

Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate
Tuesday, May 7, 2013 **VU 567**

Senators: Christian Correa (Chair) *Present:* Bill Campbell, Sarah Kohout, Joseph Levy, Neil Christenson, Marc Oommen, Matthew Hilliard, Glen Tokola, and Kehla Jefferson-Champion. *Absent:* Evan Fowler and Andrew Entrikin,
Advisors: Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities;
Victor Celis (AS VP for Academic Affairs)
Secretary: Kaylee Galloway
Guests: Matthew Bobbink

MOTIONS

S-13-S-07 Adopt the resolution to adjourn the Student Senate. *Failed.*

The meeting was called to order by Christian Correa, Chair at 6:08 pm

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Christenson moved to add a report from Tval committee regarding some of the findings as a discussion item. Tokola Seconded. 7-0-0. Passed.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Vice Chair Elections

Correa said the Vice Chair has not been at Senate due to conflicts. Kohout moved to nominate Matthew Hilliard. Tokola seconded. Hilliard accepted. Hilliard moved to nominate Neil Christenson. Levy seconded. Christenson accepted. Correa said it would be a two week process and requested that candidates prepare a statement.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adjournment Resolutions

Levy said that it could be a better use of time to work on legacy documents. He said that it was interesting that Bill Campbell who was the strongest proponent for accountability is not here at the meeting. Christenson said that there is no obligation for Senators to show up. He said that accountability has been an issue. He said that it is not in the responsibility of the Senate to adjourn itself. Christenson moved to postpone the Adjournment Resolution indefinitely. No one seconded. Christenson withdrew his motion. Kohout said that she has been to every senate meeting. Oommen said that it is cynical to say that Senators can just not show up. He said there is nothing the Senate can do about be suspended next year and there is not much more the Senate can do in general. *Campbell enters at 6:16pm.* Oommen urges the body to vote in favor of this resolution. Tokola said that he appreciates accountability and that there are still things the Senate can do in the next few weeks. He said that the Western Front published about the dead week policy. He said that if the Senate was adjourned, then there would have never been anything published. Jefferson-Champion said that it is her last quarter at Western and that she would like the Senate to continue. Campbell said that this is a way for students to see what their dollars are going towards. He said that the Student Senate is a way for students to interact with the student government and administration. He said the Student Senate has not been the

best it can be, but that it does provide an opportunity for students. He said that the opportunity alone is worth it. He said that even through the failures, the successes have been well worth it. Tokola dittoed. Levy said that Campbell talking about the Senate failures are just strengthening his argument. Kohout appreciates this conversation. Tokola said that the Senate pre-suspension has an obligation for the future Senate. He said that people could read the minutes and be able to use them to help. Oommen said that the resolution directly deals with the issues. He said that the Board of Directors is able to do everything the Senate has tried to do. He said that when the Senate has proposed something, the Board has already done something about it. He said that since Senate does not have authority, and the Board already represents students, then the Board can continue to do so. Campbell said that the Senate is chartered to serve as an advisory body to the Board. He said that people believe that students should be provided as many opportunities as possible. He said that it is an opportunity to engage students. He said that it is essential to the bylaws and essential to the nature of the Senate. He said that senators need to keep their commitments. Tokola said that the Senate had an opportunity to do more with the DREAM Act and have it introduced to the Board. He said that the relationship between the Senate and Board can be stronger. Levy said that he does not like to frame the conversation in terms of the Senate being an advisory board. He said that the Senate was not even consulted in the decision to suspend the Senate for a year. He said that this act speaks to the lack of influence the Senate has. Hilliard said that the fact Levy and Oommen are here show that they are dedicated. He said that the efforts should be directed to something more productive. Christenson said that he has been frustrated with the fact that the Senate has been powerless and that has fallen on the entire Board. He said that the Senate can adjourn or take the time it has left and to do whatever it can. He said that it seems that everyone has already made up their mind. Oommen said that discussions should be more focused and that there are committees that already accomplish that. He said that it is important to have a specific space for the public, but that the board already provides that space. He said that the conversation should be focused on what it can actually accomplish in the time frame. He said that the Senate has not dedicated enough time to the legacy document. He said that this resolution is not to demean anyone's position. Tokola wondered if the public has addressed issues with the senate that has not been brought to the board. Celis said there is a good number of things that have been discussed here and that he said that he has used some of the discussion in the Senate to better his work. He said that there is not much the board has taken action on. Tokola said the Student Senate is a different body and that it offers something different than the Board of Directors. Campbell said that the Senate as a body has made some contributions. He said some of those accomplishments include the DREAM Act resolution, the name and gender marker resolution, and the election code. He said that in previous years, senators have brought more documents to the table. He said that he had hoped to bring more and that was a personal failure. He said that the success depends on what the senators choose to work on. He said that he fundamentally disagrees with this. Campbell moved to end debate. Christenson seconded. Oommen objected and thought that the speakers list should be continued. Levy said that all conversation can be helpful. Campbell said the conversation is circular. Christenson dittoed. Campbell said enough has been said and people know how they are going to vote. Kehla said that if the last people want to talk, they should be able to. Campbell withdraws his motion. Correa exhausted the speakers list. Levy said that he is presenting a false dichotomy with this idea that if the senate is adjourned then students lose their voice. Celis said that some things were just brought to the Senate other issues were also brought to other committees. Kohout said that the things brought to the Senate have been brought by senators. She said that the Senate has not represented student voices as much as it could have. Hilliard said that there are people here who care about the Senate. Christenson said that he has brought stuff to the table that was formulated by students.

MOTION S-13-S-07

by Oommen

Adopt the resolution to adjourn the Student Senate.

Second: Kohout

Vote: 3-5-0

Action: Failed

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Rental Safety Petition

Correa said that there was discussion on tabling in red square next week. He said that there is a petition specifically for rental safety to be sent to Mayor Linville. He said that the Senate has a table reserved from 11am-2pm, Monday- Wednesday.

B. Tval

Christenson moved to postpone to the next meeting. Seconded by Oommen. Passed 7-0-1.

VII. SENATOR REPORTS/CONCERNS

A. Marc Oommen

Oommen had nothing to report.

B. Sarah Kohout

Kohout had nothing to report.

C. Bill Campbell

Reported that he had the Political Science Association event today. He said his committees have not met. He congratulated the students who ran in the AS elections and for the STF renewal passing including a print quota. He said he is working to get the print quota implemented into the student account. He said that it would be helpful to just incorporate it into student accounts as opposed to needing to deposit money. He said that he will be bringing a document to Senate about Western's ability to graduate in 4 years and if service learning should be required to graduate. He hopes the Board will look at it next year.

D. Glen Tokola

Tokola congratulated Carly Roberts for winning AS President, Kaylee Galloway for winning VP for Governmental Affairs, Robby Eckroth for winning VP for Student Life, Mayra Guizar for winning VP for Diversity, Jarred Tyson for winning VP for Activities, Josie Ellison for winning VP for Academic Affairs, and Hung Le for winning VP for Business and Operations. He congratulated the Divestment and Real Food initiatives and the STF Renew referendum.

E. Matthew Hilliard

Tomorrow morning at 8am there will be a protest downtown. He said it is to protest jury nullification, which is when the judge informs the jury of prior convictions without being able to explain themselves. He said that people should be informed of their rights.

F. Neil Christenson.

He said that he would like to congratulate all of the winners of the AS Elections and especially Josie Ellison who will make a great VP for Academics. He said that last Friday, the LAC rejected direct membership to USSA. He said that people with questions can ask him or Kaylee Galloway, the incoming VP for Governmental Affairs.

G. Joseph Levy

Levy said that jury nullification is a good thing. Hilliard said that this is about raising awareness.

H. Kehla Jefferson-Champion

Joined the diversity awareness committee.

VIII. BOARD REPORT/CONCERNS

Celis said this week there will be an action item for a three year grant for the center for international studies program that will help pay for staff and programs. He said it is a partnership between the AS, the University Residences, and the Enrollment Funding Committee. He said that the water bottle letter will be an action item. He said the Students for Sustainable Water drafted a letter with stronger language encouraging deadlines. He said the federal agenda was passed and Ethan and Patrick will be going to DC soon. He said a divestment committee was started.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Campbell mentioned the initiative for higher one. He will be going to DC in July to testify on behalf of Western. He said that he just received information and will be bringing more details to the Senate. Tokola said the Club Kick-back is next week. He said that he represented Senate at WSA General Assembly. Celis said Culture Shock is on Wednesday. Galloway said that CBE Business Week starts next week May 13th-20th. Celis said that it is also Scholars Week.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.