***ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY***

***Senate Meeting Minutes***

***Thursday, October 22 • 7:00 p.m. • Smullin 129***

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Kittleson, Danielson, and Lyons absent, proxies present.

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Move to approve**

**Saiki/Tran**

**Approved**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Move to approve**

**Ekstrom/Steffy**

**Approved**

1. External Programs (President Cervantes)

5.1 ASWU Shuttle: The chair is working on the program in order to improve it, make it more efficient and student friendly. She is working on making the program more customer-service based, accessible and will be coming to speaking in front of us next week.

Tran: Can you ask her for some more clarification on those goals?

P Cervantes: Sure, she’ll be in here next week.

1. Officer Reports
   1. President Cervantes

P Cervantes: The most pressing issue right now is the honor council -- they still need three people. It is a big time commitment but I think students are interested. Please let me know if you know of any students that are interested. This is a very important council that makes some pretty serious decisions. I also talked with the students that are utilizing the inclusivity hearth -- they are concerned that there is not a lot of memory within committees. They think that we could do more to keep track of what is going on so that they can better leverage arguments effectively. We talked about finding ways to make student input more tangible to make it effective for negotiations. The general sentiment is that voices aren’t being heard. I also talked with Jerry Houser about the opportunities fair. He thinks we need a lot of planning, and to pay the individual on an hourly basis. I talked to Madelyn Gordon who did the position last year, and she was not interested in doing it again.

Tran: Can the career center take it over?

Hartman: This came up last year in external programs. Like Thao said, they are already getting paid for this so it would be great to utilize them.

Cervantes: The sense I got from Jerry is that those students are already overworked as it is.

Tran: I’ll talk to him this week. We are trained to work on career outreach, and bring companies to our school. The person that we usually hire isn’t trained in these aspects.

P Cervantes: He suggested it be a freshman or sophomore so that we have continuity. I guess my question is if we want to take it on this project.

Ekstrom: I have been to the opportunities fair a couple of times-- it has not been a significant contributor to my success. It is hard to get companies like Nike to come and talk to willamette students.

Brinster: I went to it a couple of times, and didn’t get a lot out of it. It was not helpful at all.

Ekstrom: I think that if companies want to come, they can table in the UC.

Hartman: If no one has the passion to take this on I don’t think we should be a part of it.

Kaptanian: When we started the ASWU career fair, it filled a need for the campus then. It brought a lot of students to the career center. I wonder what has changed from then until now where we don’t think we need the fair anymore.

Saiki: I don’t think we should strike this just because it hasn’t run well in the past. I think it is an important mechanism.

P Cervantes: The other trouble Jerry has had is getting organizations to come from the private sector. He suggested we could make it a non-profit oriented fair.

Saiki: Do other small schools like this have a similar problem? I feel like we should be having this.

P Cervantes: We have no records of this or transition materials.

Saiki: I think it would be weird to not have a job fiar -- we should be looking for some way for that to be filled.

Gill: I don’t think we should vote on this right now. I think we should think about it, at least for a week. We need to consider if someone wants to take that on within Senate.

**Move to table discussion until next week**

**Gill/Fedorova**

Saiki: Could the public outreach committee look for potential candidates?

Gill: Maybe we should all think about it for a week and then decide if we want to do it.

**Approved 21-0-0**

P Cervantes: We need some people to serve on the SSRD panel. There will be a couple of meetings this semester, but most will occur next. It is not super intensive but it is very important. I have also been asking about input for the board of trustees meetings this weekend. In general I was told that the conversation will be centered on student retention. That will probably be a big discussion item, as well as making education more affordable. They are hoping to increase the endowment -- financial aid will ideally increase so that the cost is overall, less. I don’t have much input besides in the general discussion and in the CLA committees.

Ekstrom: I would strongly encourage you to bring up mental health and emphasize why this is important.

Steffy: I think it is also important to talk about campus safety. I think it is really important to weave that into the conversation. I wouldn’t be afraid to bring it up.

**Move to welcome guest speaker to present**

**Ekstrom/Saiki**

**Approved**

* 1. Treasurer Brinster

T Brinster: The fall round 1 allocation finally went through. Only two clubs have still not attended an SOO. I have been sending them e-mail reminders. The fall round-2 allocation sign up passed today at 5pm, so finance board will be meeting this Sunday. Since 7pm today, there are two clubs coming to present to ASWU with requests over $1500. There are 16 clubs under $1500. Later we’ll present on the precedents bill, and will be asking for feedback via google form so that we can have your concrete ideas. We’d love to pass it the next meeting.

* 1. VP Brownlee

R Brownlee: This week I am talking to the Collegiate readership program. Basically we have some extra money. We might be getting an ap. The whips met as well. I am also working on the thank-yous to our presenters. Native American programs is finally happening. I will let you all know what that looks like.

* 1. Clerk Hladick[.](http://calendar.uoregon.edu/event/ross_szabo_behind_happy_faces_taking_charge_of_your_mental_health#.ViV4mcbFI_u)

Hladick: Going to University of Oregon to a presentation about mental health. It is Tuesday evening, so please reach out to me if you’d like to come with.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Dabit)

Dabit: We had a hearing last week that we would like to keep confidential. Basically we decided that the Senator will have all of his absences re-instated. He was facing an unavoidable circumstances in attending Senate meetings. There is an opinion in the judicial google drive.

1. Old Business
   1. Approval of Minutes from October 8 meeting

R Brownlee: I made notes in the meeting when our clerk was absent. They are not entirely complete but I think it reflects the actions we voted on.

**Move to approve**

**Saiki/Tran**

**Approved**

* 1. Discussion of Executive Expectations document

R Brownlee: We sent out an exec expectations document to you all and discussed it briefly last week. It is not a formal piece of legislation, but we just wanted to put it in writing. Let us know and communicate with us if you think we haven’t upheld these.

1. New Business
   1. Guest Speaker on Mental Health: Don Thomson (7:15)

Don Thompson: Thank you for the invitation -- I have spoken with quite a few of you. When talking with Teo and Bethany, I have to tell you that it is one of the most productive hour and a half I have spent in my life. To have a student voice around this issue on campus is incredible. It has been lacking for some time. Becca asked me to talk about a few things -- I have some really concerning, but important data. I have some things about what we have done so far to address this. I also have some ideas outside of Bishop that I need help with as well. Let me start with some realities that I think are inescapable. The first of which -- our next open appointment at Bishop is November 11th. That is the first one.. that doesn’t count everyone who is scheduled between now and then, as well as walk-ins. One of the things we know about willamette students is that you are all high achieving who work hard to hold it together up until the moment when you can’t and you seek our help. However, we say “well we can’t see you for three weeks.”

This is not just a Willamette phenomenon. Mental health across the country are completely overwhelmed by demand. UCLA’s higher ed research institute came out with some data that says, generally speaking, students are much less happy coming into college. 2014 was the lowest rate ever -- since 1985 emotional happiness has decreased. A NAMI survey said that 73% of students experienced a mental health crises. Over half of students experiencing high levels of distress due to not seeking services. Of students who did not persist in school, 64% said it was due to a mental health condition. The mental health survey is sent out in the spring. I have data here that I can only compare to last year’s national health data. I pulled out the mental health data. In the last year, you can see these numbers increasing -- these are remarkably statistically significant.

I have been asked about other Northwest institutions. They were careful to ask me to de-identify their numbers. Their numbers this year, are about where we were two years ago.

In asking what affected academic performance, you can see a similar trend. The top five answers are stress, anxiety, sleep problems, cold or illness, and depression. Willamette students sleep a lot less. You all want to do all things to all people at all times. We also know that questions around suicide ideation are also significantly higher than at other schools. Students were asked what has been difficult or traumatic in the last year -- academics, followed by social relationships, sleep, intimate relationships, and personal appearance.

This is the number of counseling appointments in Bishop over the years. We have maxed out. Importantly, our FTE or staff, hasn’t changed. Some other notable trends include crisis appointments jumping from 7 to 203. Students taking medicine has more than doubled, and students have taken more than double the amount of full medical withdrawals.

The student population has gone up a little in the past ten years. Our appointments have gone up disproportionately.

Ward: What types of things make up the crisis appointments?

Thompson: If we have to move someone out of a slot given the emergency nature. Suicidal ideation is the most common. Other students stop medication, are experiencing interpersonal violence, or panic. About five years ago, anxiety passed depression for the number one reason people come to the counseling center.

Brinster: I know you mentioned we are booked until November. Are all of those crises appointments?

Thompson: We don’t schedule for crises appointments. Those happen during the day. People who are in our daily schedule are also dealing with a lot of risk. In response to the efforts to Title IX, that has resulted a lot more appointments. Anecdotally, reasons for visits usually remain the same. There are conversations happening within our existing clientele.

I am hoping that my narrative explains the numbers.

This last year, we got an additional staff member. The challenge is that I recently stepped into a new role, so all of my clinical time has close to evaporated. This additional FTE is really no net gain. In the last two years we brought in two new people. There is good stuff being done here. Advanced a proposal for full time counselor in AY 16-17: another full time counselor for next year. To advance a proposal, out of the campus life division, means many many other things did not get advanced. This is a big deal.

It is 12-13 weeks in the Salem area in order for you to get an appointment. A lot of counselors off campus are telling us they are full.

All counseling appointments are now free. No more fees. We moved walk-in hours as well. We had 5 people for 3 slots just today alone. We have some other outreach efforts as well. Given what we know about how stressed out you are, Audrey came from WSU where she ran some educational workshops. One person showed up to her program. This is where we need your help. I am giving this presentation to many people on campus to raise awareness.

We additionally have protocall coming soon. It is a 24 hour counseling service for students. This is a good good thing. We are trading the contract right now, but it should be coming within a couple of weeks.

Our needs outside of Bishop include early intervention/prevention efforts. We are evaluating what Willamette academic and co-curricular culture is. I can’t tell you how many people feel alone for “not cutting it here.” Students here are achieving at such high levels all the time that there are very subtle competitions.

Hartman: I am interested in taking on a Senate project in order to extend mid-semester break.

Thompson: I am absolutely hearing from students this theme in variations. Things get stacked up in the same week, all the time.

Hartman: I know that different departments don’t communicate often, but that could really help with stress.

Thompson: I don’t think faculty have a really good sense of student needs. You all do a good job of making it seem like you can handle it. Individually, they get it. I don’t think there is a collective understanding however. I can’t tell you how excited I am to talk about this with you. The outrate has historically happened in pockets and across campus at different time. If our efforts can get consolidated that is what is going to make a difference.

Landoni: Thank you for coming in tonight. It feels very empowering to have a passionate administrator here. I feel like you understand what students are going through. I want to thank you for your efforts -- they truly mean a lot to me.

Gill: When I hear all of this, it makes me nervous. The crisis levels we have are scary. What makes me even more nervous is the students that are one step back. I am wondering if you have advice for us and our peers.

Thompson: I think you can adjust your expectations about what is reasonable for you. It is ok to say no to things. When you say yes to things, you often say no to things that are crucial -- like sleep. If there is one thing that has a huge return on investment, it is sleep. You’re bad at sleeping. There are conversations after saying “I’m stressed out” that don’t happen. Acknowledge and admit struggle.

Ekstrom: I think WU students word their facebook notifications as if they are press releases. I think we can all be more cognizant of the things that we don’t post and what we are doing.

Tran: In my past experiences, students talked a lot about narratives. I think as student leaders, we can take a step towards that. I think we can take some of these on -- change is going to come from us as far as culture changes goes.

Leder: I know that we wanted you to come tonight because of our past dialogue. What can we do to help and support you? We want to be a part of this.

Thompson: That I am here talking to you represents a huge step forward in culture. That is important. My hope is that this dialogue is not over, but rather sustained over time. You own student culture. The gap that has existed, but is narrowing, is the information gap. Faculty are shocked to see the data that I shared with you. Having some conversation, that is honest, real and authentic, about what this means for you as students, is really important.

Leder: I really like Senator Tran’s push on narratives. I am interested in talking to other schools but importantly, each other. I wonder if we could do some sort of appropriate public outreach.

Steffy: I think it might be important to reach out to a student who we know is struggling. Being real with other students can do a lot.

Parekh: I just wanted to address Don’s point about having low turnout at these events. I think we can definitely endorse these events in order to increase numbers of participation. We can really work to stigmatize these events.

Gordon: I think we could start some sort of campaign with a hashtag on social media.

Ekstrom: One of the things we can do, and I’m looking to do, is to post something I struggle with and invite others to have a dialogue about them.

Gill: I think it would be great to combine these ideas. When Don was talking about the workshops, it made sense to me that students didn’t attend because they are so busy. I think it would be a really good idea to have a table and campaigning that doesn’t require a serious time requirement to begin with. I think it would be great for us to address these issues and take on a balance here.

Dabit: I think that one of the issues is that students don’t want to admit to themselves they are failing. I think it is difficult to reach out to students that want private help. I think this can be achieved at a grassroots level.

Tran: I think that it should be a collaborative effort. I think we can acknowledge each other. I would like to propose an ad hoc committee on public outreach and mental health.

**Move to propose an ad hoc public outreach committee on mental health**

**Tran/Gill**

**Approved**

* 1. Caucus on Senate Projects (10 minutes)

R Brownlee: Please work on filling out your templates. We will do it next meeting if you don’t. If you have questions, please reach out to me.

* 1. ASWU Finance Precedent Bill (Senators Gordon and Kaptanian)

Gordon: Finance board met this week and this is the first draft of the bill. The advertising precedent will be set to $25/event. We also outlined some information for Greek dances. In the past, we didn’t want to unfairly allocate money. They are open to all students. Precedent for van rental would be $100/day regardless of the number of miles driven. Additionally, when holding an event funded by ASWU, the club must request funds for advertising in order to be considered eligible for ASWU funding of that event. We also recommend that they work with Leadership Consultants and publish their event in the Bearcat Bulletin. Additionally, we want to ensure that people who receive funding attend an SOO before they get their physical allocation.

Parekh: I am worried about the van rental. A lot of willamette vans are known to break down frequently. This has happened 7 times as I know of, so I think we should be flexible on that.

Ekstrom: I think that the retreat is among the more important bonding activities. We should look to supporting those. Perhaps we can offer up some sort of organizational resources.

Tran: Retreats have important bonding aspects. I think in order to get away from abusing funds we could create a template.

Ekstrom: I think one way to do that would be to say that each person that goes on the retreat will get a set amount of money.

**Move to table for responses to google from**

**Saiki/Ekstrom**

**Approved**

8.4 Sustainability Trip Senate Project Bill (Senator Gill)

Gill: I am asking for $140 for my trip in that I need a van and am partnered with the outdoors program. For them to help out, they would like to have two leaders come with for liability reasons. It is a community tree-planting activity. I am requesting 1, 15 person van for Saturday, November 7th from 8:30-1pm.

VP Brownlee: There is a $1000 budget for senate projects.

Saiki: Can that amount be increased?

VP Brownlee: We could pull from the endowment possibly.

T Brinster: Similarly to the ASP mentor position, we can repurpose the office budget.

1. Senate Reports

Leder: I met with the advisory safety committee last week. Their main focus has been active shooter situations on campus. I just wanted to know your feelings about having campus safety officers carry guns.

Landoni: I think we have some abuse of campus safety powers. I just get worried.

Leder: Administrators are also concerned about students feelings about the department.

Steffy: At 7am, I was woken to a man yelling outside of Hasseldorf. He was stabbed. Something needs to happen.

Kaptanian: The most worrisome thing to me on campus is that students are feeling unsafe on campus and several incidents justify this. Outside at night, there is no one.

Tran: I think we should talk to housing and community and life so that everyone is on the same page. I think it would be interesting to know the Salem PD response.

Leder: I am really passionate about this issue and would really like your feedback. We need to have confidence in the current safety situation.

Fedorova: We are hugely underfunded-- clearly there is a huge lack of staffing.

Gordon: One thing I wanted to be able to do was have the cameras watched. I would love for students on willamette watch to have an ipad so that they know what they are walking into.

Tsuchimoto: I sent out a survey to ASP students about the smoking ban. I have feedback if you’d like to hear any of it.

Hartman: I am working on extending mid semester break or adding a three day weekend.

Landoni: I am going to attend the meeting with Monica.

Steffy: I was looking at bringing self defense classes to campus. I kind of passed it off to PHC so that they are going to bring that here for all students. I also am interested in getting resources out to students that are tangible.

P Cervantes: A student suggested an idea that we might have non-lethal weapons available to students available for check-out. I just wanted to share that with you.

Leder: I think we need to be sensitive about this project just so that we are aware of the problem.

Fedorova: One of the things that came up in my meeting was preventative measures. Rich Dennis has a poster that he would like to get some feedback on.

1. For the Good of the Order
2. Adjournment (VP Brownlee)

**Motion to adjourn**

**Saiki/Fedorova**

**Approved**

**Meeting adjourned @ 9:02pm**