



# AS Finance Council

June 1, 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), River Johnson (Student Senate Representative), Silvia Leija (Resources Rep- SAIRC), Daniela Reyes (delegate for AS Student Senate President) **Absent:** Naira Gonzales Aranda (ASVP for Diversity), Chelsea Joefield (Resources Rep- ESC)

**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:** Sargun Handa, AS President Elect; Susanna Schronen, VU Fiscal Tech

## MOTIONS

**FC-22-S-26** Approve the minutes of May 25, 2022. **Passed**

**FC-22-S-27** Approve the Club Activities Coordinator Grant Proposal totaling \$127,308. **Passed**

**FC-22-S-28** Approve all Carry Forward Requests for FY23. **Passed**

**Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.**

### I. Call to Order

### II. Approval of the Minutes- May 25, 2022

*MOTION FC-22-S-26 by Basic*

Approve the minutes of May 25, 2022.

Second: Leija

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

### III. Revisions to the Agenda

### IV. Action Items

#### A. Club Activities Coordinator Grant Proposal

Doc. 1

Crandall asked if the current position holder is a temporary position, and if this proposal is a temporary position too. He was curious if they had opened hiring for the position so other applicants can apply. He said it seems like the position holder was selected for the role, and he wondered if ethically that was ok. Bueno said the current position holder was a previous AS employee, and Jenn Cook, Club Activities Manager, had reached out to them specifically for the temporary position. Currently, the position is being paid for by VU funding. Vigil said the ASVU supports ADEI and a fair and equitable hiring process. Now that this role is moving into a two-year project position, under the policies of university, it is a different position. There are processes within Western hiring, and there may be an opportunity appointment for the current incumbent employee to move into this 2 year position, but there are no promises. Basic asked if the proposal was to fund the entire salary, or if the VU is helping to support this financially. Bueno said it would be fully funded by the AS. Basic said that she remembers in previous conversations with Eric Alexander, Executive Director of Student Engagement and Director of the VU, that students should only pay for part of the salaries of pro-staff. Bueno said it depends on the position and their direct work with the AS. Vigil said this grant is the primary funding for this position. If they fall short of

what this position is rated as and they require additional salary dollars, Alexander will more than likely access the VU Discretionary Fund to make up for that difference. The plan is to fully fund this position for two years while exploring if this position should be operationalized. Crandall asked what fund this would come out of, and how much is in that fund. Bueno said it is coming out of the AS Grants Reserve Fund and there is currently about \$348,000. Vigil said passing this would encumber the full amount at the time it is approved since there must be a guarantee that the fund has enough money. This will ensure that going forward, the budget isn't overextended. Bueno said the grants are separate from the operating budget and reserve. Vigil said she is excited for this vote. She feels Club Activities is a gateway program to overall Student Activities. If we can attract the students early on, their chances of being involved at a higher level going forward increases. She feels like this is a good investment. Bueno agreed.

*MOTION FC-22-S-27 by Johnson*

Approve the Club Activities Coordinator Grant Proposal totaling \$127,308.

Second: Reyes

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

## B. Carry Forward Requests

Doc. 2

Bueno said the OC Trip Leader Training is currently an AS Grant that has been extended several times. Vigil said that the intention of the grant program is that a grant should operate for the term that it is approved. Last year the council was in a unique situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to this, a number of grants were approved for extension or carry-forward. For this year, because the OC grant was a 3-year grant that was extended for additional years, and because the OC increased their operating budget, Vigil believes this grant should end and there should not be a carry forward. Busic thinks that if you tell someone you will get a set amount of money, that they should still be able to get that money in the future if they didn't use it because they were promised that amount. Monger said that the OC Excursions training grant was approved first on October 5, 2016 and the original amount was \$110,705 for 3 years. It has been extended several times. The carry forward from last year was \$30,755. Crandall said that given the need and that they are still facing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which created a gap in leaders, he thinks these funds will still go to training for leaders in an ongoing need and meets the goal of the grant. Crandall said that just because the OC had an increase in their operating budget for wages for trip leaders, doesn't mean that the council should take away this funding for training. A bigger discussion that needs to happen is operationalizing this grant so that it doesn't continue to have to be extended year after year. This grant allows the OC to hire Trip Leaders and train them so they can have a more equitable staff because the costs of these training is prohibitive for many students. If this is taken away, the OC won't be able to do that. Johnson said they can understand this sentiment, but although the grant wasn't fully utilized for understandable reasons, this shouldn't be something that the council should continue to encourage. Extensions and carry forwards shouldn't be encouraged as precedent or they may constrain future finance councils in what they can do. This could result in making the AS less efficient than it could be in terms of directing and allocating money. Crandall said he is concerned about a hard cutoff when it wasn't able to be added to the operating budget. He is concerned about what kind of foundation it sets. Bueno said she tells budget authorities that grants are available to be seen at any point of the year. It is implied in that conversation that the grant is limited to the time requested, and if you don't use your funds within that time span, then the funds will eventually go back into the AS Reserves.

All other requests were reviewed briefly as they were discussed in the last meeting.

*MOTION FC-22-S-28 by Leija*

Approve all Carry Forward Requests for FY23.

Second: Basic

Vote: 5-1-0

Action: Passed

## **V. Information Items**

**VI. Public Forum-** Bueno wished everyone a Happy Pride Month and said that the graduation celebration (to get caps & gowns) is currently happening on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the VU. Basic said from 4-6pm there will be a pride celebration event at the flagpoles where they will be putting up pride flags. Bueno said the Lawnstock outdoor music festival is Saturday. Bueno said that Sargun Handa will be the AS President next year. Bueno gave a shoutout to all the seniors graduating attending the meeting and said that tomorrow is the AS Employee end of year celebration. Basic said she will be the VP of Communications for the Washington Student Association next year.

## **VII. Black Student Demand Updates**

### **VIII. Other Business**

A. Reflections on 2021-2022 AS Finance Council- Basic said her only feedback was that she was stressed out about Finance Council running over the allocated time because she has back-to-back things before and after every meeting. Bueno said she would suggest keeping this in mind for scheduling and in creating the agendas moving forward. Johnson said that the channels of communication seemed like a problem this year, so the council should be sure to start that dialogue earlier in order to avoid difficulties getting in touch with budget authorities and others. Vigil seconded and said how we communicate and reach out needs to improve, specifically with the Outback and the Child Development Center. Getting all folks involved earlier is important so that the AS doesn't feel pressured to provide the same level of funding as in previous years because there was no communication or verification of alternative sources of funding. Basic thinks that earlier communication with the S&A Fee Committee should also help. Leija said there needs to be more conversations and check-ins between council members who represent certain offices and the budget authorities, especially when it comes time to vote on things. There needs to be broader conversations that include everyone that needs to be there.

Vigil said that there could be some training up front for finance council members to talk about what the member's roles are when it comes to sharing information back and forth between the areas they represent and the council. This is a different role than budget authorities. Vigil also recommended that the council doesn't meet once a week at the beginning to avoid cancellations later on in the quarter. Instead, she recommends the council meet bi-weekly in fall quarter. Reyes said that it is kind of awkward for people who come in as delegates part way through a quarter because they don't know what is going on. Bueno said that was newer this year and they will continue to have conversations to improve this process. Leija said that a document with the most used words within this council would be helpful. Bueno said there is a document like this on Teams. Leija said that terms definitions should be added. Basic said she appreciated hyperlinks sent in emails, but that emails should be sent earlier.

## **IX. Adjourn *The Meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.***