

**Western Washington University Associated Students**  
**Student Senate Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 31, 2009 VU 543**

**Present:** Annie Jansen (Chair), Brianne Kumar, Justin Van Dyk, Danielle Dickson, Nick Gaddy, Wyatt Ho, Chelsea Bourdess  
**Absent:** Nikki Brown, Patty Hastings, Jadon Berry  
**Advisor:** Greg McBride, VU Operations Manager  
**Secretary:** Lauren Leatherberry  
**Guest:**

**Annie Jansen, Student Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:07P.M.**

<b>S-09-S-01</b>	Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, March 10, 2009
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**I. Approval of Minutes**

*MOTION S-09-S-01 by Danielle Dickson, seconded by Chelsea Bourdess*  
Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, March 10, 2009  
Vote: 5 - 0 - 1      Action: **Passed**

**II. Revisions to the Agenda**

None

**III. Public Forum**

No Public Forum

**IV. Information Items**

**A. Issue of the Month Results for March 2009:** This month's issue results were reviewed by the senate. Annie Jansen acknowledged that not all of the answers were included in the last issue of the month, but this issue includes everything from responses online to those that were posted in front of the board office. There were significantly more negative responses than positive responses to the question, including: 65 responses, 6 positive responses and 27 negative responses, 22 maybe or mixed responses. Mixed responses incorporated those which stated an opposition to an increase of this size, but would not oppose an increase of a less substantial size due to possible need. Answers given were both short and long; the short being verbal responses recorded from Red Square. The question was written in a way which included \$4788 as tuition only, and did not include the fees. A few responses focused interest on Smart board, however the senate dismissed the responses considering such technology is funded by the student

technology fee and are not applicable to student opinions of tuition increases. There will be a tuition rally on Wednesday in Olympia. Jansen stated that it is important to go to these rallies now because there are a lot of important tuition issues that are happening with the budget right now.

**B. Student Technology Fee:** The student technology fee is up for renewal this year and must be both approved and renewed by the student body. Currently, the renewal proposal suggests that the fee be raised from \$17 to \$25 per quarter. Andrea Goddard has requested informal feedback from the Senate and members' input on ballot language as the issue will be presented as an action item to the AS Board of Directors on Wednesday. Jansen pointed out that the computer lab renewal and replacement cycle is an issue of debate due to the belief that labs include basic learning equipment deemed necessary for education in a modern world, and such necessary funding should come from tuition and not from the technology fee. The proposal would make permanent an annual dedication of funds specifically to computer lab replacement and renewal. In the past the funding came voluntarily by the committees each year. The proposal also suggests an increase in funding to the Student Technology Center and would add that part-time students pay half of the fee under the assumption that they use half the amount of supplies as a full-time student. Jansen suggested that the ballot language include the current rate, stating that the people should know how much the increase is. Nick Gaddy added to the suggestion in mentioning that students must know what is at stake when voting on this issue: If the proposal is not passed then there will not be a technology fee. Jansen also mentioned that since the issue is a mode of funding which shifts the burden of basic costs onto the students and might be controversial, the students should know that they are funding these things.

**C. Senate Funding:** The senate currently has enough money to do something this quarter with a primary goal of outreach. Jansen suggested something such as a permanent banner in red square for the issue of the month, t-shirts, or buttons. Greg McBride brought up the time issue with shirts, suggesting that because the process takes so long, it is not a very effective use of funds and might not benefit the future or help the primary goal of outreach. Senate members will look over the budget at next week's meeting and further discuss this as an information item.

## **V. Action Items**

None

## VI. Discussion Items

- A. Service Project:** An idea for a service project on Earth Day, April 27<sup>th</sup> might be campus cleanup. Additionally, Jansen suggested teaming up with the environmental center to do something in collaboration with them. Further brainstorming included making earth day buttons and having pizza to encourage people to come out for the project. McBride added that campus cleanup is a good idea because Western's campus does not employ staff for cleanup on the weekends. He also added that money from the AS is provided to the senate to help further its mission and that it is important to think critically about spending money especially in times when everyone's budgets are under the microscope.

At 6:39 PM Chelsea Bourdess left the meeting.

## VII. Other Business:

None

## VIII. Senator Reports/Concerns

- **Brianne Kumar:** The ACC is looking at redefining undergraduate requirements and GURS because students are uncertain of the reasoning for taking some of the courses. Students would like professors to better discuss how the class will positively affect and benefit their futures. Writing proficiencies are also under microscope. There has been concern of a stalker present in the dorms, although the stalker has been outlawed from campus.
- **Nick Gaddy:** A student commented that he has enjoyed watching Viking Village grow from something which was strictly academic and school related to that which has expanded to include all types of things as well as all the negative connotations associated with blogging. The student's perspective explained that such negative connotations were necessary as Viking Village experiences "growing pains."
- **Justin Van Dyk:** Justin Van Dyk has had conversations with students, including his roommate who is now writing for the Western Front, about the concern for debt load and lack of jobs in the future.
- **Danielle Dickson:** There is currently a student concern for getting into the courses that they need and the object of getting into certain majors. Many students consider transferring because they cannot get into the classes or majors that they seek. Additionally, an automatic door has been added going into the laundry room in Edens

hall out of concern for students with disability who previously had a difficult time accessing the laundry room.

- **Wyatt Ho:** Nothing

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 6:49 P.M.**