



# SUSTAINABILITY, EQUITY, AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

December 3rd, 2019

8:00am

Viking Union 567

Present: Trever Mullins (ASVP for Sustainability); Emily Gerhardt (ASVP for Student Services); Kayl Gilhan (SAIRC Representation & Outreach Coordinator); Kelsey Leppek (Environmental and Sustainability Programs Director); Soumya Ayelasomayajula (ESC Assistant Director for Logistics); 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)

Secretary: Jude Ahmed (AS Executive Board Assistant)

Guest(s): Teri Hall (EID Task Force)

***Mullins called the meeting to order at 8:02am***

## **I. Introductions**

## **II. Revisions to Agenda**

Addition of Huxley WELS Partnership to action items

Addition of CBE EID Initiative to information items

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

## **IV. Program/Budget Report**

## **V. Action Items**

### **a. Voices of WWU Sustainability**

Ayelasomayajula asks why this grant is going to the SEJF fund when there could be another conference that is directly related and the why the

Student Enhancement Fund is not being used for professional development in this case. She also mentioned that there is a big media conference trip for AS students in New York that is more applicable and is valuable because they can connect to other AS students. Because there are so many funds within western, it might be good to talk to other funds. Often students are not aware of other fund opportunities and apply to one because that is what they are aware of. Wang mentions that this is an issue in which this one student is professionally marginalized because they don't get to go to a conference and network with the OS and even if they did attend, they wouldn't get to make professional connections and network. Campbell agrees that the OS media team is valuable and this would really benefit the office. Gilhan agrees with Soumya that this goal seems to align more with the student enhancement fund.

MOTION SEJF-19-F-7      By: Wang  
Motion to approve Voices of WWU Sustainability.  
Second: Chaffey      Vote: 2-4-0      *Action: **Not passed***  
Yes:  
No:  
Abstaining:

**b. OS Media Matters**

This is the second grant which all three students can go to. The American Institute of Graphic Arts conference is at the forefront in media development and is another opportunity to send the OS media team to build connections and bring that back to their students. Leppeck believes this could be a Student Enhancement Fund grant but that it makes sense to be in tandem with SEJF as well because of the WOHESC conference.

MOTION SEJF-19-F-8 By: Wang  
Motion to approve Voices of WWU Sustainability.  
Second: Chaffey      Vote: 4-3-0      *Action: **Passed***  
Yes:  
No:  
Abstaining:

**c. Huxley WELS Partnership**

Ayelasomayajula feels that this is one grant she would be comfortable fully funding because there are so many opportunities for the wider student body to get involved in and it also supports community members and high school students as well as western students. It seems like a well-developed and robust project.

MOTION SEJF-19-F-9 By: Gilhan

Motion to approve Voices of WWU Sustainability.

Second: Gerhardt      Vote: 6-0-1

Action: **Passed**

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

**VI. Information Items**

**a. CBE EID Initiative**

Hall states that in College of Business and Economics through the last few years they have been making attempts to achieve a better Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity profile. They have held student listening sessions and contributions and the overarching message is that they do not want to do free labor for these things. Last year they formed an EID taskforce with faculty and staff without direction because they were not getting the results, they wanted for the students so they started meeting to develop a culture change. The CBE staff and faculty need to develop the mechanisms to change this culture which is hostile to students of color and LGBTQ+ students. Ayelasomayajula mentioned that the multicultural business scholars set up a small forum and asked if the task force was formed from that conversation and if the things spoken at that forum were brought back to the taskforce. Hall says unfortunately they heard but were not brought forward in a formal way. Ayelasomayajula asks if the curriculum aspect of CBE will be impacted by the taskforce. This refers to when presentations are being made positive and the negatives that often impact marginalized communities are also discussed and highlighted. Hall says the taskforce wants to push for that but unfortunately there is pushback. CBE is a business school and they are supposed to educate students on how to

go out into the workforce and there needs to be more education on how to behave and interact in the workforce as well. Mullins asks how students are going to be selected for the positions. They have agreed to remain the EID as a standing committee in exchange for writing their own charter. The taskforce tends to have a close connection with students and want to try and get students from every department but not necessarily selected by the department chairs. They want to select students that will be particularly interested, impacted and able to work on this. Their role will be to provide information about experiences in CBE and ways to improve those experience. They will be talking to deans, chairs, and groups of faculty members. There is no way to really change faculty perspectives and guarantee accountability so they hope the programmatic elements will shift the culture and perspective. They want to get a critical mass of faculty invested in this and hope to make it a sort of popular movement. The task force is all faculty and tenured faculty that hopefully feel comfortable to talk to other faculty members. Mullins asks why they are seeing this grant now when it will not be implemented for the year. They actually wanted the money previous to next year but want to make sure that they have everything organized and planned and can have a full year with students next year. Right now, without funding they are working on meetings without funding to talk about inclusivity in educational meetings. Even encouraging a statement in their syllabus is another effort that is small but can make a big effect.

**b. Leadership in Sustainability Certificate**

This grant is requesting \$93,525

This is a large grant abstract so it does not provide full detail. A faculty member is working with students to develop a cohort which can participate in this certificate and graduate with an additional opportunity of experience and real-world application of studies. Mullins mentions that this grant is largely faculty based and was brought forward by faculty. They would be interested in seeing how this furthers students well being and hearing from students that would be interested in this program.

**VII. Consent Items**

- a. Visiting Artist Fritz Haeg

**VIII. Adjourn at 8:53**