

A.S. STUDENT SENATE MEETING
November 6th, 2007
VU 567

Present: Kristina Mader, Aaron Hayman, Danny Tonty, Diana Beilman, Lurdes Hernandez, Sally McLaughlin, Judah Corsini, Morgan Holmgren, Chelsea Fletcher, Nicole Brown, Mark Provenzano, Brianne Kumar, Tyler Woodard, Matteo Tamburini

Absent:

Advisor: Greg McBride

Secretary: Brooke Hayter

Guest: Ramiro Espinoza, Nina Lau, Eric Lowe, Annie Jansen, Aaron Garcia, Kathryn Mulhausen

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Chelsea Fletcher

Summary of Motions:

Motion # 005-F-07 to approve the minutes from 10/30/07, made by Matteo

I. Approval of Minutes – 10/30/07

Motion # 005-F-07 to approve the minutes from 10/30/07, made by Matteo

Second: Brianne

Vote: 10-2-0

Passed.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Information item B Legislative Agenda was added. Other business item A Binder Organization was added.

III. Public Forum

Freshman Kathryn Mulhausen attended the meeting to see what exactly the Senate does.

IV. Information Items

a. By-Laws Committee

Chelsea proposed an idea to the Senators about making changes in the bi-laws. Discussion was held about document one and Chelsea asked all of the Senators to look over the bi-laws and see if they saw anything they felt needed to be changed. This will be an action item next week and the Senators will vote on members for the committee.

b. Legislative Agenda

The legislative agenda is going to be brought for the Senate to look over; however it was not ready for the meeting tonight. Eric Lowe proposed to Chelsea that she email the document out to all the Senators this week so discussion can be held at the next meeting.

V. Action Items

a. Vice Chair Voting

The only Senator to nominate himself was Aaron Hayman. The Senators voted by secret ballot and Aaron was voted as the new Vice chair for the Student Senate.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Outreach Ideas

Chelsea asked all of the Senators at the past meeting to bring at least two ideas of new ways to outreach to the students, the Senators went around the room and shared the following ideas. Brianne suggested placing televisions in the Fairhaven, Viking and Ridgeway commons, with scrolling news. She also suggested doing a broadcast on KUGS. Diana also had the idea of using televisions, placing ads on the busses, in the Western Front, and in other public areas, along with placing something in the freshman packets. Judah had the idea of going into different

classrooms and taking a few minutes to speak with the students. He also suggested having magnets and sticking them in bathroom stalls. Mark had the idea of an AS Student Fair where the Senate and the Board could have a table and publicly answer questions students had. Morgan had the idea of a Senate hotline where students could call in and leave messages about any issues they are having on campus, he also suggested asking the Western Front to give the Senate any letters to the editor they received so the Senate could see what issues they are having as well, he thought there maybe a problem with confidentiality but he is going to look into it. Lurdes had the idea of posting ads in places that are most accessible to students, along with having fliers at residence halls front desk. Sally came up with the idea of making buttons for the Senate that had an ear on them; the ear would remind the Senate that they were to be the ears of the student body. She also had the idea that the Senate should target certain departments and every two weeks the Senate members could go sit in a department hall and answer questions students had. Matteo came up with the idea of posting information at the tutoring center and placing banners outside of buildings. Tyler had the idea to do something at summer start and something for transfer students so people would have an outlet to get involved. His idea was also to have some Senate members attend residence hall functions. Danny spoke next about writing the issue of the month on white boards in classrooms; he also suggested using the Newspapers. Kristina suggested linking up with the ROP or the ASP and setting up tables at their events or speaking before their events started. Aaron suggested the idea of Senate T-shirts, and finding people to give donations so the Senate could hand out free stuff, his idea was to give out free stuff in return for peoples input. Nicole suggested writing the issue of the month on the white board on the sixth floor of the VU, she also suggested tabling. Diana suggested having a letters to Senators outlet in the media possibly in the AS Review every two weeks. Brianne also had the idea of posting the issue of the month as the desktop or screen saver in classrooms, Greg told the Senators that was a good idea but it is currently untapped media and once we started doing it many other groups would like to do it as well and he wasn't sure how excited ATUS would be about that. After the Senators had finished discussing their ideas Chelsea proposed that three people should direct the way the Senate outreach would go and set up a timeline. She wants the Senate to have a larger position on campus this year. This will be an action item next week.

b. Website Committee

Chelsea decided that the Senate website was not very user friendly and she and the other Senators would like to have it changed. She wanted to know which Senate members would be interested in helping to change it. She wanted whoever is interested to be able to tell the Senate why they are interested in doing this project at the next meeting. Matteo posed the question as to whether or not non- Senate members could sit on this committee, the Senators had not seen anything in the bi-laws that said non-Senate members could not sit on sub-committees. Judah was concerned about finding someone to set up the website that would do it without pay, Chelsea informed him that there are people in the AS who are paid to do it and it would not be something we needed to worry about. Judah volunteered to be on this committee as he had past experience in setting up websites. This will be an action item next week.

c. Committee Placements

Chelsea wanted everyone to have filled out their committee placement sheets, those Senators who had already filled them out handed them into Chelsea. For the Senators who did not have them filled out they needed to be in Chelsea's office by two so that she could turn them into Andrea. At this time you cannot submit them electronically.

(Members Annie Jansen,, Ramiro Espinoza, Eric Lowe, Nina Lau, and Aaron Garcia from the Board of Directors entered to introduce themselves and invite the Senators to come and talk to them whenever they needed.)

VII. Other Business

a. Binder Organization

Matteo wanted to know if there was anyway that instead of having everything already placed in the binders they could instead receive packets and place the new information into the binders themselves. The Senate members decided this was something they did not want to do.

VIII. Senator Committee Reports

- a. **Kristina Mader** went to the WSL general assembly meeting this past weekend. Students collectively lobbied for public school students. She said that there is a very interesting political dynamic; WWU has 4 representatives while UW has 12. She also handed out the ROP events calendar and informed Senate members that events could be found online as well. She gave a brief report on what went on at the Activities Council meeting this past Monday. She will be attending the Model United Nations conference next week.
- b. **Aaron Hayman** was wondering about how the Senate could follow up with people who do present issues to the Senate. He wondered if they could take their name and phone number so they could contact them and let them know their issue was discussed. He will also be attending the Model United Nations conference next week.
- c. **Danny Tonty** would like to help Diana and Sally with the dining hall committee. He also spoke with students who were asking about free speech on campus.
- d. **Diana Beilman** spoke with students about Sodexho, people are very excited about the possibility of a Co-op on campus. She wondered however if Sodexho would allow that or if they had some sort of a monopoly as to what comes on campus food wise. Diana and Sally will be heading up this committee together. She also spoke with students who were having problems with the park and ride and found out from Greg that there is an off campus group that deals with these problems and she could attend the meetings.
- e. **Lurdes Hernandez** spoke to a friend who attended an advising session, she was told that it was very unhelpful as there were too many people present and wanted to know if there was anyway the Senate could change that. She also agreed with Brienne about having too few flex points.
- f. **Sally McLaughlin** informed the Senate that they AS recycle center, America Recycles day, is Thursday the 15th, and that you could win a free recyclable mug. She has been following up on student concerns about Sodexho and is going to be talking with Ira Simon to find out more information. She is also going to encourage clubs to get involved in this.
- g. **Judah Corsini** spoke with a gentleman who said that there used to be music festivals on campus that supported local bands. The people who supported this have now left Western and funding for it has been taken away. He is going to speak with people in the ASP about a way to possibly bring something like this back to campus. He also mentioned a maintenance issue with the Haggard Hall elevators.
- h. **Morgan Holmgren** spoke with students about problems with benches and places to sit on campus. He stopped in front of the SMATE building and spoke with students who were sitting on the benches and asked them if they would normally sit there if it was raining out, they responded no. He is concerned that there is no under covered seating areas on campus. He also spoke with his RA who complained that there were not enough walk ways up at the ridge.
- i. **Chelsea Fletcher** attended the ACC meeting. She abstained from voting on the writing requirement issues because she missed the last meeting and felt it would be inappropriate to vote. She will be attending the board meeting this Wednesday, and discussed information about what was happened at the previous board meeting. She will also be going to Portland this weekend for the Northwest Student leadership conference.
- j. **Nicole Brown** heard Student concerns about smoking on campus both from smokers and non smokers. Smokers feel the designated smoking areas are not well marked, non-smokers dislike that people are smoking at the bus stops and on pathways while walking to and from classes.
- k. **Mark Provenzano** had two friends who were hit by bikers on campus. Greg informed the Senators that the University has spent a lot of time reviewing biking policy.
- l. **Brienne Kumar** would like to see movies being shown in the Rec Center. She is also worried about the steps coming from the Ridge that lead onto campus as they are broken and move out of place, she is worried about how safe they will be in the winter. She also spoke with students

who feel that flex points are a large issue with students on campus; they feel they should get more because there are not enough options in the dining hall.

m. Tyler Woodard no new information.

n. Matteo Tamburini told a story about a gentleman whom he works with whose wife had a miscarriage, she did not go to the doctor because their health insurance would not cover the appointment. Matteo would like to draft a resolution saying that the Senate supports national health care insurance; this resolution could be a part of Westerns national agenda. He and Kristina will be working on this together. He is also involved in the TLA and he would like to form something on campus where professors could talk with students about issues they feel are not being discussed. He also emailed someone at the graduate school who said they could send Senate info to departments with a suggestion that they pass it on to their graduate students.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 by Chelsea.