

**Western Washington University**  
**AS Food and Housing Insecurity Advisory Committee**

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

VU 460

**Board Members:** *Present:* Patrick Czichas (AS Student Senator), Kayl Gillihan (SAIRC Outreach and Representative Coordinator), Allie Johnson (DOC Community Engagement Coordinator), Ethan Chrisope (Off-Campus Living Representative), Britta Eschete (Career Services Representative, Karen Deysher (SAIRC Coordinator), and Christian Urcia (Supervising Resident Director).

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** None

**Motions:**

HIA-20-W- None

**I. Call to Order**

*Karen Deysher, SAIRC Coordinator and temporary appointed chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.*

*Since quorum was not reached, official items will not be passed, but instead the allotted time will be used as an opportunity for discussion.*

**II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**

N/A

**III. Approval of Minutes**

N/A

**IV. Discussion Items**

**A. Career Services Resources**

1. Eschete stated that just this month they've had 36 students looking for professional attire, and are always welcoming donations. Most students that are looking to get just their basic needs met, aren't able to think about careers after Western. To supplement help for this issue, she suggested a student job club perhaps. She stated that finding work isn't just about filling out an application, but also about location and travel required to get to the job, what kind of a wardrobe is needed, and what a person may eat. Currently the professional wardrobe closet is located in the same

area that Shelli Soto's office is. Once her office moves, there will be no need for appointments, and the closet will always be available. Student survey are given to recipients afterwards which has been really useful in getting student testimony, and figuring out where gaps are in available products. They are hoping to partner with Kohl's in the near future to try and fix this. They also have a donor survey which has informed them that most expensive items are donated due to tax reasons. Once donated, students can keep the clothing.

2. Gillihan asked what things are needed to improve the program, Eschete responded that they'd like more advertising. She stated that she'd bring fliers that members could distribute for the next meeting in spring quarter. She's welcome to ideas to help get the word out.
3. Urcia commented that the Student Food Pantry in Birnam Wood has gotten inquiries about clothing, so having posters there would be helpful. Eschete added that some donations they receive aren't up to professional standards, but are added to the street clothes closet in WHOLE.
4. Deysher asked whether the Career Services Center was looking for a different space so emergency situations would be able to be accommodated for since currently it's located in Old Main. Eschete responded that generally students know in advance for certain career fairs or events where professional attire is required and this doesn't seem to be a current need.

#### B. Workgroup Meeting

1. Urcia stated that during the first work group meeting, they mostly focused on Senate Bill 5800 and how to use it to support homeless students on campus
2. Deysher added that they talked about how to address homelessness and foster care on campus. Later they'll be able to compare campuses which received the grant versus those who didn't in order to see how effective it was. There's a need to make sure different charges and purposes of work groups and committees are understood to differentiate. Also need to reach consensus on whether centralization would be helpful, what's resources are needed on campus, and how to address them.
3. Urcia stated that he had a meeting concerning the future of SwipeOut hunger since Amber C's departure from the position. He commented that usually admin aren't usually concerned as to how a program is ran as long as it's functioning, but this has been a wakeup call to the need of higher-up assistance. There's a lot of well-intended entry-level pilot programs on campus and he believes admin needs to work in hand to build the small programs up.
4. Eschete stated that it's hard to get funding beforehand, so often these programs are created out of need and once they are working, they are asked to prove how they are important to keep working.
5. Urcia stated that students and employees are taking the projects upon themselves instead of being told to start to projects by admin, so not as much support is received.
6. Gillihan noted that because the HIA members are addressing issues that admin aren't, these efforts are being underestimated. She'd like to work on short-term projects that are able to be completed rather than waiting for admin or other people so real change can be made.
7. Urcia commented that the meeting he attended was a learning opportunity to make sure that the people working in these programs have operationalized their programs, rather being the sole supporter of the program so that when they leave, all the work won't disappear with them. When Amber left, the core components of her role for SwipeOut Hunger were consolidated and split between the offices of

Aramark and Financial Aid. However this is only a fraction of her work, and a middle man is needed to connect all the programs.

8. Chrisope asked if there's an effort to fill the position Amber left, and Urcia responded that a replacement is needed, but may not be filled for a longer period of time. He's seen at other universities programs that are in one place, and there's no protocol at Western for how help should be granted, so experiences are varied which can sometimes make the programs not as helpful.
9. Deysher stated that they were asked to send in job description elements for the position Amber left, but it's unclear how soon the process will start to hire someone. They have another work group meeting the following day which can be reported upon come spring quarter.

C. Other

1. Chrisope mentioned that their Office of Off-Campus Living is hosting a housing fair the following day in the MPR. There will be free stuff and a lot of information about off-campus housing.
2. Gillihan stated that the ESC is looking to start a community cabinet through the SEJF fund, which is something to look out for to keep connected.

V. **Other Business**

- A. None

*Karen Deysher, SAIRC Coordinator and temporary appointed, adjourned this meeting at 1:47 p.m.*