



AS Finance Council

April 27, 2022 11:30 a.m. Teams Online

Members: Present: Noemi Bueno, Chair (AS Business Director), Glory Basic, Vice Chair (AS President), Madi Gilbert (delegate for Central Services Rep), Naira Gonzales Aranda (ASVP for Diversity), Chelsea Joefield (Resources Rep- ESC), River Johnson (Student Senate Representative), Silvia Leija (Resources Rep- SAIRC), Daniela Reyes (delegate for AS Student Senate President) **Absent:** Ben Crandall (Activities Rep)

Advisor: Raquel Vigil, Assistant Director for Business Services and Planning

Secretary: Samantha Hughes, Viking Union Organization Business Services Program Support; Cindy Monger, VU Administrative Specialist

Guests: Susanna Schronen, VU Fiscal Tech

MOTIONS

FC-22-S-05 Approve the minutes of April 20, 2022. **Passed**

Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION FC-21-S-05 by Leija

Approve the minutes of April 20, 2022.

Second: Joefield Vote: 6-0-1

Action: Passed

III. Revisions to the Agenda

IV. Public Forum- Leija said this Saturday is the last day of Undocumonth. If you know any undocumented student or alumni that would be interested in participating in the portrait series, please send them to Leija or the BRC. On May 3rd at 5:30pm there will be a speaker coming from Mexico to talk about the 43 missing students in Ayotzinapa. This is a collaboration between Blue Group, LSU, and American Cultural Studies. Basic said that last week the Board of Trustees voted to give the Student Trustee a \$6,000 scholarship for next year. This year and years past they have not gotten any compensation, so it is great they are doing that. Basic encouraged people to apply, as the deadline is soon (May 6th) and they have not yet received any applications. Bueno asked about the programming for Earth Week. Basic said the vegan food truck at the Earth Day fair was a hit, and they sold out halfway through the event. Johnson said the fair was really good, there were a lot of people there, it was nice outside, and all the vendors and tables were really cool.

V. Black Student Demand Updates- Gonzales Aranda is meeting with the Fairhaven Senator soon to discuss getting Black art and other art up in Fairhaven. Right now, it is still in the process, and there is discussion about donations from Fairhaven and other offices, as well as goals of getting Black art up on every building. Basic said she is helping the OCE with Admin Town Hall / Lobby Day planning. With that they are making a list of student demands and are working on a way to push those demands within the Admin Town Hall and Lobby Day on May 26th from 3-5pm. There will be individual meeting sessions that you can sign up for with various admin throughout the day on May 27th as well.

VI. Action Items

VII. Information Items

- A. FY'23 AS Budget Discussion- Vigil showed the council the Draft Budget Summary Spreadsheet. She said the Budget Proposals total \$3,316,201. Given this, the AS will advocate for and recommend that the S&A fee be increased to its maximum allowable amount of 4%. If 4% is approved by the S&A Fee Council, the AS could potentially see an allocation of \$2,917,087 for the academic year and \$180,00 for the summer S&A Fee. If we receive both of the maximum allocations, the AS is still overbudgeted by \$219,144. Busic said she will bring it up during the Executive board meeting on Thursday and ask everyone how much over the budget they are comfortable passing. Bueno said that last year they passed the budget even though it was significantly over-budgeted, which was due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic restrictions preventing some events, some known staff vacancies, etc. Right now, the projected expenses for the year are 2.58 million, and so this deficit may be avoided due to spending being low. But next year, we will have more expenses since programming is going back up, as well as expected full staff. Because of this, Bueno doesn't think we should move forward with the same level of deficit mindset for the budget. The AS could potentially tap into the reserves, but it is questionable how long we could do that and if it is sustainable. Because of this, she would not recommend it and does not feel completely comfortable passing this budget as proposed with the over \$200k deficit. Johnson said that while the over-budget is understandable, it is a point of concern and we should think about the longevity of this, as well as the sustainability of being this much over budget. Gilbert agrees, and thinks we should look at cuts so we are not over-budgeted. Bueno clarified that we would not be cutting entire programs, just reducing funding by small amounts in certain areas such as a 10% reduction. Certain offices have a trend of not spending their full allocation, so that may be potential places to look at reductions. Vigil said "Process and or procedure for Budget Cuts: 1. Across the board reduction, let's say 5% from every budget. 2. Targeted reductions; subsidized programs, CDC 10%; Outback 10%, Large Student employee programs who have not used their full payroll allocation. primarily the Senate and Ex. Board. 10%. 3. Those program areas who have additional funding opportunities; WHOLE, Legislative Action Fund, LACE, VU Admin for Prof. Dvp Training." Johnson said that they agree that if a program is spending under what they're allocated, a reduction would be useful in the short term but long term that may create an incentive that might lead to programs using up excessive funds to avoid having budget reductions. Johnson thinks that doing a mix of that with a more broad-based approach would be more useful. Busic said that we need to be careful when looking at what wasn't spent during the COVID-19 pandemic years. For example, a lot of the student government budget wasn't spent in the last few years due to not being able to take students to Olympia for Lobby Days. Bueno said to look at spending before 2020. Vigil said that the elected position in the Student Senate and the Executive Board fluctuate in the amount of time worked, and lately there have been more vacancies. If we believe that is going to be a trend, might we reduce the request by 10%? Gonzales Aranda said during the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of committees "died" and Senators were paid for their committee work. The lack of meetings meant many of their hours weren't used. Busic said that student government as a whole is difficult to predict hours for, some people end up working few hours, whereas others, like Busic, consistently work over their allotted hours. Vigil clarified that with a 10% reduction, the position holders would not be expected to work less hours. Overage could be covered by the AS Reserves in the event that all of their hours were used. The goal is to present a budget that allows for optimal programming and employment, given the restrictions with increasing the S&A Fee. Vigil said "A 10% reduction from the Senate would be about \$11,000 and the Executive Board would be about \$15,000.

Those programs who have other funds available to them would be WHOLE \$2,600, LACE \$11,000, VU Admin \$6,500. A discussion regarding the Legislative Action Fee and the Legislative Affairs budget could result in \$18,170. The Outback and the Child Development Center could be \$5,000 and \$10,875". Monger said "For example, this year the Board is budgeted for \$137,757 and has spent so far \$76,340 this year. This is likely more extreme due to Covid but would still likely be about \$37,000 unspent".

Bueno shared three options with the council. First is 5% reductions for everyone. But something to keep in mind with this is that for some offices, their projected balance for the end of the year is really low and they have spent most of their allocations. Because of this, some offices could realistically take a 5% cut and others can't. The second option is having targeted reductions, for example the council talked about reductions from our subsidized program, the Child Development Center (CDC), and the Outback. Some offices haven't used all of their allocations, such as ASP, which is currently projected to be \$30,000 over. The third option is taking reductions for offices that have other funding opportunities, for example WHOLE, VU Admin, LACE, Logistic Action, etc. Personally, Bueno wouldn't advise for a 5% overall cut for everyone some areas have already significantly reduced, and others have increased. Vigil said that one area she wants to look at is the large increase for the Outdoor Center, which is an increase of almost 50%. Bueno recommends doing options two and three. Vigil said "Just know I do not like an across the board cut of 5%...as some program areas (ESC) have already submitted budgets with reductions".

Bueno said that WHOLE could use funding from their WWU Foundation account instead of asking for a budget for supplies. Vigil said that the WHOLE program does have a foundation account, and that account currently has almost \$41,000 in it. They also have an additional AS fund, where in previous years donations went, and that fund is currently at \$25,000. If these funds could absorb \$2,600, it would be a good place for reductions that wouldn't impact services to students.

Other places to look at includes the VU Admin budget section for travel. Eric Alexander offered to take cuts in that area if needed, and that travel could be funded from the VU Org Discretionary Reserves. Additionally, LACE requested \$11,000 over requested in comparison to what they requested last year, and that could be another area for cost savings. They just heard from the Budget Authority that money will be covered by a different budget and can be removed.

Bueno asked the council to recommend a path and a targeted over budget amount. Basic said we should make reductions and shoot for not being overbudgeted by \$100,000-\$150,000. Reyes said, "I agree with cutting, and I think that max should also be around \$75,000 and cuts to Senate is a good idea, as a senator I've seen the personal struggle for hours". Gonzales Aranda said, "I support making cuts". Leija said, "Yes to cuts and specifically around 75k with an examination of the Outback and its overall use for all students not just Fairhaven". Johnson said that "reductions is something that we should do, max I would like to see is probably around \$70,000-\$80,000 [over budget]. Reductions in the Senate is definitely something we could do, and it is a fairly easy gamble". Gilbert said, "I support reductions, and I would be comfortable over budgeting between \$75,000-\$100,000". Joefield said, "Yes to cuts, and examination of the Outback as well as Senate and a target number should be in the \$75,000-\$100,000 range". Monger said, "With the reduction to LACE during this meeting we are now at \$206,989 over budget. The [earlier suggested] areas get us to about a \$70,000 reduction. We would need [reductions of] \$130,000 to get us to the \$75,000 over budget goal". Vigil said, "My preference is that we not use the word "Cut" reducing the proposed budget is preferred. I worry that when folkz hear cut...they think they

should cut their program...rather we want the same level of programming as proposed...just reducing the budget figure”.

Bueno asked what people think about a 10% reduction to the Senate and Executive Board, equaling \$11,000 for the Senate and \$15,000 for the Executive Board. Johnson, Gonzales Aranda, and Gilbert said they are on board. Other council members had no objections. For the Childhood Development Center (CDC), Bueno reached out to them about the questions the Finance Council had about how they are servicing students. This is what she heard back: “Our center is licensed for 59 children, ranging from the ages of 2-5 prekindergarten to kindergarten. We strive to fill all our openings using full-time, which follows a model of 30-45 hours for full-time, part-time 29 hours or less. Some families share spots. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Tuesday, Thursdays. We currently enroll 30% children of students, and 70% children of staff and faculty whenever possible. After the lockdown in June 2020, we have been unable to enroll the center to full capacity due to staffing and social distancing constrictions. We are currently working on enrollment for Fall 2022 with intention of reaching full capacity by the end of the Fall quarter by striving to leave 2-3 positions open through August for last minute walk-ins to ensure we are reaching the 30% family goal for students. This year, 2021-2022, we serviced 7-10 student families eligible for free and reduced lunch. We are currently researching additional scholarship opportunities with the intent of making quality campus-based childcare more accessible to more low-income families. Two families received the subsidy currently. In addition to families with young children we serve, we provide employment and job skill opportunities for upwards of 35 WWU students and partner with Woodring to provide practical experience and internships for 20 preservice teachers annually. We also provide support for different programs within offices such as speech and hearing, psychology, etc.” Bueno asked what everyone thinks about a 10% reduction, which would be \$10,875. Busic said she thinks that we should, but we should also look for alternate funding to try to cover it. Bueno asked that in the case that we reduce by 10%, what would they do without that funding? Vigil said they have a fund balance, which is similar to the reserves. They came into the current fiscal year with a balance of \$115,000. Vigil reminded everyone that the CDC received a 5% reduction last year due to COVID. Currently, they have enough in their fund balance to cover a 10% reduction. Additionally, student families make up about 17% of the program and the subsidy is within that 17%.

Bueno asked if everyone would be comfortable with a 10% reduction to WHOLE since they have funding from other sources, and a reduction for VU travel. There were no objections. Monger said “It would be really helpful if we could identify if items are just a reduction, or if they are a one-time reduction. That would be great to clarify. For instance, with staff travel, since there is the other funding source, is that just a reduction?” Bueno said we would mostly be looking at one-time reductions.

VIII. Other Business

- A. Service and Activities Fee Update- This past Friday, Bueno and Busic presented the current proforma budget, and answered questions for folks. This upcoming week, there will be conversations about the budget and the level of funding for areas from the S&A Fee.
- B. Prep work for the next meeting- Bueno will send out the minutes related to proposals.

IX. Adjourn

X. *The Meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.*