

Student & Activities (S&A) Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 6, 2026

Time: Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM

Location: SURC 301/ Hybrid via Zoom (Chair attending virtually)

1. Call to Order

Chair **Alex M.** called the meeting to order at **3:02 PM**. The Chair attended virtually and asked that committee members state questions clearly so they could be heard online.

2. Roll Call

Present

- Alex M., Chair
- Ba, Vice Chair
- Abby, General Member
- Aeros, General Member
- Austin, General Member

Absent

- Rachel, Parliamentarian
- Alex C., General Member

A quorum was established.

Guests

- Heather Horn, Sarah Spurgeon Art Gallery
- Karisa Terry, MCE
- Lynn Bethke, MCE
- Mal Stewman, MCC
- Emilio Gonzalez, ASCWU
- Lola Gallagher, SLICE
- Kurt Kurstein, Westside Student Life
- Bernadette Jungblut, Art Department
- Andesha Birch, MCC

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by **Austin** to approve the agenda as written and seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by **Austin** to approve the previous meeting minutes and seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

5. Chair's Report

Chair Alex M. reported **no updates**.

6. Advisor's Report

Advisor **Robbi Goninan** reminded presenters that:

- Presentations are limited to **10 minutes**.
- **10 minutes** are allotted for questions and answers.
- Additional time may be granted if approved by committee vote.

7. Communications Received

Advisor Goninan reported that additional **budget breakdown materials** requested by the committee following the previous **Slice and Publicity presentation** were distributed in committee binders.

8. Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

New Business

Base Funding Request

Museum of Culture and Environment

Presenters:

- Karisa Terry, Director
- Lynn Bethke, Collections Manager / Assistant Director

Funding Request

The Museum of Culture and Environment requested **\$11,777 in annual Services and Activities (S&A) funding** for the **2027–2029 funding period**.

Overview

The museum is located in **Dean Hall** and offers exhibits, educational programming, and community engagement activities focused on culture, science, and environmental topics.

Key points from the presentation included:

- The museum opened in **2009**.
- It has hosted **over 80 exhibits and more than 200 events**.
- The collection includes **over 10,000 objects**, many focused on the **Pacific Northwest**.
- The museum is **free and open to the public** during the academic year (Wednesday–Saturday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM).

Audience and Participation

- Approximately **66–75% of visitors are CWU students**.
- The museum also serves:
 - Faculty classes
 - Student organizations
 - Local school groups
 - Community members

Programming

Typical annual programming includes:

- **3–7 exhibits per academic year**
- **3–5 special events per quarter**
- Hands-on educational workshops
- Community engagement events

Recent examples included:

- A traveling exhibit titled **“X-Ray Vision: Fish Inside Out”**

- The exhibit “**Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge, Shared Science**”
- Cultural workshops such as **basket-making led by a Yakama Nation artist**

Staffing

Current staffing includes:

- 1 part-time faculty **Museum Director**
- 1 full-time **Collections Manager/Assistant Director**
- **1–2 student front desk workers** (S&A funded)
- **0–5 interns per academic quarter**
- Up to **1 graduate assistant per year**

Attendance

Recent attendance numbers included:

- Approximately **3,500 visitors last year**
- **Over 2,000 visitors so far this academic year**

Funding Sources

The museum’s primary funding sources are:

- **S&A funding**
- **College of Sciences allocation (~\$15,000 annually)**

Additional funds come from:

- Foundation account (“Friends of the Museum”)
- Donations collected in the museum gallery

Use of S&A Funding

Requested S&A funds primarily support:

- **Student worker wages**
- **Traveling exhibits**
- **Events and guest honoraria**
- **Telephone and operational costs**

- **Online collection database maintenance**

Committee Questions

Committee members asked clarifying questions regarding:

- The proportion of funding allocated to **student wages versus programming**
- The purpose of operational costs such as **telephone service and database maintenance**
- Compensation for **external community presenters and cultural educators**

Presenters clarified that S&A funding supports both **student employment and educational programming**, including compensation for guest presenters from outside the university.

The committee thanked the presenters for their presentation.

Base Funding Request

Sarah Spurgeon Art Gallery

Presenter:

Heather Horn-Johnson, Gallery Manager

Overview

The **Sarah Spurgeon Art Gallery** serves both the **Central Washington University campus and the broader community** by presenting visual art exhibitions and educational programming.

The gallery's mission is to enhance engagement with art and design through exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and collaborations.

Programming

The gallery hosts:

- **Six exhibitions per academic year**
- Artist lectures and workshops
- Outreach programs and exhibition receptions

The gallery is open **six days per week**.

Annual visitation averages **approximately 4,000 visitors**.

Organizational Structure

The gallery operates within the **Department of Art and Design** in the **College of Arts and Humanities**.

Staffing includes:

- **1 Gallery Manager**
- **4 student workers**

The gallery also works with a faculty advisory group, which assists in selecting artists and programming.

Funding Sources

Funding sources include:

- **S&A funding**
- **Foundation funds**
- Entry fees from the **Interstate Exhibition**, a recurring juried show.

The **College of Arts and Humanities** funds staff salaries and facilities support.

Use of Funds

S&A funding supports:

- Shipping and transportation of artwork
- Insurance
- Artist travel and honoraria
- Exhibition materials and installation supplies
- Event promotion and reception costs
- Student worker wages

Funding Request Increase

The gallery requested an **increase in funding**, citing:

- Rising **student minimum wage** (from \$13.69 in 2021 to \$17.13 in 2026)
- Previous years of **flat or reduced funding**

Student employees play a major role in:

- Keeping the gallery open to the public
- Installing and deinstalling exhibits
- Preparing gallery spaces

Student Impact

A highlighted program included the **Annual Student Art & Design Exhibition**, which in 2025:

- Featured **77 student artists**
- Distributed **over \$4,500 in awards**
- Attracted **713 attendees**
- Included **242 participants**

Awards included scholarships and **purchase awards**, allowing the university to acquire student artwork for the permanent collection.

Collaborative Programs

The gallery frequently collaborates with campus departments and external organizations.

Recent collaborations included:

- A metalsmithing exhibit developed with **Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**
- Partnership with the **Society of Inclusive Blacksmiths**

Upcoming Programming

The gallery is planning a future exhibit featuring **CWU alumni artists (1996–2010)** as part of the **“Crossroads and Connections”** series, designed to connect current students with alumni professionals.

Committee Questions

Committee members asked questions regarding:

- Shipping costs for artwork
- Frequency of exhibition rotations

The presenter confirmed that **six exhibits occur each academic year**, requiring artwork to be shipped to and from the gallery.

Centers and Online Student Life Programs

Presenter:

Kurt Kirstein, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Overview

The presenter requested continued funding to support **student life programming for CWU's regional centers and online students.**

CWU operates **seven regional centers:**

- **Westside Centers:** Lynnwood, Des Moines, Pierce County, and JBLM
- **Eastside Centers:** Yakima, Wenatchee, and Moses Lake

Programs also serve **fully online students.**

The programs currently support approximately:

- **450 students enrolled at the regional centers**
- **Approximately 1,300 fully online students**

Program Purpose

Centers and Online Student Life programs aim to:

- Provide **equitable access to co-curricular experiences**
- Foster **student belonging and connection**
- Support **professional and career development**
- Recognize **student achievement**

These programs address the challenge that many regional and online students **do not have regular access to on-campus activities in Ellensburg.**

Programming Areas

Programming falls into three primary categories:

1. **Cultural and Identity-Based Programming**
 - Events recognizing heritage and cultural observances such as:

- Black History Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Ramadan
- Lunar New Year
- Women's History Month

2. Career and Professional Development

- Guest speakers and alumni presentations
- Resume workshops
- Interview preparation sessions
- Career panels
- "Education After Hours" programs featuring educators in the field

3. Community and Wellness Programming

- Finals week de-stress events
- Peer connection events
- Recognition ceremonies and celebrations

Example Program

A recent event included a **CWU alumnus employed at Microsoft** who discussed his career pathway from student media involvement at CWU to his current professional position. The event attracted **approximately 120 participants**, most of whom attended virtually.

Student Recognition

S&A funding supports **annual recognition ceremonies** for students.

- **Westside ceremony:** Held at Highline College and attended by students and family members.
- **Eastside ceremony:** Held in Ellensburg.

These events are especially important for students at regional centers because **graduation ceremonies are no longer held on the west side.**

Staffing

Programming is coordinated by **two Student Support Specialists**:

- **Westside Specialist (Lynnwood)**
 - Oversees programming at Lynnwood, Des Moines, and Pierce centers
 - Supervises student employees
 - Organizes westside recognition events
- **Eastside Specialist (Yakima)**
 - Oversees Yakima, Wenatchee, and Moses Lake centers
 - Coordinates online programming
 - Organizes eastside recognition events

The request includes funding intended to **expand staffing to three specialists**, which previously existed but has not been filled due to funding limitations.

Budget Questions

Committee members asked about the budget structure.

The presenter explained:

- Approximately **\$70,000 supports student employment**
- The remaining payroll funding supports **student support specialists**

Student employee funding is **distributed across the centers** to ensure equitable student programming opportunities.

Online Student Access

Most events are offered **both in-person and via live streaming**, allowing online students to participate remotely.

The committee also asked about collaboration with **Career Services**, and the presenter confirmed that programming increasingly integrates career development initiatives in partnership with that office.

Base Funding Request

Multicultural Center

Presenters

- Multicultural Center Director, Mal Stewman
- Program Coordinator Andesha Birch

Mission

The Multicultural Center provides programming and services designed to promote **belonging, cultural engagement, and student support** across the CWU campus.

Staffing

Current staffing includes:

- Director
- 2- Program Coordinator
- .5- Administrative support
- Approximately **12–14 student employees**, depending on available funding.

Programs and Services

The center hosts a variety of recurring programs, including:

- Cultural welcome events
- Heritage month programming
- Affinity group meetings
- Cultural workshops and discussions

Examples of affinity groups include:

- QFAM
- Thrive
- MOCA (Men of color affinity group)

The center also assists emerging student organizations by providing **incubation support and meeting space**.

Major Events

Recent speakers hosted by the center include:

- Jennifer King
- Jackie Cruz
- Cheech Marin
- Raymond Santana

Large-scale programs are often conducted **in partnership with campus departments and community organizations.**

Facilities Expansion

The Multicultural Center recently expanded from approximately **660 square feet to about 13,000 square feet**, making it one of the largest multicultural centers among comparable institutions in the state.

The expanded facility includes:

- Cultural kitchen
- Community gathering spaces
- Dance and rehearsal areas
- Meeting rooms
- Prayer room with foot-washing station

These features were designed in response to **student requests during the planning process.**

Facility Usage

The space is used not only by the Multicultural Center but also by:

- Student clubs and organizations
- Academic departments
- Campus programming events

Budget Request

The center requested funding to:

- Support extended operating hours
- Increase student staff coverage

- Maintain and operate the expanded facility
- Restore administrative staffing capacity

The center has also **reduced its goods and services request from approximately \$60,000 to \$30,000**, partially due to increased partnerships with other campus departments that share programming costs.

Committee Questions

Committee members asked about:

- Funding for the expansion (approximately **\$6 million**, funded through student advocacy and university support)
- Plans to include online students in programming
- The need for additional staffing following the facility expansion

The presenters indicated that increased staffing is necessary to manage the larger space and accommodate growing program demand.

Supplemental Funding Request

Reallocation from SLICE to Club Travel

Advisor **Lola Gallagher** presented a request to **reallocate approximately \$8,500** from the SLICE budget to the **club travel and activities budget**.

The funds were originally allocated for a leadership conference but were not fully needed because **foundation and endowment funds covered the event costs**.

The committee was informed that **club travel funding demand has increased**, making the reallocation beneficial.

A vote on this request will be at a **future S&A meeting**.

Additional Committee Business

The advisor provided the committee with a **budget comparison sheet** showing:

- Previous funding allocations (2022–2025)
- Current fiscal year funding

- Proposed requests for FY27
- Actual expenses from the most recently completed fiscal year
- Unspent funds returned to S&A

Two potential funding scenarios were discussed:

1. **No S&A Fee Increase**

- Approximately **\$450,000 in budget reductions** would be required.

2. **4% S&A Fee Increase**

- The maximum allowable annual increase.
- Would require approximately **\$248,000 in reductions**.

Committee deliberations will begin the following day to develop **draft funding recommendations**.

Funding areas will be notified of draft recommendations and given **five days to provide feedback** before final recommendations are submitted to the **Board of Trustees**.

Public Comment

A representative from student government expressed appreciation to the committee for their work and wished them success in the upcoming deliberations.

No additional public comments were made.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at **4:18 PM**.