



# AS Finance Council

April 6, 2021 4:00 p.m. Teams Online

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

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

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

**Guests:** Dr. Joanne Demark, Leadership & Community Engagement; Greg McBride, Assistant Director of Viking Union Facilities & Services

## MOTIONS

**FC-21-S-02** Approval of the minutes of March 30, 2021. **Passed**

**Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**

### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of the Minutes

*MOTION FC-21-S-02 by Handa*

Approval of the minutes of March 30, 2021.

Second: Crandall Vote: 5-0-1 Action: Passed

### III. Revisions to the Agenda- Table the Child Development Center Budget until next week.

### IV. Public Forum

### V. Action Items

### VI. Information Items

#### A. AS Subsidies-

#### i. FXXLLCE Leadership & Community Engagement (LACE)

Dr. Joanne DeMark is staff person in this program. Vigil has moved that salary to FXXVU. They have also moved the student staff wages from FXXVU into this budget to match the way that the other budgets are structured. Next year, there will be a student hired to start in the fall. This year DeMark was offered a Civic Engagement Fellow. They are also requesting pay for a Graduate Assistant. The academic side of the university pays half of these wages. DeMark said that the graduate student gets a tuition waver from the Graduate School and then gets paid from the Enrollment & Student Services department. Vigil said in the past this was simply a subsidy from the AS to the program. They are now bringing this budget into alignment with the rest of the VU Org as LACE has joined the org. Bueno is excited about these opportunities and partnering with the VU Org in kicking off a new certificate program that will allow for a cocurricular and community engagement credit towards a certificate.

## **B. Enviro & Sustainability Programs-**

### 1. FXXECA Environmental Center

Greg McBride, Assistant Director for Viking Union Facilities & Services mostly works on the VU side, but for the AS he provides advising support for the Environmental & Sustainability Programs. This is his last year advising the program as he will begin closer work with facilities. McBride said that some things may be left intentionally vague in the budgets to allow the new advisor to make some decisions. The Environmental Center (EC) provides advocacy and programming around environmental issues. They did not hire the Coordinator position this year, due to Covid. McBride did a slight reduction but mostly rolled forward the funding. They may be changing this slightly because there is a sustainability office on campus, and they might not need as many staff members to continue to support students. McBride said they have worked a lot on how to get students engaged with sustainability in a hands-on way. They have hosted clothing swap and a local food fair for Earth Day. Vigil said "Yet another example of the Associated Students of WWU putting their money behind their values around Environmental Issues and Sustainability... and now over the years the Institution is stepping up and funding these same types of initiatives... so maybe time for the AS to step back and repurpose the funds to new and current issues and values of the ASWWU." McBride said that they were starting to work with the university to figure out the path for the AS that isn't duplicating services, these conversations were stalled due to Covid-19 and other issues. The Social, Equity & Justice Fee (previously Green Energy Fee and Sustainable Action Fund) is really separate being funded as a separate student fee. Vargas loves the ESP and would like to invest in it but thinks it does get confusing for people knowing the purpose of each office. Bueno asked about the revenue in FY16. McBride said there was a larger scale event bringing a speaker and they collected some revenue for ticket sales that were offset by the speaker fees. McBride said that offices typically try to make sustainability hands-on such as do it yourself things. Vigil asked why the EC and the Admin not combined. McBride likes the idea of having cost centers. At one point there were 10 people under the ESP director and the office included the Outback, the EC, Green Energy, and Transportation. The last two have moved over to university supervision because they were funded by and overseen by different areas. McBride isn't sure where it will move going forward. Vigil thanked McBride for ideas about how to move forward. Vigil said, "And...I am not sure the AS has to offer a "dowery" to other offices; office of Sustainability or SEJF to provide services that it appears they are leaning in to providing. This shift is not about losing current students' programs, rather enhancing and clarifying, similar to what Vargas mentioned in terms of not sure where to go for what as if seems as if multiple offices do the same thing."

### 2. FXXERT Earth Day

The AS has liked to set aside funding for events, they feel are really important. This budget is for an Earth Day event. They have had a daylong conference, speakers, programming, etc. Many times, the events last a week. Last year they didn't spend very much due to Covid-19. The year before that, they didn't know how much the food vendors would cost, and they had fewer participants. McBride also thinks they have been leveraging funding from SEJF. They have often used the grant money to cover the speaker fees and then using this account for advertising or other events that week. McBride feels that Earth Day may feel important in person as it has not happened the last two years.

3. FXXEVS Envi & Sustainability Admin.

There are just a few dollars in this budget to support the budget overall. Last year he moved the personnel into the Outback to show the true cost of that program. They are offering to give up the Environmental Center Coordinator in order to put those funds towards a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion student employee for the AS. Social Justice has been a focus of this office over the last few years. Vigil said that the committee could deliberate on the offered reduction. She feels like this can put the council in a hard situation. The requests for budgeting currently exceed the estimated revenue. The coordinator was not hired this year due to covid, because the way the office was moving was towards students gathering together to learn and do hands-on things. It is usually between the director and coordinator to do programming in this area.

4. FXXOUT The Outback Farm

Fairhaven College is in charge of the land, there is a Farm Manager out there and this is tied to the academic side. The AS provides the student programming and workers. Many of these employees work four quarters due to the growing season. Hiring happens in winter along with training. Spring begins the work of planting, summer is farming time, fall is still harvest and preparing for winter. The funding set aside in this budget is to support the engagement events, seeds & compost for the community garden. The Fairhaven side pays about \$7,000 in operating costs and then the faculty support. Vigil said now that we have moved the funding into one budget, they can really begin to see how much the Outback costs. Vigil asked what the makeup is of the community garden participants. McBride doesn't know this but said there is always a waitlist. There is the educational garden, forest garden, herb garden, production garden (donates to food bank/food popups), and the community garden as well. Hours are calculated on total hours per quarter because the farm doesn't stop, so students work over breaks and summer when they are not held to 19 hours. During the winter, they may only work about 10 hours a week. This has been a successful way of calculating wage needs. McBride clarified that the Community Engagement Programmer is hired at the same time as the rest of the AS so that they can be in training with others. The rest of the hiring is based on growing seasons.

## **VII. Other Business**

## **VIII. Adjourn**

***The Meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.***