



AS Finance Council

May 24, 2023 1:00 p.m. Teams Online

Members: Present: Brandon Denny, Chair (AS Business Director), Sargun Handa, Vice Chair (AS President), Bella Bedard (Activities Rep), Madi Gilbert (Central Services Rep), Gabe Wong (Delegate for AS Student Senate President), **Absent:** MJ Manaois (ADEI Rep)

Advisor: Eric Alexander, Executive Director for Student Engagement & Director of the VU

Secretary: Sam Hughes, VU Business Services Program Support; Cindy Monger, VU Administrative Specialist

Guests: Ben Crandall, Outdoor Recreation Programs Coordinator; Sean Hakala, AS CENV Senator

MOTIONS

FC-23-S-13 Approve the minutes of May 17, 2023. **Passed**

Brandon Denny, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes- May 17, 2023

MOTION FC-23-S-13 by Gilbert

Approve the minutes of May 17, 2023.

Second: Wong

Vote: 4-0-0

Action: Passed

III. Revisions to the Agenda

IV. Public Forum

V. Information Items

- A. Garage 529 Bike Registration System Large Event Request
Request for up to \$6,000 from the Large Event Reserve

Doc. 1

Student Senator Hakala wants a better bike registration system for Western's campus that similar to University of North Colorado which Hakala previously attended. To accomplish this, the goal is to contract services from a Seattle-based nonprofit called Garage 529. This is being funded by the Transportation Advisory Committee with ongoing funding approved.

Garage 529 is an independent bike registration company. Their model works by having "Shields", tamper resistant stickers that have a unique code that identifies each bike to a specific owner once registered. There will be a branded bike registry for WWU through Garage 529, and a certain number of stickers per year will be purchased by the university then distributed to students who want to register their bike for free. This system is for theft protection. The current system administered by WWU Campus Police does not prevent theft effectively, as it is not apparent if a bike is stolen at a glance. With this system, if a bike is suspected to be stolen, anyone can use the sticker to figure out how to contact the owner of the bike to see if it was stolen. This provides a community defense against theft. This system is also designed to protect privacy of the bike owner being contacted. The hope is to launch this early Fall quarter.

Today, the ask for funding is for an incentive for registering totaling \$5,278 from the Large Event Reserve Fund to purchase 200 Kryptonite Keeper 12mm long shackle U-locks. This brand of locks is widely regarded as high quality. These locks will be given away to the first 200 people to register their bikes. Funding for this proposal would go directly to the Outdoor Center (OC) that has a relationship with a wholesaler which allows to purchase at reduced cost. Crandall said the OC's role is assisting the purchasing and distribution of the locks, as well as serve as a hub for people to register their bikes in the future. Wong asked if the plan is to table at the Fall Info Fair or if there will be a separate event for promotion. Hakala said it would be ideal to promote and give away locks at the Fall Info Fair, but it is a matter of the Contract Team writing up a contract with Garage 529 and making plans with the different constituent agencies about implementation on time. Hakala doesn't think this will take long, but there may be difficulties due to lower communication over the summer, so this may bleed over into Fall quarter. Right now, Hakala is working on getting in contact with the contracts team at Western. Funding is approved and launch will be ASAP. Launching during the Fall Info fair is the target if everything can be ready in time. Denny asked if this will be a staple program in the OC going forward, or if it is in a temporary trial period. Halaka said hopefully the registration for the program at the OC is a consistent program for as long as the university is a thing. Right now, there is allocated funding for 5 years of operation and hopefully the Transportation Advisory Committee will provide funding beyond that. Hakala said with regards to this request, the funding for the locks is a one-time expense to provide incentive to register and increase outreach. This is also a way of providing students both passive and active protection for their bikes.

Handa left the meeting at 1:16pm.

Due to the loss of quorum the meeting officially ended, but discussion continued.

Denny asked if the goal of the partnership is to push for greater usage of bikes on and around campus. Hakala said that it is one of the goals, which is also in alignment with the strategic climate action plan of the university. Hakala said a lot of people don't bike to campus or bike around town because they are afraid their bikes will get stolen. Hakala said 30 bikes were stolen on campus last year, and that this system and the locks is a sustainable option to protect against theft. Alexander asked if this system replaces the current University Police system and if they will be working in collaboration with University Police. Hakala said this will be in collaboration with University Police and will fully replace the current system they have. The University Police is in full support of this idea. Bedard asked if Garage 529 pairs with other bike registration systems and if it pairs with the bike serial number. Hakala said during registration of your bike you input basic information both about yourself and the bike, including make, model, and serial number. All of that information is attached to the code on the shield sticker when you register with the program. Garage 529 also coordinates with many other registries, such as police registries and some other nonprofits they overlap data with. So, their database is larger than just the stuff registered with Garage 529. Bedard said handing out free bike locks is a fantastic idea and great incentive that will be beneficial to students. Denny agrees and thinks this will contribute to students having a better overall experience at Western. Denny asked if this proposal is approved would the goal be to secure the locks while waiting for the contract, or if Hakala will wait to order until the contract is completed. Hakala said this money would go into the account of the OC and when they deem it appropriate, likely during summer, they would place a bulk order for the locks. Hakala's

position is not funded through the summer, so the Active Transportation Coordinator will take over the role of implementation over the summer and coordinating campus Housing, the OC, and Transportation Services together. Right now, Hakala is working on getting the contract team to reach out to Garage 529 and get the contract done. Hakala said if that doesn't happen over the summer, that will also be handed off to the Active Transportation Coordinator. Monger said "I love it when students bring things from other higher ed institutions! Thank you Sean!".

Hakala and Crandall left the meeting at 1:27pm.

Denny asked for the council's thoughts on the proposal. Gilbert said she loves the inter-departmental work going on and it is super exciting to see.

Denny asked how this proposal fits in the large event reserve and wondered if this qualified as a large event. Denny thinks it is an amazing idea and gives people more reassurance about theft, but asked if this right reserve to be requesting funding from. Alexander said, "Great question...the "Event" is registration, maybe?" Monger pulled up on shared screen the Defining AS Reservices Policy for reference on the large event definition. Monger said a large event is an event with an expected attendance of 100 people or more, and the purpose is for funding Programs & Services that will enhance student experience and is beyond the scope of the allocated Operating Budget. Monger said it seemed like at first, they were going to do their own large event, but then Hakala mentioned about tacking the event onto the Fall Info fair, so it might be either or. Denny thinks that this falls under the large event definition because they are meeting the threshold for amount of people by giving out 200 bike locks to the first 200 people to sign up. The goal of the large event would be registration.

Wong asked where we are with the large event reserve fund and what it will look like next year. Denny said this year, we have spent \$33,148 from the large event reserve, about half of the fund. This proposal would increase spending by \$5,278, bringing us to \$38,426 out of the total of \$65,000 for the year. Monger said that this would be purchased next fiscal year. Bedard asked what the date of the end of fiscal year is. Monger said June, 30th. Bedard said purchasing the locks seems like a thing that can be pushed through quickly to this fiscal year if it would be better to purchase with this budget instead of next year's. Denny is not concerned about this falling to the next fiscal year's large event reserve because the amount asked is small in proportion to the \$65,000 that will be received next year for the large event reserve fund. Gilbert is in favor of this proposal and said and it qualifies as an outreach event and students would benefit from these locks as an incentive to register for the program and will likely use their bikes more often as a result. Gilbert also did not use a bike on campus because of the fear of bike theft. Wong is also in support.

VI. Action Items

VII. Other Business

Next week will be the last meeting of the quarter. Next week will focus on a recap of the year with inputs about how the year went. There may also be budget discussions if the FY24 budget proposals get sent back to the Finance Council.

The conversation shifted to discussing the previously presented wage policy changes. Wong wants to get the council's thoughts on what the process should be for approval of fiscal policies going forward. Wong wants clarification on the process and does not believe it is clear. Denny said for context, the AS Senate and Executive Board voted on the wage policy changes, but based on the Finance Council Charge and Charter, fiscal policy changes, review, and updates falls to the Finance Council and does not fall to the Senate or AS Executive Board directly. Monger said "I realize now that the other policy passed by the council happened during a quarter when Wong was unable to attend". Denny said that having wage policy changes should be a collaborative effort. Denny said where he sees an issue is if Senate and the AS Executive Board are able to review and update fiscal policy and the Senate and the AS Executive Board are also able to oversee the approval of the Finance Council Charge and Charter, it becomes a grey area with regards to delegation of roles and power structure. Denny said a benefit of fiscal policy falling to Finance Council is that it allows representation from every single section of the AS to give input and have voting power in the changing of a major policy. Wong said that the current Finance Council's Charge and Charter is clear about financial policy, but there is a contradiction because the wage policy passed in 2019 said the AS Executive Board had to approve it. Wong takes this to mean the entire student government because of the reformation back in 2019. Wong said that policies supersede Charge and Charters. Wong said that in the passed wage policy, what is written is that changes to the wage policy should originate in the Finance Council and the wage policy should be reviewed every year, ideally before budget discussions take place. Alexander said that there will be different approaches to the work with all of these things, and he appreciates the way that everyone is approaching it. Alexander said the goal is to find a way to preserve the intended purpose of the Finance Council to be a balance for the Executive Board and Senate. Alexander thinks there is a solution here that the council is close to, and that this policy and the process of approval is highlighting some of the gaps in the process that need to be filled. Alexander is optimistic that there is a solution going forward. Bedard is hesitant to put forward a strong opinion as a new member to the council that is not elected nor involved with the Senate. Bedard said as far as determining fiscal policy, the Finance Council should leave more serious concrete voting to the elected bodies. Bedard is hesitant to make sweeping changes to something as complex as fiscal policy. Bedard thinks Senate voting on it feels more equitable. Gilbert believes that all AS employees are intended to be representing the students. Regardless of where the policies originate, they should all be bringing forth the voice of the students. Gilbert sees the Finance Council as a recommending body to the elected officials. Wong said there is expertise in the Finance Council that is not necessarily present in the senate. Monger said "It is difficult this year as we don't have At-Large students, but the thought of this council is to have some elected, some hired for their skills, and some students not affiliated in the AS. These students would be the only ones not impacted by the Wage Policy".

VIII. ADEI Updates

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.