



**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Activities Council**

**Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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**Present:** Alex LaVallee (AS VP for Activities), Mikhail Jackson (AS Club Business Director), Walter Lutsch (Club Representative), Jessi Navarre (AS Club Representative), Erin Johnson (Club Representative), John Fossedal

**Absent:** Merril Hunt-Paez, Corey Godfrey

**Advisor(s):** Casey Hayden

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

**Guests:** Dabin Park (Circle K), Nick Pederson (WWU Swim), Austin Clark (WWU Swim), Jackie Delong (WWU Swim), Caroline Baber (WWU Swim), Ben Simek (WWU Motorcycle Club), Blair Murphy (Young Democrats), Thu Nguyen (VSA), Andy Brown (WWU Game Design Club), Paul Von Zimmerman (WWU Game Design Club), Alondra Sanches (WWU Mariachi) Juan Galvez (WWU Mariachi), Lucina Leon-Palma (WWU Mariachi), Stephanie Sisson (WWU Mariachi), Flor Reyes (WWU Mariachi)

**Motions**

**AC-17-W-19** - Motion to recognize Young Democrats of Western as an official AS club under the category of Political - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-20** - Motion to recognize WWU Motorcycle Club as an official AS club under the category Recreational - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-21** - Motion to approve \$150 in the form of a grant from Bookstore Donations for VSA for their heritage dinner - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-22** - Moved to approve \$1400 in the form of a grant for WWU Swimming Club for renting lanes - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-23** - Motion to approve \$3500 in the form of a grant for WWU Swim from the Club Conference fund for going to Nationals - **FAILED**

**AC-17-W-24** - Motion to approve \$3000 in the form of a grant for WWU Swim from Club Conferences for going to Nationals - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-25** - Motion to approve \$377 in the form of a grant from Grants, Loans, and Underwrites to Contemporary Dance Clubs to pay for their meeting space - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-26** - Motion to approve \$300 in the form of an underwrite from Grants, Loans, and Underwrites for Game Jam for food costs, including new costs for dietary restrictions - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-27** - Motion to approve \$5400 in the form of a grant from the LEOF for ESP's Change of Course Event - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-28** - Motion to put the council into an Executive Session for 10 minutes - **PASSED**

**AC-17-W-29** - Motion to put the council into an Executive Session for another 10 minutes - **PASSED**

**Alex LaVallee, VP for Activities, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

### **I. Revisions to the Agenda**

WWU Hip Hop was added to the agenda under "Other Business"

### **II. Other Business**

#### **a. WWU Hip Hop - SHHIP event**

Johnson said that this Friday 8-9 pm was her club's SHHIP event, Student Hip-Hop Interactive Performance.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Johnson asked if there was a hard copy of the minutes.

Rutledge said no. Since she had not read it, the item was tabled until next week.

### **IV. Club Recognition**

#### **a. Young Democrats of Western**

Representative: Blair Murphy. Murphy said that her club was founded on the beliefs of the Democratic party of the US. Their goal was to get students more involved on the local and national level. They want to encourage students to call their representatives, go to council meetings, and make politics seem less scary. Navarre asked how much interest had been generated so far. Murphy said that the club hadn't been publicized yet, since they didn't know if they would be a club. They had garnered interest in about ten people. Navarre asked where they planned to meet. Murphy said that it would be on-campus, but they hadn't reserved a room yet. Johnson asked how they would distinguish themselves from other political groups on campus. Murphy said that she would be in-contact with other groups, but her club would be more focused on Democratic issues. They would talk about voting and voting issues. Murphy said that their format would be to meet one week and plan, and then do an action the next week.

**AC-17-W-19 by Navarre. Moved to recognize Young Democrats of Western as an official AS club under the category of Political.**

**Second: Lutsch Vote: 6-0-0**

**PASSED**

#### **b. WWU Motorcycle Club**

Representative: Ben Simek. Simek is the president of the club. The club is designed to help students find other students passionate about riding. Simek said that the club would be based on other clubs on-campus like Snowboarding Club. The club would be a community for motorcycle riders. Simek said that the club had been in the works since last spring, and they were finally ready to be a club. Navarre asked how much interest had been generated. Simek said that there were 14 likes on the unofficial Facebook page. He said that more interest would be generated when the weather gets nicer. Johnson asked how the club meetings would work, especially for members who didn't have a motorcycle. Simek said that people could come to club meetings and watch races, as well as talk about motorcycles and ask questions. Navarre asked where Simek planned on hosting meetings. Simek said on-campus, so it was more accessible for everyone. Lutsch asked what the club planned on doing in terms of liability and safety. Simek said that himself and Hayden had a conversation about that and worked on their constitution. The language would allow Western to not be held accountable for any injuries that happened on rides. The rides would be unofficial events unconnected to Western. Lutsch said he was more worried about individuals suing the club itself. Simek said that that was unlikely, and people would assume legal risks themselves while going on rides. LaVallee asked Hayden if he was satisfied with the language. Hayden said yes, and read part of the constitution. The constitution states that the rides the club members may go on are unaffiliated with Western. Hayden said that things would need to be readjusted if someone from the club was leading a ride or teaching on it. Club members would not be instructors. Jackson asked for examples of other motorcycle-related events

that could be done on campus. Simek said that they had talked about pairing with the Bellingham PD and setting up a course. Simek said that their club is an AS one for handling money in the future. Johnson asked how the club planned on connecting with more students on campus. Simek said that a connection could be drawn through a message of awareness, since most motorcycle-related deaths involved another car. LaVallee asked about the keywords that were connected to the club on OrgSync. Simek said it was a mistake on his end. LaVallee asked if with the Moto GP races, the club was more connected to racing. Simek said no, it was just a professional version of motorcycling.

**AC-17-W-20 by Johnson. Moved to recognize WWU Motorcycle Club as an official AS club under the category Recreational.**

**Second: Navarre**

**Vote: 6-0-0 PASSED**

Simek said that if there were any concerns moving forward, he could be contacted. He said that the next president, Tyler Lee, would meet with Hayden upon becoming president. LaVallee agreed that this was a good idea.

**V. Bookstore Donation Requests**

**a. Vietnamese Student Association: Heritage Dinner (\$150)**

Representative: Thu Nguyen. VSA is requesting \$150 in bookstore donations for their heritage dinner. Every year VSA puts on an event with food and performances. The money would be used to make baskets which would be auctioned off for charity. The emphasis is on community, not just in Bellingham but back in Vietnam. Last year at their heritage dinner, VSA raised \$300-\$400 for the charity Peace Trees. Nguyen said that

VSA had already started fundraising, and had done some down in Seattle for the lunar new year. Navarre asked what items were going to be purchased for the baskets. Nguyen said that there were three baskets: one for alumni, one for parents, and one for students. The items purchased would mostly be Western spirit wear.

**AC-17-W-21 by Lutsch. Moved to approve \$150 in the form of a grant from Bookstore Donations for VSA for their heritage dinner.**

**Second: Johnson**

**Second: 6-0-0**

**PASSBD**

**VI. Information Items**

**a. WWU Circle K (\$1250)**

Representative: Dabin Park. The money will help Circle K travel to a convention in Yakima. Students from several states as well as students in Canada come to these conventions to learn about leadership within the club. Members who attended would gain new skills and experience. LaVallee asked to see the budget. He said that it looked like the club would provide 2/3rds to all of the cost. Park said that this was the student cost. If the club didn't get the money from Activities Council, then the students would pay 1 /3<sup>rd</sup> and the club would pay the rest. Navarre said that Circle K came to club last quarter, what was the amount that was given? Park said \$750. It was used for another conference. Lutsch asked how many funds were in the club's treasury, and how much of it was going to be put towards the convention? Park said that they had \$3200 in their account, and \$500 was going towards digging a well in a needed area. Some of the money would go to this convention, but the rest would be for projects. Park said that the club needed a lot of

money to stay afloat. They started with \$5000 at the beginning of the year. Navarre asked how the things the students learned at the convention would go back to Western as a whole. Park said that many of the club members were members of other clubs and also Western employees. What the members learned could be put towards other things that they were involved with as well. Fossedal asked if the outcome of this request would affect the number of people that could go. Park said no, they would send the same amount of people no matter what.

LaVallee said that he was wondering about the amount requested, since the club was comfortable with supplying 2/3rds of the amount. LaVallee asked what the \$5000 was from. Park said that this year they were attending more things than usual, and they needed to have money for next year.

LaVallee asked if the cost for event registration covered food and lodging costs. Park said that most of the meals would be provided by the event. Johnson asked how long the event was for. Park said it was for the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. Jackson asked how many people were attending and how much the cost per person would be. Park said that seven people were confirmed to go. The registration cost now would be \$135, and it would go up to \$150. They're planning on renting one of the vans on-campus. LaVallee asked if there would be a finalized amount by next week's meeting, and Park confirmed. Hayden asked that Park bring in a comparison of using the university vehicle versus using private vehicles. He said that after going a certain distance, AS vehicles cost a significant amount more.

**b. Mariachi de Western Washington University (\$4650)**

Representatives: Juan Galvez, Flor Reyes, Lucina Leon Palma, Alandra Sanches, Stephanie Sisson. Reyes said that the budget

was revised and itemized, and she had proposals printed out for the council. Reyes said that they were planning on changing the name of the club. Reyes said that they came to ask for funding for instruments last year. The proposal detailed what had been done in the last year. They had been performing on-campus and around the community. They performed at Dia de los Muertos at WCC and on-campus. They performed for the MEChA Low Riders Show and the LSU Heritage Dinner. They had also performed at schools in the valley and been invited to perform in places. Some of the challenges were limited instruments for members. As the year goes on there are more members and the same amount of instruments. Another challenge was storage space, which limited the amount of instruments they could buy. In the budget they are asking for nine different instruments, as well as a few costume pieces. They needed to pay for repairs to the stringed instruments too. Reyes said that attached were screenshots of websites where you can purchase Mariachi costume pieces. All in all, they are asking for \$4,650 to pay for instruments and costumes. Reyes said she hoped that when they got this money, they would be self-sustaining. LaVallee offered some context: last year, Mariachi became a club and the council gave them money to pay for instruments and shipping costs. The money was not all spent by the end of the year, and what was left was taken out of the club's account. Johnson asked if they could give them the money from last year. LaVallee said that it was inaccessible. Hayden said that that money was used to fill up the LEOF. Navarre said that last year when they came in, the presentation was also great. She thanked the club for being so well-prepared. Navarre said that last year, the club said that it was urgent to get the funds. Navarre asked Reyes to talk about why the money was not all spent. Reyes said that

starting a club was difficult, and generating interest in the club on-campus was also a challenge. They did purchase a few instruments, and once they got more comfortable with the music they wanted to purchase more things. Reyes said that some of members had their own instruments. More members were coming in, and Reyes was unaware that all the money had to be spent. She said that they were waiting to see when they needed the instruments. Another challenge was not having storage. Members would have to take the instruments home, and a guitarrón is huge and very heavy. They tried finding storage in the music department or in Fairhaven. Sisson added that they were trying to be resourceful and only purchase instruments for people that they had. Now that they have more people, they can buy those instruments. They're ready to make their club more long-term. LaVallee asked if they had a storage space now. Reyes said no, members mainly stored their own instruments. Members can borrow club instruments, but they have to sign a waiver at the beginning of the year. Sisson said that they had some storage space in lockers in the music department. Jackson asked if they had the full eleven members that they needed for a Mariachi group. Reyes said that they only had eight members, but with the interest they had generated they could attract people with access to instruments. Leon-Palma said that she had an old violin that she had to pay to get repaired. Sisson said that they wanted to give back to the community, but needed to have their own equipment first. She said that a lot of students were already struggling financially without paying \$500 for a club. There became an issue of privilege, and people who were more privileged were able to play instruments, and could lead to appropriation. Johnson asked about the club playing in schools. Reyes said that was more of a

long-term goal, and they might be able to loan instruments to students one day. Reyes said that Alan Elementary, in Burlington, was mostly immigrants who didn't get access to this sort of thing. Galvez said that many of the kids were interested in the music as well as the students. The students got to see their culture in Mariachi, which they might not get to see in America. Sisson said that they played a song from Jalisco, Mexico, and the students were excited to see their culture represented. LaVallee asked how many of the instruments would benefit a student immediately; if the costume pieces could be handed down between members; what the plan was for storage over the summer, and what the plan for next year was. Reyes said two members were interested in playing instruments that they did not have. Since the club started, a lot of interest had been generated. Reyes said that people would be more motivated to join if they knew they had an instrument. Galvez said that some of the members were using instruments that were not theirs. LaVallee asked how many instruments would be needed to provide every student with an instrument. Reyes said nine. Johnson asked if every single instrument that the club was requesting would be used within the year. Sisson said that a lot of people came to the initial meeting after Red Square Info Fair, but most of them didn't stay because they couldn't afford the instruments. LaVallee reiterated his question about the costume pieces (vestuarios). He wanted to make sure that the council funded things that would be used by multiple people. Reyes said that they requested eight vestuarios, enough for the people currently in the club. They were adjustable, via sewing and pins. She said that there are a number of different ways to wear them. She added that they were only asking for the number of vestuarios that they needed now, and were

hoping to be self-sustaining enough to purchase ones in the future. Reyes said that the vestuarios helped the musicians to look like musicians, and more of a team. Currently they didn't have enough vestuarios for everyone. Johnson asked if they planned on buying the vestuarios large and adjust them. Jackson asked if the club could still borrow the vestuarios if the council didn't give them enough. Reyes said that it was a bit of a stretch even now, and that they were expensive. Jackson asked if there were other options for buying vestuarios used or getting them donated. Leon-Palma said that the vestuarios should look uniform because they represent a team. So they would have to get them custom. LaVallee asked what the plan was for storage over the summer. Reyes said that once they got the instruments, there would be more of an incentive to find a storage place. She was asking around at Fairhaven and the music department. Reyes hoped that by the summer, they would have a storage space, but if not the members would store them themselves. The club also tries to meet up to practice over the summer. Lutsch asked Hayden to bring up the minutes from last year to see all the stipulations. Navarre said that a large amount of money was stipulated for instruments. Johnson asked if the club could come back next week with more concrete ideas for storage. Hayden suggested renting instruments from the music shop in town, which would resolve the storage problem. He knew that bought instruments were paid for once, but there were advantages to renting as well. The inventory would be able to be a lot more fluid. Hayden said he was fine with people storing their own instruments so they could practice them. Hayden said that other clubs had yearly rental costs for things, and some amount of money could be made through fundraising or club dues. Hayden said he was even

more comfortable with the vestuaries be club property, since they were more storable and essential to the club. Sisson said that she agreed that the vestuaries were very important to the longevity of the club. She liked the idea of renting, but the only problem was that some of the mariachi instruments are not rentable in the US. Reyes said that they were thinking about having a set fee when students started. She said that it would be difficult for students to rent every month. Hayden explained that the council would still pay for that. Navarre asked why the costumes were bought with the money given by the council last year. Sisson said that those costume items were needed to get started, and they couldn't raise money until they had those. Navarre said that she wasn't a part of the council last year, but she wanted it to be addressed that there was a stipulation made to buy instruments that wasn't followed. LaVallee reiterated what the council wanted to know for next week. He said that he would look into storage space for instruments himself. Hayden was looking at the minutes from last year and said that there were discussions of prioritizing instruments but not a stipulation.

## **VII. Action Items**

### **a. WWU Swim (\$5000)**

Representatives: Nick Pederson, Austin Clark, Jackie Delong, and Caroline Baber. Delong said that they took a survey of what people were willing to pay. Based on the survey, everyone can go paying what they're willing to pay if the council gives \$3000. Baber said that this wasn't including the lane rentals. Baber talked about flight prices. Delong said that they were going to charge \$300 anyway, in order to pay for lane rentals next year. Baber gave a price tier for how

much people would have to pay based on how much was given. Pederson? Maybe Clark? Said that 15-20 people were interested, and \$300 was right around the sweet spot for people. That didn't include \$700 for lane rentals for this quarter. Baber and Delong said that this didn't include registration and transportation to and from the airport.

Lutsch said there was a lot of discussion last meeting about suspending the rules of operation and approving it then. He said that he was comfortable with the amount of information and knew that the club had been waiting. He acknowledged that this was a high amount of money to request for a conference, but they were a sport club and the council should support them as best they could. He was comfortable with giving \$3500 just for the conference. The price of lane rentals was a fixed cost that the club needed to continue.

LaVallee pointed out that by the end of the year, with what the club had requested, they would have been given 1/ 10<sup>th</sup> of the council's funds. Delong said that she knew that their members paid a lot more out-of-pocket than most other clubs. Lutsch suggested giving the club money for lanes for the rest of the year now. Navarre agreed.

**AC-17-W-22 by Johnson. Moved to approve \$1400 in the form of a grant for WWU Swimming Club for renting lanes.**

**Second: Lutsch                      Vote: 6-0-0                      PASSED**

Baber said that they were talking to the new head of Sports Clubs, but she wasn't being very receptive. LaVallee said that he would reach out to her. Delong though it was weird that they were taking Activities Council money and giving it

right back to the Rec Center. Baber said that it didn't make sense that they had to pay for lanes when other clubs didn't have to pay to use the field. She said that Water Polo didn't have to pay for lanes sometimes.

**AC-17-W-23 by Lutsch. Moved to approve \$3500 in the form of a grant for WWU Swim from the Club Conference fund for going to Nationals**

**Second: Jackson**

LaVallee said that \$3500 divided by 15 people was \$243. Baber said that at that tier it would be \$250 per person out of pocket. Delong said that they would still charge \$300 per person and keep the extra \$50 for next year. Navarre said that if they gave them this fund, they would have given \$5600 this year. Lutsch said that he was comfortable with that amount since the status of the club was in such a limbo. Johnson said she would feel better with giving that amount if she knew the plan for them becoming a sport club next year. Hayden asked LaVallee if he knew about the Student Enhancement Fund. LaVallee did not.

**Vote: 3-3-0 FAILED**

Navarre said that she was more comfortable with \$3000, bringing the amount that WWU Swim was given this year closer to \$5000.

**AC-17-W-24 by LaVallee. Moved to approve \$3000 in the form of a grant for WWU Swim from Club Conferences for going to Nationals**

**Second: Navarre**

Lutsch said that he thought that the club shouldn't be left with \$0 at the beginning of next year especially for a club that needs money so badly. In this unique situation, he knows that they wouldn't make other clubs start a year at \$0. Hayden talked about WWU Swim becoming a sport club. Delong said that they would do whatever it took to become a sport club. LaVallee said that he would be willing to explain why he was only comfortable with giving \$3000, but he wanted to vote first. Johnson asked why the club members were still being charged \$300 at any price. Baber said that it would contribute towards a nest egg for next year. Lutsch asked if there was a problem with getting money at the beginning of the year, since Activities Council didn't start until later. Baber said no, the ree center hadn't even drawn the money from their account for last quarter. It could happen at any time, though. LaVallee said that requests could be made of Activities Council over the summer.

**Vote: 6-0-0 PASSED**

b. Contemporary Dance Club (\$1600)

Representative: Erin Johnson. She clarified that they were asking for \$377. The cost was for renting a room in the Ree Center once a week, and would pay for meetings for the rest of the year.

**AC-17-W-25 by Navarre. Moved to approve \$377 in the form of a grant from Grants, Loans, and Underwrites to Contemporary Dance Clubs to pay for their meeting space.**

**Second: LaVallee Vote: 5-0-1**

**PASSED**

c. Game Design: Game Jam (\$250)

Representatives: Andy Brown and Paul Von Zimmerman.

Brown said that they hold Game Jam once a quarter, and they don't usually provide food. Last quarter they provided food and it really made the event better. Since the event is a two-day one, people usually have to leave in order to get food, and it really breaks up the event. Brown said that the request was \$15 short, they needed extra for taxes. LaVallee said that he remembered a similar request from a few years ago, and it really did help to make the event better. Navarre asked Hayden to find out what was given last quarter.

Hayden said what they were given last quarter; they got reimbursed. Brown said that the Computer Science department might pay for Jimmy John's for one day.

LaVallee said that the club and Hayden probably needed to meet up to find out what the report would look like in OrgSync. They had \$250 from club funds and \$175 from the Computer Science department. Rutledge asked how they were taking dietary restrictions into account, since she was attending and couldn't eat pizza. Brown said that was something that they hadn't considered. LaVallee suggested having a spot for dietary restrictions on the application form. Navarre said she wanted to know what the \$265 was going for, versus what the other funds were going to. She said that maybe the request would be bumped up to \$300 to pay for dietary restriction food. Von Zimmerman said that the \$250 from the club would go towards Jimmy John's, and the request here would go towards pizza because Jimmy John's couldn't do money orders. Lutsch was confused about the state of the club's account since \$250 was pending, but

Hayden said it was because the club had filled out their paperwork already.

**AC-17-W-26 by Lutsch. Moved to approve \$300 in the form of an underwrite from Grants, Loans, and Underwrites for Game Jam for food costs, including new costs for dietary restrictions**

**Second: Navarre**

LaVallee said that if they were looking for dietary restrictions, SRE did a lot of good stuff. The ESP can also help; they pair with the co-op.

**Vote: 6-0-0 PASSED**

#### **VIII. Large Event Opportunity Fund Action Items**

- a. Environmental and Sustainability Programs: A Change of Course (\$5400)**

Representative: Anna Kemper. Kemper updated the council that with the Sustainable Action Fund, they were going to be requesting \$9000. The total cost of the event will be \$16,350. They're still asking the same amount from the council. Johnson asked if the flight costs had gone up. Kemper said she didn't know, but Eriel Derenger was getting a discount on flights.

**AC-W-17-27 by LaVallee. Moved to approve \$5400 in the form of a grant from the LEOF for ESP's Change of Course Event**

**Second: Fossedal**

**Vote: 6-0-0**

**PASSED**

**AC-W-17-28 by LaVallee. Moved to put the council into an Executive Session for 10 minutes.**

**Second: Johnson                      Vote: 6-0-0                      PASSED**

**AC-W-17-29 by LaVallee. Moved to put the council into an Executive Session for another 10 minutes.**

**Second: Navarre                      Vote: 6-0-0                      PASSED**

**Alex LaVallee, VP for Activities, adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.**