**Associated Students of Willamette University
16 January 2014 – 7pm – Montag Den
Senate Minutes**

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.
2.0 Roll Call

2.1 all were present
3.0 Approval of the Agenda

3.1 Gill moves to approve the agenda, approved.
4.0 Officer Reports

4.1 P Greenblatt: Late Night Eats just met and had a great meeting, Late Night Hot food is starting soon. 10 Judicial Branch applications have been submitted, and we will be looking for applications for the Sustainability Committee, and career fair info coming soon.

4.2 T Hanson: we will be announcing finance board meeting dates soon, and looking at new club approvals soon. Clubs will be informed soon about the new precedent changes.

4.3 VP Chand: has been having one on ones, and updating the website.
5.0 Senator Reports

5.1 Kaptanian: Working on blankets for The Bistro

5.2 Newcomb: The Green Initiative paperwork is completed, so the process is underway

5.3 Howard: Looking at adding covered bike racks

5.4 Pate: the PR committee is working to create forms for PR requests

5.5 Vermilion: restarting WU Wednesdays at the Late Night Hot Food events
6.0 New Business
 6.1 Guest: Joe Abraham

6.1.1 Joe Abraham is the Director of the Willamette Sustainability Institute, he gave us some background on the history of sustainability at Willamette. He was previously the director of sustainability at the University of Arizona. Explains the benefits of us having Zena Farm as a resource for sustainability initiatives. Working on getting students to go to Chico State for a Sustainability Conference, and other Sustainability focused conferences. He has an advisory board and and a committee working with him. Ekstrom: appreciates the work and ambitions that you have for your time at Willamette University. P Greenblatt: What is the best way to work with the Sustainability Institute if we have ideas for sustainability as ASWU. Abraham is hoping to adapt to the processes that already exist at Willamette. Oswill: There used to be sustainability grants that went to students with projects? Abraham: much of that money has gone to create the institute, so those funds will have to be rebuilt, but there are still resources. Newcomb: asks what tangible goals we might have for the next few years. Abraham: working on building and increasing the technology that works to gauge our usage and sustainability in hopes of building more specific goals that will apply directly to Willamette University. Vermilion: renovations, will they be more environmentally sustainability. Abraham: The Institute has a commitment to that and will work towards that. Kornack: can you compare some of our efforts to the University of Arizona. Abraham: There have been a lot of really important initiatives, the only surprise is that Willamette is not as focused on community outreach with a sustainability focus.
6.2 Act to Revitalize and Reorganize the ASWU Judicial Branch

6.2.1 Normand: There were some wording changes made, and details added in response to questions and suggestions that were made. The biggest change was under the judicial branch outline, meant to establish the judicial branch as a separate entity. Howard: section 2 number 2 seems to give the Judicial Branch quite a lot of power. Smyth: Who wrote the bill? she was told that Justice Kaiser wrote it. Kaiser: a lot of people have had input. Justice Balk: This bill oversteps the Senate Branch, and then the Justice Branch because Senate can then tell Justices what they can and cannot do. He is very opposed to this bill, and thinks this is an issue that the justices should sort out amongst their branch. Sader: what issues were the justices having? Justice Van Baleen: right now there are no “court of appeals” laws for the Judicial Branch to operate under. Sader: clarifies some wording for section 2 part 2 about the “procedures” these are internal procedures not something they can pass legislation for. Smyth: concerned about the judicial branch being a “court of appeals” is it more of a hearing room? What other cases would possibly be brought to the justices that they do not already have the ability to hear. Kaiser: the judicial branch was originally meant to be a platform for the student body to keep ASWU in check, so we just want more processes for that. Newcomb: suggests other options aside from the solicitor general, maybe an online forum, as well as a procedure for them to make reports about what they have been doing at Senate meetings. Ekstrom: Senators are the elected officials whereas the Justices are appointed so why should the Justices have more connections with the students than the justices? Brownlee moves to end questioning, approved. Smyth: there are concerns about the overreach that this bill could create. Senate creates the laws for the Executive Branch and should do that for the Justices as well. They are a branch, not a committee. Brownlee: Maybe this is not the right way to solve these problems, our time is not super productive right now, and they should be solving their issues internally. Ekstrom: does not understand the solicitor general Kaiser: clarifies their role. Brownlee: wants more of an introduction presenting the issues and how this bill can help solve them. Kaptanian: suggests the creation of a senate committee. Symonds: agrees that a back story about all of this would be very useful. Smyth: thinks there are more fundamental issues that this bill does not fix, and is opposed to this, more in favor of having a committee further examine this. Leder: we are spending a long time talking about internal issues and not focusing on student issues. Vermilion: we need to figure out what the Judicial Branch’s place is, and moves turn this issue over to bylaw committee, approved 16:1:1.

7.0 For the Good of the Order
8.0 Adjournment

 8.1 Newcomb moves to adjourn, approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.