

A.S. STUDENT SENATE MEETING
February 19, 2008
VU 567

Present: Aaron Hayman, Brianne Kumar, Chelsea Fletcher, Diana Beilman, Kristina Mader, Matteo Tamburini, Morgan Holmgren, Mark Provencano, Nicole Brown, Sally McLaughlin
Absent: Danny Tonty, Judah Corsini, Tyler Woodard, Lurdes Hernandez
Advisor: Greg McBride
Secretary: Brooke Hayter
Guest: Nancy Corbin, Brooks Hassic

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Chelsea Fletcher

Summary of Motions:

Motion #023 -W- 08 to approve the minutes from 2/12/08

I. Approval of Minutes – 2/12/08

Motion #020 -W- 08 to approve the minutes from 2/12/08, made by Diana

Second: Morgan

Vote: 9-0-0

Passed.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

III. Public Forum

IV. Information Items

None

V. Action Items

None

VI. Discussion Items

a. Counseling Center

Nancy Corbin from the Counseling Center on campus, came to talk with the Senators about some of the services they offer and to get some ideas from the Senators about what other things they can do to improve their services for the students. She began by asking the Senators to go around the room, state their names and what they were interested in learning about the counseling center. Some of the questions from the Senators were, how does the counseling center get word out that they are on campus, how the Counseling Center can help stop crises that have been going on around the nation from happening at Western, they asked about their privacy policies, how they work with the psychology department, and the health fee. After the Senators had finished Nancy passed out an overview of everything the Counseling Center does and read their mission statement. She told the Senators about a few workshops they offered and wanted to know if the Senators had any other ideas for workshops. She then began to answer some of the questions posed by the Senators. First she addressed the question about how they provide assistance to help prevent crises from happening on campus. The Counseling Center has a crisis services hotline that students can call 24 hours a day. The Counseling Center has also worked with the Bellingham community to ensure that if there was a crisis on campus other counselors would be brought in to give assistance on campus. One of the Senators then asked what the Counseling Centers intervention policy was, Nancy informed the Senators that they are required by law if they believe there is an eminent threat to immediately get involved. They first do a lot of questioning to find out how concrete their plan is, the time frame, motivation, and whether or not they have the means to do it. The next question posed was how the Counseling Center on campus compares to other Universities. One difference Nancy informed the Senators

about was that Western's Counseling Center has a very good relationship with the Health Center and can send students down there whenever they feel it is necessary. Another Senator questioned if the Counseling Center had the ability to excuse students from class due to mental illnesses. Nancy informed the Senators that they do not have the power to do this but they can call the Office of Student Life and ask for a leave of absence for the students. Nancy then asked the Senators how the Counseling Center could be more helpful to students in their everyday life. Senators suggested stress management workshops, branding with their name on all of the activities put on by the Counseling Center, and possibly a campaign on the bus.

Nikki and Morgan left at 6:50.

The Senators also suggested using Summer Start as a way to get the Counseling Centers name out.

Matteo left at 6:55.

Brooks Hassic from the group YES! Plus began to talk about the Youth Empowerment Skills in Training workshop for students they offer on campus, he informed the Senators that after attending you basically leave happy and it may be something the Counseling Center can suggest to students. He informed the Senators that you can read more about the workshop that is being put on at the end of February on page 10 of the AS Review.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm by Chelsea.