



## Western Washington University Associated Students Ethnic Student Center President's Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes for: Monday, January 9, 2017

---

**Non-Voting Members:** Aleyda Cervantes (AS VP for Diversity), Simon Bahta (ESC Director), Alan Alatorre-Barajas (ESC Cultural Education Coordinator), Lafayette Baker (ESC Assistant Director)

**Voting Members:** Meron Knutzen (ACC), Vicky Matey (Blue Group), Nathaniel Williams II (BSU), Karen Liang (CSA), Mia Amaranto (FASA), Meredith Karbowski (OSA), Tina Shirasu (JSA), Danny Duok (KhSA), Kathy Lee (KSA), Yaritza Esqueda (LSU), Elizabeth Perez (MEChA), Cindy Marquina-Negrete (MEChA), Ayita Berhane (MISO), Niveda Ganesh (SASA), Thu Nguyen (VSA), Vilay Lee (WHSA)

**Absent:** Dalton Jones (NASU)

**Guests:** Bryce Hammer (VP for Governmental Affairs), Dr. Anseimo Gary Villanueva (Compass 2 Campus), Sung Yoon (Compass 2 Campus), Emma Caro (Compass 2 Campus), Shar Garo (Compass 2 Campus), Erick Yanzon (VP for Academic Affairs)

**Secretary:** Julia Rutledge (Board Assistant for Club Committees)

**Aleyda Cervantes, VP for Diversity, called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm on January 9, 2017.**

### **I. Guests**

A. Bryce Hammer, VP for Governmental Affairs.

Hammer explained her position and what she did with the Legislative Affairs Council. The Council would take Presidents' Council's ideas for state government changes and turn it into language that the legislators could understand. Hammer asked if

the council had brainstormed ideas for what to lobby on.

Cervantes said that they got a packet from Eileen Coughlin, but they needed to talk about it and narrow the items down. Hammer said that she read the packet, and their request included a lot of personnel. Hammer offered to change the language of the packet, because the university had different language than the AS. Matey asked Hammer for examples of things to lobby on, since she and other people on the council didn't have a lot of experience.

Hammer said that one thing was tuition. They also advocate for support for survivors of sexual assault, student tutoring, voting rights, civic education in K-12 schools, and student trustee empowerment. In the past, students advocated for Carver Gym, and things on the federal level like the Pell Grant. Hammer said that the first question that they asked student lobbyists is "what about your life could be made better by the school?". Cervantes said that a lot of their agenda would be ESC-related. Bahta suggested a peer mentoring program. Hammer asked if the ESC had counselors, and when Cervantes said no Hammer said that they could get one. Alatorre-Barajas asked for tutors. Knutzen suggested that ESC Club Presidents be given one credit for their time. Hammer said that that was feasible. She suggested talking to Erick Yanzon. Perez-Garcia said that academic advisors at Western and in high schools could be trained to help undocumented students, since that was something that academic advisors struggle with. Matey said that Blue Group was working on that. Hammer said that they had similar programs that they were advocating for. They were working on a K-12 program that would eventually funnel into a program here on campus. The people running this program would help get students into college, and then they could be helped at college. Perez-Garcia said that training for academic advisors for departments would help as well.

Cervantes said that there were only two full-time staff members, and there could be a full-time staff member to deal with queer students of color. Alatorre-Barajas also wanted a staff member to work with students of color with disability. Hammer said that she could come back at the next meeting with a typed-up, tentative agenda. Cervantes said that she could help Hammer with the writing. Hammer offered that anyone could be involved with the writing process if they wanted to. Matey asked if people had talked to their clubs about ESC Lobby Day. Several people affirmed that they had. Matey said that the registration form would be up on OrgSync soon. Vilay Lee asked about the mandatory two student attendance at ESC Lobby Day. Matey said that she wanted to be sure that the students going all fit on one bus, but more students could be accommodated for.

#### B. Dr. Villanueva with Compass 2 Campus

Dr. Villanueva said that last quarter, he and Cervantes were emailing about bringing Compass 2 Campus to Presidents' Council. Dr. Villanueva said that students in low-income families, undocumented students, and students of color were the target audience for Compass 2 Campus. He invited people to participate in Compass 2 Campus next quarter, and said that he wanted to go to each club's club meeting to take more about the program. He said that the offices for Compass 2 Campus are in the basement of Miller Hall.

Emma Caro said that she was Program Support, so she works in the C2C office. She works on recruitment events, and a new project for doing presentations inside the classroom and reaching out to STEM majors.

Dr. Villanueva said that the area was a lot more diverse than people think, and that Mount Vernon High School especially has a lot of Latinx students. He said that you didn't have to be an

Elementary Education Major to join, C2C took people from all majors.

Sung Yoon said that he worked with the administrators at schools, and supporting students in AVID classes. He concentrated on students of color and students of varying genders. He encouraged the council to join C2C, since K-12 students are so important.

Shar Garo introduced herself as mixed race and said that she just finished her Master's. She said that in Seattle, most of the students and city leaders are white. C2C tries to help people work with diverse and different bosses and co-workers. C2C seeks to highlight educational equity. Garo said that they're looking for work study and part-time student workers.

Dr. Villanueva asked the members of the council to invite C2C to their club meetings.

## **II. Information Items**

### **A. ESC Executive Committee**

The committee's first meeting is this week, and there is currently one spot open. Only two people emailed Cervantes about the position. She passed out the answers to the questions that were on the application form. She also put them up on the screen.

Cervantes read the applications out loud. She invited members to discuss the applicants amongst themselves. Vilay Lee asked what Executive Committee would be going. Cervantes said that they were in charge of making decisions about the new ESC, and get ideas from students about it. Baker said that they would also tour other schools' ESCs. Vilay Lee asked how many committee members there were. Cervantes said that there were 7, and one spot was open. Baker said that there would be opportunities for students to be involved. Vilay Lee asked if the number of people would be expanded. Cervantes said that it was kept at that size

for scheduling reasons, but more people could be added later. Knutzen asked how they would vote. Cervantes said it was up to the council. Vilay Lee said that a younger person would be fine, but someone with more experience would probably be better. The council then voted verbally. Dario was voted as the new member of Executive Committee.

Erick Yanzon, VP for Academic Affairs, came in to say that the Board had approved a new committee, and there would be a seat open for an ESC student. This committee would be starting a student center for the restructure of the AS. Each college gets two representatives, a first year representative, an undeclared representative, and a representative chosen by Presidents Council.

**Aleyda Cervantes adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm.**