

Western Washington University Associated Students Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, August 5, 2013

VU567

AS Board Officers: *Present:* Carly Roberts (President), Josie Ellison (VP Academics), Jarred Tyson (VP Activities), Hung Le (VP Bus Ops), Mayra Guizar (VP Diversity), Kaylee Galloway (VP Governmental Affairs) and Robby Eckroth (VP Student Life)

Advisor Is: Kevin Majkut, Director of Student Activities

Guest(s): Lisa Rosenberg, Assistant Director of Student Activities; Taylor Sanders, KUGS News & Public Affairs Director

MOTIONS

ASB-13-SUM-2 Approve the Facilities & Services Council Charge & Charter with the addition to quorum of "or when the council is not in session". ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-3 Approve the AS Personnel Committee Charge & Charter changing the last charge bullet point to "hearing and making funding decisions for requests in excess of \$400 from the Student Development Fund (LXXSDV)." ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-4 Approve the updated AS Management Council Charge & Charter. ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-5 Approve the AS Business Committee Charge & Charter. ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-6 Approve the AS Budget Committee Charge & Charter. ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-7 Table the AS Structure & Program Advisory Charge & Charter until the next Board Meeting. ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-8 Move Info Item C. to an Action Item. ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-9 Designate the AS VP for Business & Operations to transfer up to \$500 from LXXRES to LXXBAD from on AS Board Awareness Efforts, as needed. ***Passed***

ASB-13-SUM-10 Approve the Info Lair Assistant job description for 2013. ***Passed***

Carly Roberts, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA- move AS Summer Photographer to a Personnel Item and move all Personnel Items to the end of the meeting.

III. PUBLIC FORUM (*comments from students and the community*)

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests*

A. Salary Schedule Adjustment (20 minutes) Le Doc. 1

The AS Salary Schedule was reworked in 2010 and unfortunately there were some calculation errors. The AS has been operating with it for 3 full academic years. Rosenberg was working on a new way of calculating for clarity when she noticed some discrepancies. The four quarter employees were working 45 weeks in the year and were being paid correctly. The three quarter employees were working 36 weeks and were only being paid for 35 weeks because not all quarters are the same length. The calculation should have been the actual number of academic weeks for the three quarters with the addition of 2 weeks for training in early fall. The other issue is that the current system is based on 100% full time equivalent being a four quarter full 19 hour employee. The coordinators or assistants were set at 75-77% of the FTE, but all quarters are not created equal. These percentages should actually be 80% instead of 75-77%. In one case it caused an employee to get paid about two weeks less than they worked. In the current salary system, four quarter employees are mostly getting paid correctly, but essentially all three quarter employees are being underpaid. There was also a math issue for the AS President that had them getting paid 50 hours less than they should have been. The excel spreadsheet shows discrepancies; red sections are more significant losses in wages within the current salary schedule. Rosenberg said that the hourly rate is used to figure out pay for the total estimated hours for salaried employees. There are 44 positions total which need to be

adjusted which is just a little over \$11,000. Majkut would like to make the system equitable by making adjustments for those people who need more than \$7 in adjustments. Majkut thinks that they need to review how the system was set up and create a system that is clear. This will also allow them to properly assign pay for new employees. Most of the three quarterstaff has not started their positions yet so it will be easy to adjust their pay now. Roberts clarified that all people with red salaries will have their salaries corrected before the end of the year. Le is aware that all administrative areas effected will be over budget. He believes that they will be able to make adjustments out of the remaining funds at the end of the fiscal year. There is also a possibility that minimum wage will be increasing in January which would mean the 8 assistant coordinators would require a pay increase. Minimum wage has increased over the years, but there has been a freeze on all other wage; this has created compression in the system. People in higher positions are not being paid at the same higher level intended by the salary schedule, as the minimum wage continues to increase. Rosenberg said that September 5th is the last day for the Finance Office to submit Personnel Paperwork. It is much harder to make these changes after that time. Roberts clarified that no motion is necessary because Kevin Majkut has the authority to make this change. This will not come back as an Action Item. Le said that first they wanted to correct these errors, later Personnel Committee will be reviewing the schedule and trying to make it easier to understand. Rosenberg said that past employees were getting paid what was on the salary schedule and in their job description. This was not calculated correctly, but it was what people were told they would earn when they accepted the positions. This will be fixed for future employees.

V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests*

VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board*

A. AS Facilities & Services Charge & Charter (7 minutes) Le Doc. 3

Le reworked the language about the proposal process to increase clarity. He also added approving authorizations in excess of \$1,500 for the general repair and replacement. This fund has 20% of the value of AS equipment and is typically a four week process due to biweekly meetings. To save on time for small projects he proposes that everything below \$1,500 would be approved by the Vice President for Business & Operations and the Director of VU Facilities. He changed “when not in academic session” to “During the summer”. Majkut suggested adding “or when the council is not in session”. Roberts asked that every time the Board strikes a Student Senator [the Senate is not meeting for the 13-14 year] she would like to know why they aren’t increasing the number of students at-large. Le said it has been a struggle for years to find students at-large to consistently attend. Also whole committee is student representatives.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-2 by Le

Approve the Facilities & Services Council Charge & Charter with the addition to quorum of “or when the council is not in session”.

Second: Eckroth

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

Action: Passed

B. AS Personnel Committee Charge & Charter (7 minutes) Le Doc. 4

Le spoke with the Personnel Director and advisor to come up with a more descriptive charge. The charge now widens advisement to the entire Personnel Office, includes changes to documents, and anything charged to the committee in the AS Employment Policy.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-3 by Le

Approve the AS Personnel Committee Charge & Charter changing the last charge bullet point to “hearing and making funding decisions for requests in excess of \$400 from the Student Development Fund (LXXSDV).”

Second: Ellison

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

Action: Passed

- C. AS Management Council Charge & Charter (7 minutes) Le Doc. 5
There are no changes to this document from last week.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-4 by Galloway

Approve the updated AS Management Council Charge & Charter.

Second: Le Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

- D. AS Business Committee Charge & Charter (7 minutes) Le Doc. 6

Le added Majkut's suggestion of a bullet about the budget process, because this is a main function of the committee.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-5 by Eckroth

Approve the AS Business Committee Charge & Charter.

Second: Guizar Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

- E. AS Budget Committee Charge & Charter (3 minutes) Le Doc. 7

There are no changes to this document from last week.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-6 by Le

Approve the AS Budget Committee Charge & Charter.

Second: Ellison Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

- F. AS Structure & Program Advisory Charge & Charter (3 minutes) Le Doc. 8

Le said the Assessment position title needs to be changed. He hasn't had time to think about the need for a Student Senator on this committee. Eckroth felt that the students at-large didn't participate as much on the committee because they don't have the institutional knowledge.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-7 by Le

Table the AS Structure & Program Advisory Charge & Charter until the next Board Meeting.

Second: Roberts Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*

- A. AS Local Liaison Job Description (10 minutes) Galloway Doc. 9

The Local Liaison was passed as a work study position in July of 2012 but the position was never filled. Galloway would like to make this an hourly position to allow it to be open to more students. She changed it to "assisting the Vote Coordinator and Elections Coordinator as necessary" instead of the Student Senate Chair. Local Elections are currently happening so this position would be important in the Get out the Vote campaign. Roberts thinks that the point of having this position work with the Student Senate Chair was because the Senate was supposed to do outreach. Eckroth feels that this person has a lot of responsibilities and should work more than ten hours. Galloway thinks that 10-15 hours in the work study position would be ideal but was told that it wasn't normal to have a range like this. Majkut feels that if they write 10 hours a week then they have made a commitment of having 10 hours of work, even if there is not 10 hours of work. He thinks that it is fine. Roberts clarified that this position has never existed before. It is a great idea but has never reached fruition. Majkut said that they need to figure out the budget based on 36 weeks instead of 35. Roberts feels it is difficult to fund this out of the reserves because it hasn't gone through the institutional budgeting process. She thinks that if this is passed there should be some kind of assessment mid-year to institutionalize the position. Le said that if they approve the proposed motion the position would be institutionalized. Otherwise he feels that they should fund it for a few years and then assess through the grant process. Roberts thinks that it should be a work study position because she feels it is a vital entry point for students and they should try to utilize work study first. Galloway said that this is a vital position to the legislative efforts and they need to hire a student who is the most

qualified and will work to represent all students. Guizar and Eckroth dittoed. Galloway said that there is still a work study position in the REP. Galloway hopes this will become an institutionalized position. Roberts would like to see what the current positions are in the REP and a quick description of the structure and physical space. Roberts thinks this is a great idea, but just wants some more details. Galloway has been working with the REP Director who was not concerned about management or space because there are very few positions that have significant office hours. Roberts wonders if this would change the REP Associate Director to a Director level position. Majkut said that when the Associate Directors were set up they would be working leads and management, but not the same level of management. Majkut said that this seems like a good idea to review the positions this year to see if management really has become the Associate Director's fulltime job. Galloway thinks that there will be a lot of joint advising with both of the liaisons and the REP Associate Director. Galloway really sees this position being in local meetings and conversing with the students, instead of in the office. Roberts thinks that they should ideate out the management structures for this position. Le said that when he suggested the reserves he wasn't thinking of all of these extra items and he now suggests utilizing the grant system. Roberts feels that every time they decide to do a grant process or utilize reserves they are really pushing off the decision to future Boards. It is easier while programs are in the grant or pilot process, but then the AS has to find more funding in the future. Galloway respects the limited amount of funding that the AS has but she feels this is vital because issues like the coal terminal and rental safety are really affecting student lives and this funding has a very specific purpose. Guizar and Eckroth dittoed. Eckroth would like to see the Reserve Funds balance as a whole.

B. Western Votes Contract

(15 minutes) Galloway Doc. 10

Galloway said the purpose of this document is to solidify the relationship between the AS and this group. This contract was passed in 2011; it has been brought to the Board several times as an Information Item but was never passed due to the need for further work with Western Votes. The purpose now includes some language from the Washington Student Association (WSA) Mission Statement for clarity. In the expectations section she identified Western Votes as the chapter of the WSA. The bullet points are to show how they can actively engage in the WSA and work with other institutions across the US. In the term section she made it so the contract will be in effect until a new contract is passed. Currently Western Votes is acting without a contract. Galloway brought the edited contract to the Western Votes Officers meeting on August 1st and they had no changes. Roberts appreciates her efforts on this. She is concerned that the purpose is a very long sentence and hard to read. If it could be clear, concise and more accessible she would appreciate it. She also feels that pertaining to "higher education" could limit what Western Votes can do, even though things can be connected to students by degrees of separation. She feels this might require people to get creative in how they frame their stances. Galloway said they could change it to be "legislative issues". She agrees that there are some things that doesn't pertain as directly to higher education. There are students as a constituency and then direct student actions. Eckroth suggested "to enhance student's influence on issues that impact students". Roberts would like to make it really clear that all students are part of the Associated Students of WWU. Eckroth dittoed. She wondered if they need to indicate that members are students enrolled in classes on main campus. Galloway said that Western Votes has some constraints on who they can contact. For instance, they can only contact members; it is left purposefully broad to include the maximum amount of members. Roberts would like Majkut to research these constraints this in the interim between meetings. She wondered if "Get out the Vote" is accessible language. Galloway said that it is a slogan used by groups because it is separate from voter registration, in that the efforts are towards having registered voters turn in their ballot. Roberts is in favor of moving away from lingo, jargon and acronyms. Roberts thinks the term length is excellent. She also likes how it focuses on the non-partisan efforts.

C. AS Board Awareness & Accessibility

(15 minutes) Le Doc. 11

Le said that the only change was adding “as needed”. They are not physically moving funding at this point, but they may need to ensure that the account is not overdrawn. Monger thinks that it will be able to be absorbed into the budget. Le said that he can’t work with many of these people right now because they are not here over the summer. Galloway is impressed by this project and thinks it is a good opportunity to build collaboration to raise general awareness. Eckroth dittoed. Roberts is concerned because the whole group was not able to participate the development of the ideas that the decisions indicate. She wanted the Board to have a time to discuss it as a group before they lock themselves in to funding only these ideas. Roberts feels that this is a big discussion about what the Board feels it means to be visible. Such as is it enough to just be in attendance at athletic events while wearing Board of Director’s t-shirts, etc. She would like to continue the discussion. She doesn’t want people to think that these are the only thing that funds can be spent on because it refers to a pilot project and gives details of what that project is.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-8 by Galloway

Move Info Item C. to an Action Item.

Second: Eckroth

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

Action: Passed

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-9 by Le

Designate the AS VP for Business & Operations to transfer up to \$500 from FXXRES to FXXBAD from on AS Board Awareness Efforts, as needed.

Second: Galloway

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

Action: Passed

D. Program Standards

(10 minutes) Le Doc. 12

Le brought the Mission Statements to the AS Management Council in spring quarter for review. These are changes they approved unanimously 13-0-0. The Assessment Office was stricken from the Program Standards because they were absorbed into the AS Board Office. Le would like to add this back in as the Assessment Process to describe the administrative function of the office. Roberts suggests “The Assessment Process works to maintain the assessment of programs and services within the AS.” Roberts has concerns about that strong of language, such as “enhancement” creating a more tyrannical process. Majkut thinks the language is clearer than the original language. He clarified that Management Council is really not empowered to make changes to the Mission Statements, it is really through the Assessment Process that the statements would change. Le said the Assessment Coordinator was there and felt that it wasn’t appropriate for SPAC to approve small changes like this. Majkut thinks they need to look at the process of passing mission statement. The proposed changes are not substantive changes.

E. Audio Recorder Purchase

(10 minutes) Le Doc. 13

Le said that they need to replace the inventory of AS board recorders. He would like to have all of the recorders match. Le and Espeseth tested out a recorder to see how it would match our needs. He feels that the zoom is the best recorder to suit the AS Board Office’s needs. There have been situations where they have needed 3 recorders so he would like to request funding these for New Equipment for \$800. Guizar said there were often buzzing and the recorders would sporadically work in only one ear which made taking minutes from the recordings difficult. This is especially difficult because assistants don’t have offices so often there is background noise. These recorders will run off USB power and download automatically.

The Board took a break and reconvened at 4:52p.m.

VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS (subject to immediate action)

A. Info Fair Assistant Job Description

(5 minutes) Le Doc. 2

During hiring for the AS Board Office Assistant for Fall Info Fair, the committee decided the

most qualified candidate was Brandi Ball but she is unable to attend the last day of the fair due to graduate school orientation. This is a request to hire someone for the last day of the Info Fair. This is one of the rare AS budgets that is allocated zero dollars. It is self-sustaining because businesses and not-for-profits are charged for tabling at the fair and this covers the expenses for the event. In this case no new funds are being asked for and Ball was the most qualified to do the planning. This job description was passed unanimously by Personnel Committee. Roberts thinks this is a well laid out request and followed the process.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-10 by Le

Approve the Info Fair Assistant job description for 2013.

Second: Tyson

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0

Action: Passed

B. Summer AS Photographer

(10 minutes) Te Doc. 14

At the beginning of July Jeff Bates officially asked to hire a summer AS Photographer. This was brought to Personnel Committee. The main rationale was a need for archiving photos via the new university system, secondarily they would do shoots as needed. There have been several requests for a photographer. The Personnel Committee approved forwarding it to the Board. The original recommendation of 20 hours per week has been increased to 20-40 hours because the length of the process has compounded this time this position would be able to work. Bates would be using his existing budget to pay for this. Te said that requests like this should normally be done much in advance so that the Personnel Committee could open it for hire. Te is working on adding a process for this to the Employment Policy. Te said that Board felt that the tasks within the job description can wait and they have survived without a photographer over the summer the last few years. He can communicate with the AS Review Editor in Chief in the two weeks prior to classes beginning. Galloway said that although the procedure was not ideal, Bates is an expert in his field and knows the needs of his area there are also no fiscal implications. She is not sure why they are thinking of rejecting this. Roberts said that while Bates is the Budget Authority, all budgets do fall under the Board. While they should not be instructing about specific expenses they should consider overall impacts. Le said that all AS administrative budgets are used for departmental wages, trainings, supplies, etc. This proposal would mean they would lose \$1,500 for these other areas. Majkut would guess that it would come out of the hourly wages because there are different needs in those areas. However, he is sure Bates considered this impact when he put in the request.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 5:05p.m. and reconvened at 5:20p.m.

Robby Eckroth left the meeting at 5:12p.m.

Le said that Bates is not working the next three weeks so there is not direct oversight of this person. The person Bates is suggesting for appointment has a lot of knowledge in this area. Rosenberg said that the hourly AS Photographer position exists and was approved by the Board, it used to be the only position. The academic position was changed from hourly to salaried. There was an hourly summer photographer approved last year. Galloway asked if they could put off these tasks should they go through the proper procedures. She wondered if this could be handled when Bates returns. The manager for this position is out of the office for three weeks, but Schuster will be supervising and the person they are suggesting for appointment knows what needs to be done.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 5:27p.m. and reconvened at 5:54p.m.

Le thought that the process was going to be delayed until after the first meeting in September. Roberts said that the information that came out during Executive Session should be added into the record so that people can reference this. However, the Board knows what the additional information was that brought them to this decision. Majkut feels that the main task is to archive photos.

MOTION ASB-13-SUM-11 by Galloway

Approve the AS Summer Photographer position and approve the appointment for Cade Schmidt. The funding for this one time position is to come from the Publicity Center Administrative Budget [FXXPCA] with the stipulation that additional details are presented to the Board as an Information Item by the first Board meeting of September to be entered into the record.

Second: Ellison Vote: 1 - 4 - 1

Action: Failed

IX. CONSENT ITEMS *(subject to immediate action)*

X. BOARD REPORTS

President

Carly Roberts reported that she completed the thank you letter for WA State legislators, and will be bringing it to the next Board of Trustees meeting for vetting. It will be brought as an info item at our next meeting. In her meetings with Dr. Coughlin they have been discussing leadership opportunities on campus and the development of programs without AS input this will be addressed throughout the year. She also raised the issue of priority registration for Board members, and is hoping to make progress on this issue in time for winter quarter registration. She will be gathering input from the Board about the potential purchase of an app for the university and will feedback about which features should be prioritized.

VP for Academic Affairs

Josie Ellison reported that she has still been reading everything in her office to prepare for the upcoming year. She is also beginning to schedule meetings with the administrators she will be working with on committees in the next year to establish some strong relationships. Update on Academic Integrity: the website and language is being polished so that the students at Summerstart will have the information they need to do a bit more research over the next year.

VP for Activities

Jarred Tyson reported that he has been looking through policies and procedures that are relevant to Activities Council and can easily see that a lot of the policies are outdated. He is looking at Club Recognition, Club Funding, and Conference travel and intends on getting these policies up to date and eventually see if any substantial changes need to be made. I am also currently reviewing the AS Activities Council Charge and Charter. As one of the issues he advocated for during my campaigning, he has a high interest in seeing more effective use of OrgSync from students. One thing that will likely be happening is the purchasing of an Application Programming Interface (API) for OrgSync. From an administrator standpoint, this will allow for code to be written that will access all the data in OrgSync and have campus systems communicate back and forth with OrgSync for designed purposes and to automate certain labor-intensive processes. To put it simple, it will create a more flexible, accessible, and communicative Club System with its processes. He has accepted a small project and will be working with Roberts in making an events calendar that will be a part of a handout to be distributed to new students (e.g. in Residence Halls). This will be composed of both on and off-campus events. He has contacted Downtown Bellingham Partnership for off-campus events and will be in contacting AS offices, Campus Ree, and Athletics for events that will be taking place the first few weeks of Fall quarter (September 22nd to October 6th).

VP for Business & Operations

Hung Fe reported that he will be working with the Assessment Coordinator, Kacy Cunningham, on some of her summer responsibilities, setting the ground work for the SPAC process for the coming year and prepping for the Fall Training and its assessment related matters. Fe and the Business Director have nearly completed the structure of the AS Budget consolidation project. They will be transposing information in this form over the next several weeks. He is working on getting speakers for the Divestment Study group. They are looking at

wide variety of presenters for the next several months. He hopes to finish the "info" aspect by the end of Fall Quarter.

VP for Diversity

Mayra Guizar reported that she is working with Nate for a request to make the assessment process easier for the ESC. They have also been working on updating the ESC Bylaws, which have not been updated since March 2008. They will be adding things like ESC President's Council to the Bylaws. She is also scheduled to meet with the Equal Opportunity Office about the language in the AS Central Demographics Menu that was worked on last year by Management Council, Assessment Director John Von Volkli, and Hung Le. It was brought to the Board last spring but concerns were raised about the language used under the section on Identity Information. Because of this, it was passed with the stipulation that the Identity Information section on the demographics menu be reviewed by the EO office, and once this is done, it will be brought in again by Le as a Consent Item. Finally, she have been working on getting the diversity sub-committee for Fall Staff Development together to plan this section of AS training. Because it will be on campus, they will have the great opportunity of bringing in a speaker from either inside or outside of the university to present and talk about diversity. The sub-committee is open to any and all suggestions!

VP for Governmental Affairs

Kaylee Galloway reported that her trip to New Jersey for the United States Student Association's National Student Congress was a success. She was proud of the Western delegation and the amount of success each student had. It provided many great opportunities and learning experiences including networking with students across the nation, attending workshops and closed identity spaces, as well as working with students to draft what USSA calls Administrative Resolutions (AR's) and Action Agendas (AA's). She said that AR's are proposals that request projects and other administrative functions for the board of directors and/or staff to carry out. She was proud of Carly Roberts, AS President, for submitting an AR that would take a look at the USSA budget and try to allocate funding for student board members to travel to USSA board meetings to ensure adequate student representation. Galloway also said that two AA's were passed: Student Debt and that being a part of the group to draft the AA was a phenomenal experience. The second AA passed focused on Student Fee Legislation and Shared Governance, for which Patrick Stickney lead the group who drafted it. Even though not all of the AA's submitted were passed, she wanted to acknowledge Matthew Bobbink, the AS Legislative Liaison, for speaking on behalf of an AA that was dedicated to improving policy and conditions for Trans students on campuses nationwide. Galloway also wanted to congratulate Bobbink for being elected as the Vice Chair of the National Queer Student Coalition and Roberts for being elected as the Vice Chair of the Non-traditional and First Generation Student Caucus. Galloway was extremely excited to be elected as the Vice Chair of the Pacific Northwest Regional Caucus. She also wanted to acknowledge the hard work of Mayra Guizar, AS VP for Diversity, for serving on the Issues Plenary Committee while at Congress as well as Stickney for serving on the Congress Steering Committee. Galloway said that overall, Congress was an incredible experience and that she looks forward to implementing some of her many new skills, knowledge, and ideas on campus. Galloway also reported that she is looking forward to the WSA Board Retreat this weekend. Western is sending an incredibly strong delegation of students who are all dedicated to student representation and helping with voter registration, get out the vote, and other organizing and legislative efforts. Furthermore, Galloway reported that the first Summerstart session went very well. She was honored to have given the welcome speech to high credit freshman and their families. She said that she will be attending the AS 6th Floor Social and the Summerstart Morning Info Fair to help register people to vote and to encourage them to volunteer for early move-in, an opportunity for students to move-in to their residence halls on Thursday free of cost in exchange for volunteering to help

register people to vote during the move-in weekend. Katie Stultz, Campus Coordinator at the Washington Bus, held a very successful, campus specific voter registration and got out the vote training on August 1st. She said that there was a great turn out of students and that everyone seemed very enthusiastic about the upcoming vote efforts. After the vote training, Galloway said that Western Votes held their first meeting of the year there was great discussion of ideas and goals that Western Votes hopes to accomplish this year. Lastly, Galloway said that the US House of Representatives passed a compromise bill on student loan interest rates on July 31st. She said that this bill links interest rates to the 10-year Treasury notes, which results in low interest rates now, but may lead to increased rates in the near future. She said that undergraduate loan interest rates are currently 3.86% and capped at 8.25% and graduate loan interest rates are currently 5.41% and capped at 9.5%. She said that even though this removes Congress' authority to set loan interest rates in the future, many students have expressed concern and discontent with this bill because it is perceived to be a short term temporary fix to a greater issue. She said that students would have been far better off with interest rates being frozen at 3.4%, which is what the USSA Student Debt AA advocates for.

VP for Student Life

Robby Eckroth reported that he finished an op-ed for the Western Front regarding the sale of bottled water on campus it will be sent to the Western Front soon, once it is fact checked and approved by the university VPs. He also had the Rules of Operations for the Green Energy Fee approved and signed by the University VPs. He has been working with the Outdoor Center and Western Student Transportation to create a more visible and accessible bike rental program. Currently there is not an hourly rate for the Outdoor Center bikes and their location is not visible to students. If the two offices do establish a partnership, the hope is to relocate the rental bikes to a bike rack outside the 6th floor of the VU, establish another partnership with the VU Info Desk to help facilitate the rental process, and create an hourly rate for rentals rather than just a daily rate. He has also been working with Nina Olivier to create a President's Committee for the Environmental Clubs on campus. The purpose of the committee is to help facilitate communication between the environmental clubs and the Environmental Sustainability Programs. The charge and charter for the committee has already been drafted but they are exploring the feasibility of a formal committee since there is a work study position dedicated to club networking.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 5:59 P.M.