**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, January 22 • 7 p.m. • Montag Den**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

Leder absent, proxy present

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Brinster/Tran**

**Agenda approved**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes**

**Gill/Hernandez**

**Minutes approved**

1. Officer Reports
	1. President Oswill

P Oswill: The students got a state of the student address via e-mail. Additionally we are filling in our last position on the judicial branch. For projects this semester I am going to be working with the department of advancement to talk about forms of donation. It’s going to be a good semester.

* 1. Treasurer Russell

T Russell: All of the pre spring allocations are going to occur this week. I have a list of things from Greg that I’m working on. After all of our allocations we will have around $17,000 to allocate after WULA and Luau.

Pate: When will the first allocation be?

T Russell: February 3/4th is when the requests are due. The following thursday will be our senate hearing, and then we will have finance board on sunday, with a final vote the next week in senate.

* 1. VP Smyth

 VP Smyth: I have been meeting with Senators for a 1:1, and I have some times available to meet with you next week. I will send out a link for those of you who haven’t met with me yet. Everyone who I have met with has had really cool project ideas to work on so I’m excited for this semester.

1. New Business
	1. Swearing in of new Senators

Liebson, Parekh, and Fedorova: “I hereby swear that I will uphold the constitution of the association students of willamette university, and that I will put my best efforts toward promoting the interests of the student body.”

* 1. Judicial Nominations
		1. Noemi Cruz-Cruz

P Oswill: I am nominating Noemi Cruz-cruz for this position, who brings background experience and a passion to ensure ASWU runs according to its constitution and bylaws.

**Motion to approve nominee**

**Gill/Steffy**

**Nominee approved 20-0-0**

* + 1. Chief Justice

Anderson: I have been a justice now for two semesters and am interested in taking on the role of chief justice. I worked closely with Meg last semester to learn the ropes.

**Motion to appoint Anderson as Chief Justice**

**Gill/Tran**

**Approved 20-0-0**

* 1. Food Input

Kiersten Irwin: I am an exercise science major and am working on studying the goudy meal plans to see if students have access to a nutritious, affordable diet for my senior thesis. I am interested in the food options, and specifically the pricing of those options.

Pate: From what I have heard from students, as long as people are adjusting their eating habits slightly, the available plans are okay. However, I have heard from athletes that they sometimes run out of meal points. As far as options, I think that most people can find something they are okay eating. Sometimes people have dietary restrictions, but as far as I know bon appetite works with those individuals.

Sader: I think I worked out the math with some of my friends one semester, and found that it was a good idea to get a B plan and then pay for the rest of the food you eat when you run out of meal points.

P Oswill: I believe that at Willamette, they incorporate the operating costs into the meal plans. The food cost-to-price ratio is relatively equal. It is more expensive to have a meal plan because the operating cost is built into it.

Sader: That is something that threw us off- I assumed the biggest meal plan was the most cost efficient. However, I could have had the smallest meal plan and payed cash for the pay as you go options. I know that a lot of students who had the biggest meal plans couldn’t afford breakfast and lunch. There was a lot of confusion.

Smith-Fagen: I know that there is a breakdown of how many meals you are supposed to eat when you are first deciding which meal plan you should be on. Most of them account for a very small breakfast.

Irwin: Bon Appetite doesn’t actually make the meal plans, administrative services does. Bon appetite does decide the menu and the pricing is done separately.

Wright: I was talking to some constituents who also have issues with the meal plan and that the larger plan, that is more expensive, doesn’t seem right to include the cost of facilities. Those students are interested in eating more and should only be paying for the price of that additional food, not the additional operating costs.

Irwin: From my understanding, the additional operating costs are justified as students paying for the entire willamette experience in one package. You are more-so paying for the entire willamette experience in calling room and board one price.

Steffy: Are you interested in the quality of food?

Irwin: Yes, and why people are running out of points is also an issue.

Gill: I would add that the vegetables are a nutritious option, but the ones outside of the salad bar are usually covered in oil.

Irwin: We don’t have a dietitian here, so it is hard to talk about eating healthy. I am interested in raising awareness. Do you think you are paying too much?

Sader: When it comes to the individual food costs, I think my issue is with the operating costs and the experience. If I was having a conversation with other individuals, I’d like for those costs to be separate from room and board. I don’t know exactly what parts of my money are doing what. It saves a lot of money if you don’t have a meal plan. I think the pricing of the food is not an issue, but if you could avoid getting a plan altogether I would have done that.

Pate: I would also say that it is difficult to require students to have to live on campus longer because of the meal plan. I think that if the costs were comparable to live off campus, students would be incentivised to stay on campus.

Anderson: I think that it’s interesting that prices have gone up in Kaneko. I remember living there and Katsudon raised by 50 cents multiple times. It makes sense from a business plan perspective. But if they aren’t so profit oriented, why are prices rising like they are?

Irwin: There has been an argument about the convenience of living off campus, but it isn’t always as convenient. Having the meal services on campus is supposed to make it easier.

Russell: Just to go off of the all you can eat meals: I think that the technical costs vary. All you can eat meals on D cost more than others and I think that is frustrating.

Dabit: There is an expectation that you buy groceries, and I don’t think students think about that. I think that is a real problem that the points physically don’t match up. The prices aren’t unreasonable, but for the number of points you have, it isn’t reasonable to hide those hidden costs to students.

Tran: I know some students only eat lunch and dinner because they are worried about their points, and that isn’t a healthy habit to get into.

Kaptanian: I think maybe the biggest problem is the lack of communication about the dining experience on campus. In the information that students get, they should be informed that they should account for buying groceries, how many points they should be spending a day, and things like buying a mini-fridge.

Irwin: There is a calendar in goudy with that information, but it isn’t really advertised to prospective students: especially the part about grocery shopping.

Smyth: My OD leader gave me great advice and said that you should always pick the meal plan one bigger than you think you need and you can change it. If that was more well-known maybe students wouldn’t have a problem.

Tran: For prospective students, I think it would be helpful to show them menus of what their plan could get you. Examples of what a “small breakfast” is would be very helpful for people to get an idea of what their points can buy them for each meal.

1. Old Business
	1. Committee Assignments

**Motion to approve**

**Tran/Gill**

**Approved 20-0-0**

1. Campus safety committee nominee

 P Oswill: Tori expressed interest to work on the campus safety committee. She would be serving on the campus safety advisory committee as a representative from senate. The campus safety advisory committee was formed from a recommendation by the President.

 **Motion to approve Leder as committee nominee**

 **Tran/Sader**

 **19-0-1**

1. Judicial Report

Anderson: Our official meeting time is on Friday at 3:30 if you have any bills you’re interested in sending to us. We are still working on moving forward on the amendment to student club constitutions regarding the impeachment of officers, and we are talking about other potential projects.

1. Senate Reports

 Tran: The Green Initiative Fund meeting was on Monday and we approved all of the projects from last semester. We aren’t putting a cap on the grants necessarily, and we are looking for both environmental and university sustainability.

 Landoni: I have a senate project idea to get solar powered trash and recycling containers. There are compost version as well. I am thinking about getting a couple of those put on campus. If anyone would like to help please get in touch with me.

 Symonds: I am interested in improving study abroad resources if anyone is interested in helping me.

 Oswill: There are two students at large that are working on that in conjunction with the study abroad office, so I will forward you their information.

 Hernandez: In conjunction with the leadership consultants, this semester we are working on putting on a fundraising workshop, so that students get an idea of what they can do besides asking for ASWU funding.

1. For the Good of the Order

 Steffy: Our sweatshirts are here! (Please bring Senator Steffy $33 to receive your sweatshirt)

1. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
	1. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 5 at 7 p.m. in Montag Den.

 **Motion to adjourn**

 **Gill/Brinster**

 **Approved 20-0-0**

 **Meeting adjourned @ 7:45pm**