

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Activities Council**

Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 23rd, 2016

Non-Voting Members: Casey Hayden (Student Activities Advisor)

Voting Members: Israel Rios (AS VP for Activities), George Vadino (Club Representative), Alex LaVallee (AS Representative), Walter Lutsch (AS Club Coordinator), Bryce Hammer (Student at Large), Ryan Roberts (AS Club Business Director), Nikola Bocko (Club Representative), Merril Hunt-Paez (Student at Large), Anujin Ganbat (Club Representative)

Absent: None

Secretary: Jessi Navarre (AS Board Assistant for Club Committees)

Guests: Julia Rutledge

Motions

AC-16-SPR-58- Approval of the minutes of 4/11, 4/18, and 4/25 with the stipulation that the appropriate changes be made. - **PASSED**

Israel Rios, A.S. Vice President for Activities, called the meeting to order at 6:26p.m. May 23rd, 2016.

I. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Rios introduced LaVallee as the new chair and Julia Rutledge, the Board Assistant for Club Committees for the next year.

II. Approval of minutes

Motion AC-16-SPR-58 by Hammer

Moved to approve the minutes of 4/11, 4/18, and 4/25 with the stipulation that the appropriate changes be made.

Seconded: Lutsch Vote: 8-0-1 **PASSED**

III. Discussion

- a. Large Event Opportunity Fund

LaVallee opened the floor for discussion. Ríos asked the council to look back at the year and think about the Large Event Opportunity fund and the requests they got. Roberts said that he felt that he often did not have enough information about requests. He suggested having a list of questions to ask. He said that he was at a loss for words a lot of the time. Rios said that they did have list of possible questions for normal requests, but he would look into making one for the Large Event Opportunity Fund. LaVallee suggested having general ideas that they should be looking for. Hammer said that she noticed a different rigor they were putting people through. She said some requests they grilled harder than others. She said when AS Pop came for Death Cab for Cutie the Council asked so many questions but when ESP came for Dr. Vandana Shiva. Navarre noted that the minutes at the beginning were much longer. Hayden said that every member had different experiences and clarity and it was important that everyone felt that they had enough information to vote. Lutsch said that the Council leaned towards events that promoted activism or community. He said AS Pop's request was fun but it was a lot of money and didn't benefit the campus in the same way. Hammer said that they grilled some events more than others. She said that they should look at the social impact of events. Roberts asked what they should change about the Large Event Opportunity. Rios said they were required to discuss the fund because it was a new. He wanted to focus on improving the fund for the council next year. Hayden asked if there were any places for clarification, maybe speaking to the advisors of programs. Hammer said that departments like ASP had many positions that could come in. Rios agreed with Hayden. He said that ESP partnered with a club for their event and said that they could have used their request better. Hayden suggested the form be routed for the advisor. Hammer suggested a confirmation box on the application. Roberts agreed. He said that it created more value to the process. Hayden suggested having a check in with the advisor. Ganbat suggested checking into their account. Hammer asked if they could ask the advisor questions during the info item stage. Rios said having it on the form would make the people requesting more prepared. Roberts said that the budget for AS Pop's request was unspecific and they should require more thorough budgets for that much money. Hayden said they might not know that. He said that the band had asked for so much because they were using so much of their own budget. LaVallee said that having a thorough budget was important and looking into their personal budget pool as well. Lutsch said that they should not micro manage offices. He said that LaVallee's model should be used sparingly. Hammer said that they scrutinize ASP so much because they were requesting \$30,00 instead of the small amount of other offices. She said that it was not asking a lot for a thorough budget. She said that she personally saw more value in social justice events than a community concert. Lutsch that the representative from ASP was very aggressive. Hammer said that representatives worked for the AS and it could be awkward to reject them.

She said that executive session could be used for that. Navarre said that the AS Pop representative bullied the Council. She advised the Council stand firm and not allow that. She also said that ASP had a lot of people who could make request. Hayden said it was the same as the ROP. Roberts reminded the council that they voted yes for the AS Pop request. He said that they felt pressured to say yes and that executive session should be used in situations like that. He said it came to a point where they would suggest numbers and the representative would reject them, putting them into a corner. He said that it was unfortunate that the money came back too late and couldn't be used for the Disability Center request. LaVallee said there was also a club that was clearly pyramid scheme from an outside organization and they should feel comfortable challenging ideas. He said that questioning was good and increased understanding. He said the Council was very fun and easy, but they should be just as critical of every event. He said to do otherwise was doing a disservice to the students who fund the Council. Roberts said they should have gone into deeper questioning with AS Pop. LaVallee said that the representative needed the money to be able to make an offer and the offer that came back was way more than he had available. Ganbat recalled the TedX request and said she said that the representative for the club was rude to the Council and that should have been challenged more. Hammer said that the values of TedX and the values of Western did not match up and it was okay for the Council to request changes be made in order to fund the request. She said that she had never had to book a band, but they should be talking to an advisor about the request to update the Council on the use of funds. Hayden said that they had tried to keep track of the representative from AS Pop but could not, that he would dodge anyone when they asked about the money. Lutsch said that they questioned the policy of the fund. He questioned if clubs should be able to use the fund. Rios recalled Lakewood's request and how they weren't really a program office. Hammer asked why clubs were overlooked in regards the Large Event Opportunity Fund. Lutsch added that clubs and program offices both put on events. Hayden said that program offices, individual students, and clubs all used to come to Activities Council. Hayden said that he felt that 150 people was not a large event and they should keep track of attendance. Roberts said that Net Impact would not have fallen into that pool but he personally got so much back from that event. Rutledge asked about events where not as many people as expected showed up. Lutsch said that there was nothing they could really do about attendance, but if a program office came back after the event and presented to the Council they could ask them about attendance more. Hammer said that their meetings almost went 3 hours at some points. She also said that they should define 'event' because the VU gallery came for two showings and the Council counted it as two requests, but the SIRC came for 5 speakers but it was counted as one request. Navarre said that they should make sure the program office is actually putting on the event because Roberts kept referring the ESP

request as the Net Impact event, a club. She said that it felt like the club was using the program office to get the funds. Roberts said that that was not the intentions of the event. Hayden said that the program office should be the main planner and producer and not just a club teaming up with an office to get funds. Hammer said that program offices were used to dealing with big funds and she did not feel comfortable giving any club the same amount of money as a program office. Lutsch said in regards to Navarre's point that it should be one way or the other, clubs can request from the funds or not at all. He said Net Impact was not manipulating ESP, but it could be the case in the future if they did not take precautions. He said that a portion of the budget could be opened to clubs. He brought up Viking Radio Theatre. Hammer said that they voted on that request while she was out of the room and she would have fought harder against that request if she was there. She said that this felt like a temporary solution for a permanent problem. She suggested a percentage of the budget for the Large Event Opportunity Fund for clubs. Hayden said that some of the burden could be lightened by moving the conference funding. LaVallee said that they should find a new norm for per student costs regarding travel. He said that they were a 'es' council. He said they should also be more critical of requests. Hammer said that it was hard to vote no against so many people. LaVallee said that voting dissimilarly should not affect the relationships of the Council. Hammer suggested anonymous voting like Steering Committee. Rios said that anonymous voting did not change they voted in Steering Committee in the slightest. Navarre agreed, saying they were also 'es' committee. Bocko said as a student at large she trusted the voices of the people in the AS more. She said they could look at how much clubs had requested in the past for events. Navarre noted that Steering Committee did just that for every request. LaVallee said that he could take that over next year for Activities Council, a history or a summary of past requests made by a club or program office. Roberts said his future position could handle that as well if needed. LaVallee noted that the AS employees talked the most during Large Event Opportunity Fund requests. Bocko said it was nice how LaVallee could offer more money to the requests because of his position in ASP. Ganbat said that they should ask just as many questions for every request. Navarre mentioned that she noticed how sometimes a decision had not been reached and the Council would be in heated discussion, but there were certain members of the Council who would propose motions to vote or move to an action item anyway. She referred to these as Bully Motions. Roberts said that it was to move the process forward. Hammer said that those motions were usually made by white males in AS positions and it was hard to say no under such pressure. She said that a certain legitimacy was granted to those who were in the AS or had been on the council for years. She said that there were times where she did not want to vote no even though she wanted to. She mentioned Humans vs. Zombies and how she disagreed with what they stood for. Bocko agreed. LaVallee said that he saw how it could feel like a Bully

Motion to some but they should create a climate where they should be able to ask questions and be critical without feeling hurt. He said in regards to requests that they did not personally agree with, in regards to Humans vs. Zombies or the politically conservative group, he said it was not their place to pass judgement on their values. He said the validity of the request should not rest on personal opinions. Ganbat said that she felt left out as a student at large and not a member of the AS. She said they should bond beforehand and build a team. Hammer said to Lavallee that there was a line between personal values and doing what was right for the students and she thought that Humans vs. Zombies represented violence and she did not agree with funding their requests. Vadino said that they approved the Sasquatch Club and they have been neutral event when they have not agreed with the values of a club. Rutledge said that they should think of a safe word of when they feel uncomfortable and don't want guests to know. She said that Humans vs. Zombies affects all of campus. Hayden said they had never come in before this year. He said Humans vs. Zombies also has the most participants/members of any club. He said it was administration's problem to approve their values. Hammer said that they should be voting in the interest of students. Roberts said that she had the opportunity to say no and chose not to. Hammer said that she felt pressured to say yes. Hayden appreciated her view. Vadino said that he agreed that he felt different not holding a job in the AS while being a part of the Council. Ganbat wanted to do more talking as a team before they got into these situations. She said they should feel comfortable disagreeing. LaVallee suggested he have a one on one check in with council members to see how they were feeling. Rutledge suggested doing rope courses together. She said there were also benefits to having outsider inputs.

Rios thanked the Council for the year,

b. Other Discussion

Israel Rios adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.