



AS Finance Council

January 12, 2021 4:00 p.m. Teams Online

Members: *Present:* Noemi Bueno, Chair (AS Business Director), Ben Crandall (Central Services Rep), Brandon Lane (Student at-Large), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Rep), Kaylan Rocamora (Activities Rep), Nichole Vargas (SAIRC Rep), Sargun Handa (AS Senate Pro Tempore), Selam Swier (AS Student Senator) *Absent:* Abdul Malik Ford, Vice Chair (AS President), Ranulfo Molina (AS VP for Diversity)

Advisor: Raquel Vigil, Viking Union Organization Business Manager

Secretary: Cindy Monger, Viking Union Organization Fiscal Specialist

Guest: Artemis Langford (AS Board Assistant)

MOTIONS

FC-20-F-01 Approval of the minutes of November 23, 2020 with edits. *Passed*

Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes

Clarification on 11-23-2020 that the \$300,000 would be over winter or spring quarter. Vigil updated the committee that the university is anticipating a 7% decrease in enrollment for winter quarter, which is almost twice as much as typical. This may impact budget needs.

MOTION FC-20-F-01 by Handa

Approval of the minutes of November 23, 2020 with edits.

Second: Rocamora Vote: 5 - 0 - 2 Action: Passed

III. Information Items

A. Guiding Principles

Bueno created a list of possible values for people to use to help create the top 5 values for the budget process. Vargas suggested Transparency. Handa suggested Equity. Vargas said that with diversity she feels that they could expand on that to say that it will give resources to marginalized students. She thinks that more than just one word is going to be helpful because people can have different definitions. Bueno said that she wanted to start with the words and then expand on them and list what it means to students.

The council looked at WWU Enrollment & Student Services goals and Viking Union Organization Core Beliefs. Langford has issues with statements that are not actually followed in action. Handa thinks that it is more important to have this be true for the council itself and not something that needs to be shared out so that it becomes performative. Handa likes these values: Transparency, Equity, Diversity, Student success, Inclusion, Responsibility, Compassion, Community, Fairness, Competency. Lane likes these: Balance, Equity, Transparency, Community and Competency. Vargas would like to add accountability, specifically accountability to students who pay these fees. Rocamora thinks that competency and accountability can be combined in further detail. Crandall suggested stewardship which is similar to accountability but focused on the fact that we are stewards of the campus community and act on their best behalf. Handa edited suggestions to be Transparency, Equity, Accountability, Justice, and Student Success. She likes community too. Rocamora suggested ...value accountability - this means members are

trained and competent on what they are discussing etc...value community - this means we consider student success and proper distribution of their money... Vargas thinks stewardship is a good descriptor, but it would have to be defined. Lane thinks that the language should be actionable in the future. Crandall thinks that this language should be available to students if one of the values is transparency. This is student money and they should tell students what guided the council's decision making. The committee agreed that some level of defining should happen. Handa thinks listing it is good, but not sending it out on Instagram, etc. Vigil said that this could be the lead in information that is publicly shared to Budget Authorities, it will also be in the packet with the proposed budget, it could also be the lead in statement when the requests are sent to the Services & Activities. The summary budget document that is created yearly with Monger, helps to create transparency for now and in the future. Rocamora asked how they visualize this for the students. Vargas said that Nate Jo's Money Guide was very easy to understand and very informative. Rocamora agreed. There was a request to have charts and other information on the website, Monger sent the web link to the guide which is publicly available. Bueno would like to work on that to be able to help people understand where their fee money is going since there are concerns about fees due to the financial crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Handa said that the AS Exec Board receive a lot of requests for budget information and it would be helpful for them to have a place to refer students. Bueno said the council was offered to take over the AS Instagram to reach out to students from the AS Business Office.

Ben Crandall left the meeting.

Lane likes balance because it's a finance term but also helps describe what they are trying to achieve. Vargas asked for more of an explanation because balance and equity seem opposite. Lane said the goal is to balance the diverse needs of everyone, not everyone can get everything that they want. In the end they can't pass a budget that is wildly out of balance with the revenue they anticipate receiving. Rocamora suggested community/student focused success. Handa feels that balance gives off the wrong vibe in comparison to equity. Vargas suggested community enrichment. Lane gave wording of "Balancing the budget financially and ethically with consideration given to all students lived experiences" Handa said Stewardship also talks about being a "good steward of student dollars" which is similar to what Lane is explaining. Bueno thinks Lane's definition could go under stewardship. Vigil likes balancing the budget as an intro statement with the values as part of the process. There has been a value that S & A reach as wide of an audience as possible. This council wants to balance and create a wide possibility of creating a civil society by creating opportunities. This is a wider definition that revenue minus expenses equals balance. Vigil said that the idea of a liberal arts institutions is to provide opportunities to broaden world view. Lane wrote 2 more sentences: "Equitably considering the effect that AS spending has on westerns marginalized and underrepresented communities. Transparently handling every student dollar to ensure that all students may see where their money is spent." Vargas said that they have to be careful with wording because there has to be a way to consider people who are historically underfunded. This is not to ignore the majority of students. Handa still isn't vibing with the word balance because often sacrifice is needed for balance. Handa asked if Stewardship & Accountability is the same thing. Bueno thinks that they could include both words in the definition. Vigil said that balance is important to have in the statement because they do have a target number they are trying to reach. There might be a place for recognition that the council has worked hard to balance the budget in the fiscal sense.

Lane said they will end up with competing concerns and they will have to find a way to balance, it can be equitable, but still has to happen. Rocamora thinks that accountability to guide the budget process, what is the training, who is on the council, etc. can be under stewardship. Handa thinks that student success should be a value, it is why there is representation and academic student leaders. To ensure students are succeeding academically, mentally, socially. Vargas would like to add well-being because success seems productivity based. Bueno thinks that a lot of students find a place for themselves in places like the Ethnic Student Center and the Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Centers and this leads to their success. Handa suggested student-centered, student-oriented, student-geared or student success and community enrichment. Vargas thinks that individual and community wellbeing would be good. Lane suggested "Enriching the well-being and success of the students as individuals and a community." Rocamora said that student community is about what is accessible and a lot of that is through the AS in terms of clubs and events. Especially in this online environment. Bueno thinks that Western Students are not very connected and she feels like community is important. Lane asked if Student success and wellbeing/Community be put under the umbrella of Student Enrichment?

Final Values list so far: Transparency, Equity, Stewardship, Student Success & Wellbeing, Community Enrichment

B. Training (postponed to a later meeting)

1.) AS Reserves

2.) AS Grants & Unified Funding Form

III. Other Business

VIII. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.