

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Student Senate Meeting**

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

VU 567

Present: Chelsea Bourdess, Nikki Brown, Danielle Dickson, Justin Gazabat, Brianne Kumar, Daniel McLafferty, Justin Van Dyk, Annie Jansen
Absent: Judah, Corsini, Chelsea Fletcher, Nick Gaddy, Jadon Berry, Wyatt Ho, Rebekah Johnson
Advisor: Greg McBride
Secretary: Teaira Lacson
Guest: Erik Lowe, Paul

Annie Jansen, Student Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

S-09-W-02	Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, January 13, 2009
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I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-09-W-02 by Nikki Brown. Second: Danielle Dickson

Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, January 13, 2009, with the revisions: Under Senator Reports/Concerns, Justin Van Dyk—from “was contacted by the judicial appeals board” to “his schedule will work for them” was a comment made by Nick Gaddy

Vote: 5 - 0 - 2 Action: **Passed**

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Brianne Kumar requested that the Attendance Policy be added under Discussion Items.

III. Public Forum

Erik Lowe the AS President wrote a letter regarding tuition and higher education policy that is going to be sent to legislators and to multiple media outlets throughout the state. It is also readily available on Facebook, open to senators to read: located on Erik Lowe’s page. This is something that he feels is really important and if anyone has questions or comments about it feel free to talk to Lowe or Sarah Ishmael, VP for Legislative & Governmental Affairs.

IV. Information Items

A. Forums

Annie Jansen addressed the urgency for the Senators to make a decision about their forums. Possible forum ideas are tuition, technology, or student fees. The fees are dependent upon the number of credits a student takes. WSL (Washington Student Lobby) fees, the structure will be changing. The Washington Student Lobby helps with lobbying efforts for students in Olympia. Collaboration on this topic is possible. On the topic of student technology fees, which is now \$17 and has to be re-authorized this year. Lowe said that every fee has a 5 year period so that students can reevaluate the need.

Other topics include Athletics. Anne has the expectation that Senators will come and talk to her about their ideas. Brianne Kumar has an interest in the student tech fee forum topic. Daniel McLafferty inquired about a list of AS forum topics “already covered.” Erik Lowe, said there are no fixed topics and it is open. Daniel McLafferty asked how WSL fees will be changing. Erik Lowe said that the WSL fee will change from going directly to the WSL to being in control of the AS. They collect so much more than the dues that are necessary. The proposal is to change the distribution of the fees to WSL and other AS Legislative functions emphasizing Western’s students, In this process they want to get student input on the amount they are willing to pay.

V. Action Items

None

VI. Discussion Items

A. Attendance Policy

Annie Jansen stressed how she does not strictly enforce the attendance policy due to the fact that Senate positions are voluntary. However there are expectations that must be met. Individuals who clearly do not understand the policy will be dealt with in the next meeting. Unfortunately this has become a serious issue because they were at risk of not having quorum. Absent Senators must be mindful of consistently present Senators because it is not fair to anyone. Brianne Kumar commented on how frustrating the situation, because everyone is really busy. It makes her feel like these Senators don’t value the time of the Senators who do show up.

VII. Other Business:

A. Relay for Life Service Project

Annie brought up the Relay for Life event. She and Erik had conversed on the possibility of participating. Other activities and service projects are highly encouraged with respect to time commitment. She would like to make a service project easy for the Senators and yet still have a big impact. There was general agreement throughout the room regarding this topic. Erik Lowe volunteered the services of the AS Board without their permission. Brianne Kumar’s father’s company would donate saplings and supplies for Earth Day. Regarding service projects, Justin Gaazabat suggested holding a function to let other students know about the Student Senate since a lot of students are unaware about what they do. Daniel McLafferty brought up possibly volunteering about three Senators a week at the Lighthouse soup kitchen.

B. Round Table Discussion with Bruce Sheppard

Kevin Majkut is scheduling a Round Table Discussion with Bruce Shepard on January 27, 2009 2:30 to 3:30 held in the VU, room to be determined. Greg McBride, the advisor, commented on how Shepard would appreciate the presence of as many

senators. A sheet was passed around to get a “head count” of interested people. The Senate was excited at this opportunity.

C. Lobby Day

Annie Jansen commented on the success of lobby day, meeting with people of higher education and many local legislators. She spoke to about 17 legislators.

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

- **Danielle Dickson** Attended Lobby Day
- **Nikki Brown** Nothing to report
- **Daniel McLafferty** apologized for last week’s absence due to law school papers but will be present in the future
- **Justin Van Dyk** Nothing to report
- **Justin Gazabat** contacted about committees, uncertain about which particular one, not heard from the actual committees
- **Chelsea Bourdess** Attended lobby day
- **Brianne Kumar** Nothing to report
- **Annie Jansen** Attended Lobby day and meetings with Erik Lowe have been going well.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 6:33 P.M.