

Western Washington University Associated Students
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2008 VU 567

AS Board Officers: *Present:* Abbey Weigel, Kayla Britt, Annie Jansen, Erik Lowe and Nina Lau.
Absent: Ramiro Espinoza and Aaron Garcia

Advisor(s): Jim Schuster, Director of VU Facilities

AS Student Senate Rep: Diana Beilman (Student Senator)

Guest(s): Brady Dykgraaf (RHA/Meal Plan Taskforce), Sam Travis (RHA/Meal Plan Taskforce), Ben Murphy (AS Elections Coordinator), Morgan Holmgren (Student Senate), Matt Bryant (AS Personnel), Kurt Willis (University Residences), Marcy Alstrom (AS Personnel).

MOTIONS

- 08-W-036** Approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 5, 2008 as corrected. *Passed.*
08-W-037 Approve Morgan Holmgren to the position of Election Board Chair. *Passed.*
08-W-038 Approve the Job Descriptions for the AS Board of Directors, the assistants and Business Director as stated in Doc. 1. *Passed.*
08-W-039 Approve the hiring committee changes as listed in Doc. 4 and the appointment of any Outdoor Center Employee to the Resources and Events Coordinator Hiring Committee. *Passed.*
08-W-040 Approve the transfer of \$8,000 from Operating Enhancement to Supplemental. *Passed.*
08-W-041 Approve the indefinite suspension of the Campus Community Affairs Council. *Passed.*

Abbey Weigel, Vice President for Business and Operations, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 08-W-036 by Weigel

Approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 5, 2008 as corrected.

Vote: 3 - 0 - 2 Action: Passed

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Addition of Item C under Personnel- Hiring Committees.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. PERSONNEL ITEMS

A. Election Board Chair

Lowe

The Election Board Chair oversees the election and has hearings in case of a grievance. Matt Bryant, AS Personnel Director stated that this position was opened 3 times for a total of 12 weeks and there were no applications. Morgan Holmgren applied a few days after the job closed the last time. The Personnel Committee was consulted and decided to suggest appointing Holmgren to position. Ben Murphy interviewed Holmgren and suggests appointing him.

MOTION 08-W-037 by Lowe

Approve Morgan Holmgren to the position of Election Board Chair.

Second: Jansen Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 (Absent: Espinoza, Garcia) Action: Passes

B. Job Descriptions- AS Board

Weigel Doc. 1

The major changes to Job Descriptions involve the VP of Business & Operations and the Associate Vice President positions. There is now one associate to assist solely with BusOps,

but they will still be available to the VP for Academics. There are also some large changes to the Business Director position and the creation of the Business Office Assistant.

MOTION 08-W-038 by Weigel

Approve the Job Descriptions for the AS Board of Directors, the assistants and Business Director as stated in Doc. 1.

Second: Lowe Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 (Absent: Espinoza, Garcia) Action: Passes

C. Hiring Committees- Marcy Alstrom

Weigel Doc. 4

There have been some changes to the hiring committees based on requests. Doc. 4 was provided with the changes that are proposed. The Resources and Events Coordinator hiring committee does not have a chair. At this point no one has been able to accept this position, but they have been talking with Aphrodite Toth who is an Admin Assistant in the Outdoor Center. If she is unable to chair, they will find someone else from the Outdoor Center. Bryant recommended that a motion be made including approval for the chair of the Resource and Events committee.

MOTION 08-W-039 by Lowe

Approve the hiring committee changes as listed in Doc. 4 and the appointment of any Outdoor Center Employee to the Resources and Events Coordinator Hiring Committee.

Second: Britt Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 (Absent: Espinoza, Garcia) Action: Passes

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS—GUESTS

A. Housing & Dining Presentation- Kurt Willis

Weigel Doc. 2

Kurt Willis presented the new Housing and Dining Rates. The first document explains the what and why, the 2nd document shows income and revenue and the third is historical comparatives. This year has been unique because of the request to change meal plans. The rate raise is not consistent this year because the change in meal plans requires a one year transition. So the average rate increase is 4.5% but the individual plans increase anywhere from 3.1-5.1%. Housing is looking at some increased costs due to sprinkler installation in Fairhaven and a Ridgeway/Gamma update. The retail areas are also being reworked, for example the courtyard at Miller Hall and some additions to the VU Market. There has been a lot of inflation in utilities. The consumption use has remained stable but the rates keep going up. Insurance rates are also rising. Also the overhead tax from the university is going up a bit. There were no new additions to full time staff.

Meal Plans- Last year there was a proposal for new meal plans. In spring of 2007 the Meal Plan Task Force was created. Willis said he has never seen so much hard work, understanding and research done by a student committee. Ira Simon joined the group winter quarter of this year because they wanted students to work without dining services influence. The Meal Plan Task Force tried to look at what was important to students. They had many surveys in Residence Halls and dining areas asking questions like: What hours do you eat? How many meals a week do you eat? Who pays for your meal plan, etc? They also pulled very interesting data from University Residences about how many meals people use versus what their plan offers. For instance about half of the students have a gold plan, but they usually only eat 12-13 meals a week and are paying for 23. Over the summer students researched dining at other campuses across the nation to see what kinds of options were out there. From this they came up with a list of student priorities such as flexibility, etc. They found that one of the hardest things was changing from plan to plan. The new meal plans offer a set amount of \$150 in Dining Dollars (formally called Flex Points). The set amount of Dining Dollars will allow for easier meal plan changes. The first plan is unlimited, the second 125 meals per quarter, the third 100 and the lowest is 75. They have also created "Booster Blocks" which allow students to purchase extra meals in blocks of 10 for \$6 each for a total of \$60 per block. This should alleviate the worry of running out of meals. Both Dining Dollars

and Booster Blocks roll over until the end of the year. The retail areas will be open later. For instance the VU Market will be open until 7 p.m. Lowe complimented the committee on their hard work. He was a little apprehensive about messing with meal plans but feels that these are great options.

B. Health Committee- Senator Beilman

Lowe Doc. 5

Senator Beilman reported that there was a lawsuit that awarded the RN's a 2-5% increase in their salaries and this has affected the budget for health services. There was a survey done that says that 1/3 of students at Western don't have health insurance. The Central Health & Safety Committee is looking at slight raises in the Health Fee. Document 5 describes these proposals and looks at rates at other schools. There is a cap on percentage increase for any student fees of 5%. There have been complaints about the waiting time in the Health Center, etc. Lowe asked where she got the figure for students without health insurance. Beilman will email that information from the health center. Beilman is thinking about a forum to discuss the wide range of services available for student health. Lau encourages looking into this issue more and being open to the results that we may find. Jansen believes that the deadline for the fees is very soon, but this might be something that could happen in the long run.

VII. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

VIII. ACTION ITEMS-

A. Operating Enhancement Transfer

Weigel

Weigel was looking over the finances and noticed that while the board is running low in supplemental funding, there is a surplus in Operating Enhancement. There is about \$25,000 in that fund at this point. Weigel suggests transferring about \$8,000 into supplemental.

MOTION 08-W-040 by Lowe

Approve the transfer of \$8,000 from Operating Enhancement to Supplemental.

Second: Lau

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 (Absent: Espinoza, Garcia)

Action: Passes

B. Campus Community Affairs Council

Lau Doc. 3

This was on the agenda two weeks ago. Membership in this council is extensive and Lau does not think that this committee would be a good use of her time. This committee is not mentioned in the bylaws and so she recommends that we suspend the council. Lowe says he would like to suspend it indefinitely because he thinks there is a possibility of reworking it into a less extensive committee that might be useful.

MOTION 08-W-041 by Lau

Approve the indefinite suspension of the Campus Community Affairs Council.

Second: Britt

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 (Absent: Espinoza, Garcia)

Action: Passes

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD

A. Campus Safety

Jansen

Jansen serves on the Student Tech Fee Committee and wanted to report that John Lawson brought up a new issue. Apparently funding will not be granted for Campus Safety this year, only for one temporary mental health counselor. Lawson was proposing that we not by any technical projects and use the funding to for a complete renovation of campus safety. The response from the committee was that the funds were secured from the students as funding for new technical equipment and it should be used for this purpose only. Also the group has already put in a lot of work looking at the proposals. An opinion from a council member was that students in Residence Halls should have to pay a fee for safety as part of the

Housing Budget. Britt agrees that Residence Halls should be covered by Res Life. She also pointed out that after the installation of these new intercoms, there would have to be sustained fees to cover the maintenance. Lowe feels that campus safety is the state's responsibility since this is a public institution. Sarah Ishmael reported that at this point all reactive measures (including extra police, etc) have been taken out of the budget that is to be approved tomorrow. Lowe feels like we need to push next year for more coverage. If we were to make even a temporary fee, it will show the legislature that we can pay for it ourselves and they will not allocate funds for campus safety. Jansen stated that the Tech Fee covers things that she believes the state should supply such as projectors for classrooms. Lau feels that students shouldn't have to spend their student resources on campus safety. Lowe said that if a referendum came up he would devote time to telling students they shouldn't tax themselves.

X. STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Student Senate Meeting Information

Diana Beilman reported on behalf of Chelsea Fletcher: Senators Fletcher, Beilman and Hernandez are trying to gather more information on the issue of the month about the Tech Fee. McLaughlin's Smoking Forum was far from a drag, there was a really good turnout and some progress was made on what people can do to make a cleaner air environment at Western. There has also been progress with the bylaws committee. They are focusing a lot on the role and duties of the Student Senate. Senator Provenzano is working on a resolution about bicycle safety that will be rolling out sometime this spring. Hayman and Beilman are working on a forum related to campus safety.

XI. BOARD REPORTS

VP for Academic Affairs

Anne Jansen reported that she was appointed to the Registrar Search Committee and had her initial meeting with the Equal Opportunity Office about the hiring policies at WWU. The Academic Coordinating Commission Executive meeting went well they talked about things involving the catalog. Jansen feels the Vagina Memoirs were a success. She also attended the International Women's Day Celebration, performed her memoir and won a prize for her cake.

VP for Student Life

Nina Lau wanted to express thanks for the understanding and support while she was out last week. She thanked everyone at the meeting and also those people that she has the pleasure to work with in Associated Students. She has spent this week catching up and getting prepared for finals.

VP for Business & Operations

Abbey Weigel reported that she had a Services and Activities Fee meeting at 7:30 a.m. this morning where she gave a presentation on the AS. This presentation was to let people know what their fee money is spent on. In a few weeks they will be presenting their preliminary budgets. She has been working on some Personnel Items with the Personnel Office. The Budget Committee will be meeting the first week of spring. The Facilities and Services council will be meeting early spring quarter as well.

VP for Legislative & Governmental Affairs

Erik Lowe reported that he is now finished with the Housing Committee after the presentations this week. He is in the process of calling legislators to make appointments for meetings while he is in Washington D.C. The State Legislature ends its session tomorrow. Sarah Ishmael has been doing a lot of work. An update is that the money for the emergency

scene shop relocation has been granted. 1 million dollars was granted for childcare and WWU will receive \$27,000. Secretary of State Sam Reid is coming April 24th to VU 567 from 7-8 p.m. Hiring for the Student Transportation Program Assistant has begun. This person will be assisting the Alternative Transportation Coordinator. The Electoral Action Training is moving along well and will be April 26-27. This will be elections week. Lowe is very glad that Lau is back because he got lonely while she was gone. He couldn't ask for a better office mate.

VP for Diversity

Kayla Britt reported that she has been working on her Job Description this week with Espinoza. Steering Committee was cancelled this week, so the ESC Bylaws will be presented as an information item again next quarter. Tonight is the AS Spring Hiring Fair. Britt has been working on this and was not planning on being at this meeting but wanted to be here to support the board in Espinoza and Garcia's absence. She received the final Ethnic Student Center Charge and Charter today and is excited to be finished with this large project. These will be available on the new AS website spring quarter.

President

Ramiro Espinoza was not in attendance.

VP for Activities

Aaron Garcia was not in attendance.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS-

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 7:20 p.m.