

**Services and Activities Fee Committee
Minutes
April 16, 2014**

Called to order:

Jacob Wittman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

Attendance:

Professor John Bowen, Joseph Bryant, JD Charest, Professor Sarah Feeney, Myles Glover, Sharon Jonassen, Kay Kenison, Robert Lane, Robert Moser, Josh Muttart, Kathryn O’Neal, Professor Todd Shiver, Ashley Stubbs, Derek Whittom, Connie Williams, and Jacob Wittman.

Agenda:

MOTION: JD Charest made a motion to move Communication Received after Chair’s Report and approve the agenda as amended. Josh Muttart seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: John Bowen made a motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2014, as presented. Connie Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Reports:

Joey Bryant reported the supplemental requests submitted to George Clark and the Business and Finance Committee were approved in the amount of \$2,380.00.

Communication Received:

Joey Bryant read the following letter from Bryan Elliott, ASCWU-BOD President dated April 15, 2014:

“To whom it may concern:

At the Associated Students of Central Washington University’s Board of Directors public meeting on April 14, 2014, the Board discussed the Learning Commons and its funding request for the S&A Committee. Collectively we recognize that this is not an ideal way to pay for an academic support program such as tutoring that students across campus rely upon, but it is a necessary given the financial situation of University. Under better circumstances we would prefer that these tutoring services were paid out of tuition revenue as we believe they are a core academic function of the University. However, given the cuts the Learning Commons would experience if they did not secure funding for the 2014-2015 school year, and the important service that the Learning Commons provides for students at Central, the Board feels that it is crucial to fully support this program. In that regards we formally state our support for the full funding of the Learning Commons S&A request for the 2014-2015 academic year. Thank you for your time and your consideration of our position.
Sincerely, Bryan Elliot, ASCWU-BOD President”

Public Comment: none

New Business: none

Old Business:

Base Funding Request:

Before the base funding discussion of the Learning Commons began, Sharon Jonassen gave an overview of the S&A financial status and future projections given the State Legislature's tuition freeze, which will impact S&A's ability to increase their fee. Last year, S&A was in good shape with the anticipated carry forward from the recalculation of the Administrative Fee and unused supplemental funding, but this year the projections for the number of incoming students is down and we may be facing a possible mandatory pay increase. Even with being conservative with the current supplemental funding, taking on more debt at this time is not appropriate given the current trend.

#1418- Learning Commons Tutoring Services - \$90,125.00: The Learning Commons is seeking base funding to help provide writing and math tutoring services to an increasing number of students. This request is in addition to the Westside tutoring already funded by S&A, and will ensure that there is sufficient money in the budget to meet the demand for tutoring services without taking advantage of developmental course fees.

MOTION: JD Charest made a motion to approve one-time supplemental funds in the amount of \$45,062.50 for the Learning Commons. John Bowen seconded. Motion failed.

MOTION: Myles Glover made a motion to postpone indefinitely #1418 Learning Commons. Robert Lane seconded. Motion failed.

MOTION: JD Charest made a motion to approve supplemental funds in the amount of \$22,531.25 for the Learning Commons. John Bowen seconded. 6 yes, 6 no, tie vote, chair votes no. Motion fails.

Discussion on the proposed base budget request continued. Many were supportive of the Learning Commons and the value it is for the academic success and retention of CWU students, but they felt that the Learning Commons is an academic program and should be funded through Academics not through S&A. They also felt that taking on additional debt for the next three years could cause added burden given the Legislative freeze on tuition and not being able to raise the S&A fee. The S&A policy mandates the financial stability of programs already funded by S&A, and with the unstable financial future, S&A should not be taking on more debt for the remainder of the budget cycle. It was suggested to fund Learning Commons as supplemental funding request, but it was finally decided to decline the request all together. A letter will be drafted supporting the Learning Commons and help to find other funding sources.

Other Business-Communication Received: none

Public Comment-second call:

It was suggested to draft a letter for the Learning Commons from the S&A Committee offering S&A's support for finding a solution and showing the importance of the Learning Commons and their tutoring programs.

Jacob Wittman shared his concern and wanted to be sure to uphold the financial stability of this committee and the stability of the base funded programs. As the University is stretched thin and looking at all ways to finance essential programs, S&A needs to be good stewards of their S&A funds.

Brian Elliott from the ASCWU BOD expressed his concern for the Learning Commons not being funded after the Committee asked Prairie Brown to come back with a base funding request. The ASCWU BOD supports the Learning Commons funding request and is disappointed with it not being funded all or in part. An additional student fee for Learning Commons could be brought forward for a vote by the student body.

JD Charest apologized for being overly passionate about the Learning Commons, and did not wish to offend anyone, but wanted his voice heard. He will not be in attendance for the next two weeks.

Several members will not be in attendance because of their involvement in the upcoming BOD election obligations, or away at conferences.

Joey Bryant appreciated how everyone respected each other's opinions, so every side could be heard in a constructive manner and every comment and opinion is valued.

MOTION to Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Schedule of Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2014.