



# AS Finance Council

January 26, 2021 4:00 p.m. Teams Online

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

**Advisor:** Raquel Vigil, Viking Union Organization Business Manager

**Secretary:** Cindy Monger, Viking Union Organization Fiscal Specialist

## MOTIONS

- FC-20-F-02** Approval of the minutes of January 5<sup>th</sup>. *Passed*
- FC-20-F-03** Approval of the minutes of January 12<sup>th</sup>. *Passed*
- FC-20-F-04** Revision to the Agenda to add a discussion about Spring Quarter Fees as Info Item B. *Passed*
- FC-20-F-05** Approve the Finance Council Values Statement document with minor grammar and spelling edits. *Passed*

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

### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of the Minutes- January 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

Handa complemented the accuracy of the minutes.

*MOTION FC-20-F-02 by Handa*

Approval of the minutes of January 5<sup>th</sup> as stated.

Second: Rocamora Vote: 8 - 0 - 1 Action: Passed

*MOTION FC-20-F-03 by Lane*

Approval of the minutes of January 12<sup>th</sup> as stated.

Second: Ford Vote: 7 - 0 - 2 Action: Passed

### III. Revisions to the Agenda- addition of Spring Quarter Fees as Info Item B.

*MOTION FC-20-F-04 by Ford*

Revision to the Agenda to add a discussion about Spring Quarter Fees as Info Item B.

Second: Handa Vote: 9 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

### IV. Public Forum

### V. Action Items

#### A. Values Statement

#### Doc. 1

Bueno read the document into the record. Handa said that she would like to change the “&”s throughout the document to “and” and change “queer and trans students” to “LGBTQ+ students”. There was discussion about the need for hyphens in some words.

*MOTION FC-20-F-05 by Handa*

Approve the Finance Council Values Statement document with minor grammar and spelling edits.

Second: Rocamora Vote: 8 - 0 - 1 Action: Passed

## **VI. Information Items**

### **A. Training**

#### **1.) Reserves**

Bueno discussed the AS Reserves which are non-operational accounts funded from Residual Dollars. Designated Reserves are for specific areas and not available for funding requests. Discretionary Reserves are available for requests. Bueno discussed each area referencing the Defining AS Reserves Policy.

#### **2.) Grants & Unified Funding Form**

Funding is allocated for AS Grants yearly as part of the distribution. Vigil said that Western Hub of Living Essentials (WHOLE) is funded from donations received over the last few years from private donors. Those funds support purchasing the food and living essential items. There is a grant that is funding the position for WHOLE. The Blue Resource Center, Queer Guild, and the Outdoor Center Trip Leader Training are currently funded as AS Grants that will end this year. Both the Vigil said that there should be a revision to the policy offer the same approval level to both the AS Student Senate and AS Executive Board.

Finance Council currently has about \$35,000 in AS Grants that they can allocate this year. Handa asked if the Board Assistant for the Student Senate one-time funding could be carried forward for next year. Vigil said this could be discussed as part of the process what this council would be allowing in carry forwards this year. Molina clarified that many of these grants are ending this year. Vigil said Grants are funded as pilot programs, if they are deemed successful then they may ask to operationalize these programs. They would request them in the AS Budget Proposal Process. Vargas said they will be asking for a carry forward for Queer Guild, and possibly move around funding to cover the WHOLE Coordinator and therefore that grant may not be needed. She will recuse herself from that vote, as she is invested. Lane asked if the funds in the monthly summary show how much money has been spent the entirety of the grant for example the Trip Leader that was a three-year grant. Vigil clarified that the money spent is from this fiscal year.

The Unified Funding Form is used to request money from available ASWWU budgets. The form asks how the funding would be spent and this answer sorts out what funding would be available for that request. The AS Grant proposals are submitted using this form. This is available in "win" and the link is on the AS Business Office website.

### **B. Spring Quarter Fees**

Vigil had Bueno share a spreadsheet containing input from all AS Budget Authorities with their estimated savings this year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the university closure. In the winter Ford and Bueno were consulted about a reduction of \$15 per quarter in the Services & Activities Fee (S & A) that funds ASWWU. They were also asked to reduce because the winter enrollments at Western dropped lower than expected, so Vigil asked for input on the projected savings to make a decision about spring. Lane asked if salary savings were from reduced hours or positions not hired. Vigil said that it is actually a little of both. Vigil said that the student salary savings are a one-time thing for this year, and they are not asking for these same savings in the FY'22 budgets. Lane asked about the \$9,000 personnel training reduction. Vigil said that it is mostly a reduction of food costs from the trainings not being on-site and over mealtimes. Handa asked when they would abolish the federal lobbying trip. Vigil said that there is a note about this in the summary. She asked that be a formal request by the AS Exec Board to formally abolish or retire the funds and transfer to the Black Student Coalition as requested. Handa clarified that the Exec Board would approve this. Vigil said that in this case the funds belong specifically to the Exec Board and therefore they would review the request. Vigil is not sure if the Black Student Coalition will be created this year, but they could apply for a carry forward for next year if the funding wasn't spent. Handa asked if they should wait for creation

or pass it now. Vigil said it would be a powerful statement to pass it as soon as possible in response to the Black Student Organization (BSO) demands. A request could be made to create a special account for the Black Student Coalition. Vigil is not sure where that should be housed, at the beginning the BSO did not want to be housed under the ASWWU, but she is not sure if that remains to be a concern. Handa asked if they could transfer AS funds outside of the AS. Vigil said that it would not be easy. Vigil wants to support this and doesn't want there to be any messaging that it can't happen. She personally hopes that the BSO will decide to stay in the ASWWU. Lane asks if they could have designated this as a Grant. Vigil thinks that a grant could be good because it does fit as a pilot program. Bueno said that hiring of the Black Student Coalition Development Specialist is currently going through the Viking Union hiring after lengthy discussions about not housing them in the AS system. Handa will bring a proposal.

Vigil said the amount ASWWU needs to support the current programming and payroll is \$2,613,133. At this point with projected spending and revenue they may have a surplus of \$75,000 at the end of the year. In the beginning Vigil thought that they might be dipping into AS Reserves at this point, but the AS has done an excellent job keeping spending down in this time of Covid. With the numbers projected, it does seem as if they can maintain the \$15 reduction in the S & A fee for spring quarter. Lane thinks it should be extended. Vargas feels that the benefits to students outweighs the risks in this case. Molina thinks that Covid is still impacting students and they should offer this reduction. Ford said his perspective is still the same. He agrees the AS should keep it at a \$15 reduction if not reduce it more. Swier thinks the AWWU should keep it!! She asked if they are not able to do more. Vigil said at this point she would not be comfortable with offering further reductions as these are all estimates.

**C. Guiding Principles-** tabled to next week.

### **III. Other Business**

#### **Adjourn**

*The Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.*