



SUSTAINABILITY, EQUITY, AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

November 26th 2019

8:00am

Viking Union 462B

Present: Trever Mullins (ASVP for Sustainability); Emily Gerhardt (ASVP for Student Services); Kelsey Leppek (Environmental and Sustainability Programs Director); Alexis Blue (Business and Financial Affairs Representative); Leigh Chaffey (Student at-large); Grace Wang (Environmental Studies Chair); Turner Campbell (SEJF Project Coordinator); Johnathan Riopelle (SEJF Program Coordinator); Greg McBride (Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities); Soumya Ayelasomayajula (ESC Assistant Director for Club Logistics);

Secretary: Jude Ahmed (AS Executive Board Assistant)

Guest(s): Gene Myers

Motions:

SEJF-19-F-4 Motion to approve WOHESC Conference Scholarship grant. ***Passed***

SEJF-19-F-5 To extend the discussion by 10 minutes. ***Passed.***

SEJF-19-F-6 Motion to table the CBE IED grant until winter quarter. ***Passed.***

Trever Mullins called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

I. Introductions

II. Revisions to Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Discussion Items

a. Huxley-WELS Partnership

Myers states that this project started in the fall with Highline High School. This is the 5th year of the program and this year they want to

work more closely with students and bring them to campus. These are students in their sophomore, junior, senior years in charge of instructing students from the high school. It began with a symposium on October 30th. The high schoolers presented on their own life experience or from interviews they conducted on what it means for them to be outdoors. They got a college experience and a discussion and was only possible with a student liaison position that has been working in the high school. Western students have brought these high school students out for a week in the environment and found limitations of not being able to establish relationships and after the symposium they want the students to have more opportunities between Western students and the high school students to interact and have discussions. In the Winter they want to have a daylong event or the high school students to come up for a day event to meet with their college partners. For the spring program, they are going to go out to Sucia Island for a week at the end of April and beginning of May. They are revising their environmental education program and using climate justice as a center point and want to co-create the week curriculum. They hope to have a public event and indigenous climate justice speaker as well on campus. There are five budget options, ideally option one, the full program, but they are willing to work with what the position can do. The liaison started in the fall and was chosen by teachers at the high school because they have exceptional rapport with students and since that is the basis of anything that happens in the classroom. Blue asked if the position of the liaison is hinging on the approval of this grant. Myers says that they would not be able to continue the position because affordable student housing in the Seattle area is difficult to find. Blue also asks how sure they are in their in-kind donations. Myers says they are certain. Chaffey asks what discussions or potential conversations they are looking forward to seeing brought up as part of this program. Myers says that because this program is open to the public, it's great for the Western student body to come speak to these youth about how the environment plays out in their lives.

V. Action Items

a. WOHESC Conference Scholarships

Leppek says that the allotted time for at-large openings to be advertised seem a little short because it is only six days. Hearing about that opening and then having time to apply would take more than a week for students. Riopelle says that the program could be advertised to students as soon as the quarter begins.

MOTION SEJF-19-F-4 By: Wang

Motion to approve WOHESC Conference Scholarship grant.

Second: Leppek

Vote: 6-0-0

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

b. College of Business and Economics IED Initiatives – Riopelle

This grant is asking for **\$33,450**.

Chaffey is concerned that the project does not cover sustainability.

Riopelle speaks on how sustainability when the name was changed and how that definition to goes beyond the traditional definition into the equity and justice dimensions as well. Ayelasomayajula agrees that they can look beyond the one definition of sustainability to approve grants and feels comfortable signing on to grants that prioritizes equity and justice.

Wang's biggest concern is that the grant is not student driven and she does not see the voices of students here. Wang would like to also hear about the successes of the CSE ambassadors before it is replicated.

Mullins mentions that right now, there also is no timeline for the implementation of this initiative. Wang feels that because there is a budget crunch, that may be why this initiative has been brought to SEJF and this is a student fund. McBride states that the committee can judge the value to which this will have on students and students have been harmed in the past having to bring these initiatives forward and this grant is an opportunity for faculty to do the work themselves. Chaffey does not see this as a grant to prioritize when budgeting effectively because it's not a particularly sustainable effort.

MOTION SEJF-19-F-5 By: Mullins

To extend the discussion by 10 minutes.

Second: Ayelasomayajula *Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

Riopelle mentions that he spoke with Teri Hall who was adamant that this project cannot be put on the backs of students and that is why it is brought by faculty. Blue asks if there is a way to wait and vote on this grant later and if there is any urgency. Mullins says this would not be implemented until Fall 2020 and they could table it, and it probably would not be addressed until at least Winter 2020. Mullins also mentioned that they can call a special meeting with Teri to discuss this grant in greater depth. Blue would like to wait until they can meet with Teri in person and have that meeting with an understanding that they bring some student voice to this program. Since this is also 20% of the budget they know of and they would like to see if there are Ayelasomayajula suggests including an assessment of student needs so they do not have to take time out of a student's schedule would be particularly helpful.

MOTION SEJF-19-F-6 *By: Blue*

Motion to table the CBE IED grant until winter quarter.

Second: Chaffey

Vote: 6-0-0

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VI. Information Items

a. Voices of WWU Sustainability and OS Media Matters

The media team is the only team in the office of sustainability that does not go to the WOHEC Conference. The media team asked for them to find something to attend instead of WOHEC and so that they get to engage in networking and professional development like the rest of their peers in the OS. They are the ones engaging with the public and they do critical work of reaching out to students. Once grant is to send them to American Institute of Graphic Arts conference in Pittsburg about graphic design and communication. The theme this year is building bridges which is apt to this office. They could send the three students to that conference. The social media coordinator did a separate grant to go to

south by southwest and if they go to that conference. Ayelasomayajula asks why they applied to this fund rather than the Student Enhancement Fund. Riopelle responds that they are trying to align with the OS grant for the WOHESC conference. They are asking for something specifically related to sustainability because they are the sustainability media team. They are interested in creating that communication across divides and communication through sustainability and do not have a lot of ability to develop media skills. Blue asks if the OS has a travel budget and why the students can be brought into that. Riopelle says that the OS does not have a budget for nonprofessional travel which excludes the media team of the OS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58am.