**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, February 12 • 7 p.m. • Montag Den**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

Meeting called to order @ 7:03pm

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

Liebson absent, proxy present

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Wright/Tran**

**Approved**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve minutes**

**Tran/Wright**

**Approved**

1. Officer Reports
   1. President Oswill

P Oswill: Last week Chris Linn followed up with me regarding the student who came to present regarding meal plans. He asked if ASWU had any interest in exploring student concerns. Chris is really receptive to new ideas. We had a conversation about costs, and if students want larger meal plans they will naturally cost more. The operating costs are pretty standard across the board. In the end numbers just get moved around, but he is welcome to any conversation.

Besides that, Bethany and I did a lot of committee interviews. We only have one position still open on safety committee. All others have been filled.

* 1. Treasurer Russell

T Russell: You all should have the budget report that I made for you. The finance board all met on Sunday to talk about requests. On the expense report, you’ll see that many accounts zeroed, so about $25,000 is coming in from clubs who didn’t respond regarding the fees left over from fall semester.

* 1. VP Smyth

VP Smyth: I have finished all 1:1s with all of you! I am working on compiling a list of who is working on what project from all of that information. Most of you will hopefully check in every other week to update other senators or get further support. I also have been setting up meetings with the elections committee to set up spring elections.

1. New Business
   1. Nominations
      1. Academic Status

P Oswill: All of the applications have been e-mailed to you. For academic status we are nominating Madeline Au and Madison Brown.

**Motion to approve nominees**

**Brinster/Gill**

**Approved 18-0-1**

P Oswill: We would like to nominate Ana Arrendondo-Franco for the Multicultural affairs committee.

**Motion to approve nominee**

**Brinster/Parekh**

**Approved 18-0-1**

P Oswill: We nominate Maximilian Kroner Dale for the safety committee.

**Motion to approve nominee**

**Durham/Brinster**

**Approved 18-0-1**

P Oswill: For the board of trustees we nominate Cheyenne Boon for the Religious and Spiritual affairs committee

**Motion to approve nominee**

**Kaptanian/Steffy**

**Approved 17-0-2**

P OswilL lOne of the things exec has been talking about is moving some of the committee appointing responsibilities to the clerk so that the clerk has a more holistic office position. That is something we will continue to be talking about later to present to senate.

* 1. Spring Budget
     1. Overview of Current Financial Situation

T Russell: Currently, the expectation is that we should have around $12,519 without any withdrawals from the endowment. We went through the SCC and OMA budget previously and made huge cuts to them with Bryan and Gordy. One of those was for Hawaii club, which I think they would like to speak for.

Matt Murakami: I think you have an overview about our previous request. I have already spoke about how successful our club has been. Previously we have been able to provide the most appropriate atmosphere. We have always appreciated your support, as we have expanded our ability to have great food, entertainment, and decorations. Funding this request really continues the culture on campus and fostering diversity. This is an opportunity to really grow and have higher rates of student participation and within the community.

Pate: Is something we discussed last week?

VP Smyth: It was previously withdrawn.

Pate: I guess my question is why it was previously dismissed?

T Russell: Colleen and I met with Gordy and Bryan to talk about what cuts were feasible. Previously the thought was that luau was going to happen regardless. However, it would be really nice to be able to offer them funding.

Pate: I am wondering if we were able to part of your request, would you be able to fundraise the rest of the money?

Murakami: We weren’t necessarily made aware of the cuts previously made so I was hoping that perhaps with the size of the allocation, we would determine if this would still be feasible. My hope is that you will fund it in full.

Gill: If we weren’t to fund the whole request for entertainment, would you be able to give that money back to us or would you like to utilize it for something else?

Murakami: We have been very fortunate to be able to attract support from the campus and salem community. My hope is that we can continue to enhance this authentic experience. Sometimes we just can’t replicate the amount of time that goes into it. By bringing in outside performers, and funding for those performs, it helps us to cover the gaps.

* + 1. Review of Previous Hawaii Club Request

**Move to approve in full**

**Pate/Parekh**

Pate: This is my thought: that while last week it made a lot of sense to fund things partially, if we pay for something part way, and they aren’t able to get the remaining amount, clubs can’t use the money. To me it sounds like a good thing, and I would personally be in support to fund in full. I do not wish to fund part of it and them have them not be able to pay for it all of the way.

Mittendorf: I think we have a tendency to approve bigger events’ budgets without considering it. Luau is highly attended and well received. Additionally, unlike wula, this recovers some of their costs. WE should do our best to give it as much funding to ensure it is one of the best events on campus.

Tran: How much money would we have left over if we funded this?

T Russell: Around $5,000.

Durham: There are also clubs that we haven’t given any funding to.

Mittendorf: I would just say that as far as trying to save money, we can’t speculate what types of requests we are going to get. It would be a shame to turn down funding and then not have clubs request funding. Because we are getting so late into the semester, I don’t think it is effective to have money roll over.

Gordon: I have a little bit of concern in funding this, especially since we cut so much funding from sports and other clubs last week.. I don’t think this is crucial to the event.

Proxy Liebson: A few years ago, Hawaii club had a lot of money in their non ASWU account. Where has that money gone?

T Russell: We don’t monitor non-ASWU accounts.

Proxy Liebson: Do you know how much money they’re using.

Murakami: In regards to fees, we have an agreement to return all funding we receive. We haven’t been saving any of that money. Usually the fees that we do charge figure into our spending. Regardless of where that comes in, we have that agreement to return our funds.

Hernandez: I think I agree with Senator Gordon. It makes sense that we made a lot of cuts to other clubs. This really enhances the community including that outside of campus. If this continues to grow, we should really approve it.

**Approved 12-7-0**

* + 1. Budget Approval

Tran: How much is the amount for the three clubs that we didn’t approve?

T Russell: JSU wanted $1400, Russian club asked for $1270, and ASA requested $2050.

Durham: Basically when we were looking at the russian club request, it was confusing to look at their reimbursement and we needed more information.

Pate: It seems as if they requested a lot of items that we don’t fund.

**Move to approve**

**Tran/Landoni**

**Approved 19-0-0**

* 1. Zena Farm Discussion

Kyle, Sam, Lance, Grace: Essentially, farm club is one of the two student organizations that has been working to give students access to Zena. About an acre and a half is cultivated under organic means. We are mainly an educational outlet for the willamette students and community regarding sustainable agriculture. Additionally a large part of our mission is to be stewards of Zena and work on increasing access. Last semester we had a couple of discussions with the administration. Basically they banned access to the farm house. The first week back from winter break we were also told that food cultivation would be suspended for the rest of this semester and perhaps next year. Most of that concern is from the university’s conservation easement. The university is trying to figure out if farming is allowed under this easement. The organization has always been okay with us farming. Our main goal with trying to get student support is to ensure that when there are renegotiations, they do including farming in the land use agreement. The university is developing a land use contract for the use of the property. Most of the people attending these meetings do not support agriculture or are fairly ambivalent to it. We are trying to ensure that we have students or faculty members who are advocating for sustainable agriculture. I think the most important thing is that we make room for ourselves in the discussions. I see some of the biggest problems being lack of communication. I know that Andres had mentioned that ASWU mentioned putting in support for our petition. If we were to offer some concrete information would that be something you would support? The petition has two main points. The first is to ensure agriculture is part of the farm, and the second is ensuring student involvement is part of the farm. Those are pretty vague goals but we just want to ensure that student voice is expressed and that they know this is important to students. The reason we are so passionate about it is because the whole student body has put a lot into the farm. If you consider how much money ASWU has given to the farm, there has definitely been time, passion, and finances poured into it. Right now, that is kind of being thrown away. The school also still advertises and markets the farm, including a video on the front page of the university website that was just taken down, so it must influence individuals.

Sader: You said there is a group that is trying to figure out what they want to do with this?

Farm Club: It is sort of ambiguous who is supportive or not. Some people are clearly opposed to it, but a lot of faculty are involved and supportive of it. There is some misleading information and a big transparency problem.

Sader: It is my understanding that the school thinks its illegal to keep farming?

Farm Club: The conservation easement does not say that its illegal explicitly. There is just some confusing language.

Sader: Joe Abraham said that was the advice given to the university from an attorney.

Farm Club: Through this, they were able to determine that there was some things that weren’t allowed. Food production was not mentioned. Our neighbors are under the same easement and are allowed to produce food. We are doing a very small amount of diverse agriculture. Essentially there is no clear point as to if it is legal or not. It was the advice of a zoning attorney, not a land use attorney to suspend food growth.

P Oswill: I also spoke with Joe Abraham, and it seems as if the decision came from the senior vice presidents of the university. As to the illegality of it, in order to be safe, they want to ensure that it is allowed. Part of the problem I’m seeing is that there was no mention of farming in the new negotiations, which makes it seem like the university is not in support.

Pate: My understanding is that in the past, Zena has provided a lot of food to places like goudy for student meals. What will be this transition?

Farm Club: We stopped selling as much food to goudy. In the past we grew specific crops for them and they stopped purchasing from us. We mostly sell to the bistro and we had a farm stand once a week on campus.

Pate: Is there something we can do besides the petition?

Farm Club: I think that you should suggest renegotiating farming in the new land use agreement and that students should be included. One of the biggest issues is that they are limiting student access to this space. Students want this space as part of their education and time. It is negatively impacting not only us, but students in the coming years. In the fall when new students show up, there won’t be plants on the ground.

Kaptanian: What’s happening on the ground right now?

Farm Club: Most of the field was covered for the winter so that the soil was healthy for the spring and summer crops. There are a couple rows of garlic in the ground right now that will be harvestable in late may. We also have kale and arugula planted. We have been told that we are allowed to take things out but we aren’t allowed to put anything back in.

Wright: I have a question regarding educational opportunities. Right now we can't farm at zena. Are there any other educational opportunities you have explored without physical plants?

Farm Club: I believe we requested $350 for van rentals. We have been in contact with other farms in the area so that students might still do volunteer work on the weekends so that our club still active during this time. I am not sure how this is done, but if we could distribute the petition via the class list serves, that would be very helpful. If we could send the petition to the larger student body that would help a lot.

Symonds: I think that is a valid concern, and we could play a role in educating the campus and spreading the word.

VP Smyth: I know we are supposed to limit the amount of information we streamline for organizations, but if you all vote on it I will talk to Lisa Holliday and make sure its okay.

Tran: I have got some feedback from alumni working with telefund. Have you reached out to them at all to see how they might help you through this process.

Farm Club: We have a facebook page associated with the farm club so we have got some feedback. We have been telling people to e-mail the dean directly. As far as your support, I think if you could voice to the administration that a lot of money has been invested over the years in the farm. I think the farm could be a lot more than just farm club. Jennifer Johns who used to be our advisor left in August, and she was the one who coordinated farm activities. With her absence, it has been hard to host events and get people out there. A lot of students who come out to farm club have fallen in love with it and really love that area. Those outlets are getting smaller and smaller.

Hernandez: Professor Divine and Felker are putting on an event regarding sustainability and justice regarding agriculture. I think they wanted someone to be on their panel, and you could really emphasize how the farm life has impacted you. I think it would be a really good opportunity for you. These professors are very supportive and I think collaborating with them would be beneficial. It would get your name out there.

P Oswill: Something I was thinking is that it is easier to have conversations based off of things in writing. If senators are interested in working on a resolution with farm club, this might be extremely beneficial.

**Motion to approve draft of listserv e-mail to student body**

**Tran/Landoni**

Pate: I think it would benefit us to speak with Adam Ferguson in the communication department to ensure we take the appropriate steps before we send out this information

Proxy Liebson: We have invested thousands of dollars into this, and I really think we need to support them because otherwise we would not be doing our jobs.

**Approved 20-0-0**

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Anderson)

Anderson: We are struggling because we don’t really have much to do. We are manpower that is not being used, so please come to us if you have any projects.

1. Senate Reports

Steffy: For my senate project, I decided to work on self defense classes and bringing them to campus. I have met with someone who has previously done an event on campus.

The event will be on March 7 at 6:30 and I need ASWU’s approval. 26 students can initially come. Depending on how much excitement we get, she might come back. It will not cost us anything, as she is putting on the program out of kindness.

Leder: I know that the theater department did something similar. Some feedback that I got was that self defense is often looked at as victim blaming. I feel as if perhaps some education is necessary.

Steffy: I have heard a lot about from her regarding this topic, so I know that she is sensitive to this type of thing.

Sader: I was going to ask how it is going to be marketed. I just think that it would be fair for the rest of us to see what is advertised so that we are all agreeable for the message we are putting out. It might be worth meeting with Cynthia Chan the director of SARA. She is a good contact to consult regarding appropriate language.

Pate: In the past we have had multiple groups sponsor events like this, so that might be something to consider as well

Gill: I think that you could also talk with Cynthia and maybe ask her to be there so that we can have support and stay accountable.

**Motion to approve project pending discussion to ensure all publicity materials are presented before ASWU and are appropriate**

**Pate/Tran**

**18-0-1**

Federova: I am going to be exploring the issue of car break ins. I am going to be researching if we should put of signs or cameras after a cost benefit analysis. Maya and I will be working together, so please let one of us know if you’re interested in helping.

Parekh: I am trying to change the hours for sparks on the weekends. The feedback I have heard so far is that the gym opens too late and closes too early. How many people would feel strongly about the gym opening earlier on the weekends? If any of you are interested in helping me please shoot me an e-mail.

Symonds: I did some in depth research regarding our study abroad website. I just wanted to make sure that all of you who have input notify me. Before I can contact anyone, I wanted to make sure that everyone was okay with having ASWU’s name attached when corresponding with the study abroad office.

Mittendorf: I am thinking about exploring student access to smullin. We now have 24 hour access to that building, but a lot of classrooms are locked.

Brinster: I met with the health and wellness club to talk about vending machines. I contacted Jill Munger to explore some healthier options available through the contracted companies. The second floor of Kaneko has some healthier options, so I am going to go check that out. The direction this projected looks like its going in is to model the Kaneko machine.

1. For the Good of the Order

1. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
   1. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 19 at 7 p.m. in Montag Den

**Motion to adjourn**

**Gill/Tran**

**Approved**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm**