



Facilities and Services

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

4:00 p.m.

VU567

- Members:** *Present:* Chelsea Ghant, (AS VP for Business and Operations, Chair); Emma Palumbo (Student Representative, Viking Union); Ian Fisk (Student Representative, Outdoor Center); Camilla Paine (Student Representative, Recycle Center); Daniel Billick (Student Representative, Publicity Center); Daniel Cole Blattenberg (Student Representative, Lakewood); Mirabelle Blech (Disability Outreach Center Coordinator); Andrew McKinley (Student Representative at Large)
- Advisor:** Greg McBride (Viking Union Director of Facilities); Eric Alexander (Assistant Dean of Student Engagement/Director of Viking Union Facilities)
- Secretary:** Emma J. Opsal (AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees)

Ghant called the meeting to order at 4:02p.m.

I. Ice Breaker

- A. The council shared their preferred pronouns and answered questions on a ball.

II. Charge and Charter (Document 1)

Ghant reviewed the charge and charter with the council, each taking turns to read pieces of the charge and charter, offering explanation to each of the facilities under the jurisdiction of the council and represented by the council. Ghant brought up various functions the councils, and how she planned to run it.

III. Expectations

Ghant opened up the floor to discussion of how the council would conduct business. Blech mentioned how she had enjoyed the meeting she had attended a meeting the previous year, with the mixture of conversational and professional aspects. Ghant said she was going to try and meld the two styles together. She also mentioned the size of the committee was small, therefore it would not be held to the same standards of procedure as other, larger councils.

IV. Eric Alexander's Overview of the Council

Ghant asked Alexander to comment on his vision of the council, and what its function it would be, in his opinion. Alexander spoke about how the VU was a living room, where students could engage and relax, be served, and find some peace within the walls. He spoke how many students take the initiative to improve their facilities to support their activities outside the classroom. He alluded to how consistent student voice needed to be present and heard to better serve the students. He mentioned the Child Development Center, within the Fairhaven residence hall, although serviced by the campus service manager was under the jurisdiction of the council. But other than that, the students

would understand the need for input. He discussed the issues possible in the upcoming year, including the ESC, which was attempting to gain more space, at the time. Drawing from prior experience, he discussed how policies need to be upheld from year to year, and support conversation around the years, to answer the ongoing questions. Issues of if there was enough space for students, how are we paying for it, and other large scale/broad policy issues that needed to be dealt with. And the specific issues, such as spaces for student groups such as ESC, as mentioned above. He discussed issues of transportation, such as requests for more AS vehicles, or how to get to the more remote facilities available to students, such as Lakewood and Viqueen Lodge. Alexander discussed the issues surrounding getting students to go out to such places, including weather. He talked about how students do not want to go to the places when the weather was poor, and it was important to make those places so enjoyable students would want to go no matter the weather. Alexander asked for all to bring their issues to the council, and be able to best serve the broader student populations, as his position limited his amount of direct student communication. McBride entered at 4:27. He was asked to comment as well. He spoke of the decision making aspect of the council, and how it would continue to serve the student body, and even through transitions, and how to best serve and continue to assist the student body at large. Lots of things come through to his office from the committee. He discussed his 6-7 year work with the council, and how it has changed, as evidenced by the charge and charter. Ghant stated the council would continue to have the conversation of the purpose of the council, with Alexander and McBride as advisors. She then opened up the floor to the council, asking for the members to discuss their roles, and how they could provide insight to the council. Palumbo talked about how her position allowed her to know the interactions between the many organizations in the VU, and the facility itself. Blech mentioned how as her position and its accessibility component was incredibly important to uphold standards as well as knowing the accessibility on campus, and how as the university changed due to renovations in the recent past. Paine talked about how the goal of her position was to educate and inform the campus community how to recycle better and increase their sustainable practices. She stated she was still figuring out her position on the council, but also planned to use her position to further the interests of the self-funded RC for the future. Blattenberg mentioned how many students were unaware of Lakewood, and events they could attend there. His voice was present to offer insight to Lakewood, as not all students would know what was going on there. McKinley stated he believed he was present to represent the student body as a whole. Billick discussed his role as being related to the Publicity Center, and the AS Vehicle pool, and the issues with it, as well as the PC's use of facilities on campus. Fisk mentioned how there were issues of space and the vehicle pool for the OC, and the struggle they had to find space for their services. Ghant talked about being the Chair, how she reports to the board, but also how she was the critical eye on the council, and to remind them of the importance of Facilities and Services. Alexander asked the council why they worked at the places they worked at. All stated they wanted to work in their positions as they interested them and wanted to help serve in their own ways. He stated he brought up the reason was to show that everyone was here because of relationship to the space and lifestyle choices, and how the space made a difference, and without it, the council would be very different. He was excited, because the council was providing the environments for students to experience college life. He spoke of a concept to take away from the meeting, and inclusivity of the building reflecting the attempts of inclusivity of the organizations

within the building, from pronouns to restrooms. He asked the council bring their own creativity, dialogue, and discussion to future meetings to give input that reflects the entire student body. Alexander hoped the council would be excited for the work of the council. He mentioned how the success of the student was very important to the University, both academically and socially. Alexander also commented how indeed the students need the facilities to succeed in college. He felt that he was a sponge, to absorb and distribute ideas from students. McBride commented that he felt his position in conjunction with the AS enriched the lives of students, and engagement in conversation about programs and the facilities was very beneficial. He mentioned it would be important to talk about the past, to look at budgets, fees, and past improvements, to see the evolving function of the council. There was not only representation for each member's work area, according to McBride, but also representation of themselves as a student.

V. Timeline for reviewing Proposals

Ghant spoke about the introductory nature of the meeting, and talked about the process of receiving, reviewing, and deciding the proposals brought to the council.

VI. Next Time

Ghant talked about the way the next meeting would be structured, which would include training the council would go through to learn how to view proposals with a critical, fiscal, and fair eye. She talked about how these elements were important if the council wanted to make good use of student fees and make the best decisions possible.

VII. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.