



AS Finance Council

May 18, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Teams Online Meeting

Members: Present: Nate Jo, Chair (AS Business Director), Nicole Ballard (Student Senator), Lani Defiesta (AS President), Corey Griffis (student at-large), Keenan Kaemingk (Activities Rep), Christina Ngo (Resources Rep), Rachel Walsh (Central Services Rep), **Absent:** Sargun Handa (AS Student Senate delegate), Selome Zerai (VP for Activities)

Advisors: Leti Romo, Assistant Director for Representation & Governance; Raquel Vigil, Business Manager

Secretary: Cindy Monger, Dean of Students Unit Fiscal Specialist

Guests: Alicia Prokopenko, AS Club Finance Assistant Director, Jenn Cook, AS Clubs Manager

Nate Jo, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes- no minutes this week

III. Revisions to the Agenda- no revisions

VI. Public Forum

V. Information Items

A. FY21 Budget: Lost Revenue Scenarios

Services & Activities Fee process update: Last Thursday the committee voted to recommend the current percentage levels of distribution of the fee as well as the current fee level with no increase. The rationale is that since they don't really know what will happen in the fall, it was best to go with the information they had for last year. That being said they have the adjusted budget that was recommended. After conversations the last week Jo wants to offer that they not create 5% & 10% decreases. What this would mean is that they would move forward with the adjusted budget and the leadership for next year would decide what to do if there was decreased enrollment. Griffis thinks if they choose to leave things to next year's leadership, they should be left with something, thoughts, guidelines they could follow. He wants to make sure not passing the buck on to next year. Jo wants to acknowledge that there is a pattern of running out of time and having to leave things to the next year's staff and that year's staff not necessarily being able to complete it either. Cook thinks that they should leave something behind that is more than just a legacy document, but thoughts on how the experience has been this year.

Vigil agrees and thinks that providing some level of guidance as this council has done a lot of work and discussion. It may not be the exact numbers that will be decreased, but perhaps a values statement. Vigil thinks that this does fall towards the students because they are leading the process. But in reality, Budget Authorities really need to part of the problem solving and solutions. Ballard feels that the council is providing information and can continue to advocate for values next year. It is hard because they don't have any real idea of what fall will look like at this point. Griffis thinks that next year's leadership will have to deal with things as the situation develops and make their own decisions based on context. Due to the circumstances, he feels it would be helpful to share a framework for how they made decisions. Things that they had to weigh that should be considered. Jo thinks that they could add to the Executive Summary to share the process for spring and some ideas for help next year. Cook said that they might hear more

about enrollment conditions over the summer as people register for fall quarter. This will be left up mostly to the Budget Authorities, so if the council wants to give them some guidance would be helpful. Jo said that this guidance could be about how to facilitate the process but it's unclear what it would look like.

Vigil thinks at a minimum, there should be a statement that they don't see unspent dollars as a loss, and this should be where some of the savings might come from if enrollment drops. This way budget authorities won't think that they can keep the money from an event that doesn't happen and move it to a different event. Those things that they couldn't spend their funding on in fall, then that money will go to cover the shortfalls in enrollment. Jo said that some budgets have made deep reductions in their areas, and some have not reduced their budgets significantly. If they were to prescribe a 5%-10% across the board reduction, then some areas who already reduced by 10% would actually be reduced by up to 20% which could be detrimental. Jo asked if the Exec Board or Student Senate might want to make recommendations on reduction suggestions for next year. DeFiesta feels the Exec Board might see this as risk management, but she doesn't know how they may feel about trying to make decisions with so many unknowns. She feels that the current Exec Board should invite the newly elected Board to the meeting to have discussions. Jo is hearing that there may be room in the Executive Summary to have suggestions for what should be preserved in the next year. Vigil said that it could be something as simple as the AS Values a sustainable employment model for all employees of the AS. However, she feels that they may not know enough, for instance the state could give an amount of days necessary for furlough, then would they not be in compliance with what the state or institution may have to recommended. They could simply say they value employment, advocacy, and representation. Another value might be recommending that the AS looks at AS Reserves for some amount (such as \$50,000-100,000) for fall to help cover loss in revenue. Next steps will be hearing thoughts from the Board and Senate.

B. Executive Board Travel Grant Proposal

Jo pulled together some people to discuss unified travel funding to have a conversation about what this might look like because there have been many different conversations. It may be helpful to have a conversation as a group to not overlap in work. Ballard would like to recognize her bias as an incoming Exec Board member. She would like to see the Board and Senate at an equal level. However, she doesn't want the Senators inability to travel to prevent the Exec Board to move forward. She thinks the Sustainability Conference is very valuable for the sustainability VP to attend. In the past the Board of Directors were the financial managers of the organization and therefore didn't need dedicated funding. This is why the Employee Fund excluded them from proposing for funding, since they had access to so much already. Now that Finance Council approves AS Grants, etc. it may be appropriate to allow access to these funds. At this point the Board has access to a discretionary fund, but not access to reserves and unspent unallocated funds. Vigil thinks that last week what she heard that the new AS Reserves area was an opportunity fund for AS Employee travel and could include the Student Senate and AS Exec Board. If the new fund is inclusive, then this grant may not be necessary. Jo said that if they do make an exclusive fund for the Board, then they should be excluded from the combined travel fund. Ballard wanted to know the timeline for setting up the new fund. Jo said that the AS Reserves Policy will be proposed soon for revision. Also, it is unlikely that people will be traveling before the end of this year. Vigil thinks that to approve this Grant, it may be most appropriate to abstain from voting on this for those people who could benefit from the funding.

Jo said they may need to call a special meeting since Ballard, Kaemingk, and Handa would need to recuse themselves and some other members can't attend at this time.

C. Board Assistant Grant Proposal- no updates.

D. ESC Conference Grant Proposal

Ngo said that the ESC would like to have a conference later in the year if they are unable to do this in the fall. This would be including the grant proposal. If they get the funding, they would like to have a two-day event.

E. Office of Civic Engagement Programming Proposal- no updates

F. Western Hub Of Living Essentials (WHOLE) Coordinator Grant Proposal- no updates

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.