



**Western Washington University Associated Students
Activities Council**

Meeting Minutes for Monday, November 14, 2016

Present: Alex LaVallee (AS VP for Activities), Corey Godfrey (Student at Large), Mikhail Jackson (AS Club Business Director), Isabel Lin (Student at Large), Jessi Navarre (AS Club Representative), Erin Johnson (Club Representative), Merrill Hunt-Paez (Student at Large), George Vadino (Club Representative)

Absent: Walter Lutsch (Club Representative), Anujin Ganbat (Student at Large)

Advisor(s): Casey Hayden (Coordinator of Student Activities)

Secretary: Julia Rutledge (Board Assistant for Club Committees)

Guests: Jasmine Balasa (Western Amnesty), Great Merkel (Students in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples), Trisha Patterson (Students in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples), Ignacio Perez (Students in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples), Raichle Dunkeld (Cascadia Climbers), Julia Bainbridge (Cascadia Climbers), Tommy Cha (WHSA)

Motions

AC-16-F-53 - Motion to approve the minutes, with revisions, from the November 7 2016 meeting - **PASSED**

AC-16-F-54 - Motion to approve the amount of \$200 in the form of a bookstore donation to WHSA for their College Night - **PASSED**

AC-16-F-55 - Motion to recognize new club Western Amnesty under the category of Social Issues - **PASSED**

AC-16-F-56 - Motion to approve the grant of \$1,100 from Grants, Loans, and Underwrites for the Cascadia Climbers Co-Op to buy gear - **PASSED**

Alex LaVallee, AS VP for Activities, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm on November 14, 2016.

I. Revisions to the Agenda

LaVallee added in Students in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples as an info item

II. Approval of Minutes

AC-16-F-53 by Johnson. Moved to approve the minutes with the revisions from November 7, 2016.

Second: Hunt-Paez Vote: 6-0-2 PASSED

III. Business Director's Report

Jackson said that same as last week, the council is on-track with LEOF and Grants, Loans, and Underwrites, but down on Club Conferences. There was also an error in the Bookstore Donations.

IV. Bookstore Donations

a. WHSA College Night (\$200)

Representative: Tommy Cha. Cha is requesting a bookstore donation for this weekend. Before, on Halloween, Cha requested money but filled out the form wrong. He was asking for \$200 worth in Bookstore Donations for WWU gear like shirts, pens, and water bottles. WHSA is going to show Hmong youth in high schools about higher education on this Saturday. They're going to raffle off the items from the bookstore.

Navarre asked if it was in the same location as it was last year.

Cha said yes. LaVallee said that last year, there was a similar request for the same night. Navarre asked Cha about the success of the event last year. Cha said that it was his first time last year.

They went down to Kirkland, and there were about 50 attendees. It went really well, and they talked about WWU. They said that college was more affordable than students think. Cha said that a lot of Hmong students don't know a lot about higher education.

Cha said that this is the fourth year WHSA has put this on.

AC-16-F-54 by Navarre. Moved to approve the amount of \$200 in the form of a bookstore donation to WHSA for their College Night.

Second: Johnson Vote: 8-0-0

PASSED

V. Club Recognition

a. Arabie Culture Club

No members were present, so the item was tabled.

b. Hawaii Ohana Club

No members were present, so the item was tabled.

c. Western Amnesty

Representative: Jasmine Balasa. Western Amnesty would be a branch of Amnesty International, which is active in almost every part of the country. The goal would be to form sub-committees and raise awareness around campus. They would work on the projects that Amnesty International gave them. There's also a branch of Amnesty International in Whatcom County, so the club would be working with them.

Johnson asked about more projects the Whatcom branch has done in the past. Balasa said she didn't know, but there had been a Western branch in the 90s. Amnesty International sends the club weekly updates, and lately has been focused on Standing Rock and the recent elections. Part of their goal is to expand student interest around school. It would be based on class interest, and expand to study interest. LaVallee asked how many people were involved already. Balasa said that a large group of people had expressed interest, and they already had 10 officers. Interested students have been from the Global Studies program. Students from activist groups have been interested, and Western Amnesty would have joint meetings with some of them.

AC-16-F-55 by Johnson. Moved to recognize new club Western Amnesty under the category of Social Issues

Second: Lin

Vote: 8-0-0

PASSED

d. Japanese Conversation Club

No members were present, so the item was tabled.

VI. Action Items

a. Cascadia Climbers Co-op (\$1,100)

Representatives: Raichle Dunkeld and Julia Bainbridge. LaVallee wanted to know what updates the club was asked to bring. Navarre said that personally, she thought that this would really benefit the club and other students around campus. LaVallee wanted to know if students had to pay \$30 to access the co-op. Dunkeld and Bainbridge said yes. Bainbridge said that students who were part of the co-op would have a say in what gear was purchased in the future. She also said that there would be a skills check-off before borrowing the gear.

Godfrey said that anyone could join the Cascadia Climbers, and not the Co-op. Once the council gives them money, they're going to be self-sustaining with the \$30 fee. Vadino asked if the fee was one-time or annual, and Dunkeld said that it was annual. Navarre asked if the amount given could be \$1,100 and not the specific \$1,098.

AC-16-F-56 by Godfrey. Moved to approve the grant of \$1,100 from Grants, Loans, and Underwrites for the Cascadia Climbers Co-Op to buy gear.

Second: Navarre Vote: 8-0-0 PASSED

LaVallee clarified that the money that was given was from all student fees, and then they had to pay more for this fee.

VII. Information Items

a. Students in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

Representatives: Angela Merkel, Trisha Patterson, Ignacio Perez.

The SSIP is asking for money to go on a work trip to the Unist'ot'en camp in British Columbia, which is constantly being occupied.

Western students have gone up there before to help at the camp.

Merkel said that the overall estimated costs, including a sliding scale donation for lodging, supplies and transportation, is \$3,450.

Just transportation would be \$2,400. Merkel said that if the council was going by their usual rules of \$150 per student, they would get \$1,200. Godfrey asked where the camp was. Merkel said that it was in British Columbia. LaVallee asked for an explanation about the purpose of the camp. Merkel explained that the Unist'ot'en did not have a treaty for their land, so they had to constantly occupy it to protect the land from oil pipelines. While at the camp, SSIP would learn from the people there. Hayden said that he knew that students had gone before, and he asked if the camp had a need for more students, and if the SSIP was in contact with the camp. Merkel said that you had to register on the Unist'ot'en website to go up, which she hadn't filled out yet. The camp doesn't have a lot of people there during the winter. Lin asked if the club would still go if only \$1200 was given. Merkel said that they would have to do a lot of fundraising. Lin asked what fundraising they would do. Merkel said canvassing, etc. Patterson said that there was a Clean Energy Activist meeting coming up soon, and they could ask for money there. Navarre pointed out that \$2400 was a lot of fundraise, and wanted to know how much time the SSIP had. Merkel said that since the cost of going to the camp was a sliding scale, they would have to pay less. The base fee was \$60 per person, but the SSIP wanted to pay a couple hundred. Hayden asked how they arrived at the amount \$2400 for transportation, and Merkel said that she checked on the camp website and they gave an estimate for driving. They would be driving in the snow, so it would be slower. Navarre said that would only be \$450 for gas. Johnson asked if \$2400 was an over-estimate. Merkel said that was based on the estimation of \$300 per person for transportation on the camp's website. Johnson said that since it was a long trip, and expensive for travel, how would the club bring their experience back? Merkel said that they aimed to

do that in a report-back event after they got back from the trip. It would also help get more members for their club. Navarre asked if this would fit in with the six weeks for international travel timeline. LaVallee said no. Hayden said that the usual timeline might not apply. He said that he and LaVallee met with Merkel, and they talked about maybe doing a stipend for individual travelers. It would be unofficial, and hadn't been done in a while. He wasn't sure if they could still do stipends though. Stipends can't go beyond 49% of the total, which might be an issue. The pros of the process is that it's fast. They stopped doing stipends because of a particular administrator, who has since retired. Hayden is trying to get them going again, and is optimistic. Western's relationship to the travel doesn't have to be official, the group traveling doesn't have to be representing Western. LaVallee said that this is how they would get around the red tape, by giving a stipend to each person. Johnson asked, without knowing the answer about the stipend, would that process still be fast enough? Hayden said that the SSIP would still go through the council to get funds, but it would be faster, yes. Even if the council can't give stipends this time, they could still probably make something work. Navarre asked about how students in the past had gone to the camp. Patterson said that students had gone up in the last four or five years, most recently this past summer. Most of it was done through fundraising, but one person was able to get money from the Activities Council. The rest of the time, it was done through community donations and out-of-pocket. Godfrey asked if the SSIP was asking for just gas fees, not rental fees. He gave some numbers about gas fees there and back for two cars. 1700 miles round trip would be \$200 per car. Patterson pointed out that 25 mpg per car was a little high, since they would be driving on the road during the wintertime. Jackson asked if the club planned on

coming back to Activities Council during the year. Merkel said maybe in the spring, if this trip was successful. Jackson asked if this was one of the biggest events they were doing this year. Merkel said that this was probably the biggest they were asking money for, but they would do some more self-sustained events.

LaVallee said that it sounded like next week, the council wanted a thorough itemized budget. He also wanted a definitive number on how many people were going. Johnson put in that the SSIP should tell the council if they got money from community members between now and next week. That might change how much the council would give them. Hayden said that he would like to know how many miles per gallon the cars could get. LaVallee also suggested checking in with Hayden or himself.

VIII. Other Business

Navarre said that Natural 20 said they would be keeping their rulebooks in the Club Closet, but hadn't heard anything from the club about that. She asked permission to reach out to the club. LaVallee said that would be great.

Navarre asked about SSIP and if they had asked to come to council, or just popped in today. LaVallee said that there were some on OrgSync, but they needed to be cleared up. Himself and Hayden met with Merkel today, and determined that the process had to be started today in order to get the funding in time. Navarre asked if they were approved last week, and Godfrey said yes. Navarre was worried that perhaps they were a group of friends who had formed a club in order to get money from Activities Council. LaVallee said that the same people came at the end of last year to ask for money, but they were with a different club. Hayden said that this club was formed by people who were with energy clubs, but they wanted to concentrate on indigenous issues. Godfrey asked what level of planning/commitment the council should expect from new clubs. He said that he was a little

suspicious of a club being formed one week and coming into to ask for a quadruple-digit number the next. He said that it seemed like they were just asking for transportation, but trying to get the max amount possible. LaVallee agreed, and said that the council should be scrupulous of what people were asking money for. He said that the council was open to approving a lot of clubs. Hayden said that the scrutiny should come in when clubs that were a little ridiculous asked for money. He said that there were very few things the council could say “no” to when forming clubs. Clubs are a basic student organizational right. LaVallee gave the example that last year, a student wanted to form a fairly conservative club. The council was reluctant to make them a club because of political beliefs, but really had no say in what was a valid club or not based on that. LaVallee said that the council is here to make sure that clubs are set up on their best foot forward. Addressing the SSIP, LaVallee said that they should be wary of clubs asking for money so soon, but this club was members branching off of SRE. SSIP was most likely spurred on by the No DAPL movement. Godfrey asked how often the council denied budget requests. Navarre said not very often, but a lot of the times a funding request would be stopped before it even got to the council. LaVallee added that those requests were filtered out during the agenda setting meetings. Rutledge asked if the club hub met with every club that requested money. Hayden said yes, unless it was a simple request or they knew exactly what the club was doing. Hayden said that if a loophole was found, maybe the council should talk about fixing that. In the case of SSIP, there could be an amount of time between when a club became a club and when it could start requesting money. Jackson said that he felt more comfortable with clubs trying to fundraise before they came to the council. He said that in terms of a time frame, there could be a sliding scale of if a club was a club longer, they could request more money.

Johnson said that talking about this today was very helpful, and could maybe be included in training for new council members. LaVallee suggested maybe having a de-briefing after every council. Navarre said maybe having a de-briefing meeting once a quarter. Godfrey said it would be nice if it were more often. Lin asked if the council checked back in with clubs that requested large amounts. LaVallee said that there wasn't an official system in place, but sometimes clubs voluntarily checked back in. Rutledge said that it would be great to have an official system in place, and then there would be a record in case clubs wanted to do an event again.

Alex LaVallee, AS VP for Activities, adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm on November 14, 2016.