

A.S. STUDENT SENATE MEETING

May 8, 2007

VU 567

Present: Annie Jansen, Brandon Adams, Jake Massine, Nikki Gossell, Jordan Smith, Lacey Stuart, Elliott Hindman, Seth Hersch, Jared Zeretzke, Elliott Hindman, Ashley Schweizer, Kelly Hansen, Anne Walden-Newman
Absent: Brian Lewellen
Advisor: Kevin Majkut
Secretary: Brooke Hayter

Meeting called to order at 6:05 by Seth Hersch

Summary of Motions:

Motion # 009-S-07 to approve the minutes from 5/01/07, with noted revisions

Motion # 010-S-07 to approve question for Issue of the Month

I. Approval of Minutes – 5/01/07

Motion # 009-S-07 to approve the minutes from 5/08/07, made by Annie

Second: Anne

Vote: 11-0-1

Passed.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Discussion item E, Atrium Fees

III. Public Forum

Jeff, a writer for the Western front, began a face book group titled, "I'm voting, are you?" Because of the low turn out of voters he posed a question to the group asking them why they didn't vote. When his editors got wind of this they told him they wanted him to do a story on it, so he decided to ask the Senate if they could talk to their constituents asking them why they didn't vote and get back to him, so he could have a broad view in his paper.

IV. Information Items

a. Senate Reconstructing Part 1: Titles

The Senators began by looking at their constitution which had wording in it that had not yet been passed by the Senators about having 2 Senate members work specifically with one board member, under section 4.1. The Senators had quite a few concerns, first of all they were worried that it would eliminate the class system they currently have in place, they decided they did not want to get rid of that system and would like to add a section 4.2 to describe the new information. They also discussed worries about what to do in the case of a vacancy. They did decide the application process would remain the same and they would not advertise the fact that the Senators would be working with particular board members so they did not cause any tension between Senators. Kelly is working on a draft which will reflect many of the decisions made and have it at the meeting on May 15.

Skipped to Discussion Item b, Visa Card on Campus

b. Visa Cards on Campus

Stefan Kalb came and discussed with the Senators why the University will no longer be accepting Visa credit cards to pay for tuition. Every time you pay with a Visa Credit card 3% of that money is taken away from the University because of fees they have to pay to Visa. This year the University lost \$350,000 in paying fees for credit cards. Now they have put a new policy in action which says no matter what credit card you use you will be charged the extra 3%, so it doesn't come out of the schools pocket. Visa however will not let you charge back the students unless you charge them back on all methods of payment. So the University decided to

no longer accept only Visa credit as a form of payment for tuition. They will be sending post cards and emails to advertise for the change. The main complaint they received was that parents would no longer be receiving their air line miles which the University did not see to be a large issue. The new policy will begin September 1st 2007.

Kelly left at 6:55

Back to Information Item b

b. Carbon Neutrality in Colleges

The Senate members began discussing the issue by addressing a few questions. First of all we buy our green energy credits from a not for profit business as of right now. Some Senators felt if we bought from a for profit company our money could easily be misrepresented. The Senate would like to draft a recommendation resolution to give to the colleges. Seth is going to draft a resolution and have it for our next meeting.

Ashley and Lacey left at 7:02

V. Action Items

None

VI. Discussion Items

a. Meal Plans for Buchanan Towers Residence

Seth met with Kurt Willis who gave him a break down as to why Buchanan Towers residence has to have meal plans. The first reason being that students get to know each other in their dorms and in the dining hall, the second being BT is structurally not set up to be used consistently and at the same time, thirdly they need a certain amount of funds to continue with the prices and food they offer for the dining hall, they cannot go under 27,000 students having a meal plan. The Senators then began to discuss the fact that the only difference between BT and Burnam Wood was that BT doesn't have a dishwasher or a double sink, the Senators discussed the fact that many off campus houses don't have dishwashers and they don't feel as though it would be a large issue. Also BT was originally built as an apartment complex, so how could they have structurally been ok to be used by all occupants at that time and not now. The contract with Sodexo is negotiable, but we may end up with higher prices and lower quality food. The Senators would really like to have someone from this committee come in and talk to them.

Motion # 010-S-07 to approve question for Issue of the Month

c. Issue of the Month

The new issue of the month is; Carbon neutrality is the practice of funding projects that will offset carbon produced by fossil-fuel-based transportation. The AS has already chosen to make its transportation carbon neutral. Should Western choose to make all of its transportation carbon neutral as well?

Anne left at 7:45

Motion # 010-S-07 to approve question for Issue of the Month, made by Annie

Second: Jared

Vote: 7-0-0

Passed.

d. IPE Committee

Jordan found out about a committee that reports to the ACC and back to the IPE. He did not particularly want to go into the office since he is currently still working with them. Also before he went in, he wanted to make sure the Senate was actually going to do something about it before hand. A few Senate members are going to try and find out what the prerequisites are for getting a job their. Seth emphasized that committee work was going to be important if the Senators wanted this issue to go anywhere.

e. Atrium Fees

Seth talked with Steve Hall about the problems happening in the Atrium. They had back charges from October and November. Apparently 5 of their 6 stations had errors that the Atrium was unaware of until Sodexo came and asked where the missing \$50,000 was. They fixed all the problems over spring break and began to charge students credit and debit cards, however they did not have very much advertisement to let the students know they would be taking the money out so late and many students are upset because some of them now have overdraft charges or were unable to pay for their rent or other things they had planned for.

d. Other Business

e. Senator Reports

- a. Annie Jansen:** Went to ACC executive meeting.
- b. Jordan Smith:** No new information, will be buying his ticket to Argentina.
- c. Brandon Adams:** Has an ATC meeting and a softball game this week.
- d. Seth Hersch:** Went over what was discussed at the board meeting, they discussed committee appointments, office assistants, and the Washington Student Lobby, which they may not be buying into next year.
- e. Elliott Hindman:** No new information.
- f. Nikki Gossell:** No new information
- g. Jared Zeretzke:** Went to an Emergency Management Committee meeting, they talked about strategic national stock pile distribution. And platforms in the event of an emergency at Western.
- h. Jake Massine:** Would like to figure out a way to approach the IPE.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 pm.