

## **S&A Committee Public Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** February 20, 2026

**Time:** 3:01 PM

**Location:** SURC 301 or via Zoom

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### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at **3:01 PM** by Chair Matheson

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### **2. Attendance**

#### **Committee Members' Present:**

- Chair Matheson
- Austin B.
- Eros S.
- Abby T.
- All 3 Advisors

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

- Vice Chair Baugh
- Parliamentarian Rachel
- Alex Cordon

A quorum was confirmed.

#### **Staff and Guests Present:**

- Katrina Whitney, Career Services
- Jessica Thomas, Career Services
- Daniel Gee, University Recreation
- Ricky Reid, University Recreation
- Logan Scully, University Recreation
- Amanda Taylor, University Recreation

- Ruben Cardenas, SES
  - Emilio Gonzalez, Student Involvement
  - Gretchen Lohse, Observer & Pulse
  - Michael Montgomery, Director of Recreation
  - Joy Stochosky, Health and Wellness
  - Tyler Shannon, Office of Case Management
  - Veronica Gomez-Vilchis, VP, SES
  - Merridy Rennick, Career Services (virtual)
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### **3. Approval of Agenda**

#### **Amendment Proposed:**

Move Old Business items and deliberations to the following week due to low committee attendance.

- Motion to amend the agenda: Passed unanimously.
  - Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Passed unanimously.
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### **4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes: Passed unanimously.
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### **5. Reports**

**Chair Report:** None.

#### **Advisor Report:**

- Supplemental funds currently available for allocation: **\$36,133.24**, with an additional \$5,000 expected for February.

**ASCWU Report:** None.

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### **6. Communications Received**

- Engagement and retention data from Grace Pearsons (Campus Activities) was distributed to committee members in response to a prior inquiry.
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## **7. Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

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## **8. New Business – Base Funding Requests**

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### **A. Career Services – Westside & Online Support**

#### **Presenters:**

Katrina Whitney (Director), Jessica Thomas (Career Counselor), Merridy Rennick (Assistant Director, virtual)

#### **Overview:**

Career Services supports students at Des Moines, Lynnwood, Pierce County, JBLM, and online (approximately 1,100 online students). Services include:

- Individual career counseling
- Resume and graduate school document review
- Mock interviews
- Career assessments
- Employer panels and workshops
- Internship development
- Virtual Career Center and Handshake platform

#### **Engagement Highlights:**

- 141% increase in student connections from fall-to-fall
- 1,700 students registered on Handshake since fall launch
- 49 workshops/events with 621 attendees (annual Westside data)
- Fall quarter: 15 workshops/events with 668 participants

- 88% of workshop attendees reported knowledge/skill gains
- Over 80% satisfaction rate for individual appointments

**Funding Request:**

- Convert one Career Counselor position from 10 months to 12 months
- Maintain Assistant Director position as is
- \$1,000 in goods and services
- Funding supports professional staff (not student staff)

**Rationale for 12-Month Position:**

- Maintain summer access for online and center students
- Provide continuity of services
- Allow summer program planning and employer engagement
- Support year-round fair and workshop development

**Committee Discussion Topics:**

- Justification for S&A funding of professional staff
- Impact of extended summer services
- Use of S&A funds exclusively for Westside services
- Student demand and historical survey data indicating Career Services as a high-priority need

**Time Extension:**

- Motion to extend presentation time by five minutes: Passed unanimously.

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**B. Office of Case Management**

**Presenter:**

Tyler Shannon, Director

**Overview:**

The Office of Case Management provides crisis response, advocacy, and coordinated support for students experiencing:

- Mental health concerns (42% of cases)
- High-risk/suicide concerns (36%)
- Basic needs insecurity (housing, food, financial)
- Medical emergencies
- Interpersonal violence (PATH program)

**2024–2025 Data:**

- 1,126 referrals
- 922 unique students served
- Services typically involve multiple follow-up meetings per student

**Additional Responsibilities:**

- Receives Concern & Support reports
- Suicide Concern reports
- Behavioral Intervention Team referrals
- Emergency Relief Fund coordination
- Collaboration with campus and community partners

**Funding Request:**

- One 12-month Case Manager position
- Total request: \$92,883
  - Includes salary, benefits, and professional development

**Context:**

- Previous year request included two positions; one was funded.
- Current request recalibrated to reflect enrollment and funding realities.
- Case manager-to-student ratio guides staffing needs.

**Committee Discussion Topics:**

- Reduction in funding request compared to previous year
- Sufficiency of funds to fully support a 12-month position

- Ongoing caseload volume and complexity
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## **9. Recess**

A brief five-minute recess was announced following the Case Management discussion.

### **Recess and Reconvening**

Following discussion of the Office of Case Management base funding request, Chair Goninan called a **five-minute recess**.

The meeting is reconvened at **3:51 PM**.

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## **New Business – Base Funding Presentation**

### **University Recreation**

**Presenter:** Michael Montgomery, Director of Recreation

University Recreation presented its annual overview and budget update. The department operates within the Health and Wellness Unit under Student Engagement and Success (SES) and aligns its programs with the dimensions of well-being.

### **Student Employment and Workforce Development**

- Second-largest student employer on campus
- Employs approximately **80–105 unique student employees annually**
- Offers 3–5 internships and 2–4 practicums per year
- Provides cross-training to increase student retention and hours worked
- Students serve in Adventure Programs (Outdoor Pursuits & Rentals), Health Programs (Group Fitness & Personal Training), Sport Programs (Intramurals & Sport Clubs), and facility operations

Reduction in S&A funding would likely result in reduced facility hours, directly impacting student employment hours.

### **Campus and Community Impact**

- Pre-COVID study demonstrated statistically significant correlation between Recreation Center use and increased student retention and GPA; department intends to replicate the study
- Hosts youth tournaments, regional competitions, summer camps, and athletics camps
- Serves as a FEMA-certified emergency shelter for the campus and Kittitas community
- Facilities include:
  - Recreation Center
  - Rec Sports Complex
  - Alder Recreation Complex
  - Tennis Complex

### **Major Programs and Events**

- Welcome Weekend engagement and recruitment
- Glow Night (564 attendees this year)
- Fireside Chats
- Ropeless Rodeo climbing competition (100+ climbers from seven Pacific Northwest institutions)
- 17 Sport Clubs (recent additions: Men's and Women's Rugby; Wrestling reinstated)
- Intramural leagues with open, competitive, and free-agent divisions

### **Sustainability Initiatives**

- Free bike rental program
- Proposal to replace paper towel dispensers with air dryers
- Facility deep clean conducted three times annually (400+ student labor hours each cycle)

### **Budget Overview**

- Prior quadrennial allocation reduced by **17.5%** in response to committee budget cap

- Current request maintains previously reduced level (~\$603,000)
- CPI increased 19.6% during same period
- Department relies on:
  - Recreation fee
  - Self-generated revenue (camps, memberships, partnerships)
  - Community memberships (including senior walking membership initiative)

### **Capital Needs**

- 20-year-old weight room equipment requires replacement
- Court resurfacing project estimated at approximately \$140,000
- Eight-year capital plan in development
- Supplemental requests anticipated for facility projects

### **Committee Discussion**

- Clarification provided that a reported \$38,000 projected overspend was a carryover clerical error
- Discussion regarding increased self-sufficiency through revenue generation
- Confirmation that sport club funding is included within the lump-sum allocation
- Acknowledgment of significant effort to reduce allocation request

Presentation concluded without further questions.

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## **New Business – Supplemental Funding Requests**

### **1. Pulse Magazine**

**Request:** \$8,391.13

#### **Breakdown**

- Three student leadership positions (Lead Editor, Lead Designer, Lead Photographer)
- 24 total hours per week
- Wages + 3% benefits: ~\$4,234.54

- Printing (1,000 copies, 60 pages): balance of request

### **Context**

- Magazine reduced from 80 pages to 60 pages to save approximately \$1,612 per issue
- Currently approximately \$300 in deficit (improved from \$1,000 deficit)
- Printing identified as primary priority
- If not funded, publication would move online-only, which presenters stated would significantly diminish the magazine's impact

### **Student Employment**

- Student hours reduced from approximately 32–35 hours (historical) to 24 hours due to budget constraints
- Students are not required to enroll in associated academic courses to receive wages

Committee discussed funding priorities between printing and wages, and the impact of online-only publication.

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## **2. The Observer (Student Newspaper)**

**Request:** \$11,832.72

### **Breakdown**

- Six paid student staff positions
- 56 paid hours per week (students collectively work approximately 92 hours weekly)
- Wages + 3% benefits: just under \$10,000
- Printing: 700 copies per issue, 12 pages
- Goal: increase from 5 to 8 issues per quarter

### **Revenue**

- Forecasted annual revenue: approximately \$5,235
- Revenue sources include advertising sales and partnership with Flight Desk (national ad placement service)

- Printing more frequently would increase advertising opportunities and potential revenue

### **Operational Notes**

- Students may receive academic credit but are not required to enroll in coursework
- Some unpaid hours are volunteer-based due to budget limitations
- If partially funded, priority would likely be student wages; online-only publication would be considered if printing is not feasible

A motion to extend presentation time by three minutes passed unanimously.

Committee discussed:

- Sustainability of unpaid labor hours
- Printing frequency data collection
- Advertising growth strategy
- Trade-offs between printing and wages if partially funded

Presentation concluded.

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### **Old Business**

Deliberations on supplemental requests were postponed until the following week due to committee size.

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### **Public Comment (Second Call)**

Erin Sargent offered public comments, commending the committee for thoughtful questions and engagement.

No additional public comment was made.

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### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at **4:29 PM**.