**Associated Students of Willamette University**

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 5 • 7 p.m. • Montag Den**

1. Call to Order (VP Smyth)

**Meeting called to order @ 7:01pm**

1. Roll Call (Clerk Hladick)

Proxy present for Denning

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to add Maya Gordon’s Senate project**

**Tran/Steffy**

**Approved**

**Motion to approve the agenda as amended**

**Tran/Hartman**

**Approved**

1. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes**

**Hernandez/Landoni**

**Approved**

1. Officer Reports
	1. President Oswill

P Oswill: First of all, we have talked a little about the hiring process for the ASWU sound manager. He feels as if there would be benefits to hire someone within ASWU sound, but we will probably open it up to all of campus to give equal opportunity.

Tran: I think we should have it open to all students.

Brinster: Some people are quick learners, so I agree.

P Oswill: WEB also gave me a report -- Carlos Gomez came and the cost was about $16 per student. 50 students came to the Harry potter movie. Black tie had and expense of $21,000 and 600 students attended.There will be a Bistro concert on March 12th and the Sam Johnson concert will also b in March will be in collaboration with the class of 2018 council. On Thanksgiving break -- Bthany and I met with the vice presidents last friday morning. The proposed goal that they’re looking for is to have no classes the week of thanksgiving break and start classes on Monday instead of Tuesday. That is now moving forward to a vote from the faculty. Each area of campus is trying to figure out it will affect the individual departments. It will affect facilities, opening days, residence life, academics etc. The last thing is that the campus safety report is done, as I have spent a great deal of time figuring in graphics. An all-campus e-mail is going out tomorrow. I would like to print it in color and give it to the president and vice president as a formal document if you all support that idea.

* 1. Treasurer Russell

T Russell: The second allocation has been submitted. None of them are above $1500 so finance board will be meeting on Saturday to go through them.

* 1. VP Smyth

VP Smyth: I have been doing a wide variety of things, primarily elections. I think a lot of people will be running for ASWU exec. I think we have a really diverse group of candidates which is awesome. I’ll make sure to include you in the e-mail once we know who is all running. I also have been working with the whips and I’ll talk more about those later.

1. Judicial Report (Chief Justice Anderson)

 CJ Anderson: I have been in touch with Drew and we are planning on meeting next week in the Library. Any senators who would like to join us may, as we are going to have an open discussion about furthering responsibilities for the branch.

1. Senate Reports
	1. Self-Defense Class Review (Sen. Steffy)

Steffy: Last night was the self defense class. It was really great. 11 people showed up which I thought was great. We learned seven different self defense moves that are widely known. The instructor is really interested in coming back, so I might host another event if we can get more advertising in beforehand.

Brinster: I went and it was a lot of fun and extremely educational.

* 1. Club Fundraising (Sen. Hernandez)

Hernandez: The day is finalized! The Fundraising information forum will be held on March 17th at 6pm, but I have been working on the powerpoint presentation and I met briefly with Brad to discuss concerns. I think I am going to start advertising next week, but have been working with leadership consultants so that we can have the same message coming from them and ASWU. Additionally I have been meeting with the SSRD committee. We are getting ready to print out the catalog in two weeks. It is coming along very smoothly. If you want to submit a cover you are more than welcome to do so. If no one submits one, that’s okay, but just for your information you’re more than welcome to e-mail me.

* 1. Healthy Vending Machines (Sen. Brinster)

Brinster: After our meeting last week I e-mailed the health and wellness club to get them on board with some ideas. The idea is to have a similar vending machine to the one in Kaneko. We are going to take the popular items and bring them over to main campus, potentially to Sparks, and the library. I e-mailed Jill Munger and she is out of the office until March 9th. Right now the plan is on hold until I get a response back from her, but I think she’ll be receptive. It should happen within the semester!

* 1. Off-Campus Studies (Sen. Symonds)

Symonds: Currently we are trying to find a time for all of us to meet. We are looking at what can accomplish this semester. We are going to focus on the website this year and hopefully make some strides with this. I don’t know how long its going to take, but we have some exciting ideas. If you have any input please come talk to me.

* 1. Sparks Weekend Hours (Sen. Parekh)

Parekh: I have been e-mailing back and forth with Dean Douglass about this issue. I am meeting with him on Monday. He has expressed that a lot of students and faculty have come to him wanting to expand the hours. He is really excited about this idea and has been very supportive. A lot of the graduate schools and people who will be here over the summer have expressed concern. After the meeting I’ll have an idea about what I need help with.

7.6 Bike Rack Cameras

Gordon: I am going to present a couple of options for what I’m working on. I met with Ross Stout and the first thing we talked about is having the cameras record over Jackson Plaza and the Quad. When talking about the bike racks specifically, we started talking about locations and he said that all of the bike racks have the same amount of theft. I’m interested in doing some more research on that . The cameras will cost about $500 each and we will need to have two at each location. Someone would likely not be surveilling them, but they would be useful to look back on the crime. I thought it would be cool to have someone on willamette watch have access to an app that would show the camera. If someone would be staffed in the office it wouldn’t be that feasible cost wise. I was looking into the green initiative to get funding for this. We could ask just for the cameras this year, and perhaps exploring getting a staff member last year.

Leder: I currently am serving on the campus safety committee. I know that we really need students at large to come and talk to this committee and share some of these ideas. I would love if you have time to come and talk to everyone on the committee and raise some awareness about this project and what you’re working on.

1. New Business
	1. Opportunity Fair Director Position

VP Smyth: A bit of context-- two years ago the ASWU president wanted to start an opportunity fair through ASWU. Nichola did the same thing last year, and we funded it. It was proposed last year that we create a new position so that a student could run it instead of the president. We now have this position and we pay the person $400 a year. Whether or not this is something we want to have taken care of by the career center or if we should still have a student run and fund it through aswu. This is just an informal discussion.

Parekh: I think that the reason it was started was to fulfill a gap that the career center should have taken on. Since the career center already has connections to it, I think that they should at least help collaborate with us on. I think it is very fair for a president to pick up their own projects, but I think that now this is something that is completely up their alley.

Pate: I know that sometimes there will be larger projects that once they get delegated to a department they dissolve. I would just say that I like the idea of a collaborative effort, but I don’t think it would be bad if it was in the hands of the career center. Maybe we could have an ASWU representative so that we still have a connection to voice our opinions.

Gill: Maybe we could mold what ASWU is doing in having a student at large apply to serve this position but have it supervised through the career center. If the career center isn’t willing to fund that stipend in full, maybe they could fund it in part. I think that one of the reasons we hired a student at large is because a different perspective might be good.

Tran: I am working in the career center right now, and I think they have a lot of resources and meaningful connections. They have multiple interns that take on projects, so perhaps one of them could take it on.

VP Smyth: there is connection with the career center, its just that it is paid for and selected through us.

* 1. Survey on Student Use of Collegian / WEB Services

 VP Smyth: I just would like to make this a formal vote of wanting or not wanting to send out a survey. I would also like to solidify some concrete ideas.

 Pate: We thought about re-evaluating any organization on campus that get automatic allocations. Is that possible?

 VP Smyth: The class council fee and the WEMS fee are a specific amount of money that ASWU voted on allocating those clubs. The Collegian and WEB allocations are a percentage that come out of the student body fees.

 **Move to approve the survey sent out to the student body**

 **Pate/Leder**

Sader: We talked in caucus about when you do send out the survey, you’re going to get a certain percentage of respondents that isn’t necessarily representative of the full student body. Drew mentioned setting up in Jackson Plaza so that we could get more of a turn out. I just wanted to urge maybe supplementing the online survey to get the full perspective of the student body.

 Pate: He also suggested pairing up with elections and maybe having a couple laptops so that we could have some face to face time with students and get some feedback.

 **Approved 19-0-0**

1. For the Good of the Order

 Wright: Maile and I sit on the smoking committee. We have been talking about changing the culture of smoking on campus and restricting the places where people smoke or banning smoking on campus altogether. The committee is now interested in limiting or banning smoking altogether. Because of this, there is a lot of discussion whether or not we want this to happen. Last meeting, all of the members of the committee voted to ban smoking on campus. However, there were no student representatives on campus. I come here to ask you what the students want. Basically I want some of your input so that we can talk about the current system. This is something that as a group we really need to decide and talk about whether or not we want our voices heard.

 Pate: You and I have talked briefly. One I would say that it is crucial students are on this committee. I have talked to students about designated smoking areas, even if the campus is largely smoke free. If there is designated areas, students can avoid them. I was just at U of O and they are a smoke free campus.

 Wright: That is an excellent point and we have looked at that within the committee. If you compare Willamette to small private liberal arts colleges, similar schools usually don’t have any type of restrictions. There is a list of about 35-40 small schools do not have smoke free campuses. I think the circumstances are very different on larger campuses. There is the Capitol and hospital buildings as our neighbors. Part of the justification for being smoke free is because we are in similar situated corridors.

 Pate: If we talk about this as a community, I think we are limiting space here. I don’t think a complete ban would be the most practical thing for our situation.

 Mittendorf: I believe that public institutions have state law that they are smoke free, and it is outside the control of the school. Second of all, I would say that I think that by limiting people smoking on campus we are isolating what the real world is like. I feel like people have the right to smoke, and yeah it is a nuisance, but we have taken measures to make that more of a cooperative communities. We have substance free residence halls and smoke free buildings. I also think it might be a big waste of time to have campus safety monitoring students.

 Hernandez: I was going to ask, that since we are representing the student body, it might be wise to send out a survey.

 Maile: I took a survey last year with Cynthia Chand. I am looking for the results, but I do remember a large majority of students not wanting to be smoke free. I think we should respect each others ways of living and student opinion should be valued.

 Symonds: I am going to try to get those survey results.

 Holliday: The results are on ASWU’s survey monkey account.

 Symonds: It would be nice to know where ASWU stands. Can I get a hand vote. If you think that you and the people you represent would support a complete smoke free campus (most in agreeance for designated smoking areas).

 Anna: As a smoker my primary concern with a ban is safety. Having to go far away, late at night, smoking by myself would make me feel very unsafe and would not be a situation I would want to put myself in on a regular basis.

 Kaptanian: There are a lot of obvious reasons why students might not support this but I think we should not be speaking on behalf of other students without talk to them.

 Anderson: I am not a smoker but I think senate carries a lot about safety. Especially since we are considering keeping students on campus for three years, I think we should really be recognizing safety can be an issue and designated areas should be convenient in every ways.

 Wright: I think we should make a motion because we are already in the process for what exactly we are going to be doing moving forward. I think having an official position as ASWU gives us more clout. Based on the survey last year and student input, I feel comfortable making the claim that the students or rather we should not completely restrict smoking. Where are students going to go that is safe off campus? I think that with the vote it will allow us to do more.

 Pate: I was just going to say that I completely agree with you and think that having a vote is a good idea. I think it would be good for ASWU to have an official position, but I don’t think we have the opinions of the entire organized systematic institution. I think that it is important to have those opinions before generalizing everyone’s opinion.

 Gill: I agree. I think we should process the opinions of students and take into account the data.

 Symonds: I am not sure how much time we have.

 Parekh: Are they planning on not getting student input?

 Symonds: I think we are supposed to be the student input (Cameron and I).

 Wright: I feel that our voices aren’t being heard within this group. I think that there are the Deans and different people within the committee, and it is intimidating to talk to these people. To lobby these powerful people is more difficult when you can’t say what the students opinion is.

 Gill: None of us have looked at the data so I just feel slightly uncomfortable endorsing something without knowing the opinion.

 Symonds: I will try to get the survey. I think it would be beneficial for them to come into ASWU so that we can show and express concern.

 **Motion to close the speakers list**

 **Tran/Landoni**

 **Approved**

Tran: I am on the same page as Liz, just because I don’t think we should be endorsing something we don’t have data on. I would love if someone could come in so that they can see and hear student opinions so we can foster that relationship. I think that bringing them in would be a great idea and it would be helpful to take another survey.

 Parekh: It seems as if someone is putting pressure on you to feel a certain way. If you feel as if there has been inappropriate pressure put on you, you should talk to the Dean because that should be a safe space.

 Brinster: What is the rush to make this decision so quickly?

 Symonds: I know the deadline is coming from the Dean and President Thorsett, but I can see if we can get it extended to get more student input.

 Durham: I think it would be a good idea to have some sort of open and advertised forum so that students could come in and voice their concerns.

 Brinster: If there is a way to have an ASWU meeting and have individuals respond to some questions would be a great chance. That way we could show them what we have to say.

 Pate: I would say that it would be good to make it campus wide to invite faculty and staff. I understand that you want an official seal, could we do some sort of compromise, that there is an overwhelming support to not have a full campus ban. That might give you more clout but let them know that there is still some mixed feelings.

 Hartman: I was also going to bring up the forum, and I would like to reiterate that I am slightly concerned they are not interested in student input. I think having a student forum with them in attendance would be well received by the student body since students feel passionately about this issue.

 P Oswill: I would just like to caution you all in saying that they are not receptive to student input.

 Symonds: It is quite possible that there has been a miscommunication, and perhaps I just need to let her know that there is some hesitation about the decision. If someone would like to come perhaps it would be good to have a different perspective.

 Hernandez: I think it is important to have communication between the both of us.

 Wright: I could definitely spread the information from the committee with you. A lot of the information we have been given has been biased towards a smoke-free campus. All of the information has been regarding this issue as a health problem and not an issue of safety or personal liberty.

 Hernandez: On Tuesday the 10th at 7pm in Cone Chapple there is a zena farm/farm club/ecos/forestry meeting with a guest author coming that I would encourage everyone to attend if they’re interested.

 Pate: Amnesty’s chapter on campus is doing an awareness week everyday next week to do petition signings, and I would encourage you to participate and engage in some of the conversations.

1. Adjournment (VP Smyth)
	1. Next meeting will be Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m. in Montag Den.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Durham/Tran**

**Approved**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm**