**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, February 26 • 7 p.m. • Montag Den**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

**Meeting called to order at 7:03pm**

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

Kaptanian and Hernandez absent

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda**

**Pate/Gill**

**Approved**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes**

**Parekh/Hartman**

**Approved**

1. Officer Reports
	1. President Oswill

P Oswill: We are meeting with the vice presidents tomorrow morning regarding Thanksgiving break. After I wrap that up I’ll be able to work on some smaller projects.

* 1. Treasurer Russell

T Russell: Absent

VP Smyth: The budget process for the second round of allocations will be starting. Brad also e-mailed the Russian Club and they did not get back to him so we are assuming they are going to re-submit their request for the second allocation period.

* 1. VP Smyth

VP Smyth: The elections commission met, and tomorrow we will send out an e-mail regarding the details for elections. There will be some info sessions that people need to attend. People who would like to run will need to let me know by next Friday.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Anderson)

Anderson: We have our article out in the collegian regarding the impeachment process, so please read that if you’re interested.

1. Senate Reports
	1. Bike Rack Cameras - Maya

Gordon: The first thing that is happening is tomorrow I am meeting with Ross Stout. I have been doing a little bit of research on security cameras. There is a lot of information out there so I am still interested in finding people who would like to help.

* 1. Solar Compacting Waste - Joseph

Landoni: I am going to apply for funding through the green initiative fund, and the proposals are due on March 30th. It is a lot of work, so I would appreciate help. If you have any questions please come talk to me.

* 1. Reducing Car Theft - Anastasia

Federova: I am in the preliminary stages of my project, as I haven’t gotten a response back from Ross Stout. I’d like to first do some research to gauge where the most thefts have been taking place to decided if signs or cameras are needed.

* 1. Self-Defense Classes - Kate

Steffy: Once again this will be held on March 4th at 6:30 in sparks gym. I sent the blurb to the toilet paper. Other than that I hope you’ll participate. Spaces are limited, but she is more than willing to come back again.

Brinster: On my senate projects, I looked at the vending machine in Kaneko. Some of the things that are in there are coconut water, cliff bars, and edamame. I’m not really sure if I need your approval on all the snack items, but I think I have a pretty good idea of what might work well in the new vending machine. I am going to meet with Jill Munger again to let her know what I’d like to see. Additionally, last night I had a friend e-mail me a picture of the hand dryers in some of the bathrooms. I suggested if he has project ideas regarding sustainable hand drying solutions he should go through the green initiative fund. He said he’d like me to voice the opinion in front of Senate to see what feedback you might have.

Tran: We were looking to doing a similar project, so if you need some help please let me know. I can’t apply for funding because I am on the initiative, but I’d be happy to help.

1. New Business
	1. ASWU Elections voting method

VP Smyth: Historical context-- A few years ago senate approved having instant runoff voting. Everyone who is voting ranks their top three candidates. It counts the first place votes. It then takes the bottom candidate out of the running. The WITS system does not do IVR, but gives them a certain number of points based on how they are ranked. It counts up all the points, and whoever gets the most points is the winner. It doesn’t necessarily guarantee a 50% of the vote majority. Elections commission wanted Senate to decide. The way we have done election positions before was to have the top two vote getters move into a special runoff a day later. So your options are IVR with points or go back to the system with runoff election a couple days later.

Pate: With the way IVR has been described to me, it seemed like the most effective way.

VP Smyth: We can’t do IVR, the system does not accommodate it.

Mittendorf: I will also say that we talked about is that the IRV system does not allow write in candidates. We can’t actually do that, which isn’t really fair. As a clarification, write-in candidates have to be through the standard vote system.

Sader: Are these the only two systems?

VP Smyth: Yes unless you wanted to do plurality voting.

Sader: I would be supportive of the runoff option if someone didn’t get 50%. I don’t like the idea of doing a runoff election, but I think for exec it is important. I feel uncomfortable taking away a write-in candidate.

Gill: I am not sure what the issue is with the representation in the other IVR similar system.

Sader: No write in candidate.

Gill: I don’t know if this sounds undemocratic of me, but if we have a president who didn’t initially want to run for president and runs as a write in candidate, I don’t know if that should be our main concern. I know we struggle to get turn out, so I don’t know if the runoff voting is most feasible.

Symonds: What was wrong with percentage and a write in?

VP Smyth: We are just talking about exec elections. The way that senate elections work is you are voting for five candidates. Last year it didn’t matter, because more than two candidates didn’t run.

Parekh: Correct me if I’m wrong, but the 3,2,1 system gets tallied? Technically say I only wanted one candidate, and there’s three. Would I be putting in a vote for a candidate I didn’t want?

VP Smyth: No, I don’t think you have to vote all of them.

Pate: Abstentions in voting are allowed. Even though write-ins are frustrating, there are lots of reasons for people to be write in candidates. Because it is suppose to be an option when voting democratically, I feel hesitant to take that away. I don’t think we should choose convenience over the right someone might have to write someone in.

Mittendorf: The problem I have with the point system is that it is unfair for the person who has the most amount of second place votes. It basically takes away the vote for the people who voted for the second choice candidate. I’d be in favor of a runoff or using plurality.

 Sader: You can’t get the majority of first place votes and still lose. You can’t have a situation where you win all of the first place votes and don’t have the majority.

 Pate: One of my concerns about the old method is that there are so few people that participate in the second runoff that it doesn’t seem like a fair representation of the votes. It seems like the better of the two options, but I think we should have some sort of task force to make the system more effective for all students, and find ways for people to participate more.

 **Move to approve the runoff vote system, where someone who doesn’t get a majority of the votes would go to a runoff election. Write in candidates will be included.**

 **Gill/Leder**

 **Approved 18-0-0**

* 1. Campus Life Honors & Awards Pitch

 VP Smyth: Campus life honors and awards are due tomorrow or saturday. I wanted Andres to talk about this. Because this meeting is so short, I’m hoping that you’ll stay and nominate at least one person for an award.

 P Oswill: This is something I did last year, so I’d like to give some context. When you go into the google form, there are 30-40 awards and it is overwhelming. There are four you should really be paying attention to. The rest of the awards get forwarded into the campus departments. Examples of that include the student ambassador award, which is decided by the department of admissions. Usually they already have an idea of who they’ll pick. The all- campus ones, between the four of them, the differences are very minor. Albert Prize is for good scholarship and a positive impact on their peers. If you know a student you have watched grow this year, that would be a good one to nominate them for. The Kernal Percy Willis award is more centered on service. One of the noteworthy things is that it don’t have to be a noteworthy position, but just someone who goes out of there way to do good for others. The Frank Meyer student life prize is given to someone with a formal campus position. If they have gone above and beyond, that’s an award the committee considers. The Jesse E. West award goes to two students. One of the other ones people pay attention to is the office of the chaplains, the social justice leadership award, and most of the other ones are internal. There is one for outstanding contributions to multicultural affairs. These nominations are usually pretty short, so the committee tries to do their best with the information they’re given by other students.

1. For the Good of the Order

Pate: Black Tie is Saturday night, and Sunday night the music department is putting on their winter concert.

1. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
	1. Next meeting will be Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in Montag Den.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Tran/Durham**

**Approved**

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm