



THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

Senate Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 19th 2023 • 7:00 p.m. • Montag Den

1. Call to Order
2. [Land Acknowledgement](#)
3. Roll Call (Clerk Sophia)
4. [Approval of the Minutes](#)
 - 4.1. Minutes Approved
 - 4.1.1. Aye: All Senators (11)
 - 4.1.2. Late/Absent: Anastasiia, Gabby
5. Approval of the Agenda
 - 5.1. Agenda Approved
 - 5.1.1. Aye: All Senators (11)
 - 5.1.2. Late/Absent: Anastasiia, Gabby
6. [Endowment for Bistro Presentation](#)
 - 6.1. Max Kass, General Manager of the Bistro
 - 6.2. Planning to go over where we are, what's going on, and why I'm presenting to you all right now. The Bistro is in a lot of debt currently,

we are asking the university utilize some of the endowment to wipe us of that debt.

- 6.3. When covid hit, we suffered a lot of losses, the student body decreased, and lost a lot of funding. When we came back, we stayed open during covid, which lost us a lot of money. The university essentially floats our debt, but we are still in a lot of debt. The managers gave a presentation to get the debt cleared by ASWU, and got some money, but not enough.
- 6.4. Currently in 42,000 worth of debt. The university wouldn't let them go out of business, but because we are in debt, we don't make a profit as all of our money goes to that.
- 6.5. Factors inhibiting profit:
 - 6.5.1. Minimum wage rose a lot over the past few years, had to raise pay for all baristas which costs more money.
 - 6.5.2. Inflation rate is incredibly high – we order all of our goods from our own people, so inflation hit us really hard.
 - 6.5.3. Drop in student population – seniors and senior class before them had less than the freshmen class, even when combined. We didn't get a lot of student business during this time, and didn't get many non-students.
- 6.6. University is patient with us, and great about dealing with this, but the finances for the university are tough so they can't just erase the debt

themselves. The Bistro is supposed to be a way for students to get experience in jobs, and for students to have a place to stay.

6.7. Our prices have gone way up, and we want to make it cheaper to buy drinks at the bistro, but we have to adjust with inflation.

6.8. Equipment issues:

6.8.1. Fridges are 37 years old, everything in the Bistro is about 20 years old and was bought used

6.8.2. Profits used to be used to buy new equipment and maintenance, could expand access to the bistro, the money doesn't go to the university or the workers, but the bistro itself

6.9. The Bistro is hoping to support the student population and expand out, but can't currently expand much because they are so focused on paying off the debt first.

6.10. ASWU gave us a small amount of money 4 years ago, and we're still in debt. Why?

6.10.1. August and September are expensive, I have to train and prep which ends up costing a lot of money. Typically lose \$3000 or more. Made a rough profit this year of \$500, because caterers are up, more people are going to the bistro because of the freshmen numbers.

- 6.10.2. Stopped making savory food, because they were seeing a lot of losses in that sense. Would love to get back to when the bistro used to sell sandwiches and things like that.
- 6.10.3. We've shown that we can make a profit in one of our most expensive months, but even this level of profit isn't helpful because at this rate, it would take about 81 months or so to pay off our debt. Therefore, we are asking ASWU to use a portion of the endowment to clear the debt so we can start from zero and try to make a profit from there.
- 6.10.4. Peter: As of now, it seems like the bistro is starting to become profitable, so if we erase this debt, would the bistro likely become profitable again?
- 6.10.4.1. Max: Yes, last time we didn't ask for enough and covid played a major part in our inability to come back from our debt. But we think we could get back to the point where we're self-sustaining.
- 6.10.5. Aiden: Before Covid, you had debt- how would you prevent this debt from happening in the future with this type of grant?
- 6.10.5.1. Max: We didn't have debt before covid, we just used our profit to try to keep ourselves open, and it didn't last us very long.

7. Officer Reports

(Please read this ahead of time, we will not be presenting them to save time)

- 7.1. [President Mira](#)
- 7.2. [VP Chris](#)
- 7.3. Treasurer Milo
- 7.4. [Press Secretary Stevie](#)
- 8. Senate Reports
 - 8.1. Sean: When will we be voting?
 - 8.1.1. Mira: The plan is to give you guys about 2 weeks of thinking on this. We are giving you another week to think about it, and next week we are going to put it to a vote.
 - 8.1.2. Milo: Use this time to ask questions of us.
 - 8.1.3. Sarah: Using our endowment, would we cap it at erasing their debt or would we be able to put more money into it if we wanted to theoretically? Would that be something to ask Max about?
 - 8.1.4. Quinn: We have another program which gives money – CAFES. I think that instead of spending ASWU money, I would encourage them to ask CAFES for a grant instead of spending ours, especially because we are on a deadline with how much we can pull from the endowment.

8.1.5. Mira: We could technically, but because of the quick deadline to pull money out. We also still have money that isn't from our endowment that we could still use to support them if needed.

8.1.6. Chris: It's really y'all's decision based on how y'all vote.

9. Advisor Report

9.1. None

10. Speaker Pearl

10.1. Had a brief conversation with Mira about convocation. Wanted to look more into the history of convocation, and had Kate look more into it because she was considering getting rid of it. I didn't get many students involved, but this year I had more.

10.2. Kate: This project was to uncover the history of what convocation used to be at Willamette and to look at what it has morphed into today. Compulsory chapel was the start of convocation, the university used to be a religiously affiliated school, so all students used to have to attend the chapel. Then, it became a required assembly for students, was secular and set to inspire and inform the population. Organized by the convocation committee, not the religiously affiliated admin. This was moving towards being student run, more similar to what it is today. In the 1960s and 70s, it became more voluntary. Former Chaplain, Charles Wallace turned convo into a half credit class to gain leadership skills and learn how to take these classes. From the 90s to 2000s,

almost all convocations were held in Cone Chapel. Chaplain Karen Wood and Chaplain Pearl have continued the tradition of convocation into the modern day. Recent topics have been fashion shows, journaling for joy events, de-stressing events, etc. Are there any questions I can answer about convo, anything Pearl can bring in about their projects they're working on?

- 10.3. Pearl: HAVe you ever been to convo? Okay, 3 people. AT some point, before Charles Wallace turned it into a course, the university's schedule reserved 11:30-12:30 just for convocation, so that people had the opportunity to attend convocation if they wanted to. Today, that is no longer the case. This year particularly, CHASE is held 11:30-12:30, so first year students cannot attend.
- 10.4. Valentine: Was it held every day?
- 10.5. Pearl: Only once a week.
- 10.6. Sarah: Is there room or sentiments to reserve a spot in the future for convocation to exist?
- 10.7. Pearl: It would be helpful if ASWU could help advocate for that. It was a whole plan to change the bell schedule, and I think I have lost that space. Students have decided that convocations should shift and be used for different things. Next week, we will be holding a convocation on the benefits of Narcan. I'm open to suggestions – what would be good for you all?

- 10.8. Sarah: I know that something that's helpful for participation is when professors will give extra credit or require people to go to these events. A lot of convocations' topics overlap with the things that are being taught.
- 10.9. Pearl: That's a good idea. We have really employed relationships with professors and admin to try and create these spaces for convocations. Those relationships are helpful, especially when the professors say that it's extra credit to go to these events.
- 10.10. Mira: We think convocation could be a great resource for learning more about things on campus and perhaps inspire or help your campus improvement projects.
- 10.11. Pearl: We have an instagram account called wuchaplains, which posts the convo notices, we have posters and get it in the Today@Willamette. Take the class next semester – 2 credits, entails attending each convo and writing a reflection for each one. Students facilitate at least one event, and do research to come up with ideas. We have Narcan next week, we have a wellness fair on November 9 in Henkle Gym. We have one on the life of a scholar athlete, one about diversity on campus, and more. Many of these have been ideas from students. It can be anything from affirmation to education to exploration.

11. New Business

11.1. [Committee Appointments](#)

11.1.1. Mira: There are 3 committee appointments. Jonas was added to a second committee, campus Safety Advisory committee. Jacob Plax was OD coordinator and was put on Academic Tech Advisory committee. I'm sorry for how last minute those 2 were added.

11.1.2. Committee Appointments Passed

11.1.2.1. Ayes: Andrew, Peter, Aiden, Anastasiia, Evyn, Sean, Parker, Sal, Suzan, Valentine, Wakana (10)

11.1.2.2. Nay: Sarah (1)

11.1.2.3. Absent: Gabby

11.2. Campus Improvement Project Discussion

11.2.1. [Campus Improvement Project Ideas](#)

11.2.2. These are all ideas from the Senate Retreat, and we want to use today to find your group and find people you're interested with. WE are here to facilitate, but if you already know people and interests you want to work around. At the end of the 20 minutes, we will take down the names of people working together.

11.2.3. Andrew: What's the most you ask for for a CAFES grant?

11.2.4. Mira: Don't know what they spent so far and how much we need, but the biggest we gave was \$20,000. We also have money

at ASWU, so you don't have to outsource. We are able to fund your projects! We also get money as a student organization. Our idea today is to talk because next we are going to be building your ideas. Think about funding, but don't worry about it yet.

- 11.2.5. Valentine: Looking at getting compost in every building
- 11.2.6. Andrew: Getting automatic door button installed in Kaneko and one side of Smullin/Walton
- 11.2.7. Peter: Get a group of students to go into the capitol and do voter registration and advocacy
- 11.2.8. Advocacy and Voter Registration
 - 11.2.8.1. Peter, Sal, Suzan, Sean
- 11.2.9. Doors and Accessibility
 - 11.2.9.1. Andrew, Anastasiia, Sean
- 11.2.10. Composting
 - 11.2.10.1. Wakana, Valentine, Parker
- 11.2.11. Period Products for Residence Halls
 - 11.2.11.1. Sarah, Andrew
- 11.3. Mira - Our plan is to talk to SEAL office people to get resources and points of contact, and will talk about it in a couple of weeks. Next week is funding round 2 and our goal is to survive it! Good night streaks.
- 12. Public Comment
- 13. For the Good of the Order

14. Adjournment