



Western Washington University Associated Students
Activities Council

Meeting Minutes for Monday March 11th, 2019

Present: Ama Monkah (AS VP of Activities), Ikenna Onukwufor (AS Clubs Business Director), Rikua Rodriguez (Student-at-large), Ryan Mouché (Student-at-large), Douglas Van Druff (AS Clubs Business Coordinator),

Absent: Celia Major (Student-at-large), Kevin Harris (Student-at-large)

Advisors: Jenn Cook

Secretary: Travis Felver

Guests: Harley Kyger (WWU Racing), Jessa Van Wormer (WWU Harry Potter Club), Muse Asefa (NSBE), Natnael Zegherghish (NSBE), Ellie Adams (Wheelchair Basketball), Shintaro Matsuda (Wheelchair Basketball), Xiang Qui Negle-Christensen (Wheelchair Basketball), Maggie Mittelstaedt (Wheelchair Basketball), Sophie Carlson (Wheelchair Basketball), Jennifer Devenport (Psychfest), Hannah Newman (EGA)

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM

Motions

AC-19-W-39 Moved to approve the minutes for the 3-4 Activities Council meeting. PASSED

AC-19-W-40 Moved to approve Wheelchair Basketball as a club under the Recreational category. PASSED

AC-19-W-41 Moved to approve the name change of Women in Physics to Physicists for Inclusion in Physics PASSED

AC-19-W-42 Moved to approve 250 dollars in bookstore donations. PASSED

AC-19-W-43 Moved to approve 135 dollars in the form of a grant. PASSED

AC-19-W-44 Moved to approve 3,200 dollars in the form of a grant. PASSED

AC-19-W-45 Moved to table request. PASSED

AC-19-W-46 Moved to change the Harry Potter club request to an Action Item

AC-19-W-47 Moved to approve 1800 dollars in the form of a grant and 700 dollars in the form of an underwrite. PASSED

I. Revisions to Agenda

- A. Harry Potter Club is added to the agenda under information items for (\$2,600)

II. Approval of Minutes

AC-19-W-30 by Monkah. Moved to approve the minutes from 3/4/19.

Second: Mouché

Vote 4-0-0

PASSED

III. Business Director's Report

- A. Grants Loans & Underwrites: \$16,158.31 total with \$5,158 for Winter quarter
B. Bookstore Donations: \$1,350 total with \$17 for Winter quarter
C. Club Conference Fund: \$8,050 total with \$3,384 for Winter quarter
D. Large Event Fund: \$50,000 with \$25,000 for Winter Quarter

IV. Club Recognition

A. Wheelchair Basketball

1. Representatives: Ellie Adams, Shintaro Matsuda, Xiang Qui Negle-Christensen, Maggie Mittelstaedt, Sophie Carlson

The purpose of this club will be to facilitate meetings for people who play Wheelchair Basketball and facilitate comradery between disabled and able-bodied people interested in the sport. There are currently limited options for disabled students to participate in recreational sports despite paying into the rec center through S&A fees.

- Monkah asked if the rec center is open to this club. Adams responded they have already reserved the gym in order to play, but they would like to be recognized as an official club. Long term they hope to compete as an official sport, currently only Eastern Washington University has an official team for this sport

AC-19-W-40 by Mouché. Moved to approve Wheelchair Basketball Club as a club under the Recreational categories.

Second: Rodriguez

Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

V. Name Change Recognition

- A. Women in Physics -> Physicists for Inclusion in Physics
- The motivation for this name change is to be more inclusive to members who have different identities.
 - Monkah said that she would like to see more outreach to the student body
 - Rodriguez said that this would be great to include multiple gender identities

AC-19-W-41 by Monkah. Moved to approve the name change.

Second: Mouché

Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

VI. Bookstore Requests

- A. PyschClub/Psychology Department (\$300)
1. Representative: Jennifer Devenport
 - The request is for ten thirty dollar gift cards to be given out as door prizes in a raffle for attendees.
 - Rodriguez asked how many participants will have an opportunity to win a card. Devenport responded that the event is open to all graduate and undergraduate students, there should be between 200 and 250 attendees.
 - Monkah asked if everyone can enter the drawing. Devenport responded yes.
 - Cook said that they have approved several bookstore donations for Spring quarter and that this is for an academic focus
 - Mouché said he is alright funding the whole thing. Rodriguez agreed since it is an academic concern, though he is concerned about the amounts of funds. Onukwufor said that it will roll over into Spring quarter.
 - Monkah asked if they expect a lot of bookstore requests in Spring quarter. Mouché said last year they did not receive too many due to most requests happening in Winter quarter.
 - Devenport said that they would be happy to get 7 thirty-dollar gift cards. Van Druff asked if they could do ten twenty-dollar gift cards. Devenport responded that there is very little you can get at the bookstore of worth with twenty dollars. The event is designed to alleviate costs for students, including a provided meal at the event.
 - Onukwufor said he feels that this is not reaching very many people in rewards. Devenport responded that they could do could do twenty-five dollar gift cards

AC-19-W-42 by Onukwufor. Moved to approve 250 dollars in the form of a bookstore donation.

Seconded: Monkah

Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

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VII. Action Items

A. English Grad Association (\$135)

1. Representative: Hannah Newman.

- This request is to reserve the Underground coffee-house in order to ensure that they will be able to practice public reading of creative riding. The funds will be used to reserve a microphone (\$64) and for publicity (\$25).
- Monkah asked why they aren't using their club budget. Newman responded that this money is reserved for sending members to a conference.
- Monkah asked why they are requesting \$135 if the needs is \$89. Van Druff said he increased the amount to account for using the Publicity center which was not in the original budget sheet.

AC-19-W-43 by Mouché. Moved to approve 135 dollars in the form of a grant.

Seconded: Rodrgiuez Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

B. WWU Racing (\$9000)

1. Representative: Harley Kyger.

- Kyger explained the new breakdown of the budget accounts for if they brought less people. Last year they used their funds for lodging and rentals since those prices are set. The advisors for WWU Racing say that it should be possible for them to start using DRAC funding.
- Monkah asked if they considered the price not including the advisor's room. Kyger responded that this would bring the price down to 3,125 dollars.
- Monkah asked what steps have been taken to prioritize people who need to be at the event. Kyger responded that they are working on increasing standards for who will actually go to the event, potentially the required members and one other person for each leadership role. Likely this would eliminate one car and one room.
- Onukwufor said that he is only comfortable funding the 17 required members. Kyger responded that they can do the calculations for 17. Monkah said that she is torn, but due to finance concerns she prioritizes only the 17 people.

- Cook asked if they plan on using grants, loans, and underwrites or the Club Conference Fund. Monkah asked if they could use some from both. Cook responded it is not possible.
- Onukwufor said they are giving them the option to come back at the end of the year and get some funds that are left over.
- Kyger said that with 17 (which they would round to 20 in order to fill the room) people the lodging would be about 2,100 dollars and vehicle rentals 1,006 dollars. Fuel costs would still be about 2,500 dollars. Mouché said last year their budget was also a bit higher, and that should be taken into account.
- Monkah asked if they could still take more people with these funding. Kyger responded that likely more people will be coming due to personal commitment, and with more funding it would be easier for them to come.
- Monkah said that she feels comfortable approving 3,200 dollars in order to give them a little bit of wiggle room for their required 17 people.

AC-19-W-44 by Monkah. Moved to approve 3,200 dollars in the form of a grant.

Seconded: Rodriguez

Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

C. National Society of Black Engineers (\$1900)

1. Representatives: Muse Asefa, Natnael Zegherghish
 - Onukwufor said that they found out that they can go to either Activities Council or the SEF and advises that they go to SEF in order to obtain more funding.
 - Monkah asked when SEF is going to have a meeting to vote on this.
 - Onukwufor asked if they've met with SEF. Asefa responded that they met last week and they would have an answer after the Activities Council meeting, and SEF said they could cover lodging.
 - Monkah asked what would be a reasonable amount for them to pay, as the conference prices has gone to 720 dollars, lodging is still at 214 dollars and transportation is 260 dollars, which will be for renting a car.
 - Cook asked if they have looked for a shuttle for transportation. Asefa responded that they haven't looked. Monkah asked if Uber would be cheaper. Asefa responded that this is an estimate, they haven't decided what their exact method would be. Rodriguez said that Uber would be much cheaper.

- Monkah asked if they knew if the hotel was far away from the event. Asefa responded with they aren't sure yet, and are considering AirBnB in order to be closer.
- Monkah said the cheapest ticket currently is around 1000 dollars. Meaning with SEF they would be paying 500 apiece. Cook said that since this benefits the club it makes sense for the funds to come out of Activities Council.
- Monkah asked what they could reasonably pay out of pocket. Asefa responded with they are planning on covering their food costs, and are still fundraising, which could help cover the costs of transportation.
- Van Druff asked if they set up a Viking Funder. Asefa responded they tried, but since the trip is coming up soon they do not think they will be getting any funding from that.
- Monkah said it would be cheaper if they stayed an extra day. Asefa said that the 31st would be closing ceremony which they hadn't planned on going to.
- Rodriguez said that he feels this is a lot of money for a trip for two people, and even last week's request of one thousand dollars is a lot for two people. Cook said that they usually only give 100 to 125 per person for these trips.
- Onukwufor said they could pull from the conference fund, but this request came really late and has not been effective planning, so he only feels comfortable paying conference registration and lodging. Rodriguez said that he feels that's still a lot of money.
- Onukwufor said that SEF is more likely to fund a larger amount, though it would be difficult to get on the agenda for this quarter.
- Mouché said he is comfortable with conference and lodging. Van Druff and Rodriguez said they are only comfortable with conference costs.
- Onukwufor asked when they've last spoken to Tyler (SEF). Asefa responded they will be going to his office tomorrow. Onukwufor said that if they can get on SEF's agenda than Activities Council can forget about it, but if they can't then Activities Council could hold an emergency meeting.
- Asefa said that they could move this request to the conference happening in Summer. Cook said that they would make decisions with the new VP of Activities.
- Monkah said that they should still try for SEF, but will consider it after finding the results of that discussion.

AC-19-W-45 by Monkah. Moved to table request.

Seconded: Mouché Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

VIII. Information Items

A. Harry Potter Club (\$2,600)

1. Representative: Jessa Van Wormer

- The request is for this year's Yule Ball an annual event functioning as a prom style event. Attendance is around 150 to 200 people, open to all campus and community. This year they are partnering with Quidditch and Nerd Fighter club. They will be selling tickets. Normally they use the multi-purpose room, but currently this is the bookstore so they are planning to rent the Majestic, which is on the bus line and accessible.
- Rodriguez asked if they are allowed to cover food for this event. Cook said yes due to the type of event.
- Rodriguez asked why the event is not happening over Yule. Van Wormer responded that they had less leadership at the time and wanted to make sure it happened well.
- Monkah asked what type of decorations they plan on having. Van Wormer responded blue and silver, and they will be ensuring that these will be re-usable decorations or replacing old decorations.
- Van Wormer said that they are ensuring food will be accessible to students with vegan and gluten free options.
- Onukwufor asked if it would be cheaper to rent on campus. Van Wormer responded with they looked at it and found that costs are about the same, but with the Majestic they will be getting more for the price.
- Monkah asked what the raffle is, as far as prizes and themes. Van Wormer responded this will be the focus of their charity fundraiser, with a community basket, a Harry Potter basket, and potentially other prize baskets.
- Onukwufor asked what fundraising they've done for this event. Van Wormer responded they have done a bake sale and will be doing another one, they are attempting to do a trivia night next quarter. They are considering changing the way they are selling tickets and using some of the proceeds to pay back the AS.
- Mouché said they could do part of it as a grant and part of it as an underwrite to ensure they have some to give to charity.
- Cook said that if they are donating proceeds it has to be a loan. Van Wormer asked if they only donated the raffle, could they still get a grant for the rest. Cook said yes.
- Monkah asked if they could do funding now due to the time nature of this item.

AC-19-W-46 by Monkah. Moved to move the Harry Potter request to an action item.

Seconded: Rodriguez

Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

- Monkah asked if they would be comfortable doing this as part grant and part underwrite. Cook said they could do this as a grant for the venue, and an underwrite for the rest (800\$). Mouché said they are unlikely to make the ticket sales back. Van Wormer responded that they have already considered not doing the raffle
- Cook asked if Quidditch is contributing to the event. Van Wormer responded with Quidditch is helping with the planning but is not contributing anything financially.
- Monkah said she is comfortable funding the event. Onukwufor suggested giving a grant for the venue and underwriting 700 dollars.

AC-19-W-47 by Monkah. Moved to approve 1800 dollars in the form of a grant and 700 dollars in the form of an underwrite.

Seconded: Mouché

Vote 5-0-0

PASSED

IX. Council Review

- Cook asked if the Council was familiar with recent events with Shred the Contract.
- Rodriguez said that he is aware of the boycott.
- Cook explained that someone brought food items during the event which brought about food poisoning due to a hemp product in the food, and this is reflected on the club. There is a meeting planned in the next few days, and some consequence is necessary. Activities Council can also function as a judicial board and Cook asked if they have any opinions on sanctions that should be taken against the club.
- Onukwufor said there is little room for them to control an event like the boycott, and events like a potluck are difficult to oversee, therefore Activities Council should just send out a message.
- Monkah read off the following message

“Hi Ama and the Activities Council,

I wanted to address the situation with Shred the Contract and hopefully provide some insight on how to move forward. Thank you for your time.

While optics may seem shallow or unimportant, it is vital to maintain an open and well established relationship with our publics. When we have poor optics, we lose the respect of students and their engagement in the AS, which makes it impossible to serve students well, which is why we are paid with student fees. I believe my job is help us maintain relationships with the public and continually earn their trust and respect so that as an organization, we can continue to do our jobs to serve students.

From what I know, Shred the Contract did not pre-meditate serving the pasta or purposefully impacted students negatively. I am unsure if they had acquired a permit to serve food or if they initially planned to have food at their event. Regardless, from my knowledge, community members in attendance offered to serve food at the event and Shred the Contract did not serve the food.

I believe that the blame shouldn't be placed entirely on Shred the Contract and we cannot punish them for actions done by a different group. To fully place blame and to cut off their funding, as suggested by advisors, would be detrimental to the reputation of the Associated Students. By punishing Shred the Contract, a very beloved and well recognized AS Club, we would be making the statement that we do not support their efforts or their activism.

The Associated Student's values diversity, equity and social justice. Airmark stands for racism and hate, which we do not tolerate. Do remember that our actions and who we choose to support tells a story.

Not having a food permit was a mistake that many clubs have made. If we were to cut off funding of Shred the Contract, we would have to do this for all clubs, which would be outrageous.

We should take more responsibility, learn from this situation and educate all clubs. I believe regardless of the decision today, we should write to all clubs and teach them the logistics of serving food and what to do if someone starts serving food that is unaffiliated to the club.

Thank you for your time,"

- Monkah said that she believes their intention was not to have someone come in and serve food, and that an open conversation would be more beneficial than cutting off funding.
- Rodriguez said that it is difficult for clubs to maintain direct oversight of a potluck, and that this was a genuine mistake.
- Cook said that this does not count as a potluck, as potlucks are a closed group, whereas this was open to everyone.
- Mouché asked if they found out more about the graffiti instance of last week. Cook said Shred the Contract is unaware of anyone in the club doing it.
- Van Druff said he knows they knew the rule with health codes and they need to ensure that Shred the Contract takes some responsibility. Monkah asked what they talked about with food. Van Druff said they went over all of the guidelines concerning food, how it is unacceptable to sell food in Red Square.
- Monkah asked if there is a specific document concerning food and the health code. Van Druff said yes and explained where to find them. Cook said they are constantly working with clubs to ensure that things are working well.

- Mouché asked what other repercussions they could do. Cook said they could ban all non-prepackaged food for Shred the Contract for the next quarter. Mouché said this feels like a slap on the wrist
- Rodriguez said they need to ensure they are punishing other clubs for breaking this rule as well.
- Monkah said they could draft an email to ensure that all clubs are aware of the rules concerning the sale of food and acceptable sale location. Van Druff said that this is a big part of the purpose of the event planning guides.
- There will be a search in the minutes for a prior request for food
- Onukwufor said he feels like someone is trying to undermine Shred the Contract. Rodriguez said he feels like this is intentional. Van Druff said he feels some responsibility needs to be taken from the student who accepted the food. Rodriguez said that he feels that students do not know that they are not allowed to sell food in Red Square.
- Onukwufor asked if this has ever happened before. Cook responded no.
- Mouché asked if they could wait until they know the results of the investigation before setting a punishment.
- Monkah said they should accept some responsibility as they knew the rules of food handling and sales and suggests a probation period for them. Van Druff says he feels like this is an honest mistake, but they do deserve a punishment.
- Onukwufor said they could not fund them for food for the rest of the year. Rodriguez said they could cease funding until the end of the investigation. Mouché said they could set a precedent for harsher punishments in the future. Monkah ensured they could come back for funding for other things throughout the year. Onukwufor said yes, though they will look at each request a little bit harder.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM