



AS Finance Council

May 18, 2022 11:30 a.m. Teams Online

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

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:

MOTIONS

- FC-22-S-08** Approve the minutes of May 11, 2022. **Passed**
- FC-22-S-09** Approve the Club Activities budgets for the amount of \$96,898. **Passed**
- FC-22-S-10** Approve the Environmental and Sustainability Programs budgets for the amount of \$67,982. **Passed**
- FC-22-S-11** Approve the KUGS 89.3 FM budgets for the amount of \$124,735. **Passed**
- FC-22-S-12** Approve the Viking Outdoor Recreation budgets for the amount of \$126,866. **Passed**
- FC-22-S-13** Approve the AS Productions budgets for the amount of \$203,592. **Passed**

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

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes- May 11, 2022.

MOTION FC-21-S-08 by Crandall

Approve the minutes of May 11, 2022.

Second: Johnson Vote: 5-0-3

Action: Passed

III. Revisions to the Agenda- Table Action Items F-O and agenda items VI-IX.

IV. Information Items

- A. Services & Activities Fee Committee Update- The S&A Fee Committee voted on the percentages for next year, and it was passed that the percentages allocated would stay the same. A shift in percentages was suggested to give a higher portion to the AS, but the committee was not in favor of those new percentages. During the meeting, Vigil had brought up an issue with the wording of the motion and is looking to get that cleared up moving forward. Next week, there will be discussions about the summer allocation, and the AS will be increasing their ask to \$180,000. In the past, the AS has gotten a greater allocation for the summer than what was asked, and the increase in ask reflects the allocation in previous years. Vigil said there was a "Vote earlier in the quarter to recommend a 4% increase to the fee. 2nd vote to maintain the current % Splits. Those

splits are as follows: AS 44.30%, Athletics \$32.30%, Campus Rec. 6.90%, and DRAC 16.50%.”

- B. Outdoor Center Budgets- Crandall talked to Stephen Magnuson (Viking Outdoor Recreation Manager), and he agreed to cut the challenge course request for the program funds and student position. The OC is also open to taking food out of the Wellness Wednesday events. These events started during COVID as a way to support students experiencing food insecurity, to take care of basic needs, and as an incentive to attend trips. Now that the event is free, there is not necessarily a need for that incentive. Additionally, the OC is looking at offsetting the cost of food for the weekend trips by charging students a fee to attend trips. Crandall wanted the council to know that the OC will use all of the impacts grant that they have to help support students attending their Western Outdoor Orientation (WOOT) program in the Fall and therefore they wouldn't be able to pay for students out of this fund for weekend trips. If they were to charge \$10-\$20 for a weekend trip to offset the cost of food, there would be no other financial means to support students who couldn't afford to go on the trip. Crandall wants the council to consider the impact and asked if saving money was worth it since there are no other accessible options to attend the trips if they're not free. Bueno acknowledged that previously Crandall had said he doesn't want the OC to become a source of revenue, but Bueno thinks it may be a good idea to look at revenue because the cost of trips is very high, so considering the small fee for students attending overnight trips to help cover food cost could be a good idea. Vigil said if food was taken out of Wellness Wednesday's, the savings are projected to be \$4,455. Bueno asked about the price of the Wellness Wednesday trips compared to the other trips, as the Wellness Wednesdays are \$15 per person and the other trips are \$10 per person. Crandall said they work with Leaf and Ladle to provide food for the events, and it's cheaper on the weekend trips that have the overnight component because they are bulk buying the food and cooking it while on the trip. Busic said that it doesn't make a lot of sense to get rid of food at an event that centers around wellness, and feels that it would be ironic to do so. Vigil said she likes Busic's concern and wondered if a \$4000 reduction with \$445 left over would leave enough for the purchase of snacks such as granola bars and fresh fruit, as well as drinks for the Wellness Wednesday events to keep more in line with the Wellness format. Crandall thinks more money would be needed than the \$445 to account for basic human needs during the event. He is also not in favor of needing to buy snacks in bulk at places like Fred Meyer over being able to support a local business. As a student, Crandall feels that food should still be at the Wellness events, but the OC is willing to make those reductions. Joefield agreed that taking food out of the Wellness event would be odd, and that this specific spot isn't the one to cut corners on. She thinks that providing food is important from an accessibility standpoint, as well as in keeping a public health mindset. Having things included at events, such as a meal, is what draws people to programs. Joefield also agrees that from a sustainability standpoint, it would be better to have the option to order from local businesses over chain stores. Gonzales Aranda said, "I agree with Chelsea as well [about] removing food from Wellness". Crandall said "If we took out all food for the Wellness event our total food ask would be \$6,300. We could also try and work with a different local business and not do leaf and ladle? I am sure there are less expensive and still good options in Bellingham?". Vigil asked if the food was trip dependent. "I can't tell if we are providing the meal mid-way through the trip as nourishment...or at the conclusion of a trip...like celebratory?" Crandall said that it is totally dependent on trip leaders, so for some there will be food mid-way through, at the end, or at the beginning. Joefield asked if we can make food

requirements time-dependent, for example saying a certain length trip has food offered halfway through. Vigil said “I really like the time consideration. And anything under some target figure (crossing a meal hour) should be considered as a place to create some savings”. Bueno asked how long the trips are on average. Crandall said it depends, but they are usually 2-4 hours. Bueno said the council could consider doing a smaller \$1000 reduction instead of a bigger \$4000 reduction. Vigil said, “I’m so here the concern regarding removing food”.

Vigil said, “I still believe there is some flex in reducing the OC Admin account for student payroll, as I believe there were days scheduled that will not be used [holiday’s, etc.]. According to the budget spreadsheet, it looks like \$4,000 - \$4,400. So how do we consider a reduction in staff hours, that may not be worked as a result of inflating the calendar. We could reduce \$4,000 and keep the food budget in-tact”. If at the end of the year the OC is under budgeted in terms of staff hours, there are reserve funds that can cover the reduction. Vigil said it is not as easy to get access to reserve funds mid-year for a Wellness activity.

Crandall said “Was that \$4,000 figure from Stephen! It also makes sense to me with the knowledge the OC can go into the reserves. My thoughts would be to take the \$4,000 out of the admin budget because there is a reserve to cover that, we would be rolling the dice on reducing food!”. Vigil said that Magnuson did not get back to her about that amount, but she does know that the staff hours are inflated. Bueno asked how the council feels about a small reduction in the food budget. Johnson said they think a slight reduction would be good, but putting a hard cap on the number of trip hours needed to provide food would create weird incentives. For example, it might result in shortening a trip if there’s no budget for food left, or stretching out the trip length if they want food. Vigil said “I stand corrected, in the email I sent out I used a savings of \$3,067. So we better reduce down to this figure versus \$4,000”. Crandall said, “We could reduce by \$1,000 in the food budget and think that would still give us wiggle room”. Joefield said that reducing by \$1000 would be a good idea, and then utilizing the time requirement to see how it works and how much it reduces. Crandall said he agrees with Johnson, and that the hour limit may incentivize trip leaders to propose trips that are over the limit so food can be on that trip. Crandall said most food items only cost \$12, and so the OC could reduce the budget by \$1000 and still be in the range of what they would expect to spend for the year. Bueno said this reduction would bring the OC budget down to \$126,866.

- C. Outback Budget- Vigil said, “For the outback the standard 5% reduction we have used to date would result in a savings of \$2,530.” Busic said she thinks we should still reduce the budget for the Outback because a lot of it could fit under other areas. She thinks that if we reduce the budget even by a little but this year it will encourage Fairhaven to respond to AS concerns. Crandall said having a direct conversation with Fairhaven would be beneficial, rather than just talking with the Outback. He knows that the decision packet the Outback submitted to the university to do some improvements and make the Farm Manager position full time recently got denied. Because of this, Crandall is hesitant to reduce without first talking to Fairhaven to see if they could pick up the slack. Vigil said, “Thank you for your suggestion. Of course one of our weakness' is communication. Who is responsible, The AS Advisor? Our Assoc Director Eric? Me as the Advisor to the Finance Council? Work in progress for sure. I need to figure out the same type of communication for the CDC [Child Development Center] where we recommended a 5% reduction. I wouldn’t recommend a smaller reduction...we have set a standard and

should stick to the standard 5% so that the communication back out to the areas is consistent". Bueno said a 5% reduction would be \$2,530, and asked how the council would feel about that reduction and then sharing the council's concerns with the Outback. Joefield said "I love that". Vigil clarified that the council is not recommending a cut to services and programming. Right now we are looking at mitigating the over-budget while still providing enough funding to keep the current level of services and programming to students acceptable. Johnson said that they know the council is trying to be consistent with the 5% reduction, but if the Outback has other sources of funding and isn't as much of the AS's responsibility, the council should look at a slightly higher reduction of 6%-7% to signal that it is different than our other reductions and that the AS is advocating for different sources of funding. Vigil said she likes that justification, and wanted to remind the council that previously when the Outback was looked at, they thought they were going to get a large grant from the state. Despite this, she believes there are still alternative ways that the institution could fund the Outback, but for the current fiscal year that would be tough. Sending a message with the 5% reduction would allow Outback to explore how to continue providing services and programs at the same level, as well as look at different sources of funding. Bueno asked the council what percentage reduction they would be comfortable with. Johnson, Busic, and Reyes said 7%. Crandall said a 7% reduction would be \$3,542.07. Crandall asked, "Do we know that the outback does indeed have different sources of funding?". Vigil said "Ben you are so great. No guarantee of different sources of funding. And the AS is stuck in a downward spiral around funding with the S&A Fee. And in the future we may have to seriously consider cutting programs and prioritizing what the AS is and what programs and services we will fund from the S&A Fee". Crandall said "My vote is 5% and then having a follow up convo with Fairhaven. If Caskey can get other funding then 7% sounds great but without other sources of funding I imagine the outback will have to reduce what they are offering to students". Gilbert asked, "In the case that we went over budget the full amount, how much is in reserves to cover that?" Monger said currently "\$320,550". Vigil said, "[The operating budget] is figured at 10% of operating Expenses. So if we pass a budget of \$3,252,242 we will have available \$325,242". The council decided to recommend a 7% reduction.

V. Action Items

The council had reviewed all budgets in detail at other meetings, therefore they were passed as presented in the summary.

A. Club Activities-

MOTION FC-21-S-09 by Johnson

Approve the Club Activities budgets for the amount of \$96,898.

Second: Gilbert Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

B. Environmental and Sustainability Programs-

MOTION FC-21-S-10 by Crandall

Approve the Environmental and Sustainability Programs budgets for the amount of \$67,982.

Second: Joefield Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

C. KUGS 89.3 FM-

MOTION FC-21-S-11 by Joefield

Approve the KUGS 89.3 FM budgets for the amount of \$124,735.

Second: Johnson Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

D. Viking Outdoor Recreation-

MOTION FC-21-S-12 by Johnson

Approve the Viking Outdoor Recreation budgets for the amount of \$126,866.

Second: Crandall Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

E. AS Productions-

MOTION FC-21-S-13 by Johnson

Approve the AS Productions budgets for the amount of \$203,592.

Second: Gilbert Vote: 8-0-0 Action: Passed

Busic and Gonzales-Aranda left the meeting.

Action items F-O and all remaining agenda items were tabled to the next meeting by acclamation.

VI. Public Forum

VII. Black Student Demand Updates

VIII. Other Business

- A. Prep work for the next meeting

IX. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.