

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 VU 567

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

Annie Jansen, Student Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05P.M.

S-09-S-02	Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, March 31, 2009.
S-09-S-03	Motion to grant Annie Jansen the authority to approve this month's issue of the month for a posting date of Monday, April 13, 2009.

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION S-09-S-02 by Danielle Dickson, seconded by Jadon Berry

Approval of the minutes of Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1 Action: **Passed**

II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

III. Public Forum – I deleted this section. You only have to add it when the person brings up an issue. It's kind of odd that Anne asked her to introduce herself in the first place ☺

IV. Information Items

A. Service Project: New Student Services and Family Outreach are sponsoring an event this Earth Day, April 25, 2009. Volunteers will be broken up into two groups: one will be doing clean-up and one will be removing intrusive plants at varying Whatcom County locations. The event, which is open to all students and alumni, offers a number of locations participants can choose from. Time flexibility is another benefit to the sponsored event, allowing participants to come and go according to their own individual schedules. Annie Jansen suggested that for the Senate Service Project this quarter, the Senate link up with New Student Services and Family Outreach in participating with their scheduled events. Nikki Brown commented that linking up would be a great idea because the events are already set up for Western Washington University. Wyatt Ho agreed. Ho does not believe that the Senate has done a good enough job becoming involved with the student body as much as they intended to in the beginning of the year. Ho believes the Senate should get involved with the student body now as supposed to never. Jansen confirmed that the Senate's decision is to take part in these events for their Spring Quarter Service Project.

V. Action Items

A. Issue of the Month - Recommendation to the Board: The Senate decided to present last month's issue of the month data to the Board. They must decide whether the recommendation drawn from student responses should be in the form of a letter or a formal resolution. Jadon Berry commented that it is important to determine a purpose for asking the question when creating the issue of the month in order to avoid having to make decisions like this. Jansen agrees, but thinks that it is also ok to decide now. Greg McBride responded, stating that this particular question was drafted by the AS Board as a result of their request to learn of student opinions on tuition increases. After collecting student opinions to the issue of the month, it is the Senate's responsibility to think about the results and react accordingly. Key things which should be pulled out of the results and addressed include: educating the student body as to why Western is currently renovating buildings and misconceptions about the technology fees. Jansen said that one of the misconceptions is that things like Smart Boards would cause tuition increases. It is unrelated to tuition and comes out of the Student Tech Fee. Justin Van Dyk would like to see correlations between tuition increase and rising student debt added in the recommendation. Van Dyk is concerned for students' large amount of future debt and increasing loan size. Berry and Jansen will draft up a formal letter outside of the Senate meeting and send their ideas/reviews to Senate Members to be further discussed next week. There was also concern about less access to classes and larger class sizes. The Senate has decided that a formal letter will be the best way to approach this, not a formal resolution. All of the raw data will be included as well as the two responses which were received after the data was reviewed. The Issue of the Month Recommendation to the Board will be an Action Item again next week.

VI. Discussion Items- none

VII. Senator Reports/Concerns

- **Wyatt Ho:** There was an LAC meeting on April 7th for the first time this quarter. The Legislative Liaison Morgan Holmgren is back from Olympia and has reported that there has been some success in capping tuition at 7 percent. While they have been somewhat successful in capping tuition long-term at 7 percent, there have been no promises made. Ho believes that most students are still unaware of tuition increases and budget cuts. Ho recommended that this issue be addressed in a forum in order to educate students on everything that will be coming up and/or has happened with legislation this year. Students should understand this legislation in order to have any kind of effect on their legislature.
- **Nikki Brown:** Brown missed the ACC meeting last week. She is still working on a forum for health care which will take place May 15th. It is being hosted by Students For Civic Engagement. The forum will be about health care relating to students. Doug Erickson, a representative from the area will be featured, as well as other leaders in the field of healthcare.
- **Justin Van Dyk:** The first budget meeting will be next Tuesday, April 14, 2009 before the Senate meeting.
- **Danielle Dickson:** Disability Awareness Week will be next week and will include twenty different events. Details may be accessed through the website.
- **Jadon Berry:** Berry's committee still hasn't met. Student concerns found through the Western Blog include graffiti in the bathroom stalls. Berry recommended Senate members to stay up on reading the blog as it offers interesting perspectives from students.

VIII. Other Business:

A. Issue of the Month

Berry requested that April's issue of the month be related to Disability Awareness Week and be tabled during the week. Considering the final wording should have been Action Item for today's meeting, Berry motioned to grant Jansen authority to approve this month's issue of the month so that it might be posted by Monday, April 13, 2009.

MOTION S-09-S-3 by Jadon Berry, seconded by Danielle Dickson

Motion to grant Annie Jansen the authority to approve this month's issue of the month for a posting date of Monday, April 13, 2009.

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

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 6:37 P.M.