



# AS Finance Council

April 13, 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), River Johnson (Student Senate Representative), Silvia Leija (Resources Rep- SAIRC), Daniela Reyes (delegate for AS Student Senate President) **Absent:** Chelsea Joefield (Resources Rep- ESC)

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

**Secretary:** Cindy Monger, VU Administrative Specialist

**Guests:** Susanna Schronen, VU Fiscal Tech; Stephen Magnuson, Viking Union Outdoor Recreation Manager

## MOTIONS

**FC-22-S-03** Approve the minutes of April 6, 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-22-S-03 by Busic*

Approve the minutes of April 6, 2022.

Second: Gilbert

Vote: 6-0-1

Action: Passed

**III. Revisions to the Agenda-** Adding Info Item B Professional Advisement FXLLCE and removal of FXXWEB, postponing until next week.

**IV. Public Forum-** This is Student Employee Appreciation Week, there are many events happening this week. Next week is Earth Week and there will be many events coming up. During Earth Week, council member Gonzales Aranda will be speaking on Indigenous people in the Amazon and Bolivia. Children of the Setting Sun Productions will also be attending an Earth Week event. There will also be a showing of the movie Princess Mononoke. Last week, Bueno listened to a great speaker regarding Undocumented Students. Kaylan Rocamora, AS Personnel Director, will be tabling to advertise for AS Jobs. Please join her if you can. Leija said "It's Undocumonth! We have an allyship event on Friday".

**V. Black Student Demand Updates-** Some Senators are doing work to meet Academic demands from Black students and Gonzales Aranda will be working with them.

### VI. Action Items

### VII. Information Items

#### A. AS Subsidies-

1. FXCHLD, Child Development Center- Bueno said that the Child Development center is a childcare center for students and employees to drop off their children while doing work and classes. It is partially funded through the AS. This budget is for the admin running the center and for its food program. This area is fee driven, with students

paying a reduced cost for care. There is also some state support for this area. They are asking for the same amount as last year \$108,754 as a transfer from the AS to subsidize fees for students. Basic asked if this could be funded completely by the university. Vigil said there is very small institutional support. It looks like they increased their support from \$15,00 to \$97,000 this year. Vigil said she isn't sure who would begin the conversations about the institution increasing their support, allowing the AS to decrease their account. Gonzales Aranda said that Vigil has brought up before that the AS will fund certain things for a couple of years, and then after that hopefully the institution takes up the job of funding. The RSVP for Student Activities has done a lot of work for this and is planning to open a new parent study center in Haggard Hall. Vigil said it is a great program, and there is secondary benefit of the program to students in terms of employment and learning lab opportunities. Vigil noted that the direct care to student's children is less than faculty and staff use, and that it would be great if the university stepped up their game and funded this fully. Crandall asked how many students have children using the center versus staff members. He wondered what Finance Council can do to encourage Enrollment and Student Services to begin taking over funding of this area. He has been confused about why it is being funded at this level. Vigil said they can ask the CDC (Child Development Center) for those numbers and then request that the AS President reach out. When the council decides to make a recommendation to pass the budget, they could the AS Business Director and AS President to write a letter to the Vice President to explore future funding models for the CDC. Bueno said that last year 25% were children of students and they were hoping to increase that to 30%. At that point it was about \$10,000 subsidy per student in the center. Basic said they talked about things to look out for in the S&A Fee at the WSA Washington Student Association, and that this feels a little bit like piggybacking. Basic is worried that administration will say it mostly benefits students, but that in reality it mostly benefits staff and admins. If that is the case, Bueno feels that it is weird for the AS to pay for it. Bueno will contact the CDC for more information including capacity and fees for students. Basic also encouraged Bueno to speak with the AS VP for Student Services.

## **B. Professional Advisement-**

1. FXLLCE, Leadership & Community Engagement- This is the Leadership program, and the majority of the budget is for two student employees, one general and one Graduate Assistant. There is also an increase of \$12,000 support requested for the program in Goods & Services. Vigil said that there is a contribution received from the Vice President between \$11,000-15,000. She wondered if this is the budget that should be applied to the institutional funding. She thought it was pretty clear that the AS could not take on large increases in funding this year. Bueno will check in with Dr. Joanne for clarification.

## **C. Environmental & Sustainability Programs-**

1. FXXOUT, The Outback- Magnuson said his position also includes advisement of the Outback farm. Two weeks ago, we saw the other Environmental & Sustainability Programs budgets, this completes that area. The Outback Farm is located by Fairhaven Complex, and it is a student run farm which has chickens, bees, food, and more. It is a partnership between Fairhaven College and ASWWU. They do employ a

number of students at the Outback Farm as well. One of the unique pieces of the farm is that nothing stops growing, so people work over intersessions. They do work parties and food popups with focuses on food justice and regenerative systems. This year is their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and there will be a celebration next month. The Outback has general hours instead of hours per week due to the unique nature of the farm needs.

Vigil reviewed the increased funding the AS has provided to the Outback over the years. Vigil said people generally feel that the Outback is a Fairhaven program, and that this is another example of the absence of university funding. But the AS saw value in this and has supported it. Magnuson said that the way it is run is like a Fairhaven program, and his role right now is to help coordinators understand the process for purchasing, contracting, etc. but it is Fairhaven that has the knowledge and expertise to run the Outback. Vigil wonders if this would potentially fit as a DRAC (Departmentally Related Activities) program instead. Bueno said this could be a Fairhaven supported program, and that this conversation should continue. Basic lived in Buchanan Towers and used to go to the Outback often. There is a food pantry that does benefit all students Leija said, "I think there we should also consider how much AS marketing goes into the outback as well." Crandall said there is a request for a budget package of \$127,000 but he is not sure if there is a way to use some of that funding to support the Outback. The staff member is not permanent, but the role is integral to the farm. Magnuson does not know all the details, but that the package is lumped into Fairhaven as a whole. Magnuson feels it is a very Fairhaven centric part of the AS. The benefit to the students is in terms of food pop-ups and what is produced at the farm as well as the gardening plots that are open to students who wish to have a space to tend a garden. Gonzales Aranda is curious if they want the Outback to credit the AS more, or if they feel like Fairhaven students are mostly benefitting. They said it was an important conversation to be having. Leija wondered how much effort the Outback is putting in to reach out to non-Fairhaven students. She doesn't think a lot of students understand or know that the Outback is for all students. Vigil said the AS is funded by the Service & Activities Fee charged to all students, and Departmentally Related Activities are also paid out of this fee. Moving it over might be a better alignment, but it is still student fee money. If the Finance Council funds all of the areas as requested, the budget is almost a quarter million dollars over. The ask exceeds what we can expect to get from the S&A Fee. When we have moved over programs in the past, one of those was the AS Club that participates in Model UN. It used to receive funding from the AS and there was a determination that it was better aligned with DRAC. The Occam's Razer academic journal was also moved over in the past. Vigil emphasized that the Outback is of value to the AS. Given the lack of ability of the AS to grow funding, she wondered where is the most appropriate place for the funding to come from. Basic thinks it makes sense to move over to DRAC. Bueno asked what support Fairhaven gives to the Outback.

Right now, there are a couple of grants to help the program that end in the next few years. There is also a \$5,000/year Fairhaven College operating budget for farm upkeep. The AS support is \$50,000. Magnuson sees Fairhaven primarily contributing to the Farm Manager wages. In this ask they are looking to institutionalize the Farm Manager position, which is \$95,000/year, as well as \$10,000/year for programming instructors and workshops. Vigil said in the proposal "it really looks like Fairhaven

has given a BIG nod out to the AS for their support.” Vigil said, “between the Student Fees paid via the S&A Fee and the SEJF...we should be able to come up with a model of funding that more appropriately aligns management leadership and academic learning for our WWU/Fairhaven students!!! Stephen Magnuson, you have enough to do advising and leading outdoor Viking Recreation...we need to move the outback off your plate.”

#### **D. Outdoor Center-**

1. FXXCHL, Challenge Course Operations- The Challenge Program has offerings on campus as well as off campus at Lakewood. It is a team development course. There are academic courses, sports clubs, AS/ESC Clubs who use the course. They offer anything from 1-hour get to know you to a 6-hour high ropes course. There are also community groups that come out including school districts, businesses, etc. They have been shut down essentially the entire Covid-19 pandemic. They are in a pretty big rebuild and are needing to train new facilitators over the summer. They are not anticipating much in terms of revenue as they don't have trained facilitators ready to go, it will be a slow rebuild. Revenue forecast may be low, but Magnuson didn't want to over-project.
2. FXXOCA, Outdoor Center Admin- there is a small increase in goods and services and wages.
3. FXXOEQ, OC Equipment Shop- They rent Outdoor Equipment and have a Bike Shop where people can work on their bikes, renting tools and purchasing parts as needed. They are doing pretty well with equipment rentals, but they now primarily sell bike parts. 40% of every rental goes towards the replacement of the equipment that they currently own. Next year they are hoping to go back to their \$15,000 in revenue. The Outdoor Center has set some intentional modeling on their wages compared to their actual needs, for example it tends to be busier toward the weekend as people go on outings. This is not the traditional calculator, they have broken down by quarter their days open, hours of operation, and coverage for the office.
4. FXXOEX, OC Excursions & Instruction- They are including no revenue in their proposal because they are trying to keep excursions free or low cost for students. This is currently being funded as a grant. This budget is seeing an increase of \$20,000 for wages. There is also an increase of \$8,500 to offer food for participants, which was also part of the grant that ends this year. There are also expenses related to travel. Magnuson said for a long-time, excursion Trip Leaders were paid on a contract per job basis. They were paid a daily rate of \$70, \$80, \$90 per day based on Assistant or Head Trip Leader status. An 8-hour trip at \$70 per day is less than \$10 per hour. In addition, there is pre-trip work before the trip and a post-trip debrief. Over the last year, Trip Leaders have begun to get critical of that model. This proposal is a hybrid, they are still paid a contract for the trip, but based on an hourly amount for the pre/post trip work. This is to ensure that they are being paid at least minimum wage. They are seeing this trend in Outdoor Activities in general. It is hard to see this jump in wages, but it is also due to turning a blind eye to the financial reciprocity for Trip Leaders. There has also been a call to action to not have costs for trips, there was a grant for this. There was a survey from 200 participants who benefited from the free trips via the grant. Magnuson said that they would love to offer these opportunities

at low to no cost for students, encouraging participation regardless of their financial status. They have been intentional in rethinking the programming.

They have increased their Wellness Trips in Boulevard Park, which include things like body movement, mindfulness, star gazing, and meditation. They want to be inclusive of more students and offer a variety of activities, instead of more intense trips. Bueno has been having discussions with the Outdoor Center about these changes. She suggested moving ahead with this model and providing detailed information, which they did. Bueno recommended the council review these budgets. Crandall said they are looking and questioning why there is a difference in how the OC has been viewed while AS Productions has not been seen as a revenue-based area. Crandall thinks that this comes from seeing the Outdoors as a product, and it is not. Looking back on the grant, they mapped on to the AS Values. On paper, it seems like a drastic change, but it connects with the direction of ASWWU. Bueno said the Outdoors is not a luxury, they want to make sure as many students as possible have these experiences.

5. FXXOPO, OC Promotions & Outreach- Decrease in request of roughly \$1,000, including some revenue from an event.

#### **VIII. Other Business**

- A. Prep work for the next meeting

#### **IX. Adjourn**

***The Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.***