



AS Finance Council

January 19, 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

Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. **Approval of the Minutes-** tabled until the next meeting due to the large agenda.

III. Revisions to the Agenda

IV. Information Items

A. Values Statement/Guiding Principles

At last week's meeting people discussed values in depth. Bueno created a draft based on those discussions. She included a statement from the ASWWU Mission Statement. The council wanted to expand on or define the value words.

Ford said for equity it is in terms of how ASWWU operates and puts resources in terms of energy and direction. They need to be considering multiple aspects and areas that need extra attention: advancing diversity, dismantling antiblackness, social issues, etc. He believes this should be incorporated into the values for this council. Bueno didn't add much in equity and is hoping to add more. Vargas added to the wording "prioritizing the needs of students with marginalized identities, including but not limited to BIPOC, queer and trans students, disabled students, and undocumented students." Lane thinks that action shouldn't be written in this document, in terms of the fee page. It is a task that once done doesn't need to drive the council.

Rocamora likes that they are coming up with descriptors to help people understand and have shared language. The council group edited the document in teams throughout the meeting, some comments are captured in the minutes. The rest are reflected in the final document.

Vargas wrote a little more in transparency "transparency: the ASWWU strives to be transparent by having our weekly meeting agendas and minutes on our committee website, where students can look at to know about what we do as a council. We also commit to transparency through having our language be accessible and our decisions on budgets and grant proposals be guided by our value statement, which is also available for students to read, at which student needs are at the center." Crandall said the council is made up of a good cross section of the student body, but they cannot represent everyone. Crandall wondered if there could be a way for students to give input such as a feedback area on the website. Lane suggested for transparency "Ensuring every student is equipped with the tools to see where every student dollar is being spent" in order to keep it brief. Vigil said that the ultimate document sent out by Bueno will be informed by the council's discussions today since the document needs to go out by Friday of this week.

Lane suggested "Equitably considering the effect that AS spending has on Western's marginalized and underrepresented communities". Vargas thinks that they should change the plans based on the impacts. Bueno will send out the document to the committee to review and give comments to go out by Friday. Vigil said the document that goes out to the budget

authorities is in the purview of the AS Business Director. The Guiding Documents that the council uses can continue to be edited as a living document. Vigil said equitably considering the positive impacts that spending can have on marginalized and underrepresented communities.

The committee discussed not including accountability because it is mostly covered by Stewardship. Stewardship for having the best process possible, whereas accountability is holding someone to account which could be after the fact. Bueno thinks that they are similar. Crandall said Stewardship also seems to imply that council members are also students, not above any student or in some way that is acting in disregard to their interests. Vigil said that as fee paying students, they are stewards of the funding. In terms of their professional roles they are accountable to be spending the funding in the way in which it was allocated.

Lane suggested “Enriching the well-being and success of the students as individuals and a community.” Vargas suggested “Students are succeeding academically, mentally, socially.” Bueno remembered that they wanted to distinguish between community and student aspect. Crandall wanted to have something that distinguishes success from the capitalistic meaning and think about enhancing success when allocating student dollars.

Community Enrichment was discussed in terms of belonging and creating safe spaces. Vigil said that they build community through the club system, the Outdoor Center, the Ethnic Student Center, etc. Vigil said that people joining the community are coming from a place of isolation so it could be that this year is more focused on building community. Bueno would like to see the AS start building community again.

Bueno asked about leadership for students. She knows that they have been considering less student employment because it is one of the biggest expenses. However, she hopes that they can maintain employment as a growth opportunity. Molina likes the idea of the council focusing on community since people are so isolated. This could mean making sure that there is a commitment to making sure that there is a focus on community engagement and community building. Lane sees leadership building as an operational concern but doesn’t see this as much of a financial concern with the power of this council. He has concerns about making it a goal. Bueno asked if they wanted to put something in about maintaining employment if possible.

Bueno thinks that student voices and representation is important. Bueno would like to see more support for the Student Senate in this year where the grant funding is ending, and they will be looking for operational funding. She will be sending this out in the email to Budget Authorities to let them know about this need but didn’t know if they wanted to include it in the values.

There was a want by the council to incorporate the Black Student Organization (BSO) Demands. Vargas said that they can support the BSO demands in the ways that fall under the purview of this council in helping support funding for those areas. They can’t commit to more than they are able to do under the charge of the council. Vigil encourages the council to think about advocacy, student governance and student voice and has seen this being a big value. Is there a place for this to fit?

Ford thinks in terms of definitions, if the expansions allude to the definition for the word then that is good, if the sentence doesn’t help create understanding, then they should be rewritten.

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**

V. Other Business- S & A fee committee hasn’t scheduled. Budget Authority meeting tomorrow.

VI. Adjourn *The Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.*