



AS Student Senate Meeting Minutes Policy

Proposed Motion: To require all AS Student Senate meeting minutes to detail how senators voted.

Date: 1/10/2019

Sponsor: Adah Barenburg, Student Senator (At-Large)

Persons of Contact: Nate Jo, AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees

Guest Speaker: Nate Jo, AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees

Background & Context

The AS WWU Student Senate exists to serve and represent the diverse needs of the student body. As required by Washington State Law, senate meetings are open to the public and accurate meeting minutes are completed for every senate meeting. Senators are elected by the student body and meeting minutes are intended to increase transparency and ensure that senators are held accountable for their actions and words while on official record. However, the current senate minutes do not detail which senators voted for or against motions. Therefore, if a student wished to question a decision of the senate or action of a senate member, they would not be able to easily know who to address their complaint to.

Summary of Proposal

All meeting minutes for the AS Student Senate would be required to detail which senators voted for or against motions. This information would be listed in the meeting minutes under the vote count. The vote breakdown need not be listed if the senate voted unanimously "aye" or unanimously "nay" and need not be listed in the summary of motions.

Fiscal Impacts

This proposal has no fiscal impacts.

Alternative Solutions

Video recordings could be posted for all senate meetings to allow students to see how senators vote. However, very few students would watch the recordings and it would be more difficult to accurately tell how senators voted. Additionally, it would require more time than simply looking at a motion in the meeting minutes to see a vote break down.

Rationale

AS Student Senate meeting minutes serve both as a legal record and a tool for transparency and accountability to the student body. Up to this point, the meeting minutes do not clearly show which senators voted for or against a motion. While many motions are unanimously carried, those that are not should be recorded showing the vote break down. Recording vote breakdowns for non-unanimous votes would give students another tool for holding senators accountable as well as providing clearer and more arcuate legal records of senate actions.