



ASCWU-SG Special Meeting

MINUTES OF

Monday, March 16, 2015

SURC 236, 6:00 pm

400 E University Way, Ellensburg, WA

PRESENT:

President Yosef Gamble
Executive VP Nick Shuey
VP Clubs and Organizations Phil Rush
VP Academic Affairs Jenn Treadway
VP Equity and Community Affairs Spencer Biallas
VP Student Life and Facilities Rob Lane
VP Legislative Affairs Cassie DuBore

STAFF:

Public Relations Director, Erin Babcock

CALL TO ORDER

President Yosef Gamble called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

PM2015-57 **Agenda of the Regular Public Meeting – March 16th, 2015**

MOVED by Jenn Treadway
SECONDED by Cassie DuBore

THAT the minutes of the Public Meeting held February 23rd, 2015 be adopted with the reflected changes (public comment moved to after communications and before new business).

APPROVED 6-0-0

COMMUNICATIONS

Ryan Anderson and Brian Laurence: First they wanted to display the facts concerning the student arts fund, (included in the 4 the arts packet) this fund is a \$50 fee that would be applied every quarter. This is to bring a speaker of the arts series committee to CWU to run and market for the arts program. This would allow the committee of the series and staff to change the arts and become nationally recognized here at Central.

In response to the ASCWU resolution, the point where it states “WHERE AS the implication of establishing the student arts fund may result in reduced support for CWU student from the Washington state legislature” in contact with Ms. Linda Shackler (presidents chief of staff) she says “SNA fees used to be limited to a percentage of tuition these were decoupled in the 2013-2015 state budget and likely will be again for the 2015-2017 budget even if this does not affect state funding because this the reference is to tuition and does not affect your proposal because it would refund SNA not reapportion or increase it. This information as received from Linda Shackler, which was received from Steve DuPont as our liaison to Olympia.

Another point we would like to address is the clause where it says “WHERE AS the community members that oversee student arts fund allocations are appointed by the dean of the college of the arts and humanities which my results in a restriction of campus life and communication for both faculty and students, and of the six programs that are housed in this proposal, five are in fact housed in the college of arts and humanities and one if housed in the college of education and professional studies. As we developed this proposal it seemed to make sense that the oversight is that we assume that the people who participate in these programs will only be from the majors, there are students from every college on campus who participate in the arts program. To make the assumption that there will only be students from the majors on the committee is an unfair assumption.

Question for the board, is the athletic fee administered with representatives outside of the athletic department? Is this a requirement? That is why it makes sense to have the college of arts and humanities oversee this committee. We are open to letting anyone be on this committee. It is important to know what this is still a proposal. The only item on the ballot is a \$50 per quarter student fee. They are open to letting anyone be on the committee if that is an essential part of the proposal.

Going back to Ms. Linda Schactler there was a law that was in Olympia that linked SNA funds to tuition levels. That law is currently suspended according to Linda. Another aspect of the proposal, you may be wondering why they are having the administration positions filled and paid for by this fee. Those costs may see high but 30% of the salaries are taxable back to the administration, which will bring \$67,500 back to the administration of CWU itself.

Questions that have come up by students, some students thought that the proposal misrepresents SNA fund use. The current level of funding will be embedded into the arts fund distribution

these programs will not take a hit and the program will benefit the student body as a whole. This means the next cycle of funds will go back into SNA and will not be re-proposed. That amount is 162,000 going back into SNA for other departments to use. This would allow students to attend these arts programs for free, and would allow them access to a program they originally would not be able to attend.

If you were a club that would like to do an arts related fundraiser you would be allowed to charge admission for that because it is a club, and not a department event. The overall goal is bring all the art departments together on campus.

Cassie DuBore: The section about state funding will be removed from the resolution. When this was drafted we thought it would affect state funding. She is an ROTC cadet and shared a personal story. I would like to explain the difference between an initiative, and a referendum. Initiative is to get 10% of the student body to suppose this initiative, and all signatures are valid. Then you can have the initiative on the ballot for the student population to vote on, and if it passes with a simple majority, then the budget finance counsel and board of trustees all must vote on it as well. A referendum, the student government can pass a resolution saying we would like to see this on the ballot. Then the same process happens. Therefore, if all signatures on your petition are valid then no matter what this proposal will be on the ballot. The purpose of this meeting is to here out the students, and with the timeline we could not meet last week. The elections coordinator found out about this, and when we found out about it the student government made an effort to make sure you knew how to put this proposal on the ballot.

Yosef Gamble: Next, was the communication e-mail that Yosef read. (Page 7-8)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nathaniel Hike-Addison: I am a theatre performance major, and Japanese linguistic major. After talking with Dr. Nelson about how art can benefit the humanities. Language, and art is a representation of culture. If u learn art forms like calligraphy, or haiku then you learn a little bit about these art forms then you have an understanding of how art impacts their culture. Dr. Nelson and Professor Bella teamed up to take a group of student to japan, and this inspired a group of students to take Japanese so they can learn more about Japanese theatre. The point is, art relies on

culture and humanities, and can benefit how art affects the mind. If we have a well-funded art program this could benefit the humanities and psychology program as well as science and psychology.

Clara Kurtenbach: I work for the music department. She has students come up to her while she is working, and ask if they can sit back stage to watch the performance because they cannot afford to go. The arts fund is used to enhance the learning and college experience for students. As someone who is going to graduate I personally could have benefitted from this fund. We are searching for ways to enhance the arts so that everyone can share experience that each of us has.

Tara Hall: I am a double major in fine art and chemistry. This fund could benefit from bringing difference departments from coming together and working together. It could be beneficial to bring in a speaker that would explain how to use chemistry to conserve fine art paintings. This is an area that combines chemistry and arts.

Bryan Kouser: I support this artist fee I know that the arts dept. and graduate student and will not benefit from this art fee. If we get this art fee we can bring in recognized people who can mentor the art students, and would be open to anyone in the entire student body, and have great music programs for free. Half way through the quarter students cannot afford to go these performances. It would benefit all students' who are interested in going and would allow them to go for free. Again, I support this.

Mary Jarvis: I am very interested in the health and safety, and also music. Although I love the music it is also hurting us. This fund could encourage inter-disciplinary work. We do not have the combination of music and brain science, and this art fee could help us study within inter-disciplinary work.

Chandra Rampersad: I am a grad student, and I believe that the letter you read aloud brought up some interesting points. This art fund is about creating opportunity, and I appreciate that the university is supporting the change within the school so that I can be a part of school spirit for the school. For the arts it is about providing opportunity to see a worldly and cultural perspective. This fund could help diversify us as a whole.

Beth Vander Stoep: I appreciate the arts program at CWU, and our theatre and music program are both outstanding. Speaking on the half of the sciences, and someone who has benefitted from the humanities program as well. I think we have this misconstrued idea that this proposal is the sciences versus the arts. The sciences a procreation of funding that this may have a lot of benefit it also has a lot of potential for corruption to take place. The school is not in the best funding situation so this is not exactly our best gamble as a school.

Randy Rodriguez: There is numerous other ways to find funding for guest speakers other than taxing the entire student body. I hope this opposition gets voted down.

Patrick Cavanagh: This is not for the arts students but this is about bringing in speakers who can talk about how their craft has developed them as people and these speakers can be applied to anyone. This is not about bringing people who benefit us but it is something that benefits everyone. You are wrong in people won't show up, and if you have a committee they will bring in recognizable names that draw students in. These speakers can teach students how to conduct themselves outside of the university.

PM2015-58

THAT the speaker's list be exhausted.

Cassie DuBore: We have been hearing a lot of repetitive comments, and we have six more people on the speakers list. The people remaining on the list will still be able to speak but we have been hearing a lot of the same comments.

MOVED by Cassie DuBore
SECONDED by Jenn Treadway

APPROVED 6-0-0

Michael Tran: This art fund benefits us, and every student here, and I support any other fees on this campus because it helps all the departments benefit.

Wayne Ogle: I am in support of this fund. I look for jobs that I can volunteer at with elementary and middle school kids. A lot of these kids ask what is it like in college, and I always say that we have great opportunities and this art fund is a great opportunity. These different departments can work together to create art, and that is one of the points of college that we can all work together. I am in support of this art fund.

Katheryn Kibbe: The music dept. is very underfunded department at the school. We do not give out a lot of scholarships. We are not begging for money we do not have any money. We want everyone who is not an art and music major to come and enjoy what we do with our lives. We want to share what we love with the student body. We are all trying to support our university so that we can help our university get bigger and better.

Nick Shuey: I met with one of the funding managers in Mitchell today. Some of the funds available for the arts dept. One of these funds is called

Fund 158, which is a self-funded and provides funds to organizations on campus to provide services for different students. Generally student fees cannot be waived on campus.

NEW BUSINESS

PM2015-59 Student Arts Fund Proposal (Resolution 15-2)

Rob Lane: we need to have more discussion because this is not a final draft, and I believe we need to have a final draft before we vote on this.

THAT this ASCWU Student Government to table resolution 15-2,

MOVED by Rob Lane
SECONDED by Nick Shuey

APPROVED 5-0-1

ISSUES/CONCERNS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cassie DuBore clarified Rob's motion.

NEXT MEETING


The next ASCWU Student Government Public Meeting to be held on Monday, April 6th, 2015 in the SURC Pit at 6:00 pm.

PM2015-60 ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Phil Rush
SECONDED by Spencer Biallas

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

APPROVED 6-0-0


Yosef Gamble, President


Nick Shuey, Executive Vice-President

Anonymous

400 East University Way • Ellensburg, WA 98926 • Phone: 867-5309 •

Date: 3/15/2015

Mr. Yosef Gamble
President, ASCWU

Dear Mr. Gamble:

As an active member within the ASCWU committee structure I would like to voice my opinion in an anonymous fashion as it directly impacts my position within the committee, my workplace as well as in my course work and social life.

I have several concerns with the recent development of a proposal for a student-imposed fee that would be used to create a “student arts fund”

I have obtained a copy of the proposal that was provided to the elections committee. The information I will be discussing is drawn from this version proposal that is labeled as a draft. I first viewed this copy on last Friday morning before the large number of students who were petitioning for an Art Fee.

This brings me to my first point of the evening. It is in my opinion that the petition that went around on Friday be only used to represent the level of student support of the proposal in the form it stands at the time of the beginning of petition. Any change that occurred after the petition changes the proposal and potentially could change the amount of support for the fee, either against or for. There is currently no policy that requires there to be a “re-petition” of sorts for any change in the proposal that is given to the Elections Commission. I strongly encourage the Student Government as well as the Election Commission to create a policy using this example as a precedent that would require any petition for a student initiative to be used only for the proposal of student legislation as the proposal is at the time of submission and immediately prior to the beginning of petitioning for student support. Furthermore, it is in my opinion that the students with the advice and counsel of Faculty, Staff or appropriate Deans should write any student voluntary fee that is to be imposed on the students. Whether or not that this took place in the drafting stages of this particular proposal; I can not speak to, however it should be a part of the discussion when discussing policies regarding the submission of proposals.

My next concern deals with the “Speaker and Arts Series” Committee appointment process of the student fee. The language in the edition of the proposal that I have reads as follows;

“The fund will be administered by the College of Arts and humanities under the oversight of the Dean, with a committee of voting members consisting of one faculty member from each of the represented programs and two students from each of the represented programs.” While I completely agree with the necessity of having a committee that is used to, and I quote;

“Annually develop and offer a robust and well rounded Speaker and Arts Series that addresses diversity and the interests of the programs across campus involved as well as the student body at large within the budget allowed.” I think that it is very important to have this money to be monitored by a committee. I also applaud the writers of this proposal who granted twice the amount of student voting members towards the committee than there are Faculty members as there is an importance to have a “preponderance of the committee voice being students’.” However, the use of twelve students who hail from the 6 programs represented, Creative Writing, Dance, Film and Video Studies, Fine Art and Theatre Arts, is not a sufficient amount of student representation for the general student body, all of which will be paying the fee. Additionally, the appointment of the members by “the dean upon the recommendation for the program directors and department chairs of the represented chairs of the represented areas. Seeing how this committee would annually plan a



series that would cost upwards of \$168,000, per this proposal, and that money was coming from the pockets of students across the campus and is meant to benefit the students of every major and department on campus, every student should be afforded the opportunity to apply to sit on the committee and have those individuals be selected by the Executive Vice President of the ASCWU- Student Government in order to ensure that the funds get used on what a majority of students across campus would enjoy and receive an impact.

My final concern is in regard to the use of the rest of the funds that would be used out of this fee that would cost students close to 1.2 million dollars a year, per the calculations of the writer of this proposal. Out of this only 15% of the money raised from the fee will go to the speaker series that benefits the majority of campus. 20% of this will go to the salaries and benefits for Arts Fund Administration as well as goods and services. While 60% of this will go to the programs Creative Writing, Dance, Film and Video Studies, Fine Art Music and Theatre Arts based upon their Percentage of Full Time Equivalent students, and I quote

“Funds distributed to the programs will be used at the discretion of the program for program enhancements, student travel, co- and extra-curricular productions, student recruitment, student employment and student accompanying students and other needs identified by each of the individually programs.”

While there is language that states faculty of lecturer teaching needs in the program, it causes concern that 60% of this \$150 per student per quarter fee will be used at the discretion of a program with no student say.

Finally, I believe that should this be passed, no matter what the percentages and destinations of funds, it sets precedent for other departments on campus to initiate the same types of proposals causing undue financial burden on the students who may or may not receive the benefits of their services.

In conclusion, I support the use of the funds to fund the “high-profile” Arts/Speaker series. I do not believe that upwards of \$675,000 be given to programs that may or not be able to provide for every student on campus. There needs to be language in this proposal that specifically enumerates the purposes of these costs, iè publication of Manastash, Operating Costs of Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, or other events, items, publications etc. that could be used with the money. The power to use at the discretion of the department causes great concern for myself and I’m sure many other students would tend to agree with that.

I am graduating this June, if this were to pass I would never have to pay the \$50 per quarter fee here at Central. I can honestly say that my wallet is not doing the talking here; this is solely coming out of my heart and my desire for the welfare of Students across campus. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Signed,

Anonymous



Resolution

At the special meeting of the Associated Students of Central Washington University (ASCWU) Student Government on March 16th, 2015, the following resolution was proposed and approved:

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the ASCWU Student Government to promote the financial interests of the students of Central Washington University, and

WHEREAS, the Student Arts Fund proposal intends to support the operation and enhancement of identified Arts programs: Dance, Fine Arts, Film and Video Studies, Music, Theatre Arts, and Creative Writing, and

WHEREAS, the Student Arts Fund establishes a \$50 student fee, based on Ellensburg campus full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, and

WHEREAS, the committee members that oversee Student Arts Fund allocations are appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities, which may result in the restriction of campus wide communication and involvement for both faculty and students, and

WHEREAS, the implication of establishing the Student Arts Fund may result in reduced support for Central Washington University from the Washington State Legislature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that is the sense of this board to oppose the Student Arts Fund Proposal.

Signed this 16th day of March, 2015

Yosef Gamble
ASCWU Student Government President