



Western Washington University Associated Students Alternative Transportation Fee Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2022, 5:45 PM

Attendees:

Committee Members: Laura Wagner, Bob Putrich, Eli Stanciu, Jasmine Fast, Jillian Trinkaus, James Detke

Guests:

Staff and Assistants:

Motions:

Laura Wagner, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM

I. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approval of the Minutes

a. April 20, 2022

b. May 4, 2022

i. All Approved

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. none

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Jillian Trinkaus – 18 & Under Ride for Free on the bus

a. Washington State Legislators have passed a law mandating that everyone 18 and under can ride public transportation for free. WTA, has decided to put that into effect starting on July 1, 2022. That brought us automatically for us that we charge people 18 and under for a bus pass when they register. For the summer we will not be charging anyone 18 and under the ATF fee because there is no late-night shuttle, and they won't be getting a bus pass. It made sense not to charge them for the summer. As for the fall quarter, we are currently working on systems to put into place. The way the fee works right now, if you register for over 6 credits you automatically get charged the fee. Basically, we will have different groups of students. The first check will be their age, if they are 18 and under, they will not

be charged and if they are 19 and over, they will be charged the fee. We did not have time to implement this for summer quarter because people were already registering when WTA told us what their plan was, so this makes sense to us right now. That is one issue and is currently being worked on and is working out fine. The other issue is that if we aren't going to be charging people who are 18 and under, which we really shouldn't be charging them for the bus pass portion of the fee because they are getting that for free from the WTA, it brings up the questions about what they should be charged.

- b.** Eli Stanciu – Am I correct in my understanding of the fee that about 75% of the fee goes to WTA, the bus pass, and 25% for other things.
- c.** Jillian Trinkaus – Historically that has been true, we do not currently know what that percentage is right now, because we have a different payment method that started this year. In the past, we would pay WTA \$21.95 for every full-time student, or \$21.95 for two part time students. So that was about 75% of the fee. So, this year we implemented that we are paying every time a student swipes their card, we pay WTA \$0.50. This is a new program, so we don't have a full year of data on. On top of that we have covid ridership numbers, which I believe is lower than a normal year. We had more classes online and there were less people traveling around than ever before. There are some factors that are making some uncertainty around it, as ridership and enrollment increases.
- d.** Eli Stanciu – My thinking is, is there a way to reduce it just for that specific group of people.
- e.** Jillian Trinkaus – Thank you for bringing up my next question. What do we want to charge for our students that are 18 and under? One way of doing that would be to charge them 25% of the \$30.00 fee.
- f.** Jasmine Fast – I would love to see the numbers
- g.** Jillian Trinkaus – This spreadsheet is just a summary of the budget. Column. In yellow, you can see what we actually have in revenue, expenses, and total cash balance. Column H shows where we are now, and how much has been paid out of the budget right now, and how much we have collected. This \$1,157,646.00 is what we have collected for this fiscal year, and we are done collecting that for fiscal year 22. Total expenses are not quite done yet, because we still have to finishing paying for the late-night shuttle, and some program fees and

expenses. My projected end balance at the end of June 30th is \$1,035,646.00 once we have paid all the bills. Column I is using historical numbers and what things cost this year. So, projecting what ridership will be a little higher. I used \$7.50 for 2,000 student, per quarter under 18 and about 12,000 students who are charged the full \$30 fee when projecting. I am predicting we will pay more to WTA next year and to the Starlight Shuttle.

- h.** James – Do we have an idea of what the percentage of students who are 18 and under is?
- i.** Jillian Trinkaus – I don't know the exact percentage but there are about 2,000 of 14,000 is. I have historically in 2018-2019 school year, which was a high enrollment year for students. That academic year there was 2,745 students, 1,941 students, and 1,269 students that were 18 and under each quarter. So, I averaged about 2,000 students. 12,000 would be 18 and over and the 2,000 would be 18 and under.
- j.** Bob Putrich – We do need to keep in mind that we don't know what is going to happen with the WTA fee schedule. They are proposing to change the fee from \$0.50 to 50% of whatever the current fee is. If the current fare is a \$1.00 but if they change the fare to \$1.50 then the price would be \$0.75 per rider. I believe the \$1.50 was already approved by a previous board for them. We need to keep that in our mind when deciding on our budget, or if we need to add a shuttle to either the late night or summer shuttle.
- k.** Jillian Trinkaus – we are looking to opening the fee towards other things, like the bicycles.
- l.** Jasmine Fast – I was wondering how we are charged by the starlight shuttle service. Is it an hourly rate or a flat fee?
- m.** Jillian Trinkaus – I believe it is just a flat rate per hour that the shuttle runs.
- n.** Jasmine Fast – So that is what is projected at \$165, if we were to add a third shuttle?
- o.** Jillian Trinkaus – That is just accounting for more ridership, and possibly needing another shuttle on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday because those are our higher numbers. I did just kind of pull that number out of a hat, but if we need to increase our times for availability then yes that is what it would be as ridership increases hopefully. I would love for ridership to increase to the point where we

need an additional shuttle. Ridership is lower than we anticipated for this spring. The numbers appear to be a bit flat for this month.

- p. **Laura Wagner** – I have a question about the 18–19-year-old shift, how would that work in terms of tuition payment, because at the beginning of the quarter we are told how much to pay, and then a lot of people turn 19 through the middle of the quarter. I was wondering if they didn't turn 19 before the quarter if they would just not pay for that quarter and then increase the following quarter or if they would pay that quarter knowing it is because they will be turning 19.
 - q. **Jillian Trinkaus** – If you are 18 and under on the Sunday before the quarter starts then you do not get charged for the bus pass, if you turn 19 after that time you will be charged. This way we aren't prorating anybody
 - r. **Bob Putrich** – WTA will not assess us a fee during that time as well.
 - s. **James** – about 40% of what we are spending is the starlight shuttle expense. The total WTA payment and the total Starlight Payment is what this was.
 - t. **Jillian Trinkaus** – We have a position that has not been filled still currently and that does affect our budget as well. I guess what my question is, are you concerned about the cash that we have on hand. Do we want to go to \$30 per student per quarter? We do have the option to do that.
 - u. **Laura Wagner** – Right now I am not concerned about it, it seems like we are in a position that if we need to decrease then we have that capability. Again, with that change being from \$0.50 per swipe to half of that full amount for a ride on the bus. It doesn't look like we need to add another shuttle currently either due to the level in the ridership currently.
 - v. **Eli Stanciu** – I am not concerned either at this time because when speaking to other students in my class they all understood the need for it. Of all the referendums on the ballot the students do feel the \$30 was worth it. If the students agree to this and we do end up with excess than we can expand on it if needed, and we still have the capability to lower it if needed, and just in case WTA changes their rates we are still in a good place.
- b. **Laura Wagner & Jasmine Fast** – Combining the Active Transportation Fee Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee, New Charge Charter

- a. Laura and Jasmine both worked on the documentation for the joint committee, AS Transportation Advisory Committee.
- b. **Jasmine Fast** – Laura and I combined the charge for the active transportation and the advisory transportation committee. This committee has responsibilities in two sectors. Managing the operations of the Western Student Transportation Services and active transportation fee, as well as implementing a transportation agenda on behalf of the associated students.
- c. **Jillian Trinkaus** – What is Western Student Transportation services?
- d. **Bob Putrich** – There used to be an office that was referred to as Transportation Services, that would do everything except for parking, but that office no longer exists.
- e. **Jasmine Fast** – Western Transportation Services and Active Transportation Fee are both part of the Active Transportation Fee committee, and this other portion here, “implementing an ongoing transportation agenda on behalf of the Associated Students” is the portion from the Transportation Advisory Committee.
- f. **Jillian Trinkaus** – I think we need to change the wording here. The first sector should say the administration of the active transportation fee and the second sector is on the transportation advisory committee. I don’t know that we really need to say both sectors since the fee language has been expanded we are including both. I don’t know. I’m not clear on the goal.
- g. **Laura Wagner** – We want to try to include that in the language that it is a combination of two committees. This one that we are in right now is all about administering and oversight of the Active Transportation Fee related things. Transportation Advisory Committee the original committee was more about advocacy and hearing student voices and what they are passionate about. That is one of the things that we were talking about with Eli’s position, as VP for Governmental Affairs, was that there could be some crossing over and development of AS Lobbying Agenda’s for what students want to see in terms of local transportation related things, in relation to the transportation advisory committee section of this charter.
- h. **Eli Stanciu** – That was a bit of a topic of concern. Many students live a local lobby day with is the OCE, and the other half my job has been doing. Many students are bringing up transportation issues that we

have brought up with the county and the city, which it was mostly biking, like bike lanes. It was advocacy to build it on the city's part. But I think that we should explain that second arm a bit more, more that advocacy, that lobbying, on transportation related issues outside of the university. If we are combining those two, then that is perhaps that is the wording that we need to put in there.

- i. **Jasmine Fast** – For the membership part of this we combined the two memberships, so that we can keep quorum we changed quorum to simple majority instead of two-thirds. The membership is open to suggestion for non-voting and voting if anyone thinks that they should be voting, but these are the positions that we felt were essential to the committee.
- j. **Eli Stanciu** – I think having student senators being able to take a vote is very important to this, especially since we have three exec board members on this committee. It would be good to balance it out. We do have to make sure that the senator that is on the committee is not running the yes vote, but it will perhaps make it easier for us to obtain a senator to run our yes vote in the future.
- k. **Jasmine Fast** – that will bring us to 10 members with 6 voting members
- l. **James** – I just wanted to clarify whether we meet quorum based on percent filled positions or percent of total position, because a lot of these positions have never been filled or have never attended a meeting.
- m. **Laura Wagner** – We can put that it meets quorum based on filled positions.
- n. **Eli Stanciu** – As a nonvoting member, but the local liaison, work directly with students who have transportation concerns and work with the local agenda. Having them there they can report to what students want.
- o. **Jasmine Fast** – Chair will continue to be the SEJF Chair
- p. **Jillian Trinkaus** – I think that we should continue to have the transportation coordinator as a nonvoting member

IV. ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Jillian Trinkaus

To Students that are 18 and under for the 2022 – 2023 academic year be charged \$7.50, which is 25% of the \$30.00 fee

Second: Bob Putrich

Motion passed 6-0-0

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None

Laura Wagner, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:34 PM