***ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY***

***Senate Meeting Minutes***

***Thursday, January 21 • 7 p.m. • Ford 102***

1. Call to Order (VP Brownlee)

**Meeting called to order @ 7:02pm**

1. Roll Call (VP Brownlee)

Danielson absent.

Durham: I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve ASWU, act in accordance with ASWU constitution and bylaws and to the best of my ability, strive to fulfill all the duties and responsibilities required of me as an ASWU Senator.

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Saiki/Gill**

**Approved**

1. External Programs (President Cervantes)

P Cervantes: We have a good amount of shifting around and are planning to meet with the Exec teams of the collegian and ASWU. We will have an update by next meeting about when we’ll hear from both of them at a Senate meeting

1. Officer Reports
   1. Treasurer Brinster

T Brinster: Club approval and finance board won’t be meeting until the beginning of February. Additionally, the account numbers have changed for clubs on campus. I have run into a couple of problems with the changes, and we are working on getting the issues squared away. In the past I have come to you all when a club wants to repurpose an allocation. ASWU sound got money for a new speaker and they were allocated $729.99. Instead of buying a new speaker, they got it repaired for a lot cheaper. There is a lot of money left over -- Ninon asked if she could re-allocated the $450 for repairs for the rest of the semester. So I am here to ask if you would you feel comfortable leaving that money in their account for additional repairs. It seems as if a majority of you would like her to request any repairs they have. Additionally, I heard for JSSL regarding their lunar new year. They are asking to change some funding to a new calligraphy event. He said there would be no adjustment to the price, but rather a change to the event.

Saiki: Collegian, ASWU sound and WEB are all external programs of ours. Their funding structure has changed, so that they must request a specific budget. As it stands, ASWU sound is treated a little differently. I think that we should be leaving some discretion to their spending. I don’t think that the collegian, web and aswu sound should have to come in and ask for minor changes.

Ekstrom: I also know that WEB feels similarly. I think it makes sense to have some level of accountability, but I also think that it is appropriate to give them a block fund for a specific purpose. It’s less itemized but more of a block grant.

Parekh: The intent was to not have them to go through each budget item, but this allows for their to be more oversight.

Gill: Maybe a senator from each class could talk to Caroline so that we have the information spread through Senate.

CJ Dabit: WEB has to submit reports to Caroline on how they are using their spending. I don’t know if there is a bylaw about discretionary funds.

Ekstrom: My understanding is that there was a bill passed last year.

VP Brownlee: I’ll review the drive and see what I can find.

* 1. VP Brownlee

VP Brownlee: We have hired a new clerk as of a couple of hours ago: Erin Gangstad. She had a wonderful interview and is really excited to serve in this capacity and is highly qualified. Additionally, we have some seats to fill and will be holding an election for the freshman and junior class. I will also be sending out a pro temp application. I am trying to coordinate a bonding event as well. Lastly, I am forming committees so please respond to my e-mail. We will be having 1:1’s so look out for that too.

We also need some help with Collegian hiring as they have two leadership positions to fill. If you’re interested in helping please let me know.

* 1. President Cervantes

P Cervantes: When I first got here, I remember telling you all that I didn’t know what I was doing and was going to try to learn. I acknowledge that we had a rough start last semester and I think that is why we didn’t have as big of an impact. I learned a lot and am pretty sure that I figured it out now. It is all focused on a new collective action plan. I talked to an old mentor from high school that recommended we set a clear focus for the semester. I asked some students and alumni about how they thought aswu should operate. This a collection of ideas with some suggested processes -- by no means a final list. I went to a group of five senators and presented it to them. It has been revised by the exec team as well. I think for us to accept it for the semester we should all work on it. So again it is my plan, but I am totally open to changing things. I began by asking myself what is the role of ASWU and what can we do better. Our most important task is to allocate funds, but I think students have been asking us to do something different. To work on issues and have less of an administrative role. These are the roles that I think ASWU should take when dealing with a student issues. Our main function should be to resolve issues and alleviate problems. I think this should mean we work to raise awareness, make issues important and talk about them with the student body. Is it agreed that this is our role? What can we do better to optimize how we deal with these things. The plan here is to help do the things that we already do, more effectively. To do these things, I have created a six step plan.

Step 1: Create a less formal alternate set of communications rules to Robert’s rules of order. I think what is in contention is how we discuss. I think we have a formal set of rules that don’t lead to natural discussion. I think that some of the new rules would help to enlighten that we are coming from the same perspective.

Step 2: Replace external programs guests with student reps.

I think that we should increase our understanding of campus developments. I think we need to balance and increase the effectiveness of student representatives and senators.

Leder: We talked a lot in the past about utilizing the ways student voices can be heard. I wanted a little more structure. My large concern was accountability.

P Cervantes: I agree and think we need to be careful. I think that we should invite students into each meeting so that we are aware of what they are doing and can also give them feedback. If there is something going on with a committee we could really help if they needed to.

Step 3: Create discussion and work sessions during senate meetings.

I think that we need to have a shift where we discuss more as a part of our reports. I think we underestimate the things we can get done in a senate meeting. I think we can do a lot more in a meeting that we say we are going to do over e-mail, which takes a lot longer. If we can just generate a bullet point list that can be more efficient than having a few weeks of email correspondence. If we work on making things within a meeting, we can speed up a lot of time.

Step 4: Create a standard of having Senate projects go through Senate approval.

We encouraged everyone to have a project for each person last year, and we didn’t really keep detailed records. My original idea was to have three senators attached to each project, so that they might be easier to manage.

Ekstrom: I think some projects are small enough for one person to tackle. Sometimes it can be more efficient to work alone. I think that the main purpose was to have a project picked up if it was dropped.

P Cervantes: I was thinking we could start a project index perhaps updated by the Clerk or the historian. It would be easier for senators to look through one single document.

Step 5: Have one senate meeting per month feature a student forum.

I think that the students really appreciated the forum, and think it could be beneficial for us as well as them. I think that it could be a part of a senate meeting, once a month. I think that we could make this go smoothly if we implement those communication rules I presented earlier. It was a really relaxed natural conversation. I don’t think we would have that issue.

Gill: I have some concern just because senators are so overcommitted. I think the forum could take place after regular senate business. I think it’s a great idea, especially having the whole senate at the forum. I just worry about the time aspect of things. Maybe we could also have an ad in the collegian so that students can submit ideas about forum topics.

P Cervantes: The idea would be to have the first meeting of every month be the forum meeting. I think your recommendation would totally work.

Step 6: Create a formal system of expanded ASWU Powers divided by rank.

I think we vaguely know what we can do, but I don’t think we have anything written about how ASWU responds to situations. The things that we do aren’t just restricted to our body - I’d like to give students the option to call on us to take certain actions. I think implementing a petition system would greatly benefit us. If 150 students for example, sign a petition and fill out a project idea, we could really increase student involvement.

Lastly, I have made a list of ASWU capabilities and guidelines for access. My thought is that we just really need to have these things written down. I’d like to go back through the presentation and edit it.

Landoni: I would wonder why we have bylaws and a constitution with this step in particular. I would like to hear what CJ Dabit has to say about this. I think that Robert’s rules aren’t effective because we aren’t using them properly.

P Cervantes: I think there are a few ways we could go about this, but I think the changes will come when we try to implement it in practice. We could potentially recess so that we aren’t violating the rules or the constitution. Robert’s rules would stay as our default and main communication rules, but discussions would take place under the new set of rules. The new rules would be particularly helpful in student forums.

CJ Dabit: I am questioning the point of this. Robert’s rules are an efficient ways to keep a meeting, accountability, and allow for moderation. I know that there is a tendency for people to get heated, so I don’t think scrapping them is appropriate. If we do, we need to change the bylaws.

P Cervantes: I think that robert’s rules is a good thing to have. But for discussion about student issues specifically, I think that it won’t work effectively. I think when we deal with most of the student issues that come up, we would be better served by something that doesn’t suppose we are at disagreement. I think we need to confront the problem of communicating things more effectively.

CJ Dabit: I think that you are assuming we are all on the same page. There have been issues, such as the gun control topic, where we are divided. I think that when you are talking about the back and forth thing, there is a simple problem with how we are using the rules.

P Cervantes: We aren’t a real senate that has political parties. We represent a unified student body. If we say that this isn’t a good idea, which is justified, we need something structured for student forums that is not robert’s rules. I think we should work on alternate rules for student forums, and then decide if they should be adopted at Senate meetings.

Landoni: I like the overarching intent of this. I like that you have worked with people to figure this out. Specifically, I think that there needs to be a little more judicial review involved with this.

P Cervantes: I propose we use these rules for the student forum and see how it goes.

VP Brownlee: I think that we kind of did this previously with our guests. I don’t know if we necessarily need to make a formal process when we have guests.

Ekstrom: Senate runs by roberts rules, however you can suspend the rules. Within that you can work however informally/formally as we’d like. I think it is counterproductive to bring people in, suspend the rules, and teach them a new set of rules. I think we should give people (the president or vice president) moderating authority instead of creating an alternate set of rules.

Leder: I got confused with 6/7.

P Cervantes: This is what we defaulted to with the student forum previously. The main intent was to have everyone have a chance to speak.

Durham: I would appreciate if this would be sent to CJ Dabit to look over for the constitutionality. I would love to have this sent out to us before the meeting, I can see that you put a lot of thought and work into it and I would like more time to review it.

CJ Dabit: We can suspend rules, make rules, etc. It is really just a meeting tactic. I really don’t see why we need to formalize rules when we have them already.

Ward: This particular section seems a little less important if we do decide to move on to the other five.

**Move to move on to the next five**

**Ward/Durham**

**Approved**

Steffy: If students want change let's start the forum now, get started. If there are problems, let’s hear about the changes, and then come back and talk about the problems with the forum rules.

P Cervantes: I just thought we should have a polished idea before we started with the forum.

Landoni: I’m concerned. Are we still operating with a speaker’s list?

Ekstrom: I think we have been operating under the speaker’s list by Becca. Let’s just be formal here and yield time. Additionally, external programs didn’t really come in last semester. I think external programs guests are good to have, as well as student reps. Let’s augment the two, instead of replacing one.

**Move to order the president of aswu to bring in more guests as they see fit**

**Ekstrom/Saiki**

Siaki: there is a reason that finance board meets for hours. we also have an external programs committee -- this is specifically supposed to ensure we look over our external programs. I think that since they are already meeting, we shouldn’t be asking them to also come to senate. It makes sense if there are special circumstances, but for the day-to-day, they are giving that same information to external programs.

Ward: It makes sense to make the day-to-day tasks go through the committee. However, I also think we should be working with these organizations more. We should be trying to facilitate a relationship between us, and coming to all of Senate may be a better way to do that.

**Approved**

**Move to plan step 3**

**Gill/Ward**

**Approved**

Gill: I think that this would be beneficial because I think we complain a lot about Senate but don’t actually wanna sit here and work through things. I know that if we do this, it will be a much more fulfilling experience. The people who have been here for a couple years know that things aren’t working -- Shamir is really trying. We are hesitant to change how our meetings work which is understandable. I think this has the potential to make us a lot more productive.

**Move to approve step 3**

**Gill/Kittleson**

Ekstrom: There are two views of senate. That we do things in this room, or that senators work on things outside and report in this space. If we shift to things happening in this room, it is important to keep in mind that we are going to be spending a lot more time here. If there is going to be a discussion, we should have an agenda item right after. It seems to me like this is less of a legislative session and more of a presidential action. It seems like you just want us to say we are on board.

Leder: I don’t know how to remedy this, but I am not sure how productive this is at the moment.

P Cervantes: Let’s continue this, and not pass anything but rather just discuss.

**Motion rescinded**

**Move that this gets sent out and we can have an e-mail dialogue and/or caucus, so that we can pick up the conversation next week**

**Steffy/Kittelson**

Parekh: For efficiency sake the e-mail method is important. I don’t think that people understand what the purpose of this conversation is. We need to either focus on the topic or the details. I think we should focus on the broader concepts, and create a target for the e-mail groups.

**Amend so that we continue the conversation as well for the last steps**

**Approved**

P Cervantes: It should not be this hard to talk about a presentation. This is part of the reason that I think we should have a different procedure so that we are not doing this sort of thing all the time. We spend so much time on what we just did that we don’t actually talk about the student issues.

Gill: I would just like to have this on a trial basis, to see if it works.

P Cervantes: Also please consider what topics could be for the first forum.

Ekstrom: I like this idea and I think we like the idea of student forums. I think that they should happen as issues arise.

P Cervantes: The reasoning for the once a month requirement is so that students have a regular time when they know they are happening. I think if we do have them once a month, we would be able to have more publicity instead of having it just being random.

Ekstrom: I think this is a great idea, and we need more time to look at it.

Leder: I think you are putting a lot of energy toward revamping how ASWU works and I really appreciate it. I know you have been very supportive of what we are taking on as senators and offering us support. I know you have highlighted a couple of issues, and am wondering what you plan on working on this semester?

P Cervantes: I think the most appropriate use of the President’s time is to decide what ideas are most important and then have the Senate help with them. I am looking at working on a project to have a better welcome to ASP students. I think that this isn’t a student issue, but the appropriate use of the Exec’s power. One of the first things I said in my campaign is that I didn’t have a platform so that you can see how I approach things when the come up. I didn’t have any things that I said I would do, but that I had a stance on certain issues. I didn’t say that I would specifically work on those issues.

T Brinster: What are you going to take on?

P Cervantes: No. If you think of this as a government and a system, it shouldn’t be up to one person. I do hope to have something, I don’t think I should be doing just random things but rather a student issue that presents itself.

Leder: And I appreciate you taking on this space.

**Move to close the speakers list**

**Gill/Steffy**

**Approved**

Parekh: I really like the idea of slide six, and ASWU having a mission statement. We need to have students at large know what they can do, and empower them. That will solve a lot of problems, be positive for our image, and create a much more collaborative space.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Dabit)

CJ Dabit: Judicial is working on figuring out our schedule for the semester, and also working to fill our vacancy. We chose Danielle Henderson, as she has served as a justice in the past.

1. New Business
   1. Open discussion with students-at-large
   2. Senate project discussion
   3. Approval of Nominees
      1. Judicial nomination – Danielle Henderson

Move to approve nominee

Parekh/Gill

Approved

* + 1. CPAC nomination – Senator Landoni

Move to confirm nominee

Ekstrom/Steffy

Approved

* + 1. Collegian hiring nomination – Senator Danielson

Move to confirm nominee

Gill/Kittleson

Approved

1. Senate Reports

Steffy: I have a bill ready for you all about having handheld self-defense items housed in campus safety. This semester I said I wanted to do a self-defense class on campus, and would also like to have self-defense classes as an option during opening days.

Gill: If anyone is interested, I am going to try and do a senate project where I decrease the use of paper towels on campus and get compost bins in bathrooms. I think it is going to be tough to work with facilities logistically, but I would appreciate anyones help.

Saiki: The project I was working on with the writing center and having meditative writing workshops has began. This weekend we are going to be building the tree to support students’ community and solidarity. There is also now a permanent student intern position in the study abroad office.

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

**Motion to adjourn**

**Parekh/Kittleson**

**Approved**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm**