



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION FEE COMMITTEE

Tuesday December 6th, 2016, 1:00pm - 2:30pm YU420

Members: *Present: Wayne Roque (AS VP for Student Life), Bryce Hammer (AS VP for Governmental Affairs), Carol Berry (Transportation Program Manager), Henry Haro (AS Student Representative), Greg McBride (Assistant Director for VU Facilities), and Kay McMurren (Program Support Supervisor).
Absent: Jacob Keith (Student at Large) and Isaac Bartick (AS Alternative Transportation Coordinator)*

Advisor:

Secretary: *Cora Cole (AS Board Assistant for Representation Committees)*

Guests: Donnell Tanksley (Tank) was the representative from campus security in place of Darin Rasmussen.

Wayne Roque called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM on November 29^h, 2016.

I. Additions to the agenda

The WTA marketing Director contacted Carol about getting information to student body about service change outreach. WTA is willing to continue more future planning with students and she would be willing to forward that to the members of this committee if they are available. The meeting of that Steering Committee is on the 18th, WTA is going to meet with Western's negotiating team in January. Wayne added an action item to approve a subcommittee today.

II. Discussion Items

A - Discuss clear path forward for fee increase.: Bryce said that she liked the model where we maintain the fee for the next year and then after the negotiations with WTA we run another referendum to compensate for what will change at that point. Tank asked if Carol how that melded with their office strategic plan. The Strategic plan was crafted with WTA staff and a consultant of experts and it is complex but handleable. It talks specifically about the changes that will be coming in March and recommends a new strategic plan by WTA every two years going forward. The service is going to remain pretty much the same, they are trying not to change it to much. The downside of the year model is that referendums are a lot of work, but it could also get some student involvement in the program which Carol supports. Kay discussed the 5% increase projections that had been provided for the committee, explaining that they don't know how much of the increase will be necessary to keep the bottom line where

it should be but the document shows the increase of funds for the program, which would then be available to pay for the WTA fees. After some discussion of the Bryce clarified that the Board would increase the fee by posing referendum. The reserves, as clarified last meeting, can take any amount this year and then the following year increase the fee at a more specified rate. Carol said that they had begun to examine the possibility to change the way the late night shuttle services and Bryce suggested that we work on that when we change the fee and just have slight language alteration. Greg suggested that one of the changes in language be a shift to what the late night does, not where it goes, making it easier to alter in the future. Kay said that perhaps we could say, "including, but not limited to," the currently served locations. Tank said that perhaps we should look at the increased numbers of students with the new campus housing that breaks ground next summer by Buchanan Towers. Greg and Carol both said that we should notify WTA about that plan as soon as possible so they can work around construction and routes for new location. The new housing is another reason to prefer the year-long- referendum. Greg asked if the WTA contracts might be less frequently renewed in the future, and Carol said that is unlikely but she will bring it up to them. Wayne asked the committee to come up with the language to formally vote on. Bryce said that we should keep it at the 2625 with the one-year fee with no increase and once we know how much the WTA contract will cost we will be able to change that issue. Kay added that we have no surprises coming from the Late Night Shuttle because they have signed on for their 5-year contract, so we are the only ones that can alter that. Wayne asked if everyone feels comfortable giving the information to the subcommittee and having them create the language for the resolution. Kay added that if the language is passed and written up for five years with the five percent increase and then in two years we needed a ten percent increase, we could lessen the number of times the students have to vote on the subject. Greg commented that going for a fee vote has a substantial risk, students could vote no which jeopardizes our ability to provide this service, and using Kay's plan might make that less risky. Wayne agreed that this would be a good plan, but it does take us back to square one in terms of the construction of the referendum. Carol said that we could either have two referendums in two years or have one referendum and maybe a second referendum in the following five years. Bryce asked what would happen if the WTA negotiations called for more funds than the five percent increase would cover. Kay answered that the consequence is that the cash balance would diminish to and we would have to raise the fee to cover replenishing costs using a referendum. Tank asked for what the percentage increase on contract renewals for the last 5 years with the WTA. The last contract was a twenty-five percent increase over the life of the contract, but eight percent of that was in the first year, however because the original contract was based on a specific enrolment increase that didn't come to pass, we have had a payment that stayed lower, which WTA did not expect. Bryce said that questions about what the WTA wants can come after we settle on this fee, as we know that we have enough reserves for one year, no

matter what. Greg asked if there is anything we can glean from the Whatcom Community College and WTA negotiations which are going on right now.

Donnell Tanksley left at 1:48 pm.

Carol said that the information in the strategic draft from WTA is incorrect for Western and not shown with the same language as Whatcom Community College. Wayne asked if we are going to keep the fee at \$26 25 with the option of increasing more than 5% at students' approval. The next part about the late night shuttle can be slightly altered by the subcommittee, but it will not have to alter any of the facts, just the description getting more generalized and the Board can decide whether it needs to go to a vote. Wayne asked to move to a vote to agree to approve to keep the fee at \$26 25 and allow for a five percent increase in the language crafted by the subcommittee with an option for the Board to put it to a vote if things should significantly change. Greg asked if some of the detail could be left out and clarified later. The committee agreed with consensus and will later approve the finalized language as decided upon by the subcommittee with a formal vote.

Kay reopened discussion of the WTA negotiations to show an item from the minutes of one of the meetings, WTA had notified them that while WTA had budgeted \$50,00 for extra shuttles to Western and WTA had ended up paying about \$400,000 for those shuttles. In terms of our fee this doesn't change the situation, it just shows that WTA is looking at that and in all probability will want to increase fees.

III. Action Items

- a. Subcommittee:** Wayne asked for volunteer members of the subcommittee, Bryce and Wayne will present it to the Board and Isaac will help them write it and run it by Kay and Carol before they come to the committee. They don't have formal Robert's Rules Quorum but the committee approved via consensus of a subcommittee made up of Henry, Bryce, and Wayne.
- b. Approve the policy for refund of transportation fee (for opt-ins):** Wayne called dining services and they told him that the students can get the refund by the ninth of the following month after changing plan. Carol theorized that could be because of the huge work load. Bryce suggested that we could give them a week or two weeks after opting in to opt out because very few students choose to opt out. They said that there is no considerable difference to them with the work-load and Bryce said that students have the add-drop deadline after a little less than 2 weeks. The students opt- in at any point during the quarter. Having a two-week window for opting out would be able to capture the time period for everyone. Greg said that we should have the language in the sign up for the opt-in rather than an independent policy, Carol agreed that option might be the simplest for students. Wayne asked what the process for changing the terms of agreement, as opposed to the Policy is. Carol said that Kay could create a new opt in agreement and then either have email/online consensus vote or have it come forward at our next meeting. Kay will send it out for people to look at either this week or in the first

couple weeks of the quarter. The committee agreed to have Kay send out the draft as a consent item via email by the end of this week so that the committee can agree and have it ready by winter quarter to approve at our first meeting.

Carol asked if the committee as a whole or in part like to meet with the WTA outreach about march Service changes. Wayne said that he was interested, and would send them his availability for winter quarter soon. Isaac will also be included with that, provided that their schedule allows them to. Carol also asked who wanted a copy of WTA's Strategic Plan Document, Bryce suggested that it get sent to the secretary who would post it and send it out to members.

Wayne Rocque adjourned the meeting at 2:20 PM.