***ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY***

***Senate Meeting Minutes***

***Thursday, November 19 • 7:00 p.m. • Montag Den***

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

Motion to approve with amendments

Gill/Fedorova

Approved

1. Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve

Parekh/Tran

Approved

1. External Programs (President Cervantes)

P Cervantes: We don’t have a report but I would love for one of you to sponsor my bill. I want to amend some things so that external programs calls the meetings.

CJ Dabit: I think that would be a bylaw amendment.

Move to add the bill to the agenda

Saiki/Ward

Tran: Don’t we usually get a week?

Gill: What is the detriment to doing this next semester?

P Cervantes: Just so that there isn’t a conflict continuing any further as there has been some confusion.

Gill: I think that since we are going to break a bylaw right now, I just think there might be some hesitation to supporting something we haven’t read.

Saiki: I would feel find sponsoring it, but since we have a limited number of meetings I would be okay doing that.

CJ Dabit: You can do it since you don’t have a session. It’s no idea to do things through the semester, but I don’t think it needs to be rushed.

Motion rescinded

P Cervantes: I’ll send it out to you. I have contacted WEB and the Collegian but haven’t set a meeting date for the advisory board.

1. Officer Reports

President Cervantes: I got an e-mail back from the Corban president. She suggested that we meet at times in which we won’t be back for school. I would suggest that we try to meet with them on the weekend of the 21st of January with exec and two representatives from each class. I was hoping to get more feedback on what the point of the meeting would be.

Parekh: I think this is a really good idea and there is surely something we can learn, and this is a great first step for outreach.

Landoni: A couple of my friends go there and it is very different from Willamette. I am not sure what we can gain from this.

VP Brownlee: Please reply to the e-mail thread or talk to P Cervantes for this

P Cervantes: We need to talk about justice renomination as well. I would like to add that to the agenda.

**Motion to add justice approval to agenda**

**Gill/Saiki**

**Approved**

P Cervantes: I would also like to nominate Natasha and Dylan Sheldon to the Dean Search committee.

* 1. Treasurer Brinster

T Brinster: Last week I talked with Monica about this presentation. I am going to e-mail her tomorrow morning so please let me know if you have anything you’d like to pass along to her. Club approval met this week to talk about the treasurer’s bill. Emily Morris also came to talk about insurance for speakers. Nothing is pertinent at this moment, but we need to keep this on our radar for the budget next week. We have a finance board meeting this Sunday. Our last budget allocation has gone through and there is only one club that hasn’t gone to an SOO but I have reached out to them. Additionally Emily Morris e-mailed me WEB’s budget so I’ll be reviewing it soon. Additionally the third round of the allocation is in full swing, and we’ll be having three clubs come in for our last week’s meeting. I am going to be keeping everyone in the loop about how our accounting system is changing, including sending out a general e-mail to clubs. The leadership consultants will be informing the clubs with the changes from then on in the future.

* 1. VP Brownlee

VP Brownlee: This week we had an election for the senior class. We had 25% of the class vote which is higher turnout than usually. Emily Durham will be joining us and is really excited. We will probably do a formal swearing in, in the spring. I am also helping with the Mental Health Matters week and met with Bryan Schmidt and IHI. We talked about facilitating a lot of groups on campus coming together for this week. We also talked about the active minds chapter and how to get the ball rolling there as well. I met with Dean Douglass on Friday of last week, and he suggested that we talk with Dominic Thomas about safety concerns. This is something that doesn’t directly fall under his title but he sees the importance in that. Also in our meeting, we talked about Montag Renovation -- it remains to be seen if there is going to be receiving capital funding because of happenings on campus this semester which leaves the project in a limbo state.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Dabit)

CJ Dabit: This week I was able to talk with Caroline about the role of the treasurer’s bill and how this will work. I also participated in the election commission review of the senior lection. As far as judicial goes we are looking at the positions that are up for re-election, as well as the judicial complaint form.

1. Old Business
   1. Role of the Treasurer Bill (Senator Gordon)

**Move to approve**

**Parekh/Fedorova**

**Approved**

* 1. Opportunities Fair Bill (Senators Tran and Hartman)

Tran: I met with Caroline and learned that the opportunities fair was struck so we would need to amend the ASWU operating budget. I also made sure to put in the bill that if this money isn’t used it would go back to “unallocated funds.” I have met with CSL and career services, alumni connects, etc. and they have all volunteered to help.

Move to approve

Gill/Fedorova

Approved 19-0-1

1. New Business
   1. Guest Presenter – Monica Rimai
      1. Presentation

I am the senior vice president of finance and administration. In my portfolio are a variety of departments that report to me -- most things look and feel like infrastructure. I am here to talk about three topics, all three of which we could spend hours on. What I am going to try and do today is an overview. I would be happy to come and talk to you again on one or any of the different topics. The topics are budget and finance, campus safety, and the endowment, and some interest around how that is invested. Socially responsible investment is emerging, so I’d like to focus first on the budget. On the screen you’ll see our current year’s budget. I did this presentation a couple of weeks ago for the university. I am going to help you understand how to think about this tool -- this first slide is called the budget to actual. We can test at any given time in the fiscal year how we are doing. A budget is really an educated guess and one that we make before the start of a new fiscal year. Our responsibility to all of you and the board of trustees is that we guess correctly. The way you should look at this is kind of like a sources and uses document. The biggest chunk of revenue is from tuition, which comes from the students. This is why I said to the folks that came to talk to me -- as representatives of the student body, you should have a point of view about tuition. I am more than happy to take that to the board of trustees on your behalf. Based upon where we are to date, you can see where we think we are going to finish, and the variance of our initial estimate. We are currently behind about two million dollars, so we have guessed wrong. One of the reasons we have guessed wrong is that we didn’t have as many students coming back as we expected. We lost 30 students, and I don’t know why, but we need to be addressing that as a community. The next significant source of revenue comes from the endowment. We are required to invest this money and only spend a portion of the income that this investment produces. The purpose is to support the institution in perpetuity. Every year we get to spend a portion of that, and this year that is about 2.2 million dollars. All students pay a varying amount of money for tuition, but on average, the university pays about half of that: this is our form of financial aid. Some of that financial aid we get in the form of scholarship dollars. There are two types of financial aid-- unfunded and scholarship dollars. At Willamette, most of the scholarships we give out is in the unfunded category. We usually collect half of what we charge, which as you might figure out, isn’t a sustainable path for the institution. The goal is to grow the value of the endowment, and that’s a big emphasis for President Thorsett so that we might fund financial aid.

The biggest portion of our expenses comes in the form of salaries and benefits. We teach through people, and those people need support. You can imagine why salaries/benefits represents the biggest portion, and the biggest portion of that cost is health insurance. The Contingency line is the “unforseen circumstances” where we allocate money to take care of things that we didn’t anticipate. This year we have used that to cover the shortfall from the students that didn’t come back. Basically this is a pretty good forecast -- we’ll finish the year in good shape. But already, halfway through the year, we have used a pretty big chunk of our contingency fund. If anything else happens, we could be in trouble, but I don’t anticipate that.

This is a quick picture of what our process is for budget building every year. Come August, I will start working on the budget not for next year, but the year after that. The board of trustees approves this in February, so we have to have a forecast of this. We try to understand what the expense budget might look like. When I mentioned to you that tuition is the biggest portion, you need to have a position on that very soon. On December 16th I am appearing before the board of trustees finance committee. This is the first opportunity we will have to influence tuition for the next year. If ASWU has a position, I would take that to them. If you do have one, I would make sure that it is an informed one. I am more than happy to take in positions that you have and even facilitate you coming in to make those positions known. I would love for you to take advantage of this opportunity for you to articulate an informed opinion.

Many students want tuition to get cut, and I totally get that. It is so difficult to manage the high cost of education these days. But I also want you to understand where your money goes. It goes substantially towards the faculty, facilities, resources, and things you use every day. If we don’t have the funds to pay for these things, we need to manage these consequences. You have an opportunity to have your voice heard through me, so lets work together to make that happen.

I wanted to spend some time to discuss briefly how we think about the university budget. What is our budget model? Essentially the budget model we use is a contribution model. There are three units that generate all of the revenue for the institution: CLA, Law, and AGSM. Those are the three units that issue course credit. Every other unit on campus is not in a position to generate revenue. The revenue comes in, those units take what they need to deliver what they do, and whatever is left over is contributed to pay for central administration expenses. So as you can see, this is what is produced, how it is used to cover costs, and how the leftovers get allocated. This is a model that the department of education uses in order to understand funding. We use this same rubric when we think about Law and AGSM. The three revenue generators all cover their own internal costs.

We looked at that same model and converted everything to a ratio of a dollar. That is what you’ll see on the screen now, and its just another way for you to think about the contribution model here at Willamette.

These are the issues that we are thinking about for building FY17. We have to deal with enrollment numbers and the revenue we didn’t generate. We always have to think about the contingency, funding unit prioritized requests, tuition discount, endowment spending, and new expenses. These are all considerations we must think about before the board presentation in Februrary.

If you take nothing else from this conversation, as students you should have an informed position on the budget. Please share that with me, hopefully before December 16th.

I also wanted to spend a little bit of time talking about the endowment. This is a really complicated conversation. Investing lots of money, and doing that in a responsible way tends to be a multifaceted thing. Joseph Landoni has a particular interest in our philosophy, and he and I are meeting on December 1st. What I want to say is that the board is very interested in your opinion on how we approach investment. Right now we have about 240 million dollars in our endowment that we invest using an outside advisor. We are required to maximize the return on our investment, and that is the obligation we have. The purpose of the endowment is to support the educational mission. Over the course of the past five years there has been an emerging philosophy of socially responsible investing. That is that you should use the resources to support the values of things like sustainability, governance, and other forms of socially driven investment policies. When I was a student, they didn’t call it socially responsible investment, but divesting from countries whose values and political structure or approach to human rights was contrary to what people thought it should be. That was the big issue a bazillion years ago. Today the big push is for endowments to invest in companies that research or are involved in fossil fuels. The challenges is that when you divest from things like countries or fossil fuels, you often times risk not maximizing your investment. So we must weigh the value of our investment and maximizing our return. The issue here is that today’s enduring values may not be tomorrow’s socially responsible investment. That was the case with South Africa during apartheid. I don’t have an answer for you, as it is a very interesting topic. There will be an opportunity through me or directly by ASWU presenting to the board, what exactly ASWU’s opinion is on socially responsible investing. This is a topic that is complicated enough that you really want to spend some time digging into it. I am going to meet with Joseph and whoever else is interested so that we can talk about how we invest and begin to develop a position on this that reflects what the next big social movement will be.

The third topic that folks asked me to speak about is campus safety and try to provide you with some more information about what I am doing in partnership with Ross Stout to improve safety on campus and perceptions of safety. I hope that you’ll take away that I am very personally concerned about the sense I am getting from students that they do not feel safe on this campus. I hear you loud and clear, and I am going to do everything within my pwoer to address that. There is an opportunity for ASWU and myself to work in partnership on this issue.

Toward the end of last year, we received a report from ASWU that was a report from students and work that was done on addressing safety concern. There was a long list of suggestions that this report asked us to make on cameras, lighting, and things to generally make the atmosphere safer around here. We have by no means completed it, but we have worked on several things. We worked on the cameras and the storage of video feed and also working on lighting in changing things to LED lights which are both brighter and more sustainable. Additionally, we literally went through the campus at the beginning of this year in cutting back vegetation and lifting the canopy. We are now on a continuous maintenance program to make sure that the canopy stays at a higher level. A few weeks ago Anastasia and I talked about her new camera proposal. I understand that we are working to put resources towards her project, as well as working on putting new lock technology on buildings and classrooms. We will always consider proposals to make this space safer.

We are never short of good ideas. The things that I prioritize first are improving the environment around safety. I hope to add a new campus safety officer, a new and improved dispatch service, and just ways to meet needs efficiently and effectively.

I think there is an opportunity for us to work together. There is a lot that we can do to improve the safety climate. We can take action on personal safety -- not walking by yourself, not proping doors open, and to be familiar with how our existing safety system works. I would be willing to work with you on sponsoring some campaign about personal safety. There have been other campaigns about this topic on other university campuses in order for people to take responsibility of their own safety. It doesn’t cost too much besides time and publicity. The impact that it can have on a campuses sense of wellbeing is pretty significant.

* + 1. Question/Answer

P Cervantes: I know that we are having a capital fundraisning campaign. Will all of this money go to the endowment?

Rimai: We haven’t decided and that decision is for the board of trustees. If I had to guess most of it would be for student scholarships. The endowment encompases many different types of gifts. Most people want us to spend the income that the investment will make. A lot of gifts we are able to spend right away however.

Tran: What are other schools similar to us policies on divestment?

Rimai: As far as I am aware, none of our neighboring institutions have developed a position on socially responsible divesting. The only institution that I am aware of is Stanford. It is not as forceful as you might think. They landed on what feels like a first step on socially responsible investing.

P Cervantes: In general I have come across the idea that socially responsible investment is easier when you have a larger endowment. That made me think that since Willamette is trying to actively grow, it might be a good idea to wait. Do you have an opinion on that?

Rimai: Well one institution that has a huge endowment is Yale. There’s is something around 30 billion dollars. “b” not “m.” I would say that I worked at a university that had a billion dollar endowment, one b, and we had a portion of that endowment that went to helping a surrounding community in which we were located. Those investments were both successful and unsuccessful in many ways. At the end of the day it is an appetite for risk.

Tschirgi: What does the process look like for divestment.

Rimai: It’s slow. The first thing you have to do is screen every single one of the investments you have for the value it is seeking to represent. We own pieces of these portfolios, so we need to dig deeper. It is a fair amount of forensic analysis. There is a timing issue, especially because sometimes you can be penalized for taking too much of it out. A portion of our investment is in wind energy and that has been remarkably unsuccessful. however, we are locked into some of these for some time until they come under review.

Kaptanian: The company that we contract for the endowment, do their clients consist mainly of colleges? Do they work with socially responsible investing?

Rimai: the company that is our advisor is called global endowment management, and they are comprised of management professionals from Duke and the University of Florida. They are working on a strategy that universities could adopt depending on appetite for risk.

Ward: I heard that one of the goals when growing the endowment is that Willamette is “need blind.” Is that true?

Rimai: That resonated incredibly well with the board and what the campaign will be all about. I would say that that’s definitely where we are headed. But, we won’t get there in one campaign. We will probably have to be four times in size in order to be need blind

Gill: A lot of the things we discuss as being underfunded/overfunded in specific departments. How does this get talked about?

Rimai: We start from where we ended. We solicit proposals from various departments, and it really comes down to the leadership team. It is a decision that happens at the president’s leadership team which is all the deans, the vice president for enrollment management and myself. Ultimately, the decision is ultimately in the form of a recommendation that goes to the board of trustees. They lean heavily on where we are going and they want to understand where the increase is going.

Gill: If we had something that we really believed in, how would we approach that?

Rimai: I think your strongest advocate is going to be Dean Douglass. You are also welcome to send those ideas to me.

P Cervantes: In what part of the budget are things like what the university does to give back to the community such as Willamette Academy?

Rimai: It comes in the form of salary usually, because the direct of things like Willamette Academy are in what is called a staffing plan. Some of the expense you would see in the WITS budget, as well as the facilities budget.. it gets spread out. As consistent with the rest of the university

P Cervantes: How should we work for the long-term sustainability of those programs?

Rimai: What I like about having a bigger endowment is that all of these things are in support of the university. An endowment for a particular activity in the long hall is support for perpetuity. Year over year, what we allocate might not seem like a large amount.

I would be happy to come back and talk to you at any time, so please reach out to me in whatever ways you feel comfortable.

* + 1. Discussion

Saiki: I haven’t been a part of a lot of the safety conversations, but one of the things she didn’t bring up was campus safety officers and their training. That might be something we should look into and follow up on that. We brought this up to Dean Douglass within the less than satisfactory interactions between students and campus safety officers. He told us it was difficult because it falls under Monica. When she was talking about being willing to work with us, I think that one thing that would improve impressions of officers would be facilitating a different relationship with these actors.

Brinster: I would be happy to bring that idea to her. I was hoping someone would bring that up, so I can e-mail her and discuss that.

P Cervantes: I think that one thing we can do is recommend that parts of the endowment get recommended to benefit the community. I think one thing we can also do is talk about why these 30 students didn’t return to Willamette. That is one way we might interact and have a say, because that is a pretty striking number.

Bormann: On that topic, based on discussion that I have seen in Senate, the most pervasive topic has been mental health. Something that we should point out to the board is that the should make more of an investment in mental health to help retain students.

Ward: Judging by that conversation I think she is giving us a big opportunity. I think that we should think about how we should go about forming an opinion before December 16th.

VP Brownlee: I am happy to be here to organize that.

**Motion to organize a meeting with classes and come with an idea from each class**

**Gill/Kittelson**

P Cervantes: I think that an e-mail thread could also be useful.

Saiki: I would be hesitant to work with classes, so maybe to have threads within classes.

Tran: I think it is important to have face-to-face conversation.

**Amend the motion for classes to decide**

**Approved**

**Approved**

Parekh: should each class come up with a recommendation? I think we should discuss this so that we have some clarity. Maybe we can send out a standardized format.

1. Justice Renomination

**Move to re-nominate Noemi Cruz-Cruz, Elizabeth Borrego, and Nina Dabit**

**Bormann/Tran**

**Approved**

1. Senate Reports
   1. Senator Fedorova

Fedorova: I met with Monica to discuss the sustainability of my project. The biggest takeaway that I got was that my proposal is shifting away from parking lots and to spaces where students feel unsafe. Rich and I talked about possible places, and so I am going to meet with Monica so that we can restructure some priorities. Those areas could be in alleyways and the stretches that overlook the quad and the law school. Another area was behind goudy, and around sparks. I’ll get some more details from Monica about feasibility and where this can go. Some of the things we also talked about is that a lot of little things are changing within campus safety so I think there should be some awareness spread about the changes that are being made.

Landoni: I went to the smoking committee meeting last Friday. There is a lot going on with communication and there is a timeline for phasing out a lot of materials and implementing some PR.

Tran: Mental health matters week is going really well. WEB is almost fully funding our speaker, and I am also working on the convo. I’ll update you as things progress!

1. For the Good of the Order

Have a fun safe Thanksgiving break!

1. Adjournment (VP Brownlee)

Motion to adjourn

Tran/Fedorova

Approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm