**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 16 • 7 p.m. • Montag Den**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

Meeting called to order @ 7:03pm

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)
2. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Tran/Steffy**

**Approved**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes**

**Tran/Landoni**

**Approved**

1. Officer Reports
   1. President Oswill

P Oswill: For anyone who reads the Collegian, you will have read that spring break will be approved as a week long break beginning in 2016. Primarily they are not doing it this year because the fine arts department has some contracts that have already been signed and scheduled. I think that this success is phenomenal. As far as I know, there have been somewhere between 4 and 6 attempts to get a week long break, so the fact that it actually happened is very exciting. Dean Douglass is going to be contacting the current freshman class on the Compass Program. It has been approved as a .25 credit course. There is going to be a town hall meeting to hear some student suggestions about the program. The Montag town hall was held, and he got some good input from that. The Career Fair happened, and the recommendation is to see if that could be absorbed by the career center as one of their student intern positions. Our goal is to uphold the original purpose. Also in the Collegian, you’ll see that they hired their new leadership triangle.

* 1. Treasurer Russell

T Russell: The budget allocation you received was the last of the semester. It’s coming out of a pool of roughly $180,000 from next year’s anticipated allocation.

* 1. VP Smyth

VP Smyth: Senate elections happened this week- congratulations to everyone! I am working on transitioning Becca. She was present auditorily for the elections commission meetings. I am finishing up the commencement speaker and performer auditions. I also had a meeting with our senate historians representatives to talk about the future of the ASWU senate historian position. The rest of Melanie’s time will just be updating all the information she has found from the archive materials.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Anderson)

CJ Anderson: Judicial Branch met yesterday with Caroline and we had a productive conversation. Caroline brought up that at one point there was a treasurer’s assistant written in a bill of some sort. Also, as the semester is coming to a close, we are hoping to have new judicial representatives soon.

1. Senate Reports
   1. Bike Rack Cameras (Sen. Gordon)

Gordon: I heard back from the GIF and I did not get funding for my proposal. So I am going to work with Stacy and try to go a similar route that she is going.

* 1. Parking Lot Cameras (Sen. Fedorova)

Fedorova: Next week I will be presenting my proposal to ASWU.

1. SARA Presentation on Survivor-Focused Care (TENTATIVE)

Chand: I am the coordinator for SARA this year, and April is sexual assault awareness month. We just wanted to go around to various clubs and organizations and provide some very basic knowledge and prepare people for survivor based support. The other thing is that we are currently starting our process for hiring members for next year. Our applications are live online as well.

We have actually only been on campus since 2006, and we are one of the few small and liberal arts colleges that has an organization for support like this. Willamette also granted us confidentiality this year, so we have no obligations to support unless it involves a minor or use of a weapon. We are trained by multiple groups in the community so that we might best accommodate individualistic needs. We are available via phone and chat on the weeknights and weekends. We are available to survivors and allies. If someone comes that has some questions we definitely want to help you support them.

We do match national statistics with our sexual assault incidents. ⅕ people experience sexual assault, and 32% of our incoming freshman class experience sexual assault before being students on campus. It is unfortunate but it affects people around you. Only about ⅔ of survivors will ever tell any one of their story, and only about ¼ will tell someone who is trained to respond. Our goal is to never push anyone to do something they are uncomfortable doing. We did a survey last year that asked people why they aren’t disclosing their experiences, and a majority of respondents said that they would fear negative social consequences. The second largest portion didn’t identify as assault or harassment themselves. It is important to let survivors term things how they would like to.

In the event that someone does disclose to you, there are some key ways for you to provide support. Ensure that the survivor is mentally, emotionally, and physically safe. Validation is also very important. If someone is sharing one of these experiences with you, you can tell them that you believe them and that it wasn’t their fault. It is important to continue to respect their choice in how they move forward. Your job is just to support what they are doing, and phrase things in ways that give them agency and control. You can always offer resources as well. Following up with people can also always be an interesting dynamic, and can be complicated or complex. Keep things open ended, and ask if they’d like you to approach them later. Lastly, I just wanted to go over taking care of yourself. All of these resources are available to allies as well. Just make sure that you get yourself support as you move forward.

1. New Business
   1. Pre-Fall Budget Approval

**Motion to approve the pre-fall budget**

**Sader/Brinster**

**Approved 20-0-0**

Honors and awards chair

P Oswill: We had one applicant and she was interviewed by myself, Brad and Emily Morris. We saw great leadership from her first year on campus, and she had a lot of excited ideas about the position. Her name is Sophia Norsett

**Motion to approve**

**Tran/Sader**

**Approved 20-0-0**

ASWU Sound Manager

P Oswill: Their hiring process has concluded.

Brinster: We interviewed two applicants who had previous experience with ASWU sound. One applicant in particular stood out, since she had three years of experience. The second applicant can potentially take it on his senior year. Johnny selected Ninon Berquat.

**Motion to approve Ninon**

**Tran/Brinster**

**Approved 20-0-0**

1. For the Good of the Order

1. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
   1. Next meeting will be Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m. in Montag Den.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Leder/Durham**

**Approved**

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm