She said that they talked about the DREAM Act. She said that Representative Larsen is supportive of students.

F. Joseph Levy

Levy had a Professor Paul Chen essay due tomorrow and that he will be up late working on that. Kohout dittoed. Nothing else to report.

G. Kehla Jefferson-Champion

Jefferson-Champion had nothing to report.

H. Neil Christenson

Christenson said that it is AS Elections week and encouraged everyone to vote.

VIII. BOARD REPORT/CONCERNS

Roberts said that the Board has been continuing to appoint people to committees. She said that Rick Larsen came to campus. She said that the Board has been closing up the quarter. Next Board meeting is Thursday at 6pm in VU 567.

IX. OTHER BUSNIESS

Christenson brought up the policy on removing Senators after missing three meetings. Rosenberg read the language from the Rules of Operation. She said that it is a Senate vote. Kohout said that the rules should be followed, but that if a Senator wants to come back then they should be able to because Senate has struggled to meet quorum. Christenson said that there are Senators who have missed enough meetings. Kohout wondered if the rules would have to be suspended. Campbell said that the policy states that Senators can be reinstated after the 3rd meeting missed. Oommen moved to table to the next meeting as discussion item. Kohout seconded. No objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.