**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 20 • 7 p.m. • Montag Den**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

Meeting called to order @ 7:02pm

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

Gill & Mittendorf absent (proxies present)

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Hartman/Tran**

**Approved 20-0-0**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes**

**Tran/Hartman**

**Approved 20-0-0**

1. Officer Reports
   1. President Oswill

P Oswill: So all of you should have seen the Thanksgiving survey that I sent out to the student body, that has been overwhelmingly positive with over 900 responses. We are going to sit down and make some proposals based on this data. One student on the task force researched and found that there was a prevalence of a fall semester break that was longer than a day. There are arguments for this correlate with an increase in grades and a decrease in students seeking mental health help. Having an uninterrupted break schedule is not a healthy outcome. Therefore we are considering adding an additional day to mid-semester break. The flip side of this is that there is also some reason to believe that a one-day mid-semester break isn’t effective either. We are looking at re-arranging some days and making sure that all possible options are on the table.

The external programs committee met this week, and looked over reports that students sent us who serve on other committees. Traditionally at the end of the semester the ASWU president sends an e-mail report, so we are considering implementing some surveys of the long term projects people are working on.

* 1. Treasurer Ebert

T Ebert: Finance board met on Sunday shortly, and made a recommendation to withdraw from the endowment. I am also working on transitioning Brad in, but this is my last meeting. A lot of transition work still needs to be done but I think we will be able to complete all of this by the end of the semester.

* 1. VP Smyth

VP Smyth: We interviewed our final candidate for the senator historian position. We hope that this will be a productive internship and will share new information with ASWU. Our next meeting is December 4th, the night of Christmas in Hudson. That date may be problematic. I will send out a Doodle for that week, to find an alternative meeting time. We will have a short meeting with only a few agenda items, and we also need to create new committee assignments given the number of new individuals coming in. Think about whether or not you’d like to stick with your current committee.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Cusick)

Cusick: We did not meet this week, however the judicial application went out, and is due this Friday.

1. Presentation from Rich Peralta, Associate Director of Residence Life

Peralta: I’m the new Associate Director of Residence Life. My main responsibilities include overseeing CM selection and CM training. Additionally I am overseeing RHA or the residence hall association. It is still a very new entity, and an organization that brings the three of our area councils together. What RHA would typically serve as, is that umbrella organization, so that all three councils feed up through this. We have actually connected with other RHA’s at other Oregon institutions.

Derek Kennedy: I managed to network with other students and able to talk with individuals who have had this program for a lot longer than Willamette. I am looking forward to providing an outlet for advocacy and programming.

Peralta: Specifically, we will be working on the residential experience here at Willamette, and educational programming for Willamette. National Association of College and Residence Halls: NACRH is an international organizations from the US, Canada, and maybe the UK. We here at Willamette are part of the Pacific Region which is PACURH: we recently attended this conference at Cal Poly.

Perry Hildum: I was a delegate at the conference, and we talked a lot about community building, a lot of how energy flows in groups, and how to stay connected with each other.

Peralta: There are a lot of leadership opportunities through programming opportunities and conferences.

Mitch Diaz: I am the eastside area intern for residence life. I think that RHA is going to be a great way for some small groups of students to advocate for themselves. As much as we can try to address people’s concerns as CM’s and hall representatives, I think RHA will really help us to centralize our voices and be able to have immediate connections with councils and administrators.

Peralta: Mitch mentioned advocacy for the residential experience that affects everyone on campus. If there are things we would like to change, this would be the avenue. I recall when I was first contacted about coming we would have been presenting on the three year living requirement. In terms of how this works with RHA I’m not sure how the will overlap. However with the existence of RHA, I imagine students being able to use this program to be the vital voice for students, and move forward working together. It is essentially giving you another voice and avenue to get student opinions heard. It gives you an opportunity to hear these voices together, in an organized manner, so that res life and residence services know how to work with you.

Right now we have gone to some conferences, and plan to attend a no frills conference in February in Southern Oregon. Luckily it is not too far away, but after that we will also be attending the national conference. Last year there were over 400 plus organizations represented and over 2000 student leaders. At Willamette we are working on our constitution and digging deeper to see what type of model and structure will be useful for us. Hopefully by next year we will be a student organization represented by the University. We are excited to reach out to you, but please feel free to reach out to us as well. Thank you for having us here tonight.

1. New Business
   1. Endowment Withdrawal Proposal

T Ebert: This was talked about at our finance board meeting, quite a bit. The two largest chunks come from ASWU sound and Taiko club, who both asked for a significant amount of equipment. The rest of it comes from a wide variety of clubs that have been requested over the past year and a half. Obviously we can spell all of these things out if you don’t think they are appropriate. The general opinion of finance board was that we should not feel limited, and that these are items we should have explored funding from the endowment from the beginning since they are long term investments.

**Move to approve proposed withdrawal from the endowment**

**Ekstrom/Saiki**

**Approved 20-0-1**

* 1. Budget Approval

**Motion to approve budget as suggested by finance board**

**Ekstrom/Whitaker**

Saiki: For ASWU sound, we voted to give them $0 so that we could talk about them in senate and touch base with external programs. They said they needed more money for wages for the new events that they have been doing.

P Oswill: We asked ASWU sound to come into our meeting this week but they were unable to. The fact that they’re asking for wages doesn’t surprise me. They still need to pay their employees. Since clubs don’t have to pay money for them I’m guessing that they are a lot busier this semester.

**Move to amend the motion to also improve ASWU sound’s request for $1000.**

**Saiki/Ekstrom**

Kaptanian: It would be interesting to see how publicized the events are that get ASWU sound. It might be wise to talk to Johnny about how often events are scheduled.

Sader: In the bylaw, it says that 100% of the senators need to be in attendance to vote on the bylaw to withdraw from the endowment.

**Amendment** **approved 20-0-1**

**Budget approved 20-0-0**

* 1. Senate Attendance Hearing

VP Smyth: We need to have an attendance hearing tonight due to our attendance policy. With committee attendance, senators are allowed to have three unexcused absences or five excused absences. The action that happens under these circumstances is a senate attendance hearing. I would like to encourage everyone to consider what is causing attendance issues and how they can be resolved.

T Ebert: Our deliberations happened without Maria because we decided this time when she was not at the retreat. It turns out that the time we set was not a time she could attend. We basically were not able to resolve it.

Hernandez: I do take full responsibility for my absences, but the ones that were not excused were because I could not attend due to work schedule and the meetings being set. For the future reference, I do take full responsibility and I plan to have a more open schedule to ensure that I can attend committee meetings.

Pate: What measures were taken to re-schedule? How do you communicate?

T Ebert: I tried to find a time that could re-schedule the meeting, but it was difficult to immediately communicate. I was not as helpful as I could have been in switching the meeting times.

Hernandez: Also because I was absent does not mean that I was not keeping track with what was going. I was working with Emily and was aware of what was going to be happening and still was informed.

**Motion to not take any action on this matter**

**Brownlee/Hartman**

**Approved 20-0-0**

\*Arrival of Senator Mittendorf’s Proxy\*

**Motion to re-approve endowment withdrawal**

**Whitaker/Wright**

**Approved 21-0-0**

* 1. Discussion on Administrator Visits

VP Smyth: We have had three campus administrators come to visit senate this semester so I just wanted to hear some feedback on if you found those speaker’s useful or what you would like to see in the future.

Tran: I really like having them come in, as long as there is a time-limit.

Pate: Maybe to help with time we could send them questions ahead of time so that they know what to respond to. I also think maybe we should clap for them instead of knock.

Ekstrom: I am in favor of clapping, let the record show. It is helpful having administrators come in, but it is less helpful if we don’t have any specific question for them. I think that if we do call them in, there is a specific question or questions we should want to have answered.

Kaptanian: I think that they shouldn’t feel as if they must have a set time limit, just because we are asking them to answer our questions, so we should be accommodating to what they’d like to communicate.

Sader: I don’t think it is disrespectful to have a time limit, so I think communicating how much time they'll need ahead of time and just confirming with them whether or not they might need more or less time.

Pate: We could also give them a time limit and ask the administrator to bring business cards and have the opportunity to connect with them later and outside of the meeting.

Symonds: I think I would really like to hear from Margaret Trout and Ross Stout next semester, because they are excellent resources we don’t often hear form.

Kaptanian: I would also like to hear from someone from facilities.

* 1. Official Swearing In of New Treasurer

Brad Russell: I hereby swear, that I will uphold the constitution and bylaws of ASWU and that I will make my best effort to fully execute the duties of the office that I hold.

VP Smyth: Brad Russell is now the official treasurer and will be taking care of all business from here on. Congratulations Brad!

1. Senate Reports

Tran: GIF went through all of the proposals and passed 8 or 9 of 12 proposals. The minutes from the meetings will be publicised soon so that you might go over them.

Sader: We allocated just over $10,000 and everything is going very smoothly right now.

Brinster: I am working on a project through the health and wellness program and would like it to double as a senate project if you support it. I have noticed that there could be a need for healthier food and more nutritious snacks and venues on campus. There are areas on campus that could be evaluated, especially vending machines, and I was thinking of targeting the sparks fitness center in particular. I was interested in starting a pilot program to see if I could add some more nutritious options. I was wondering if I could get your support in revamping this vending machine as a pilot program. If it goes well I would be able to measure if it would be worthwhile to expand that project.

Pate: I was thinking if it goes well, the one in the fishbowl would also be a good place to target.

Symonds: We had our second tobacco meeting. It is very interesting, because we have an idea of how the students are viewing things. The student opinion is not necessarily being as highly prioritized, so I think that it might be wise to do another poll or talk to some classmates to get some more student opinion represented.

Wright: Just so you all know, the opinion within the committee is to be pushed towards a smoke free campus, so we are looking at different ways to pursue this. It really is important to get our voices heard and gauge our communities to express what they want.

Kate: Senate normally does a sweatshirt or t-shirt every year, and PR has come up with some ideas. If you will buy one please raise your hand. There are very different options so please only vote if you’re for sure going to buy one.

Hernandez: I was thinking of doing a christmas gift exchange for the last meeting, and will e-mail you regarding further details.

1. For the Good of the Order

Pate: The Willamette dance company show is December 2nd, on Tuesday and in Smith at 7pm.

P Oswill: I ran into Chris Linn today, and LNE concludes this semester unless otherwise proposed.

Hernandez: On Monday we are putting together a visual in Jackson plaza from 4pm to 6pm. You are all students and we would like your support. If you are willing to bring some sort of art please let me know.

VP Smyth: The TAB program is accepting applications through the first week of december, and it should be a wonderful experience.

1. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
   1. I’ll send out an e-mail about our next meeting.

Motion to adjourn

Ekstrom/Tran

Approved

Meeting adjourned @ 8:03pm