



AS Finance Council

April 20, 2022 11:30 a.m. Teams Online

Members: Present: Noemi Bueno, Chair (AS Business Director), Glory Basic, 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), Silvia Leija (Resources Rep-SAIRC) **Absent:** 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: Karen Deysher, Coordinator for Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Center; Susanna Schronen, VU Fiscal Tech; Amy Westmoreland, Director of Multicultural Student Services

MOTIONS

FC-22-S-04 Approve the minutes of April 13, 2022. **Passed**

Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION FC-21-S-04 by Leija

Approve the minutes of April 13, 2022.

Second: Johnson Vote: 6-0-1

Action: Passed

III. Revisions to the Agenda- Under info item B #5, the Women's Identity Resource Center has recently had a name change and will be referred to by the new name "Gender Liberation Resource Center" in this meeting. The order of items under info item A was changed from the Agenda and discussed in the order presented in the minutes. An additional section (item 7) under info item B was added for the Blue Resource Center by acclamation.

IV. Public Forum- This week is Earth Week, and Bueno hopes everyone can take part in the celebration, learning opportunities, and movies.

V. Black Student Demand Updates- Gonzales Aranda has been in communication with the Fairhaven Senator and has heard that they have received funds to get Black art up in the Fairhaven building. They may also add in Latinx and Indigenous art as well. They are also working with the Dean to go over syllabi with the goal of diversifying academic readings, writings, and other material. This is in line with Black student demands. Westmoreland shared that the Black Student Coalition space has been getting renovated, and by next week they will be getting furniture in. They will be planning a grand opening within the next couple of weeks, potentially some time in May.

VI. Action Items

VII. Information Items

Amy Westmoreland (Director of Multicultural Student Services) introduced herself.

A. Ethnic Student Center (ESC)-

1. FXXESC, Ethnic Student Center Admin- This budget is seeing a large increase due to pro-staff salaries being moved back into this budget and the restoration of summer hours. They are asking for the ESC Cultural Education Coordinator to be reinstated after the one-time reduction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Westmoreland said there is a need for more cultural programming, specifically as we talk about what intersecting identities look like, what it looks like having this position collaborate with other offices, and when thinking about reducing the workload on the Advocacy and Programming position. This will allow for more intentional work talking about anti-Blackness, racism as a public health crisis, and more. Vigil said professional staff wages were put back in the budget because Enrollment and Student Services has undergone a reorganization, and as part of that, it was determined that the AS ESC and the AS SAIRC will be reporting directly to and will have leadership and management by Amy Westmoreland. As such, she will be the one who is responsible fiscally and administratively for the ESC and SAIRC, as well as responsible for leadership, programming, and staffing. Because of this, it made sense to move the funding for the staff under a budget that Westmoreland has more direct leadership over. Right now, it is a bit complicated, but they are all doing their best to make it work. In previous years, ESC staff positions were allocated directly to the ESC. It was only in fiscal year 2022 that the two staff positions were moved out of the ESC and into the VU Administrative account.

Another increase is that they are asking for one additional front desk attendant. This is because Westmoreland wants the ESC front desk to be staffed from 10am-7pm on weekdays. This is to ensure that there is someone available to answer questions, assist students in the space, to respond if there is an emergency, etc. They only had one position funded and the rest were work-study. Bueno asked if there aren't as many work-study positions due to lack of funding for work-study positions, or if it's difficult to find students to do work-study. Westmoreland said it is difficult to find students that will do work-study positions or that qualify for work-study positions, but she is hoping to recruit more students for work-study to have them join spring and into the fall. She also thinks that we shouldn't just rely on work-study students to do that work, and that it is important the position is funded.

2. FXXEOR, ESC Retreat- This retreat typically happens in the fall, and they usually take 100-150 students. The trip consists of different speakers, seminars, sessions, opportunities to build community, etc. This year the retreat will not happen offsite because of continuing Covid-19 concerns. Due to this, they are anticipating no revenue. Vigil said the revenue is generated by a registration fee that is given to non-Western students that participate in the retreat, such as those from Whatcom Community College, Northwest Indian College, and Skagit Valley College. Even without the revenue, the reduction of buses and rental fees led to about a \$7,000 reduction in the budget. There is an increase in the amount requested for speakers and food to provide more incentive for people to get involved and participate. Joefield asked what it would look like if the retreat is held on-campus. Westmoreland said that is something they still need to plan, her hope is that it could be some sort of 2-3 day retreat series with multiple different sessions. She is also looking into off campus sites that are free to use, but there wouldn't be the overnight aspect. Westmoreland wants to avoid charging students to attend this retreat. The other aspect of this is that they are currently understaffed, so there are limitations to what they can do.

Westmoreland wants to balance being realistic and doing what they can for students, potentially having some collaborative pieces to the event as well to compensate.

3. FXXEPR, ESC Programming- Carry-forward from previous year's budget.
4. FXXESP, ESC Club Programming Funds- This budget helps support heritage dinners and other events. The money from this budget is transferred out to fund different clubs and offices that need it. There is a decrease due to inactive clubs and reduced programming due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Westmoreland is hoping to see full use of these funds with clubs reactivating and reestablishing, more training, and with the establishment of more spaces like the one for the Black Student Coalition, which has some funding attached. The actual need isn't fully known at this time. Joefield asked with clubs being able to access other sources of funding, is this fund where they are supposed to go first when they need money? What does that look like, and are there specific events that are supposed to come out of this fund? If the amount of use increases next year, what does that look like? Westmoreland hopes that they will need to request more funds in the future and that there is more usage. As far as how clubs can go about requesting these funds, it is important to talk about the ESC Budgeting and Programming Committee (BAP) and how clubs go about presenting their needs. It is dependent on what people present to that committee, and on what the clubs need. Vigil said "What a great question you ask. And these questions and the subsequent dialogue is an important task of the ESC BAP committee. So, there is work to do moving forward. Visioning, intent...collaboration of guiding documents, i.e. Charge and Charter documents"
5. FXXEUN, ESC Building Unity- This budget is to help build unity among clubs and the AS system, it is a quarterly training. The majority of this budget is for food, reception, and setup. There is a \$200 increase to allow for \$500 per quarter.

B. Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Centers (SAIRC)-

Karen Deysher (Coordinator for Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Center) introduced herself.

1. FXXROP, SAIRC Center Admin- There is an increase due to the pro-staff positions being moved from FXXVU to this budget for the same reasons as FXXESC. Recent changes include that the Women's Identity Resource Center has just received approval from the AS Executive Board to have their name changed to the Gender Liberation Resource Center. Because of this, they wanted to make sure the position titles align with the name change and the reasons for the name change. Another change includes changing the title of the Student Advocacy Identity Resource Center's Representation & Outreach Coordinator to "Coordinator for Cross-Movement Solidarities" because this position largely focuses on connecting the offices within the SAIRC and ESC together. They want to make a more concentrated effort to provide support for student who have multiple marginalized identities in order to cultivate a more socially just and equitable environment. Bueno asked if the name change is official at this time. It was approved April 8th.
2. FXXDOC, Disability Outreach Center- Thursday at 6pm they will be hosting speaker Imani Barbarin (also known as Crutches & Spice) to speak on COVID-19 as a mass disabling event. This budget is a carry-forward from last year.

3. FXXLGB, Queer Resource Center- The ask is very similar to previous years, and consists of speakers, supplies, set up and take down, etc. The budget is seeing a small decrease because some money was moved to other resource centers to have the budgets be more even, and to spread out funding to other parts of the community that don't have as much funding allocated to programming specific to them.
4. FXXWCA, Gender Liberation Resource Center- This budget is seeing a small decrease due to funds being moved around to help better support other offices. One of the resources that the Gender Liberation Resource Center (GLRC) provides is menstrual products, pregnancy tests, contraceptives, etc. They are kept in the Western Hub of Living Essentials in order to be more accessible.
5. FXXWHL, Western Hub of Living Essentials- There is an increase in this budget, but it is in connection to other offices and their budget changes (namely decreases).
6. FXXVOC, Veteran's Outreach Center- this budget was included in the agenda by mistake.
7. Blue Resource Center- They are looking to operationalize the Blue Resource Center after almost 3 years of it being funded by a grant awarded by the Finance Council that ends this year. This is an incredible, crucial resource on campus because they don't have any other positions on campus outside of the BRC who solely focuses on supporting undocumented and mixed status students. The work that the BRC Coordinators do is incredibly crucial to the persistence of undocumented and mixed status students here at Western, and the ability to provide educational programming, advocacy, and community engagement, which really make a difference in the educational outcomes of students. The budget funds the two student hourly positions and a programming budget, and they are requesting a budget of \$5,500 per year to be in line with the other SAIRC budgets. Vigil clarified that in keeping with the overall structure of SAIRC, that they would add the two student positions into the administrative account, and then create a tab for the BRC. Leija reinforced that the BRC is an incredibly important resource for students, and that their office is always full. They have had people ask about DACA, how to get their license, and more. They have even had people outside of Western asking for help and resources. Leija said that the BRC is incredibly important to her, to every other student who goes there, and to alumni that worked for it since 2016. Johnson seconded what Leija said, adding that there are quite a few students that come in having questions and she is able to send them over to the BRC. Knowing that they have this resource and that Leija is there to answer their questions is incredibly valuable and important. Vigil clarified that one way or another, the BRC will continue to exist and be funded in 2023.
Joefield left the meeting.

C. AS Website-

1. FXXWEB AS Website Design & Development- This budget funds the wages for students that work with Jeremy McAllister to develop AS technology, websites, and everything in that realm. This budget is seeing a decrease of \$6,000 due to not hiring the VU Web Designer. This may be a one-time reduction.

VIII. Other Business

- A. Services & Activities Fee Update- This Friday from 1-2pm the AS is presenting the pro-forma budget for the S&A Fee at their meeting, all are welcome.
- B. Prep work for the next meeting

IX. Adjourn- *The Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.*