



AS Finance Council

May 18, 2021 4:00 p.m. Teams Online

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

Advisor: Raquel Vigil, Viking Union Organization Business Manager

Secretary: Cindy Monger, Viking Union Organization Fiscal Specialist

Guest: Tanner Randall-Gosselin, AS Outdoor Center Excursions Coordinator (proxy for Crandall); Susanna Schronen, AS Fiscal Tech

MOTIONS

- FC-21-S-19** Approve of the minutes of May 4, 2021. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-20** Approve the Environmental & Sustainability budget (FXXEVS) in the amount of \$22,346, With the amendment that \$8,134 of funds be subtracted from the budget to be earmarked for student employment opportunities specifically dedicated to DEI work. (Such as The Black Student Coalition Development Specialists and like positions.) **Passed**
- FC-21-S-21** Approve the Environmental & Sustainability budgets in the amount of \$78,923. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-22** Approve the FXXVU- Student Activities Administration budget in the amount of \$1,399,134. **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-19 by Rocamora

Approve the minutes of May 4, 2021.

Second: Ford

Vote: 4-0-1

Action: Passed

III. Revisions to the Agenda-

A. Table Information Item B. due to issues with the document. Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Centers (SAIRC)- Queer Guild Council- Grant Proposal.

B. Vigil said due to projected Mandatory COLA of 3% (Included at the S&A fee discussions) she included in additional \$32,763. in F500 Wages other in the FXXVU Budget. Add Action Item B. Revised FXXVU budget.

IV. Public Forum

V. Action Items

A. Environmental & Sustainability Programs-

1. FXXECA Environmental Center

2. FXXERT Earth Day
3. FXXEVS Environmental & Sustainability Admin.
4. FXXOUT The Outback

Last week this item was tabled to do some more research about the offer of potentially having some funds go to a position in Diversity Equity and Inclusion. They said they would be happy to give up the Environmental Coordinator in order to fill this need. Ford asked if there was another position, other than the Black Student Coalition Specialists (BSCS) in the AS that works on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Vigil said other than the Black Student Coalition Specialists she is not aware of any. Ford said, given that he thinks they can make the assumption that the office was referencing the BSCS positions or creating new DEI positions.

Vigil said that if the council passes the budget as presented, then it leaves ESP in a place where they could hire the Environmental Center Coordinator. They could also approve the amount minus the position. Then they could pass the money for the coordinator to a special fund for a student position. Ford loves the idea of a DEI position, but wonders if the environmental area would suffer from not having this position. Rocamora loves this thought and thinking about positions for students, paying them for the work they are doing, etc. Bueno said that this would be a temporary move due to Covid restrictions because they may not be able to do all of their in-person events. It would be for one year only. Molina asked if they could create a position that centered both the environment and justice. Vigil appreciates the big picture question. "As we now have a VP for sustainability and as environmental issues are important at WWU we don't want to eliminate a position that may be very effective in moving Sustainability, Social Justice and the environment forward. As I've shared in other venues the Black Student Coalition may develop a plan that would be grant funded that would support DEI work with new student positions." She supports Molina's thinking, and would caution the Finance Council from getting into the details of creating job descriptions or components of a job description." Ford said that he supports using this money towards DEI work, since the director can fulfill some of what the coordinator could do. Given that not hiring the coordinator position would be minimal impact, the benefit of having a position working toward DEI work seems greater. Rocamora said given the difficulty with programming, it might a good time to use this funding for DEI work as long as they use these funds to build a community with the student money. They should look at the best way to give back to students. Ford said that having another BSCS position for one year. Randall-Gosselin thinks an environmental justice person would be good. Molina knows that the Black Coalition Specialists would like to have another student position. So, these funds could support that work. The council wanted to make it clear that this funding will go specifically to a DEI related student position. Ford wrote the wording for this motion but stepped back due to their work with the coalition.

MOTION FC-21-S-20 by Randall-Gosselin (proxy for Crandall)

Approve the Environmental & Sustainability budget (FXXEVS) in the amount of \$22,346, With the amendment that \$8,134 of funds be subtracted from the budget to be earmarked for student employment opportunities specifically dedicated to DEI work. (Such as The Black Student Coalition Development Specialists and like positions.)

Second: Molina Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

MOTION FC-21-S-21 by Rocamora

Approve the Environmental & Sustainability budgets in the amount of \$78,923.

Second: Vargas Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

B. Revised FXXVU budget, including Cost of Living increase

FXXVU has increased by \$32,763. Services & Activities Fee committee advised them to increase based on the thought that the legislature will pass a 3% cost of living increase for staff. The fee committee recommended a 1.5% increase to the fee to cover this increase. Ford asked if there was an increase in the student wages as well? Vigil said that the minimum wage is set on a cost of living increases and this was included in the budgets as stated. Vigil said that if the legislature does not approve this funding, it will not be spent. This is just planning for it.

MOTION FC-21-S-22 by Rodriguez

Approve the FXXVU- Student Activities Administration budget in the amount of \$1,399,134.

Second: Rocamora Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

VI. Information Items

A. Outdoor Center (OC)- Increasing Access + Equity for OC Excursions- Grant Proposal

Bueno shared the rubric that was passed on from the council last year to help assess grant proposals. Molina also shared the Value statement created by the council earlier in the year.

Randall-Gosselin said that they are trying to make all excursions trips low cost or free for 2021-2022. Keeping costs at \$5 for day trips and \$10 for weekend will reduce barriers and encourage people to keep their commitment to participate. Tanner Randall-Gosselin AS Outdoor Center Excursions Coordinator, said they are trying to make free wellness trips for students with access to food. This would be a one-time grant for FY2022 for \$14,000 to subsidize trips. They have been providing weekly Wellness Wednesday trips with Counseling, Health, and Wellness center. These trips focus on mental health topics and community building through local, accessible trips. They have created partnerships with campus groups serving underrepresented students. The office offered 3 different funding options and the impacts that might happen if less funding is granted. The document was read into the record.

II. Other Business

A. Services & Activities Fee Updates

This past Friday the fee was increased by 1.25% it will increase by \$2.62. The vote at the fee committee meeting was 4-1-0 with Bueno being the vote against increasing. Bueno will bring more information after the group discusses percentage splits.

B. Vigil said, "If I could take a quick moment to Brag...This council is the best! Thanking all you for your participation this past year." Monger dittoed.

III. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.