

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

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

VU 567

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

| | |
|------------------|--|
| S-09-W-01 | Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, January 20, 2008 |
|------------------|--|

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-09-W-0 by Nikki Brown

Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, January 27, 2009—the name Shepard is misspelled, seconded by Chelsea Bourdess

Vote: 9 -0 - 1 Action: **Passed**

II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

III. Public Forum

Kevin Minnick and Megan Brown came from the Western Front

IV. Information Items

A. Issue of the month –February

They had discussed having disability awareness as the issue of the month. They were thinking about focusing on the inclement weather. Danielle wanted to get some feedback on disabilities. Danielle offered to come up with language for an issue of the month concerning disability awareness. Breanne offered to come up with an issue regarding the student tech fee. They will be discussed at next week's meeting.

V. Action Items

None

VI. Discussion Items

A. Issue of the month in Red Square

Greg and Annie had discussed a few things Senators could do throughout the year. They had talked about making Senate more visible by getting the issue of the month in Red Square even if it can be for just a few days. There are a certain demographic of students who respond online and on the board in front of the Board office. This will give us a good way to reach out to more students. McLafferty said it was a good idea, perhaps posting on the discussion boards and in the dorms. Berry said contacting the RHA. Lowe, said that they

could fill out a form and give it to Ben to take to RHA. Once they do have the issue of the month decided they will set a few dates to be in Red Square Berry questioned what they do at the information table. Jansen responded by saying it depends on the questions asked. If the Senate feels they received a strong enough opinion from the responses the Senate has the option to make a resolution to give to the Board. Lowe said there are some instances in which the issue of the month, example: bus passes, Erik, Cindy and Annie each receive the responses online and are able to send responses to people immediately. Berry had commented on how the topic is possibly a hot topic in which Jansen responded it could be.

B. Homework: Viking Village

Homework will be assigned to the Senators, she asked them to take a look at Viking Village which is Westerns forum - forum.wvu.edu, the forum on MyWestern; reason: it is emerging as a great resource for students to connect with other students—gain ideas for Gazabat: do we report findings? How is it presented Jensen: Bring in something to talk about, more to the forum than ride-sharing. Lowe said to consider participating in the forums, facilitate the discussions, this way the Student Senators can prove they did their homework.

C. Service Project

Jansen delegated the service project to a volunteer, Brianne Kumar offered to do it for April - Earth Day. Annie asked the Senators to research possible service projects that would be appropriate for the group. McLafferty said he would research volunteering at the soup kitchen at the Lighthouse mission.

D. Senate Report Format Change

Jansen stated that it is necessary to talk about the committees during everyone's Senator reports. She would also like them to add an issue/interesting topic of the week.

VII. Other Business:

- A. Dan McLafferty informed the Senators that the Blood Drive bone marrow donations are currently going on until Thursday at 4.
- B. Jansen said that there were two resignations on the Senate, there are currently 11 Senators now. She will contact previous applicants to see if they are still interested and available.

VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

- **Dan McLafferty:** committee has not contacted him since last quarter. Dan thought it was interesting that outside community members post things on campus.
- **Chelsea:** none of her committees have met, one has biweekly meetings so she will have information from that next week. She attended the meeting with Bruce Shepard she found it interesting that only one person brought up issues of tuition.
- **Danielle:** AZTEC met last night they discussed issues with buses. The WTA is currently looking at cutting back on routes because of budget issues. Facilities and Services met today they approved money for a new stove at the Viqueen Lodge, motor pool and possible discounts for trips over 1000 miles as well as furniture for the CDC
- **Rebekah Johnson:** Has not been chosen for her committees, she has been in the library and a lot of people have been complaining about cell phone use in the library.

- **Brianne:** planning two forums for March and April. Did not go to STF this week but she did get three places that she has to review, which needs to be done by next Friday. She has already been working on ideas for the Senate Service project. Something she found interesting was that in NHA they are currently looking at putting a cap on the number of returning students who can live in the dorms. She is also looking at wording for the march issue of the month for STF.
- **Nikki Brown:** academic coordinating commission—looking at majors and approving minutes. She has four site visits regarding technology fees.
- **Jadon Berry:** two student concerns the special education grad program has been discontinued. He has also heard concerns about printers in Haggard Hall they have been printing out things that are basically all black pages. The Academic appeals committee has not met yet. Lowe said the Special Education grad program may have been cut not because of budget cuts but due to low enrollment.
- **Nick Gaddy:** committees have not contacted him. Issue in the library: people walking around the library with clip boards walking around. An anthropology class was asked to walk around and count people in the library by zones. They are looking at what will be the best way out to remodel the library. Brown commented about moving the Special collections location into a 24 hour study period, last year's president had addressed it because people would like more use out of the library.
- **Justin Gazabat:** Last week he was contacted by committees, this week he is now trying to contact them about meeting time. Interesting: talked about bricks instead of tuition during the meeting with Bruce Shepard. He has some ideas about addressing the issues of bricks in the future.
- **Van Dyk:** He said that he does not know when committees will meet because no one can find a time to meet up. His concern/issue is the tuition increase by 7%. He felt this would make a good issue of the month.
 - Kumar asked when the vote will occur regarding the tuition increase. Lowe answered the question saying: Residence undergraduate is controlled mainly by the state, they give the University the flexibility to set it anywhere from 0 – 7% increase, this law was passed two years ago. The problem is that there is a large push in the legislature to lift that, it would mean that this could go way above the cap. The decision will be made within the next month/month and half. Brianne wondered how quickly they needed to do a forum on it? Erik said they should do it as soon as possible, it should be there issue of the year. Berry wondered whether President Shepard is against tuition increase and that he was working on bringing tuition control. Jansen said that the administration goals and legislature are different. Lowe said the general idea that he got from it the university as a whole, is that the 7% cap is not going to cut it, we are going to have significant quality decreases. The Universities government relations people have been in Olympia asking for flexibility which means they don't like the cap. It is very problematic for that to be happening this early on in the session. It is very difficult to maintain asking for funding for higher education. When it comes to budget cuts, you cannot cut the universities. Gazabat asked what the goal was for our legislative liaison. The AS stance is low tuition. Congressional studies have said the largest barrier is the sticker price of what universities are advertising—so having a low initial price. To some extent the main topic were investment and tuition. Gazabat: wondered if progress had been made or if more help was needed? Lowe: More help is needed. Morgan has been meeting with higher

education members. But anyone can get involved through letter writing and editorials. Gaddy: asked what the possible cuts will be if the increase does not happen. There is proof that students do well in making sure tuition fees do not increase and then there are cuts at the expense of quality. Lowe said the federal stimulus money does not supplement, it cuts further support which is problematic—pushing for state support. Jansen said that it will take more than 7% to cover the budget shortfall, there is a potential for more problems if the cap is raised. If the cap is raised it will be considerably more.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 6: 58P.M.