**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, October 16 • 7 p.m. • Smullin 222**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

7:01pm

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

Homma absent, proxy present

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Whitaker/Gill**

**Approved 21-0-0**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes**

**Mittendorf/Tran**

**Approved 21-0-0**

1. Officer Reports
   1. President Oswill
      1. Collegian Report

P Oswill: The Collegian sent me an e-mail and said they’d send me a written report, but we aren’t sure where the report is. We have sent them many e-mails. We weren’t sure how to get them to respond so we e-mailed their advisor, Gretchen Moon. We heard back from Zane on the same day that the e-mail that was sent. We are hoping to increase communication and get a report by next meeting.

\*Collegian representatives arrived mid-meeting\*

**Motion to allow Collegian representative to speak**

**Ekstrom/Sader**

**Approved 20-0-0**

Zane Sparling: I am the club president of the Collegian. The Collegian has five sections, including news, lifestyles, features, opinions, and sports. We publish weekly, with 1200-1400 copies circulated throughout campus. We cashed checks to over 100 different people this month, most of which were guest writers, but we have many involved club members that contribute on a weekly basis.

Wright: As a member of the Senate, it seems like there is a little bit of hostility between the Collegian and the Senate. Do you yourself see this?

Sparling: The Collegian has two jobs. First, we provide a way for student’s voices to be heard and expressed. The second thing that we do is remain objective, and edit writing for clarity and accuracy.

Ekstrom: I would like to say that I love that what you’re doing in reporting on Senate’s work. I would urge you to check with VP Smyth or President Oswill so that we have things accurately reported. We didn’t reject the President’s Strategic Plan.

Sparling: We never said that in the article. If you are going to lie and say that you weren’t in favor of that, that’s one thing. However, you (senator Ekstrom) showed disapproval. We are trying to stay objective and express the opinions of the Senate. In this case, we also attributed the quote to Senator Ekstrom, and not all of Senate. If I had said that Senate disapproved, I would have made the headline say “no vote” and that would be different. We occasionally make corrections if someone believes that something was misprinted. A week or so ago we stated that WEB’s stipend from ASWU was yearly and it is actually per semester. We do have a corrections section so we will correct that in the next issue. What I have heard from Alyssa, who wrote the article, is that it was quoted correctly. We have a lot of people who you can talk to if you feel as if something has been misinterpreted. Andres and Colleen both write regularly, and we never change the content of their articles. I can’t run a correction unless I feel as if we were incorrect, and I don’t think we were in this instance.

Kaptanian: As far as I know, articles about ASWU are written by guests. How do these articles get screened for their accuracy and content?

Sparling: Alyssa came to the Senate meeting, as your meetings are of course open to the public. She took notes and recorded the entire thing. You can do your minutes how you wan,t but its all recorded officially so that we can accurately quote people. Bronte Dodd then reviews the article and approves it, checking to make sure things were done correctly. It gets reviewed several times and we don’t change content necessarily, but more on the basis of clarity. We have a specific style, and grammatical rules. In this case, we had things structured differently for the headline. It is a very involved process and it isn’t just read over once and slapped on the page Tuesday night.

Mittendorf: The fact is that our minutes are very close to being word-for-word. Is there any consideration to compare student’s articles to the minutes?

Sparling: We have a standing policy where if you feel things have been misquoted, you can come talk to me. We always listen to recordings of interviews. When you are talking about the writers depiction of quotes, this is up to the discretion of the writer. The writer always writes their description to the best of their ability. Alyssa wrote the article, she has written for many years, and I trust her ability.

Sader: On another note, we get a lot of readership with the print versions and I’m wondering how that compares to the website visits.

Sparling: My philosophy is that there isn't any reason why you can’t read the collegian in print. Everyone has to walk through the Library, Eaton, Goudy and other buildings. Some people will never pick up a copy in their life and that’s fine. I put 90 percent of my energy into the print product. Anica has done a great job re-vamping the website this year, and has a lot of discretion with its management and design. I don’t make her report statistics to me. I don’t worry about funneling hits to the website. The website is a great resource and a lot of people go on it. I don’t concern myself with it because it is out of my experience, and my concern is the paper circulation.

* + 1. WEB Report

P Oswill: WEB hasn’t sent me a report, so I am working on getting that from them.

* 1. Treasurer Ebert

T Ebert: The figures on the projector are what we have allocated this year. As you can, see we have about $8,000 left to spend for this semester. The debts outstanding are the things that we owe. Payroll, office, and external programs are the expenses we will pay next semester. The $22,000 to the Collegian is what they didn’t receive last fall for their allocation. WULA, Luau, and Pow-wow have given us estimates, and these are the anticipated large, upcoming events. I anticipate we will have about $190,000 next semester. We will have about $20,000 after these big events if everything stays according to plan. I also found in the bylaws that the Treasurer is required to put a quarter of every years roll over into the endowment. The year before we had about $45,000 and no money was ever put into the endowment. There are all sorts of ways we can evaluate this, but as of now we are obligated to pay that money.

* 1. VP Smyth

VP Smyth: We have three people running for both the senior senator position and the treasurer position, and we are now using instant run-off voting. Everyone will rank their candidate in order of preference, so this should help things go smoothly. I am working on a transition plan for the senior senator that is moving in. I am also working on a senate historian position. This person will be responsible for archiving senate materials. It would probably be a half credit internship, and we are still working out some of these details. If any of you know anyone who would be interested, please let them know it will be a great experience. I have invited Dean David Douglass to come and talk to us, so he will be here on November 13th to discuss the University’s plan for housing. We also are still going to have our presentation from the new senior vice president of administration and finance, on November 6th.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Cusick)

Cusick: We are currently looking into changing the application for judicial branch. I am going abroad in December, so there will need to be a replacement. Last year I noted that the application was not particularly useful so we are going to see if we can re-work it a little bit to ensure that the best candidate is chosen.

1. New Business
   1. Club Approvals:
      1. Health and Wellness

Caroline Brinster: First, I would like to give a brief history. Last year I worked with Bryan Schmidt to work to promote general health at Willamette. We have worked with campus recreation and we put on a small event towards the end of the semester during finals week to help people manage their stress. So this year we decided we wanted to expand it into a club temporarily and work with other programs. The program itself is still developing and we would eventually like to be institutionally funded. Until then we would like to satisfy our needs and be a club represented by ASWU. The program is divided into three sectors: health, fitness, and rest and relaxation. These are pretty big factors in everyone’s college experience. In the realm of fitness, Sparks has been remodeled and we would like to makes sure our fitness center is very accommodating and open to everyone. Fitness staff have been trained now to help students how to utilize the equipment properly, so they have a little more knowledge than in the past. We are also working on devising a plan for the entire university on how to train students here at Willamette. I foresee this club working with the exercise science club, and the pre-health club. Long term this club might be more of an institutionally funded program, but for right now we would like to be approved as a club.

**Motion to approve the Health and Wellness club**

**Ekstrom/Steffy**

**Approved 18-0-2**

* + 1. Black Student Union

Deserey Dubois: Several years ago this union had a very strong presence on campus. Last year it was a fully functioning club and we are just working to be officially recognized. We provide a safe space for black students on campus. Our goal is to communicate with the entire Willamette community and work to overcome problems and educate others. My goal is to get us established this year so that we can have a strong presence for several years to come.

**Motion to approve the Black Student Union**

**Gill/Ekstrom**

**Approved 21-0-0**

* 1. Nominations:
     1. Senate Representative on SSRD Committee

P Oswill: I was contacted to nominate a senate member to serve on the SSRD committee. Traditionally there is an ASWU representative. They haven’t scheduled a planning meeting yet which I assume means they don’t have a meeting time. SSRD is Student Scholarship Recognition day. We don’t have classes this day, and instead students present their research.

Mittendorf: I served on this committee in the past. It isn’t a huge time commitment but basically your big job is to go over all of the proposals. You look over people’s abstracts and pair them for panels that will take place. You are also in charge of proof reading pamphlets and other media sources. You get to work very intimately with professors and you are also in charge of one of the biggest days here. It is a very rewarding experience.

* + 1. Smoke-Free Campus Exploratory Committee

P Oswill: Margaret Trout sent two e-mails to us. My approach to this is that since I have not received a formal document in writing, there is nothing definitive about what this is, so I just wanted to discuss this so that we are equally informed about it. She suggested having two senators, and that it could be interesting to have one senator against the ban and one in favor. If it is recommended to having some sort of smoking ban on campus, she would like that senator to reach out to students who disagree with it and represent why it went through. Basically at this point they are waiting for people to announce the creation of the committee.

Wright: It seems like the idea of having two polarized senators on this committee is not necessarily the best thing we could do. Not to say that they did this on purpose, but it seems like they’re looking for a scapegoat to take the opposition from students. I would be more in favor of having two senators that are mutual instead of just limiting themselves to one side of the issue.

Mittendorf: I don’t think that neutral is the best term. It is going to be hard to find someone who is “neutral” so I think it would be wise to just have two senators that are interested in serving on the exploratory committe.

Wright: I think we shouldn’t make a decision about this until we know more from the student body.

Kaptanian: Can anyone come to the meetings?

P Oswill: My initial guess is probably not.

Kaptanian: I think we should have two senators serve on the committee. I’m not sure how it would affect the senator getting re-elected if they particularly identify as being in support or not.

Ekstrom: This is a committee that is saying if we were to do this, what is the best way.

P Oswill: I think they are an advisory committee and will be doing more investigating. The ultimate decision will be made by president Thorsett. Ultimately they will just be doing the work to give a recommendation.

* 1. Minutes Discussion

**Motion to change the minutes to summary form**

**Gill/Ekstrom**

Sader: I don’t think that it is necessary to have spoken word minutes.

Wright: I am in favor of continuing things word for word. There is room for ambiguity in what we are saying. Summarizing this takes away from the meaning of what people are saying.

Mittendorf: By having them be word for word it could allow judicial to have a better interpretation of things. As far as really important things go, it makes some sense to have them this way.

Ekstrom: In theory they are for the benefit of the students.

Wright: I think that its our responsibility to read through the minutes entirely.

Brinster: I agree. If you can’t extract enough information you could also talk to another senator.

Kaptanian: I wonder how useful the summary could be for the student body.

Ekstrom: I think that if students want a summary they could ask any senator that was in attendance at the meeting.

**Move to previous question**

**Ekstrom/Wright**

**Motion Failed 2-18-1**

* 1. Ad-Hoc Committee Creation

VP Smyth: These are committees with senators that meet in the evenings usually. These are some ideas that have come to my attention. The first committee I would like to propose is a Senator Code of Conduct for all of us to swear to or sign on to at the beginning of the year.

* + 1. Code of Conduct Committee

**Motion to create a code of conduct committee**

**Brownlee/Saiki**

Ekstrom: I don’t think this is necessary.

Kaptanian: Whose idea is this?

VP Smyth: This idea has been brought up several times this year. Becca talked about creating this committee.

Ekstrom: I don’t think we have seen any major decorum issues. I don’t see it as necessary.

Cusick: I really like this idea from a judicial perspective. So far holding accountability has been difficult to navigate. I understand where you are coming from. I think there should be some sort of preliminary standard. Judicial Branch wanted to evaluate a certain situation but there was nothing to look at that was constitutional.

**Committee Approved 15-5-1**

* + 1. Bylaws Committee

VP Smyth: This committee existed last year and the year before. This would be a committee to review any bylaws issues, and would not be a weekly meeting but one whenever discrepancies arise.

**Motion to create a Bylaws Committee**

**Kaptanian/Saiki**

**Approved 19-1-1**

* + 1. Endowment Task Force

T Ebert: There is the information I got from Bob Olson on the screen. So far you can see that the university is working on hiring an external investment officer. They are currently working on getting higher rates of return. I am trying to get in touch with Bob to get some clarity as to what is going on with the money that was taken out because you all never approved anything. Basically what needs to be done is talking about exploring the option of taking money out of the endowment and perhaps make a recommendation about how to move forward.

**Motion to approve Endowment Task Force Committee**

**Ekstrom/Tran**

Wright: Could we consider auditing the ASWU finance board, and where that money has gone?

T Ebert: Yes that is something that could be looked at.

**Approved 19-0-2**

1. Senate Reports

Brownlee: I would like to work on exploring and assessing a relationship between WEMS and campus safety. If you would like to work on this project please let me know.

Sader: We have tried to get information on how many people are reading the online version of the Collegian. We spend a lot of money on the online version, but I think that there is low demand for this. Roughly $600 per month is often spent on the collegian online.

Tran: I sat on the GIF committee. This week we talked about mini-grant applications and those are coming out soon. You can look into this to get funding for any of your projects.

Steffy: We have gotten all of your photos and bios in and Thao is putting them together.

Tran: I am doing all of the posters and I will hopefully get them done this weekend.

Steffy: We are also working on ASWU swag. If you have any ideas or designs please let me know. The idea is to go off the design we had two years ago.

Saiki: I met with Amy Green today and the office of international education is excited about a passport day. What it will come down to is how quickly we can get someone from the post office. There’s an international education week, but that might not give us enough time to get everyone involved. We might wait a year or do it in February.

Ekstrom: I am interested in shifting the way that the collegian recieves monetary funds. Right now they have a large discretionary fund and lump sums of money that don’t correlate to their consistent expenses. I would like to explore looking at their budget.

1. For the Good of the Order
2. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
   1. Next meeting will be Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m. in Smullin 222

**Motion to adjourn meeting**

**Brinster/Saiki**

**Approved 21-0-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm**