**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 19 • 7 p.m. • Smullin 222**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

All present

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Leder/Parekh**

**Approved**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes**

**Tran/Steffy**

**Approved**

1. Officer Reports
   1. President Oswill

P Oswill: The big thing I have to report is that the language of the safety report is semi-finalized. I have five copies to pass around for you to look over. I was planning on releasing it to departments this Friday, but I think I might wait until Monday just due to recent campus events. The other major update is that we are meeting with the vice presidents to talk about the Thanksgiving break proposal. Bethany and I will be having breakfast with them next friday. Our current recommendation is to start classes on Thursday, have two days for mid-semester, and a full week for Thanksgiving. It will be up to the vice presidents to discuss. After our conversation I’ll come to you all and discuss their comments and where to go from there.

* 1. Treasurer Russell

T Russell: Allocations are due next Friday, the 27th, and journal entries are going in tomorrow and Monday which will be reflected in the GL.

* 1. VP Smyth

VP Smyth: I have been working on setting up a meeting with the elections commission to approve our timeline for exec and senate elections. The idea is to have candidates turn in much more comprehensive campaign plans so that elections commission can be informed and we can decrease campaign violations. The next thing I have been working on the senate project master list. I am going to be sending it out and I’d just like to ask you if you can confirm your project, when you’ll be reporting to senate, and to let me know who will be working with you. If you are a leader on a project that is going to be reported on next week, I’ll be e-mailing you just so we can add a little more accountability.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Anderson)

CJ Anderson: Three things for all of you -- first of all we were made aware that our website is not up to date. We are looking into updating it and changing the name of the link for students to submit feedback or complaints. After we contacted the collegian requesting an article about ad space to report on our new impeachment process, they casked if they could write an article about it. At our meeting yesterday we talked a little about how we will be changing how our judicial branch meets. The ideas we have are to operate a little more on how elections commission works, and only meet when necessary with how things our outlined in the constitution. We will be reviewing the bills as long as you submit them to me 72 hours in advance. Additionally, I’ll still be serving as parliamentarian. After tonight only two of us will be coming to the meetings. If you think of anything else you’d like us to do or so that we can further our responsibilities you can always pass a bill.

1. Senate Reports

Steffy: I talked to Cynthia chand about the wording of our advertising and I am going to send that to the toilet paper. It is very simple text. The first 26 students that email me will be on the list just because of limited availability. It will be held on the 4th of March, Wednesday, at 6:30 in the sparks gym.

1. Old Business
   1. Jewish Student Union Budget Request

Ari: Hi my name is Ari the acting president of JSU, and I am Wendy the treasurer. We are here to talk to you about more details on our budget. We went over the exact pricing of our pieces that we reported, and we have a more accurate number for you. The things that we have at our meetings every week is Challah, religious bread, and because it is very special type of bread, it is made by bakeries and costs a little more that a regular loaf. It is 7.25 per loaf, and we consume 1 per week. with 11 weeks left of school this equates to about $73 dollars. We also drink kosher grape juice and that costs about 16 dollars. Additionally we decided that we have a similar budget request for this semester because we do only put on one big event per semester, with about 35-40 people in attendance. Because we are a small group, our goal is to try to improve advertisement. We have a hard time putting on cheaper smaller events just because there is only so much we can do.

Tran: How many students are in the JSU?

Wendy: It’s complicated. Like any club more people show up to the bigger events. For Shabbat we get between 5-10 people.

Ari: In Judaism, according to our calendar, we usually have one or two high holidays. We try to have vans availability for people to celebrate things depending on when religious holidays fall. When those occur more people generally show up. Our Shabbat weekly events are more of a religious events. Additionally, we also open these events up to individuals interest in Judaism as a whole.

Pate: Can you break down the $900 you spent last semester?

Ari: That was the catering event from last semester.

Gill: What is the event?

Ari: The big holiday that occurs in spring semester is Passover. Basically we are thinking about our ancestors who escaped from Egypt. During those 40 years they had very limited access to food. We eat unleavened bread. We aren’t allowed to eat anything that is leavened. We usually have a Sadar that corresponds to passover.

Gill: You are doing a great job of presenting this information. I was just wanting to get a clearer idea of your request. What exactly are the costs going towards?

Wendy: A lot of it goes towards food. Other expenses are for decorations. We aren’t asking for decorations because we have things we have used previously. The $100 we are asking for advertisement is for paper and posters. The $900 is a Bon Appetite expense. We tried last semester to reach out to the Jewish population in Salem to have them cook for us because they know the traditional recipes. Bon Appetite politely told us that we couldn’t do that. They want us to try very hard to have them cater for us.

**Motion to approve budget line by line**

**Pate/Hernandez**

**Approved**

**Motion to approve funding for Challah bread**

**Symonds/Landoni**

**Approved**

**Motion to approve funding for grape juice**

**PArekh/Leder**

**Approved**

Tran: Point of information: what is our budget right now?

T Russell: So after funding JSU’s first two requests, $4,846.52

Pate: A potluck is specifically defined for 25 people or less, so it wouldn’t necessarily be feasible to suggest that they do that instead of cater through Bon Appetite.

Gills: We still haven’t funded ASA or Russian club?

T Russell: You funded ASA, everything except their speaker.

VP Smyth: There was interest in going to class councils or area councils for additional funding.

Durham: We wanted Russian Club to come in and explain some things because their request was very confusing.

Kaptanian: Did an e-mail get sent out to them to reappear?

VP Smyth: I don’t remember being asked, but I can invite them to come next week.

T Russell: They asked for $1,270.

**Motion to approve funding for passover food: $400**

**Symonds/Hernandez**

Pate: I am wondering if we were to fund partially, does that mean that they could make a different, less expensive menu, or does that mean they need to seek funding elsewhere?

Liebson: Passover is very specific. It is hard to meet a medium, especially because cutting certain parts of the passover celebration would break Jewish tradition. This is not something you can cut funding on unless you want to take away a very specific part of the celebration.

Symonds: I support religious celebration entirety. I get around $23 per person which seems pretty high.

Liebson: It doesn’t seem like there is a way to get around goudy.

Holliday: With the money they are allocated, they can try to work with goudy to try and get a discount and work with them in other ways.

Symonds: Is it possible to put a suspension on funding until they talk to goudy and figure out if there is another way to have a proper passover but with less money?

Mittendorf: Part of the reason that passover food is so expensive is because it has to be kosher. It isn’t like buying bargain brands. I am really on board with senator Liebson. By not giving them full funding it might be semi offensive to their religion. I have Jewish ties and I feel that would be insulting. One of the things I bring up working with admissions is that we have a JSU, and I think it is something we should support.

Kaptanian: I want to try and bridge the gap here. I think I see where people are coming from, as this is there one big event. I understand where senator Symonds is coming from in that $22.50 is a lot for a person per event. It makes sense that if we ever want the costs to come down, we might not be able to fund them fully. This is going to impact the vote negligibly, but I think that everyone here is still committed to the event happening so there isn’t a need to say we are offending or against their religions.

Symonds: I would just like to clarify that $400 was an arbitrary number to get the debate started. I would assume that there are more people within synagogues and their community. I would be more comfortable adjusting this if necessary.

Liebson: I would like to add that this event and organization is open for all students on campus. They like to hold the event on campus so that all students are welcome. They do get discounts from Bon Appetite, and I think that they explained in their request that they had tried to work with them. They have already cut down their request from their initial, so I still think we should fully fund them.

Symonds: I am asking these questions because I want to be able to fund them. I think the best way to do this is suggest that maybe they spend some of it on advertising, because I would love for them to have it within our community. I think we might need to rethink that.

Pate: I don’t think any of us our opposed to the event happening or the funding of it. Similar to luau and russian clubs events, I am wondering if clubs like this ever do a “to attend this event, people pay $2.” Have they ever done that?

Anderson: Doesn’t Luau charge tickets to put on such an elaborate cultural event?

Liebson: Luau is much larger than the Passover celebration. They would have to highly price their tickets to even come close to funding them. With 35-40 people in attendance, I don’t think its reasonable.

**Motion Fails**

**Motion to fund JSU $800 for food**

**Liebson/Tran**

**Approved 18-0-2**

**Motion to not fund decorations**

**Fund/Tran**

**Approved 16-0-4**

**Motion to not approve funding for movie rights to Prince of Egypt**

**Gill/Tran**

**Approved 15-0-5**

* 1. Zena Farm Update

Tran: So basically what you did during your whips meeting was that you drafted an email to be sent out from each whip on Monday describing what is going on and to encourage students to sign the petition. Zena farm is currently drafting something to send to the administration, and we said we’d happily look over it.

1. For the Good of the Order

Tran: You should really apply for the compass TA position. All you need to send in is a resume and a cover letter. The career center is trying to advance values and vocational skills early on. I definitely would encourage you to apply.

Hernandez: I would like to remind you to apply for SSRD. Applications are now open.

Pate: The chamber choir, orchestra, and master chorus are performing this weekend on Saturday and Sunday night. It is insane, intense, and thought of as one of the most remarkable musical pieces.

VP Smyth: You all are doing a great job and I just wanted to remind you to stay positive and respectful in this space.

1. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
   1. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 26 at 7 p.m. in Montag Den.

**Move to adjourn**

**Gill/Hartman**

**Approved**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm