

Student & Activities Committee

Public Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2026

Time: 3:03 PM

Location: SURC 301 or hybrid/in-person with Zoom

Advisor: Robbi Goninan

1. Call to Order

Chair Alex Matheson called the meeting to order at **3:03 PM**.

2. Roll Call / Introductions

Attendance was taken via verbal introductions for AI transcription purposes.

Committee Members Present:

- Alex M., Committee Chair
- Ba, Vice Chair
- Alex C.
- Rachel, Parliamentarian
- Austin B.
- Aeros S.
- Abby T.

Advisors Present:

- All three advisors present

Guests / Observers:

- Christina Barrigan, Chair, Department of Theatre & Film
- Edwin Torres, Director, Veteran & Military Connected Student Center
- Jacqueline Mesa, Outreach Coordinator, Veteran & Military Connected Student Center

- Tommy Skaggs, KCWU-FM
- Elliot, KCWU
- Gretchen Lohse, Department of Communication; Observer Newspaper; Pulse Magazine
- Ruben Cardenas, AVP Student Engagement & Success
- Jennifer Green, Faculty Advisor, Student Media

A quorum was confirmed.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair noted an amendment to the agenda to clarify and itemize votes related to ASCWU reallocation requests.

Motion: Approve amended agenda as written

- **Moved by:** Austin B.
 - **Seconded by:** Alex C.
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously
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4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the **January 23** meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Approve meeting minutes as written

- **Vote:** Passed unanimously
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5. Reports

- **Chair's Report:** None
- **Advisor's Report:**
 - Presenters have **10 minutes for presentations** and **10 minutes for Q&A**
 - Extensions require motion and committee approval
- **ASCWU Representative Report:** None

- **Communications Received:** None
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6. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

7. New Business

7.1 Base Funding Request – Pulse Magazine

Presenter: Gretchen Lohse

Affiliation: Department of Communication / Student Media

Overview

- Pulse Magazine is a **quarterly student-run lifestyle and entertainment publication**
- Part of Student Media alongside Observer Newspaper and Central Communication Agency
- Housed in the Department of Communication
- Interdisciplinary participation (writing, design, photography, editing)
- Approximately **1,000 copies printed per issue** with minimal surplus
- Nationally and regionally recognized publication

Funding History

- Historically funded at approximately **\$20,000 annually**
- FY 2026 allocation reduced to approximately **\$2,000 (an 89% reduction)**
- Reduction required multiple supplemental funding requests
- Advertising revenue exists but is **not a reliable substitute** for S&A funding

Funding Request (Preferred Budget)

Total Request: \$33,047

- Printing (quarterly): \$12,840
- Student wages (38 hours/week): \$18,527

- Website platform and domain: \$292
- Issuu (digital archive subscription)
- Professional memberships and award submissions: \$500
- Google Drive storage: \$100
- Student benefit costs included in total

Alternate (Bare-Bones) Budget

- Reduced student wages to **25 hours/week**
- Total reduced request approximately **\$22,398**
- Presenter emphasized this option would be **detrimental to students**

Key Points Raised

- Advertising revenue depends on guaranteed publication
- Funding cuts directly reduce revenue potential
- Students previously worked without pay due to funding delays
- Publication supports First Amendment expression and student employment
- Pulse is open to all students, particularly writers with no prerequisites

7.2 Committee Questions & Discussion (Pulse)

Topics addressed:

- Professional memberships (Associated Collegiate Press, Society of Professional Journalists)
- Issuu digital archive subscription
- Impact of reducing student hours
- Anticipated future supplemental requests
- Student access and participation requirements
- Conference attendance and awards
- Diversity representation and President's Diversity Award

- Advertising revenue projections and self-support estimates

Action Item:

Pulse agreed to **submit a projected advertising revenue estimate** for committee review.

7.3 Extension of Question Period

Motion: Extend Pulse Q&A by 5 minutes

- **Vote:** Passed
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Base Funding Request – Observer Newspaper / Student Media

Presenter(s):

- Gretchen Lois
- Jennifer Green, Faculty Advisor, Student Media

7.4 Base Funding Request – Observer Newspaper

- Observer is a **110-year-old student-run weekly/biweekly newspaper**
 - Plays a critical role in campus and community journalism
 - Emphasized importance of **editorial independence**
 - Experienced a **97% funding reduction** in FY 2026
 - Reliant on supplemental funding to continue printing and operations
 - Funding requests and budget scenarios presented (details to be continued)
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Editorial Independence & Advisorship

- Faculty advisor clarified that **not all students receive wages**; paid positions are limited to leadership roles.
- Students typically serve one or more quarters before advancing into paid leadership positions.
- Content decisions are **entirely student-led**, including story selection and layout.

- Advisor serves strictly in an **advisory capacity** and does not exercise editorial control.
- Final editorial decisions rest with the **Editor-in-Chief**.

Accuracy, Bias, and Ethical Standards

- Students are trained in professional journalistic practices.
- Interviews are **recorded** to ensure accuracy and address disputes.
- Editors are accountable for errors.
- Corrections and clarifications are published transparently when necessary.
- Online edits are disclosed.
- Emphasis placed on **ethical standards, transparency, and reader trust**.

Editorial Decisions & Content Sensitivity

- Committee raised questions regarding **editorial judgment** in recent publications.
- Advisor explained that decisions regarding redaction (e.g., extremist flyers) were **editorial judgments made by students**, not censorship.
- Editors intentionally limited details to avoid amplifying harmful messaging.
- These decisions are discussed as part of the educational practicum experience.

Committee Motions

- **Motion:** Extend question period by 5 minutes
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Budget Clarification

- Clarified that the approximately **\$14,000 difference** between budget scenarios was due entirely to **printing frequency changes** (weekly vs. biweekly), not student wages.

Financial Sustainability Discussion

- Committee raised concerns about declining S&A funds and long-term sustainability.
- Observer representatives emphasized:

- Student media's essential role on campus
- Difficulty obtaining alternative funding
- Intent to use advertising revenue responsibly
- Willingness to provide **ad revenue projections**
- Stated that a **97% funding reduction** is not sustainable.

Long-Term Planning

- Committee asked how Student Media would adapt over the next quadrennial.
- Responses included:
 - Increased attention to advertising revenue
 - Hiring an advertising intern using foundation funds
 - Exploring digital and online models
 - Ongoing discussions with department leadership and administration
- Advisor noted that higher-quality journalism supports increased readership and advertising.

Conclusion:

Chair thanked presenters. Observer presentation concluded.

B. Base Funding Request – Department of Theatre & Film: Student Employment Program

Presenter:

- Christina Barrigan, Chair, Department of Theatre & Film

Request Overview

- **Total Request:** \$30,834 annually
- Purpose: Fund **6 quarter-time student employment positions**
- Request accounts for **Washington State minimum wage increases** (18% since 2021).

Rationale

- On-campus employment:
 - Enhances student belonging and retention
 - Provides mentorship and professional identity
 - Offers applied, co-curricular experience not otherwise available locally
- Positions provide hands-on, professionally modeled training environments.

Positions Requested

- 2 Scenic Carpenters (Scene Shop)
- 2 Costume Stitchers (Costume Shop)
- 2 Equipment Checkout Assistants (Film & Photography Equipment)

Clarification:

- Corrected per-student cost: approximately **\$5,139 per student** for a 10-hour workweek.

Educational & Campus Impact

- Positions support:
 - Theatre, film, dance, music, apparel/textiles, and other programs
 - 10–24 creative projects annually
 - Approximately **120 students indirectly**
- Work contributes to campus and community cultural offerings.

Funding Scenarios

- Full funding: 6 students
- \$20,000 allocation: 4 students
- \$10,000 allocation: 2 students
- Work-study students could expand hours if applicable

Historical Funding

- Program received S&A funding from **2008 through prior quadrennial**
- No funding received in the most recent base funded year (2026)

- Current student workers are supported by a **one-time donation**, ending this year

Committee Questions Addressed

- Equipment funded through **class fees**, not S&A
- Jobs are open to students outside the major
- Without funding:
 - Student employment would end
 - Productions would scale back significantly
- Approximately **60% of sets, props, and costumes are reused or recycled**
- Students hired through the **CWU job portal** via application process

Motions

- **Motion:** Extend question period by 5 minutes
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Campus Benefit

- Theatre and film productions contribute to:
 - Cultural life of CWU and Ellensburg
 - Student-created storytelling and artistic expression
 - University's role in the regional creative district

Conclusion:

Chair thanked presenter. Theatre & Film presentation concluded.

C. Base Funding Request – Veterans & Military Connected Student Center (VMCSC)

Presenters:

- Edwin Torres, Director
- Jacqueline Mesa, Outreach Coordinator

Overview & Definitions

- VMCSC supports:

- Student veterans
- Active-duty service members
- Military-connected students (dependents/spouses)
- Staff includes:
 - Director
 - Outreach Coordinator
 - Office Assistant
 - Program Coordinator (position in recruitment)
- **6 student employees** funded entirely by the VA (not part of this request)

Student Population Served

- Approximately **609 students**
- Represents **7.82%** of CWU student population
- Majority located on main campus; others online or at centers

VA Certification & Financial Impact

- VMSC staff serve as **School Certifying Officials (SCO)**
- VA recommends 1 SCO per 125 students
- CWU currently operating at ~140% over recommendation
- Enrollment certifications process approximately:
 - 550–600 students per quarter
 - ~\$2.4 million annually in tuition and fees (Post-9/11 GI Bill)

Outreach Coordinator Role

- Funded via **70/30 split** (S&A and other funding)
- Responsibilities include:
 - Enrollment certification
 - Outreach and recruitment
 - Event coordination

- Admissions collaboration
- Orientation and preview days

Programming Highlights

- Student Welcome Fair
- Veterans Week (career workshop, counseling, community service)
- Book Club (author visit scheduled)
- Memorial Day event
- Graduating Student Luncheon
- Collaboration with campus and community partners

Budget Request

- **Total Request:** \$38,401
- Majority allocated to Outreach Coordinator salary
- Department agreed to a **20% reduction** from prior funding cycle
- Emphasized history of fiscal responsibility and collaboration

Extension of Meeting Time

The Chair requested an extension of the meeting to ensure completion of remaining business.

Motion: Extend the meeting by 10 minutes

- **Moved and Seconded**
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

New Business

Deliberation and Voting – Supplemental Reallocation Requests

(ASCWU Student Government)

The Chair provided background on the supplemental reallocation requests, noting that the requests involved reallocating previously approved supplemental funds following Student

Government's base funding process. Four reallocation requests were presented for consideration.

The committee agreed to consider each request individually.

Supplemental Reallocation Request #1

Motion: Approve supplemental reallocation request #1 as written

- **Seconded**
 - **Discussion:** None
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously
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Supplemental Reallocation Request #2

Discussion clarified that the request involved reallocation of funds already allocated, not new funding.

Motion: Approve supplemental reallocation request #2 as written

- **Seconded**
 - **Discussion:** None following clarification
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously
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Supplemental Reallocation Request #3

Motion: Approve supplemental reallocation request #3 as written

- **Seconded**
 - **Discussion:** None
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously
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Supplemental Reallocation Request #4

Motion: Approve supplemental reallocation request #4 as written

- **Seconded**

- **Discussion:** None
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously
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Public Comment (Second Call)

During the second call for public comment, the Chair offered the following remarks:

- Commended committee members for their work.
- Notified the committee of an anticipated absence from the next meeting due to Lobby Day travel and other duties.
- Announced an NRHH leadership lock-in scheduled for that evening.

No additional public comment was offered.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the meeting

- **Seconded**
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Time of Adjournment: 4:50 PM