

Services and Activities Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025

Called to order:

Ian called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Attendance:

Erin Sargent, Arik Spring, Robbi Goninan, Mia Young, Nicholas Villa, Marisol Torres Alcantar, Nick Moreno, Ian Seymour, Yahir Calderon Sotelo, Eli Alvarado

Absent: Oscar Martinez

Guests: Verónica Gomez Vilchis, Lola Gallagher, Katrina Whitney, Kylie Copeland, Cesar Trejo, Sophia Engstrom, Finn Carmalt, Jay Keltner, Nuhamin Regassa, Alina Lombardo, Ezra Hollister, Jenniger Green, Eun Young Lee, Annika Brimhall, Madelynn Shortt, Erick Becerra, Noel Trujillo, Lesly Portugal, Joan Neslund, Laura Allen, Gretchen Hinchliff, Marlene Veveris, Margaux Ulstad, Andrew Ulstad, Gilberto Martinez, Jordan Tschabold, Logan Booth, Nathan Rupp, Kendall Stuns, Faith Johnson, Noah Lovell, Caleb Cleland, Zoey Ryan, Julia Snow, Keaton Weyers, Blake Cloud, Kyley Glenn, Hayden Hobbick, Dana Culley, Jordan Walberg, Madison Docherty, Hope Cox, Isaac Hinson, Anna Gillihan, Larissa Baldovinos, Katrina Nolan, Vrian Valencia Autin Hardebeck, Gavriel Genzel, Alexandra Lake, Anna Iniguez, Aubrey Ben-Judah, Ace Larkin, Caleena Wyman, Daniel Conley, Malik Cantú (ASCWU President), Rowan Lorio, Winnie Killingsworth, Ryan Afruma, Robin Hill, Lara Terry, Marlin Absetz, William Joslyn, Alona Nelson, Mica Aowan, Alana Fitzgerald, Parker Wood, JJ Hogan, Rona Green, Mariah Gilmore, Trent Meacham, Mirija Britton, Amy Walker, Shu Cravy, Live Satake, Lirit Olyan Pendell, Megan Inmon, Aylin Parrazal Bravo, Abel Roduarte, Hondo, Cate Shelton-Jenck, Erin Bowers, Sherik Bechard, Brandon Mattesich, Jackson Roberts, Zinnia Morris, Gunner Stuns, Nicholas Evans, Astor Powell-Pedersen, Gillian Foster, Janice Haas, Robin MacArthur, Kiko Gomez, Alex Francis, Alex Gordon, Alexa Silva, Serenity Hendricks, Jenna Lyons, Mariah Lane, Gracen Bayer, Lizeth Valdes

Agenda:

MOTION: Arik made a motion to approve the agenda and move the Supplemental Funding Requests for next week. Nick M seconded. Motion Carried. 5 (yes), 0 (no), 1 (abstentions)

Minutes:

MOTION: Arik made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/8/2025. Nick M seconded. Motion Carried. 5 (yes), 0 (no), 1 (abstentions)

Reports

I. Chair:

- a. They thanked everyone for coming in tonight and showing up.
- b. They reminded everyone to maintain decorum, which means no shouting, name calling, or attacks. Speak respectfully and keep your comments directed to the committee as a whole. Each speaker will have 3 minutes, at 3 minutes we will ask you to please allow the next speaker then please step up to the microphone after that.

II. Advisors:

- a. Robbi clarified the Base Funding recommendation process. The Committee reviewed over 41 funding requests, which includes presentations, financial statements, and program reviews. Based on this they finalized their recommendations Those recommendations are what was shared. The recommendations have been shared with the CFO and ASCWU. These will be presented at PBAC, which is next Tuesday the 22nd at 3PM in 301. Please be reminded that PBAC has no voting and recommendation abilities, it is purely information. The final decision on the recommendations will go to the BOT (Board of Trustees) for review during their meeting on May 15th and 16th. The BOT has the authority to approve or send back the recommendations for revision.
 - i. For guidelines on the use or approval of S&A fees please refer to the Killian Guidelines, the CWUP 8-40, and the RCW 28V.15.45
 - ii. The Student Committee members notified her that they have project and class commitments after the meeting today so they will be adjourning the meeting at 6:30PM.
- b. Erin reported the supplemental budget. As of today they have approved a recommended \$146,695.35 for supplemental funding which includes travel requests and miscellaneous support for S&A funded areas. There is a remaining amount of \$78,651.65

III. ASCWU:

- a. Nick V notes that ASCWU has not voted on the S&A Fee increase which will be voted on in tomorrow's ASCWU Public Meeting at 7AM. They will be discussing this later within the S&A Fee Increase Deliberation.
- b. As an ASCWU member he expressed his perspective on the recommendation. They deliberated for 16 hours, had to reduce allocation roughly by \$800,000, and through great effort they created this recommendation. They did not target any specific programs and thought they did the best to have an equitable allocation, SMAB. Some programs were not funded due to ties to academics and were heavily reduced because they were tied to academics. He clarified that he was wrong about S&A's ability to recall the recommendation, and the advisor elaborated the correct process. If there's any fallacies, thoughts, or arguments on this recommendation he will continue to implore those to advocate on them in this meeting, the next public meeting, tomorrow's meeting, the PBAC meeting (22nd), and the BOT meeting in May. He reminds them that the decisions made my S&A were done by fellow students and asks that they continue to keep this conversation targeted on the decision, not the students involved, as they have a common goal of providing services, activities, programs, and resources, to all Wildcats.

Communications Received

- a. Marquis Allen, CWU Alumnus
- b. Tim Booth, CWU Alumnus

Public Comment

Jay Keltner

- I am a Theater Studies BA and a current paid employee in our seam shop. I would like everyone here in support of the theater department to please stand up or raise your hand. This decision to cut our funding for student work entirely effects real people earning fundamental experience. Please consider me and the people here with me in support. Thank you.

Sophia Engstrom

- I am a senior in the Theater Design and Production BFA program. I am a student employee working in the theater's costume shop for the past 2 years; an experience that has opened doors to job opportunities for me as well as enriching my time on campus. S&A has been funding student employment in the Theater department since 2008. For the past 17 years this has enabled students to apply skills learned in classes in a professional work environment. Employment at our theater department is uniquely positioned to support the students as we are the only organization within 35 miles of Ellensburg to offer theater-based entertainment work and we house the only fabrication shops operating during the academic year within a 100 miles. Without funding, many of our students will have to make the difficult choice of choosing and in town survival job outside of our field of study or commuting long distances for jobs that don't work within their academic schedules, negatively impacting our school work. The ability to build these skills at Central is so vital. Especially the theatrical field where its experience is equally important to education. In my experience, job hunting even in the most entry-level professional costume shop positions after 2-3 years of experience working in a shop. My time working at Central has made me eligible for these jobs as a graduating senior. It had directly prepared me in a way beyond the capacities of course work. There is no direct replacement for shop work in terms of furthering our education. In Section 1 of the S&A's guidelines, for permissible use of services and activity fees, the board defines the student activities that they aim to support as many college co-curricular or extracurricular activity participated in by students for the furtherance on their education. I was shocked to see in the proposed budget for this quadrennial that the theater and film department received a recommended budget of \$0 on the basis of the fund being "more appropriately directed towards initiatives that are not co-curricular to require coursework." Co-curricular initiatives that students participate in to further their education are exactly what the S&A claims to want to fund. This student employment is allowing us to practice skills in a professionally modeled experience furthering our education in leaps and bounds. My job in the costume shop directly helped me get hired at a theater over the summer and the skills I applied in Central's costume shop directly set me up to be successful at that job. I ask you to consider how important these jobs are for CWU theater and film students. They simply cannot be replaced by coursework, these employee employment opportunities, are singular in their value and I urge you to reconsider in your decision not to fund them. Thank you for your time.

Cesar Trejo

- I have been a student employee in the department of theater and film for 4 years. I served in my spring quarter for my freshman year as something with little technical problem solving skills and non-existent people skills. As I went along, I grew as a person, student, and employee and found myself as a head carpenter. A title I earned through hard work and dedication. A title that I tells those around me that I have reached a level of understanding in my job equal to those in a professional environment. While I am graduating this spring I felt it important to come out and speak about my experience as a student employee. In my 4 years of working, I learned a great deal of technical carpentry skills through real world problem solving as well as developing my interpersonal shop specific skills between me and those I've worked with. Because of this opportunity I was given, I was able to secure a high paying technical theater position that's

waiting for me the second I graduate. A position that I would not have not had been considered for if I had not had 4 years experience working in a seam shop on my resume. I hope for you to reconsider your decision so that other students are able to have the same opportunity. Thank you.

Kylie Copeland

- I'm a Junior here at Central Washington University, and I'm part of the 18% of the costume shop employees that aren't theater majors. I am an aviation major. This job has enriched my college experience by allowing me to enhance my skills in a professional setting while not having the space to do so in my class schedule. Being able to work within walking distance of my apartment and set my own schedule has been critical due to the fluctuating class schedule of the aviation industry. Without that opportunity I would not be able to work and I would not be able to pay for my college education. This is also provided me access to a new community. Being able to experience new people and methods of another department makes me feel more connected here at Central Washington University. Finally, I receive work study, which is through the college. A grant that would go to waste if I now have to find a job off campus to work with my schedule. Financial aid pays for my rent and a schooling. As an out of state student, it is critical that I receive the work study as much as is available to me. With 0 allocations to the department, nobody can use the financial aid and work study. We would have to find jobs off campus. Vice President, you mentioned that this was an equitable decision, but you've left an entire department, the theater and film department, without any funds for any student employees. Thank you for your consideration

Zoey Ryan

- I am the creative director for PULSE Magazine. In Fall Quarter of 2024 I felt as if I truly found my space and passion at Central Washington University when I took this position. During my times here I have spent 3 wonderful quarters with PULSE. IT was very disheartening to here the proposed funds for student media which would diminish the student voices on campus. With PULSE I have found a home, a second family, nonetheless it has become a vital part of my daily life. I am a graphic design major and without PULSE I don't know where I would be. I have boosted my skills entirely through the accomplishments and hardships of designing for this magazine. I have learned how to become a better graphic designer, director, and made some of my most important networking connections in life because of PULSE. I feel immense joy and pride to have my designs published in a magazine that is printed. Having a printed publication to hand to students, my family, friends, and future employers is something I take joy and pride in. This class has better prepared me to use my degree more than any other program at Central. The community is profoundly uplifting and I have created some of my truest friendships due to PULSE. In this class I have personally become my most creative, bouncing ideas off of all of my team members and hearing what they have to say to create the best version of our publication. This group of writers, photographers, and designers have exceeded my expectations hand have gone far beyond their allotted pay hours and class hours to get the magazine printed on time. It is my honor to visually express student voices at Central Washington University with my amazing team of designers through the printed publication of our magazine. Through student media at this school, I found my true passion of journalism and publication; I want my entire life to be surrounded by it. However, with this proposed fund from S&A there will no longer be a printed magazine. More importantly, there will be no future generations of student media like I have. This isn't just the death of student media for me and the people in this room, this is the death of student media at Central Washington University. No longer will students get to experience printed media that proves to them that the school is listening. Without student

media the diverse voices on campus will be silenced. PULSE and the Observer are *for the students, by the students*. We will fight to maintain the life of these publications and we will fight for future students voices to be heard and experience student media at Central Washington University. Thank you for your time.

Faith Johnson

- I am very hurt and frustrated by this suggested budget cut. Not just for PULSE Magazine but the Observer, the Mariachi Band, the Swim Team, and every other student organization that is going to be impacted by this. Look at everyone in this room, like actually look around at everybody in this room. Everybody in this room is being hurt by this decision in some way and there's more. We are at capacity and that's not even accounting for all the people who could not be here today. These are students passions. We are paying tens of thousands of dollars every year to be here. I am going in debt to pursue my dreams here at Central Washington University. At the university level, clubs and student organizations are not just after school activities. These are not for fun, these are gateways into people's futures and into future careers that people cannot achieve without these organizations. I do not want to be told that PULSE's work is appreciated I want to be shown that it is.

Zee Morris

- I am the lead graphic designer of the Observer Newspaper. I am currently missing work for this. The S&A Committee follows the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). WAC 132F contains guidelines surrounding journalistic freedom and responsibility. Section 1 reads "The primary purpose of student publications is to promote free and responsible discussion of campus and community events." Section 4 goes on to say "Student newspapers shall be free of censorship." The budget the S&A has proposed for the Observer is not sustainable and it could lead to the collapse of campus journalism. This is not only censorship, this is silencing. The proposed budget is \$1,100 and was allotted for web posting and awards. Currently, hosting a website with our current plan costs \$850 a yea. As the market changes over the next 4 years the cost of hosting a website may increase, and while hosting a website takes the majority of our proposed budget, it may even exceed the proposed budget. After considering the price of web hosting we are left with \$250. There's a phrase I learned at the Associated Collegiate Press Conference this year in New Orleans and that phrase was *content is king*. While S&A suggested that we use for awards, what we really need is staff to support our content. I work 11 hours a week outside of school to maintain the integrity of this school and I carry a responsibility to our campus democracy. Someone is paid to run every website. Someone is paid to run the CWU website. Someone is paid to run the S&A page. Even the WAC website. If we were to use the \$250 to pay one position to maintain the website, we would be able to pay them 15 hours in total. Several staff members work over 15 hours a week to maintain their online presence. This is not a sustainable way to function over the next 4 years. This campus democracy relies on a press bringing light to issues in our community. We all know that student journalism is being attacked nationally. The decision that is made will be bigger than any individual in this room. This is the future of every voice on campus. I understand that there are people in this room that are running for election and I'm excited for our election coverage this quarter. We have your back, do you have ours. Thank you.

Brandon Mattesich

- I want to start off by saying, I think a lot of us are here under this misinformed notion that the S&A committee was able to pull back this budget and evaluate it. And I think this whole process has been eye opening in terms of the lack of transparency that happened at this level. I think that if a lot of us knew what was going on way back in Spring Break when these decisions

were being made, we would be in a very different place right now. So, what I wrote, I wrote with the intent of speaking to, to encourage you to pull back this budget and re-evaluate it. I'm going to read it anyway because I know that we will get the Board of Trustees to send back this budget and I want you to have it in mind when they do.

- I am one of the Co-editor and Chiefs of the Observer. Cutting the Observer's funding is not a decision to make lightly and the repercussions are so much further reaching than any other program on this list. The student press is an essential part of a college campus, and right now across the nation, freedom of speech is being threatened at almost every level of government. Do you really want to be responsible for the end of a free press at CWU? Responsible for the closure of a 110 year old institution that has helped victims on assault, that has broken stories of corruption, and that gives a voice to those without. Will you listen to the 300+ students, staff, faculty, and alumni from almost every single department across this campus as they beg you to reverse this decision or will you end one of the only remaining pillars of student independence left at CWU. We are prepared to split the class from the paid position. We will do what we need to do. All ask is that you give us the opportunity to do so. I don't believe that when these budgets were proposed, everyone at this table truly understood the severity of the decision they were making when they failed to allocate a reasonable budget to the Observer. The service that this historic paper has provided to this campus is one of a kind and we are not the only people saying this. Since the news of your proposed budget went public we have seen a response in the thousands across every major social media platform, across campus, and now in this very room. You are allocating student funds, we are funded by the students. Well now the students have spoken and their message is loud and clear. I do not envy your position, budget cuts are hard to make and even harder to face the impact of, but student media, the Observer, is not something that can just be quietly cut. Removing our funding is not just removing funding, it is directly silencing student voices in a way that we haven't seen before. Failing to re-evaluate these budgets cannot be an option. Student media needs proper funding at CWU. Please do not be responsible for this historic censorship in a time where students need a platform more than ever. Thank you for your time.

Jackson Roberts

- I am the other co-editor in chief of the Observer, and I kind of want to speak on the fact of the impact on what the Observer has on our community here in Ellensburg and at Central Washington University. With the defunding of the student media comes the inability to report the issues that arise at our university. We are often addressed with these areas of concerns from students and staff for change at our school. Without us it is less likely to see those concerns if anyone on campus ever be addressed, and where else on campus are we going to see certain industries here at CWU be called out, which eventually leads to change that students are asking for. We have CWU news but is the school really going to be the one going out of their way to kind of put a spotlight on their own issues on their university. Without us or with us we hold this university accountable by reporting on these concerns from our community, which like I said promotes change here on campus. The Observer serves such a unique role on the campus as well as the voice of the students and also a watchdog of campus administration, holding the powers that be accountable in shining a light on the issues and concerns of the students. With so many students coming from different areas, we have such a diverse audience as well who all have different or other perspectives and that they are able to share through student media as well whether it's PULSE or Observer. Not only are we important to the community but we bring the school plenty of accolades that boost the departments as well. In Lind hall we have the Observer's staff spend long nights, as well as PULSE magazine. In there is a trophy case with a

lot of our awards that say for the students. And, taking away student media goes directly against that being for the students. Censoring student voices right now in a time when they need to be heard more than ever is not the right thing to do and is not a good look for the school, and I actually have a few questions for you guys as well if you are able to answer them.

- When you made the original budget proposal how much did you know about the Observer and PULSE, and how much do you know about how we operate, if you guys are able to answer these questions?
 - The Vice-Chair: *They are not answering questions right now.*
 - I am going to repeat the rest of the questions, they're stated on the record though.
 - Did you research our websites? Or, what steps were taken to bring you to the point of practically defunding the student media with the budget that is basically a death sentence to us?
 - Are all videos available online of you all going over where the money was going to be allocated to, or were some of those not published?
 - Why is Killian Guidelines an issue now when this has been the main way of being supported for student media since the 1990s?
- Those are my questions. I appreciate your time.

Mariah Lane

- Much like Brandon this was written prior to understanding the process here, but just putting it into the record here.
- Central Washington University Services & Activities committee has plans to defund the Observer and PULSE magazine. Let that sink in for a second. This isn't just a headline, this is a gut punch to the history of students in the past, present, and future. Let me be blunt, the Observer is the reason where I am today. In June I'll hit the 5 year mark working in news professionally. I'm currently a producer at Fox 13 Seattle, and it's honestly not because of my degree. It's because of my experience gained during my 3 years working at the Observer. Without that I would not have the foundation to build a successful career in journalism. But beyond my personal success, the impact of Observer cannot be overstated. It's a living, constantly adapting, historical archive that has served this campus for decades. To defund it would be a direct attack on student journalism and by extension the entire student body. The Observer has a motto that you've heard tonight by a couple students, by the students for the students, and that isn't just some slogan, it's the heart and soul of the school's community. By defunding student media, you silence students. We are about to celebrate 110 years of the Observer's publication. 110years. If the powers that be follow through with this decision they will not only undermine a pivotal part of the university's legacy, they will be making a catastrophic mistake that will hurt current and future students. This can't happen. I truly hope that this is some sort of misunderstanding and the committee chooses to be on the right side of history. I understand costs are increasing and budget cuts are necessary but the S&A committee recommends 88.1 the Burg, which is not technically student media receive \$407K. The Observer and PULSE combined at \$3,100. KCWU does incredible work, I was the news director myself at one point, but the difference in funding recommendations is jaw dropping. If funding fully is not possible, please at least meet somewhere in the middle. It's my understanding, multiple funding options were submitted. Not only is student media important to journalism students but the entire campus community. By defunding these publications you silence student voices. I attended many S&A meetings as a student, pitching budgets and spending plans for the Observer. I do not remember a time when legitimacy rules issues were concerned about funding. To say students are simply getting paid for a class is not remotely

accurate. I would challenge all of you to sit in the newsroom for a single production night, then you will understand the work these student journalists do. Again, please meet somewhere in the middle at the very least and be on the right side of history. To all the students and all of the programs who have taken the time to speak up today I am so proud of you and this is why I am proud to be a CWU graduate. Thank you.

Isaac Hinson

- I was on the Observer for 8 quarters. First as a staff reporter and a sports editor then a scene editor then as editor in chief for a whole year. So, if there is anybody that I feel is more equipped to talk about this topic than maybe Dr. Jen Green herself, I think that would be me.
- First off, I would like to thank each of you for what you do at the S&A Committee. I can imagine that like journalism, it is not only an important and stressful job but also extremely thankless. I feel better knowing that there is a group of people whose job it is to critically think about where even a small portion of my tuition money is going, especially in our current economic climate where every dollar found in the cushions is a blessing. Which is why it was so disheartening for me to hear your decision that you had made regarding student media. People have preached and sang about what this would mean for censorship and free press at CWU. And while that is all very important, I feel the real loss would be the learning that students get to do at the Observer, at CWU. A campus which just today at 4:15 today, received word that our Rugby program is being cut completely. Our lone D1 program is being axed. I understand that is a very *very* difficult time at CWU. You who have made these decisions do not understand the work that goes into student media, do not understand how much writing, editing, designing, photography, copy, editing, research on the boots ground reporting goes into this. You do not understand. Joel Klucking doesn't understand. Him Wohlpart does not understand. Someone said that S&A's goal was to serve the students across campus everywhere across campus. This is the same mission of the Observer, which not only serves students through reporting but also through giving them experience. Students studying comm, journalism, creative writing, art and design, film, photography, theater, poly sci, and many more are all able to hone their skills at student media. What we learn in student media is far more than what we learn in traditional journalism classes of which there's typically only one or two per quarter. This is our curriculum. Joining the Observer was the best decision I have ever made in my entire collegiate career. I met so many of my best friends, met so many mentors who have taught me so much, been able to pay my rent, learn how to do real on the ground journalism. This is not a club for us, this is not a hobby, this is our jobs, this is what we pay for with our tuition. Taking it away would be a travesty. The Observer is an institution at CWU, one of almost 110 years. Something that has not only given voices too, but taught students for over a century. Is that really worth removing for a few extra pennies.

Gunner Stunns

- I am the current editor in chief at PULSE Magazine. But my true job is to be a storyteller. to give a voice to those who otherwise may not have the opportunity to speak. This is my responsibility, and this is PULSE Magazine's responsibility, this is the Observer's responsibility. In our media and journalism classes we learn to do these things in theory, but it is through the Observer and through PULSE that we learn to do these things in practice at a professional level, to have our work published. to have our voices and those we represent heard. I would not be able to do these things otherwise. I have learned in a professional setting to be a leader, to collaborate with writers, designers, and photographers, to put out the best product that we can. To learn the practices of journalists and put them into motion. I've learned to interview. I've learned to practice the Associated Press style. I've learned to refine my craft. Without the

Observer and without PULSE. I don't believe that I would be the writer, the reporter, or the storyteller that I am today. I do not say these things lightly, and I ask that you consider them. Thank you.

Eric Haugland

- I'm a 2009, graduate of Central Washington University with a degree in print journalism. I spent 8 years on the Observer, hearing that number a lot, and I'm here today because I mean Observer was my life. I was an editor. I was a I was a beat reporter. I even met my wife on service. So it's very important to who I've become and what it's going to allow some of these students in this room to be. I'm deeply disappointed by the S&A committee's decision to fully defund this publication. Citing the Killian Guidelines and justification is a serious misinformation. Those guidelines specifically allow for salaries that are directly related to the student programs operations. This is exactly what the Observers editorial staff are. Students who are doing real essential work produce a campus newspaper. They're not being paid for coursework. They're not being paid for curriculum development. They're being modestly paid for late nights, tough deadlines, and the responsibility of informing their peers. To defund the Observer, at this moment, when student journalism and the 1st Amendment needs our protection more than ever it is not just shortsighted, it's a disservice to the campus community and a dismissal the vital role this publication plays in student life. The Observer shaped me in ways that went far beyond the newsroom. It taught me to think critically, ask hard questions and give voice to those who might otherwise go unheard. That impact was so lasting, so foundational, to who I am today that 16 years after graduating, I find myself compelled to attend this meeting, not out of nostalgia, out of responsibility, responsibility to ensure that the opportunities I have are preserved for the next generation of students. Thank you.

Astor Powell Peterson

- I have been with the Observer for 4 quarters now. First as a staff reporter, then the news editor, and then, as the coffee desk lead. I, unlike many of my colleagues, am not a journalism student or a media student, I am a political science student. So, I'll talk about what I know about. We can see all around the country that at a time like this we need free media. We see fake news going around. Everywhere. We see students who cannot tell the difference between real writing, real photos, and AI. We see students who do not know how to read across this country, and we see people who do not know how to tell the truth from fiction. The biggest part of student media is not only spreading these student voices across campus, but teaching students who are part of the media how to discern truth from fiction, how to express this truth in an objective way, which is clearly at a shortage in our country and in the world at the moment. The Observer, has been my life for the last year. I have spent countless hours far more than out of class hours, far more than the 10 or 8 paid hours a week that I got in the newsroom, on the ground, speaking to people, and making connections across these campus that didn't exist before, sharing the voices of people on this campus who were not being heard. Whether that be part of a marginalized community or someone who doesn't know how to speak out. We need free media and we need free journalism that is accessible to all students because how else are these stories going to break? Who else is going to pay attention to what's going on, on campus. Defunding the Observer down to less than \$2,000 a quarter, like was stated earlier, wouldn't even cover somebody staffing and running the website for more than 15 hour. Not 15 hour week, 15 hour period. This is unquestionably a keystone of our campus, and has been for over 100 years, and I beg everybody in this room to acknowledge that, and to understand that this cannot happen. Thank you for your consideration.

Noah Lovell

- Hello, everyone. My name is Noah Lovell. I am a 1st year transfer student here at Central and I'm a communications major with a minor in journalism. I used to not be good at writing, growing up. I considered myself to be a late bloomer in many areas and gifts of my life. Writing happens to be one of them. Telling a story, and news is fun, but it's also important. Journalism is an essential part to our society. It is important to be aware of what's happening around us as a community like here at CWU, society, and the world at large. Seeing the attacks and crackdowns on journalism around the world is heartbreaking and unacceptable. While things like freedom of speech, is important, freedom of and access to information is a fundamental human right. Especially given the rising monopoly automated and corporatization of news. News should always be about focusing on getting the truth and current events out to the public. It's important to have student media, especially in this time of rising censorship, misinformation, and disinformation. I have a passion for telling stories, and I want to be able to make a difference in this world through the news and to the general public. We, as students, are all gifted far more than we or others, even realize, and student media is one of many outlets where students can express their gifts. I hope to have an opportunity to work for either the Observer or PULSE magazine next year, and I want to see this available for future students. I am never afraid to fight for what I believe in, and I am never afraid to fight for what I want.

Lizeth Valdes

- Hi! I'm a graphic designer at the Observer and a previous designer on PULSE. I'm just one cog in the machine that is student media on campus. But I wanted to join my colleagues today and say my piece regarding the budget concerns. What can be said that hasn't already been said beautifully by my colleagues. Well, I will go on to know it has changed my life for all the better. To me, student media is so much more than just a class at Central. It is a community that has given me experiences that have been vital to not only my growth as a student, but also as an artist and as a person as well. As someone who has worked on both PULSE and the Observer, I will never give my thanks enough to the opportunities they have allowed me to not only amplify the voices of others, but also bring attention to issues that are important to me personally. I've been able to share the experiences of myself and of others with issues we have faced, such as with immigration, and coming from an immigrant family, and having that be something to not be ashamed of, but to be celebrated. In a time where, finding a platform to express our concerns is quickly dwindling, please don't let our school lose its platforms for student voices in such critical moment in history. The thought that I might be part of the last group of designers on the Observer after a whole 110 year legacy fills me with dread. I don't want us to be the end, I want us to be another chapter in the long history of student media on campus. These publications have helped to bridge the gaps in our school's community and helped us to grow stronger together as a student body. Please don't have us burn these bridges we have worked 110 years to build. Thank you.

Liam Dawson

- Good evening, members of the Services and Activities Committee. My name is Liam Dawson, and I'm a second year sophomore in the theatrical design and production BFA. I've been told that this is a space in which to share our experiences as students, and that is why I've brought mine to the table. I'm what most of the committee might think of when they imagine an average suit. 4 years in high school, followed by 4 years in college with no Federal funding towards my tuition costs. By the end of spring quarter last year, I had accrued nearly \$8,000 in debt to the University on my student account, and I was told I would not be allowed to enroll in fall quarter. This was despite already working in on campus position which limits both my hours

and my upwards mobility, which directly impacts the pay that I receive. Along with other supporting resources in this, one of the greatest was the retained shop employees, and their accumulated wealth of knowledge, which directed me to seek out the IATSE local nearest. IATSE is the entertainment industry's largest Union encompassing stage employees, graphic animators, film crew, touring event staff, and every nonperformer in between that makes production happen. The students involved in making entertainment opportunities like these happen are the future of entertainment, and the skill and care honed by our employees is the closest that we can be as students until we are in the industry at large. As luck would have it, I live on the west side outside of the school year, and this allows me access to the IATSE Local 15 with jurisdiction over Seattle and Western Washington. From joining the Union in July through September, I earned 387 hours through the Union's hiring home, introducing me to dozens of employers, and earning on average \$33.52 cents an hour for the skilled labor that I could perform. With many of the more skilled positions passing me by as I did not have working experience in shop positions, namely, the shop positions currently being discussed. Our department chair's original request, as well as Sophia's comment both mentioned that we are the only theatrical employer within 35 miles, and the only fabrication shop during the school year within a hundred, and I can personally attest to both of these distances. I spend more than 200 hours driving more than 5,000 miles during that time span of time for work alone to positions ranging from Bellingham, to the gorge, and dozens in between. I was able to make more than \$10,000 with the work I was able to take, but this number could have put me safely through college had I had the opportunity some of our students have been able to have, and may not be any longer. These opportunities do not exist nearby, and removing them, encourages students to seek employment, education, and even enrollment elsewhere. I want to take into consideration that across the board everyone is worried about funding these days, and we have already seen the strings holding the swords of damn be cut in far too many places. The 2008 recession is when our funds were first allocated, the way that they currently are, and I think that reaffirming your belief and our capabilities to steward a positive change in our culture is the strongest decision that can be made right now.

- Thank you for your time, and I hope that the following members are allowed your full concentration.

Alana Nelson

- Hello, and I am a second year theatrical design and production BFA here in Central. I'm also currently employed as a carpenter in the scene shop in our department. When I came to Central last year. I had hardly any experience in theater, let alone as a carpenter. Now this is what I want to do with my life. When I came I was not a leader, and I was not a teacher, and I was not a carpenter. Now I am all of those things; I have skills and confidence that I can never have dreamed of when I arrived here. And I'm in a position that allows me to share those skills with others, skills that I have learned from the employees before me, who shaped my path, who encouraged me to pursue my dreams here. I've grown both as a person and as a professional. and I'm not afraid to show the strengths and confidence that I have now. and my position as employee, as has been said, for it's given me the experience that I need to apply to other jobs and the skills outside of Central. It is important to understand what we do. It is not academic, it is not curriculum, it is entirely work that we do on our own. We do this for the experience, for the job or the love of the industry. We do this to gain that experience that we need. Most jobs they say you need 2 years of paid experience before you can apply here. I would, like everyone in this department. Please raise your hands again. All of these people. Can they get those 2 years of paid experience without these positions being offered? Look at all of them! Look at me! By

defunding us. You are taking away that opportunity, you are taking away method with which we can gain this experience. Our funding is not just reduced, it was cut. We have nothing. Without that job, without everything that I have done here, I would not be able to pursue my path in this industry. Everyone else that you see, they may not be able to get that opportunity that I have, because our funding was cut. We need this. Thank you.

Craig Chapo

- I'm the academic advisor for both Communication and English and the interim advisor, so I see a lot of very familiar pieces. So, I'm speaking on behalf of not just a staff member, but an educator, the student advocate, and somebody who is very proud of what our students have accomplished. Most notably for PULSE and the Observer. When I first started here about a year and a half ago, I was unaware of what exactly I was getting myself into. I didn't know very much about our particular departments. I was in secondary education, so I didn't know very much about what was going to happen. But one thing that I've learned from the year and a half that I've been here is what our students are able to accomplish through these program. And, I'm proud of every single one, every single student who has accomplished their goals and their dreams through all of our programs here on campus. Observer, PULSE, everybody in the whole department. Everybody's just awesome. And I know by taking away these programs, you take away something that students need in order to be successful.

Amy Walker, Trent Meacham, Shu Cravy

- Hello. My name is Amy Walker, and I'm a film production minor. My name is Trent Meacham, and I'm a craft representative Film, BA minor. My name is Shu Cravey. I'm a film major, and I'm also a member of craft. and I'm also a member of craft (Amy), that is a committee of representatives for film and theater, and it was our responsibility here today to bring up another job that is being threatened by these budget cuts.
- I just want to start that it is disappointing to come here for one cause and find out there's actually another that is being threatened that we actually need to speak about. We stand in solidarity with the other student employees, advocating for valuable student work experience that is not taught in their classes. One of the most common entry level jobs for students entering the film industry is equipment management. The ECC, the Equipment Circulation Center involves the management and maintenance of film equipment. The manager position for the ECC is threatened, it will be cut if these, if this budget passes. These skills again are not taught within the courses of the film program, making this position not co-curricular students who work at the ECC pass on these skills to other students, that being the maintenance and management of this equipment, which is not taught in classes. This causes a safety concern as improper management of film equipment becomes a safety issue for students. Proper education that the ECC provides is crucial to prevent this. Periods of low employment have impacted other students availability to also gain meaningful employment post-graduation. That is, when the ECC is understaffed, other students suffer. The ECC requires a unique skill set, a skill set that is not covered within our program. This unique skill set is vital for many students to obtain gainful employment outside of school. Please reconsider defunding the ECC student position along with the others threatened by these budget cuts. Thank you.

Danna Culley

- I'm a sophomore here at Central Washington University, studying law and justice. I'm also an active member of the CWU Mock trial team, and I'm also a student employee here on campus. Now, before I talk about why I'm here, I want to remind you all the motto of Central Washington University *live, do, and learn*. I am here as a student who consumes student media. Someone who wakes up every Thursday morning excited to go to the stand and pick up a new

issue of the Observer. I read it front to back every single Thursday. And, I want to share a secret with you all about the mocked out love or superpower it's love. It's love for the people and love for the work. And let me tell you, the Observer, PULSE, all these student media groups, they love the work. I see the hardworking words and the hope in each and every issue. Now I'm going to remind you again, *live, do, learn*. Almost the Observer, all of student media is catapulting these students into their careers. They're going beyond what normal college sets up for students. Cutting programs like this, cutting the funding contradicts and restricts your motive here at Central. *Live, do and learn*. Thank you.

Nathan Rupp

- I'm a film major here at CWU, and I have been a volunteer at 88.1 the Burg for the last 2 years of my college career. I'm not involved with PULSE or the Observer in any discernible way, and I'm not very familiar with what the proposed budget by S&A is. However, despite those possible drawbacks or possible uninvolved steps, I felt it was necessary to at least come up and say that as a member of 88.1 the Burg, as a film major, as a CWU student, and as an employee here on campus. It is worth expressing that I stand in solidarity with people such as the PULSE, the Observer, PULSE magazine, student employees, and the film program. Thank you.

Gabriele Genzel

- Hello, everyone. My name is Gabriel Genzel, and I am the Senator for the College of Arts and Humanities, and I also work within 88.1 the Burg. Since the beginning of this year I have been concerned about the work of the S&A committee. When I got word that you had defunded student media, I was unfortunately unsurprised, due to the Senate's prior experience. This started in fall when I had heard about S&A committee member and student trustee, Eli, making a joke about how he had defunded the Senate, which was true. He and S&A had cut about two-thirds of our general programming budget, which doesn't only hurt us, but it deprives students of our full event capability. I know the S&A is not a paid position, and that you are here hopefully out of the kindness of your heart. But your unpaid position has just jeopardized dozens of paid student jobs that are crucial, supporting our student populations, experience and programs. And much like the Senate had to hear about snide comments towards us, I have heard about comments regarding this committee's new budget specifically about Mariachi, something to the tune of an eye roll and a wonder, and they're going to wonder where their money went. And yeah, they are. And so are all of the other students in this room. Can I get everyone in this room that's an Art and Humanity major, to raise their hand. S&A, please take a look around. This is not just a defunding of student media. This is a defunding of the arts, and that will not happen under my –

Hondo

- Hi everyone, I'm the Senate speaker for the Board of Directors, and last 3 quarters now I've had the honor of hearing the voices of many of our students, but now it's time to use my own. I was there in 2018 standing in former Governor Inslee's office, when the Student Press Rights Bill was signed protecting censorship of Mariah Lane and Shawn Cassett for High School and college journalism and media programs. And right now, we need the strength, the dedication, and words I cannot describe, but in simple terms they are the true voice on this campus. Their ability to do what's needed to be direct and connect with the student body is greater than any organization or club I have been a part of. And, I've always said much to the denial of many, students have the greatest network on any campus, and this room is proof of that. I met with Jennifer Green on a Sunday of our own time, just to gain more information. And she made it clear. Any alternative source of funding puts their jobs, their skills, and, most importantly, their voices at risk of the very thing students fought for 7 years ago. Their skills, their passions, and

the dedication and grant to defend what is needed for our students across the board is admirable. And, I hope S&A can understand that programs like theater have an art that is beyond anything we have seen. And in these kinds of darkness, we need the programs that inspire hope and light in these darkest hours that are coming on the horizon. Thank you.

Marisol Torres Alcantar

- I'm elementary education, Major, and I would like to state that S&A committee has always had public comment throughout the whole process. And this committee is open to all students. As I hear the statements now, I question why these students didn't come to the table earlier. I joined this committee in February, and it has not been anything easy of a task to see what we have to do and everything going on around us. It is my volunteered time and I enjoy what I'm doing, even though I see the impact all around the community here at Central, it's not an easy task.

Gray Foster

- I am a tour guide in training before I am allowed to give my own tours. I have to shadow a certain number, which means I just follow around a veteran tour guide. On my first shadow, I was really nervous. I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't know if I would be good at my job, and I didn't know if I would be confident at my job. And, we had a family on a tour, and mother and a son. The son is a senior in high school, and they seemed really nervous, and they didn't seem safe. It didn't seem like they knew what they were doing, and after the tour they came up to me and they started asking me questions about my experience on campus. If I had made good friends. If I had a good community. If I have good connections. And, he opened up to me about his experiences in high school. Now he really wished we had a newspaper at his high school. and I was able to tell him about the Observer, and I was able to tell him and assure him and his mother that he would be safe here, and that he would have a voice. And, he lit up. He seemed so happy, and I felt like I was doing a great job. I felt confident, and I don't know about it like that anymore. I helped him apply that day. He got so excited he went and bought a central t-shirt. He was just over the moon about how he was going to get to work for a school paper and have such a wonderful community, and I told him about all of my friends on the Observer. And, I feel like I lied to him. I don't know if I feel confident in my decision to be here anymore if this is the direction school is going. Thank you.

Aylin Parrazal Bravo

- I'm a first year here at Central with a major in Law & Justice. At first I wasn't even sure that I was going to go to Central because this was not my first decision. I wanted to do animation and architecture. I wanted to follow the arts. And the fact that you guys are censoring these arts and having these expressions taken away from students isn't right. I wish that sometimes Central would have these arts, but they did not. I had to go for the second best. Students who applied here in the hopes of building their future because of these arts, hoping that their future would compensate for so much student debt and dedication to their jobs. It's not fair that this budget was seen as numbers and not people. And I'm heartbroken that this is silenced, and that I was once one of those students who was dreaming high and dreamed that arts was going to hold. Taking away these arts is just not fair. It's simply taking away how these students feel about their voice and helping them address concerns throughout the university, if even expressing a culture throughout these things is not fair. I am the student willing to watch this, and I hope my tuition in funding this. You are not to dictate whose major is more important than the other.

Lirit Olyan Pendell

- I am the area head of the costume design and technology department within the department of Theater and Film. I'm here to support the students whose experiences I value. A lot of them over here that you've heard from, and I'm here to correct a fundamental misunderstanding that, I

think is really fascinating. What I see is a committee full of people who have certain guidelines of payment being attached to employment, to curriculum and curriculum not being something that is funded, and I've read through the bylaws, but also I shake when in public speaking. So this is the best I got right now. I've read them several times. I've highlighted them. What I would like to clarify for absolute bottom line is that employment in that department in our department is not connected to academics. It has no prerequisites, and it is frequently multi departmental. What I see, what I can see is a misuse of power based on a misuse of responsibility. A committee who has power over budgets like this has power over people's lives, their real lives, and their entire future. And what I figured from Committee full people who are talking about the grand labor that they put into that which I appreciate absolutely, who did not do the modicum of research to discover that the reasoning that they were using did not even apply multiple of the departments and groups that they were defunding. I see a misuse of authority and power here. Raise your hand, if you agree. I'm going to see you all at the Board of Trustees meeting yeah? Yeah! But I would like to say to you, I think that if you wanted the world to know or the community to know that they had the ability to come speak before you, I look around and I see a room full of media professionals and budding emergent media professionals who would be delighted to help with that marketing, that publicity and that genuine transparency, if that was a value to this committee. I love giving students jobs, it is my favorite thing to do in the entire world. I got through college on a job. I got through college and into my first job which led me to acceptance in the top 5, 4 of the top 5, 1 I didn't go to, because I'm from New York, I didn't need to go to NYU, but the top 5 graduate programs in my field and has led me to a lucrative career which is on a downturn here, for a number of reasons. Not least, that I can get commission pay better for them if I can get teaching here. However, teaching here and teaching these people is what I value the most. I love giving students jobs, and I love when we have empowered voices and space to speak authentically, without regulation, and I love when that shit is funded, do you?

Marty Inmon

- Hello! In the system. I am Megan Inmon. A lot of my students know me as Marty Inmon. I am an NTT Faculty over in the department of theater and film, specifically in scenic design, scenic carpentry, and props and painting. I would like to just reiterate what my students have said here today, I'm an example of success in the live entertainment industry coming from low income family home that would not have made it through undergraduate school without student learning. I was a scenic artist, electrician, and TA in undergrad. This helped me pay my rent and buy food. I'm 29 years old, which is very young for a faculty member. To be able to have gotten to this remarkable place in my career and in the industry is astonishing for my age. This would have not been possible to achieve at this level of success without student employment. And I would like to provide the S&A committee with my CV. That proves that I have done all of this work. And a lot of it was student based work.

Danielle Hegarty

- I'm a graduate student here at Central History program. I've been here since 2019. I've seen this university go through a lot in the 6 years I've been here. I'm not a journalism or theater student, I'm appreciator of it. I am a college arts and humanities student, which constantly feels as if this university does not appreciate it or fund it. I am here because I worked as a tour guy for central and orientation leader for 3 and a half years. It has been my favorite job. It has helped me, you know, grow as a person, and my favorite thing was to tell people just like we had a student who was in training for the job that I had. Tell students that there's a place for them here. And I just, I want you to just remember what it was like to be high schooler, who- I'm a first gen student, I

didn't know what college was, and so when I came to my tour at Central, and I was told there was a place for me here, that was amazing. Now imagine, like that student who said earlier, if you feel like you lied to a student because that program is not around anymore. I also want you to think how this looks, just as an institution. Like look at this room of people, this does not look good. We've been making some pretty rough PR moves lately, guys. We need to reevaluate some things. I, as a student, if I were a tour guide today, I don't know how confidently I could tell someone in the arts and humanities that this is the school for them. That's the hardest thing I've had to say. I love my program. I came to Central for 2 more years. I gave them 2 more years of my money because I love this school, but it's hard, because when you cancel the graduate hood ceremony, and you defund the arts programs, and there's all these decisions being made, and now we don't have Rugby team as like 4:15 this morning, like all of those decisions, don't make us look too great. And so, if we could do one thing right in this room, fund those people just to get one positive PR, because I feel like, that's what we need right now. That's all I got.

Caleena Wyman

- I am the Senator for the graduate students, and I'm a graduate teaching assistant. I've been here since 2021, and I just want to address also the fact that, like it's great to see this room filled. But that shouldn't be an expectation for every committee meeting as students, we should be able to put our trust in these committees that they will represent. As a graduate student I don't have the time to constantly stay in connection with what is happening on campus along with my other graduate students. Because there's a lot of things happening. We have graduate students who are instructors on record, despite what the Union contract says, and they're busy working, but they know that they can look at the Observer and see what's going on, and it's a voice from the students. It's not me going to the Daily Record and getting it, telling them about the Master hooding situation. So, we should be able to put our trust in these committees to represent our interests, and the fact that it's just went from, you know, 0 to like 100 to no funding at all is a little disheartening to think that this is what the committee thinks that this is what students want. So, thank you.

Gracen Bayer

- Hey, guys, thank you so much for being here. I really appreciate your time. I would not want to be in your position, but I would argue that the PULSE and Observer funding does belong in S&A. I am a CWU alumni, and I'm a former PULSE staff member. So I was able to see firsthand the wide reach that these publications have in supporting student enrichment, which is again, why, I believe it does belong on S&A. I understand the proposed budget cut because I could see from an outside perspective that it does look like student dollars are funding a specific academic related program. But I hope you've heard today the different majors that are involved in these publications that get a lot of experience that supports their future. So we've heard film, com, journalism, art and design, photography, political science, and so much more. So, not only does it support these students academically, but it also does give voice to student body members who aren't a part of these publications as well, because these publications often tell stories from the student body as well, too. So, these publications really do support everyone, all students at CWU, which is, again, why, I do believe this funding belongs at S&A, and thank you very much.

Abel Roduarte

- Hello, everyone here attending this meeting. And I'm going to be sharing an example why, student media is important, including PULSE, is important because this front cover right here as a Hispanic school becoming a Hispanic Institute. So, seeing this, and seeing all the other first

years that could be attending here, that is a Hispanic student, and as an Hispanic student coming into a majority of white school, you have no idea how personal and how emotionally happy I was hearing again I say an Hispanic student. This defunding is unacceptable cause' there has been other proposals. And I hope you guys look back and look at the suggestions. Thank you.

Daniel Conley

- 7 AM tomorrow morning, ASCWU meets.

New Business:

A. S&A Fee Increase Discussion

- a. Tabled to next week due to time constraints.

Old Business

None.

Public Comment – Second Call

None.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Marisol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:29PM. Nick M seconded the motion. 5 (yes), 0 (no), 1 (abstentions)

Our next meeting will be April 22, 2025 (SURC 301) at 5:00pm.

Check out our website at www.cwu.edu/services-activities