

S&A Public Meeting Minutes

SURC 301 or via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order

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

Roll Call / Attendance

- **Chair:** Alex M – Present
 - **Vice Chair:** Ba – Present
 - **Parliamentarian:** Rachel – Absent
 - **Aeros – Present**
 - **Austin – Present**
 - **Alex C – Present**
 - **Abby T – Late**
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Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by **Alex C** and seconded by **Austin**.

Vote:

- All in favor: Aye
- Opposed: None

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Minutes

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

Vote:

- All in favor: Aye
- Opposed: None

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

No reports were presented from the Chair, Advisor, or ASCWU.

Communications Received

No communications were received.

Public Comment (First Call)

No public comment.

New Business

2027–2029 Base Funding Recommendations

The committee discussed the **preliminary base funding recommendations** previously developed during the prior weekend meeting. Feedback has been received from several departments regarding the preliminary budget decisions.

Feedback Received

- Appreciation from **Manastash** and **Lion's Rock** for reinstated funding.
- Written feedback from:
 - **Campus Activities**
 - **Publicity Center**
 - **SLICE**

Committee members reviewed the submitted feedback before beginning discussion.

Discussion Highlights

Budget Reductions

- Several departments, including **Campus Activities, Publicity Center, and SLICE**, received a **4% funding reduction** in the preliminary recommendation.
- Campus Activities originally requested **\$228,694**.
- After the 4% reduction, the proposed allocation became **\$219,546.24**, representing a cut of **\$9,147.76**.

Rationale for Initial Cuts

Chair Alex M explained the committee's process:

- A **4% baseline reduction** was used as a starting point for deliberations.
- Some major requests were not funded or adjusted, which created additional flexibility in the budget.
- The committee prioritized protecting **smaller allocations** that rely more heavily on S&A funding.
- Larger departments were considered more capable of absorbing modest reductions.

Funding Priorities

The committee noted that several allocations were **left fully funded** due to priority status, including:

- Contractual obligations
- Facility and operational costs (e.g., building support, bond payments)
- Administrative and accounting support
- Major campus infrastructure such as the Recreation Center and SUB

Consideration for Satellite and Online Students

Committee members discussed equity concerns for **students at satellite campuses and online programs**, who:

- Pay the same S&A fees
- Having access to fewer services than Ellensburg campus students

For that reason, allocations supporting off-campus students were not reduced.

Student Employment Concerns

Some feedback from departments referenced potential **reductions to student employment hours** because of funding cuts.

Committee members noted that while departments often cite student hours as the first area of reduction, other cost-saving approaches may also exist.

Potential Budget Adjustments

The committee discussed possible adjustments in response to feedback, including:

- Applying **1–2% adjustments** to certain allocations.
- Reducing the **supplemental funding reserve** currently set at **\$25,000**.
- Possible reduction of the reserve to **\$20,000**, freeing approximately **\$5,000** for reallocations.

One example considered included a **2% reduction to Centers Activities**, estimated to free approximately **\$7,164**.

Further discussion was held on balancing responsiveness to feedback with maintaining adequate supplemental funds for the following year.

2027–2029 Base Funding Recommendations (Continued)

The committee continued discussion regarding potential adjustments to the preliminary base funding recommendations in response to departmental feedback.

Possible Reallocation of Funds

Chair Alex M noted that approximately **\$13,000 in potential funding** could become available through previously discussed adjustments. This amount could potentially address concerns raised by three departments that submitted feedback.

Suggested Distribution

Chair Alex M proposed that the available funds could be distributed as follows:

- **Campus Activities:** \$5,000
- **SLICE:** \$5,000
- **Publicity Center:** \$3,000

The rationale included that **Campus Activities and SLICE do not have external revenue sources**, while the Publicity Center generates some outside revenue.

Committee members reviewed the budget spreadsheet and discussed departments that receive **outside or self-generated revenue**, including:

- The Radio Station
 - ECLC
 - Publicity Center
 - The Observer
 - The Art Gallery
 - Pulse
 - Certain museum programs
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Discussion: Funding Equity

Committee members discussed balancing funding for:

- **On-campus students**
- **Online and satellite-campus students**

Key points raised included:

- Approximately **1,700 students are online-only students**, representing a significant portion of the student population.
- Some committee members expressed concern about reducing services that support those students.
- Others noted that students living in Ellensburg may still take online courses but remain classified as **Ellensburg campus students**.

Clarification was provided that the **Westside Student Life allocation** primarily funds:

- Professional and student staffing
- Programming and events for online and center students

Chair Alex M emphasized that the discussion should not frame the issue as a competition between **online and on-campus students**, noting that both groups could continue operating with modest funding reductions.

Procedural Considerations

The advisor clarified that:

- The committee **is not required to modify the preliminary recommendations**.
 - Any change to allocations would require sending updated recommendations to affected departments and allowing them to provide **additional feedback**.
 - Because of the upcoming **spring break**, this process could require an additional meeting the following week.
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Supplemental Funding Discussion

The committee reviewed the current **supplemental funding reserve**, which had been proposed at **\$25,000**.

Additional context included:

- The previous committee began the year with approximately **\$13,000** in supplemental funding.
- Supplemental funds typically increase during the year due to:
 - Salary savings from vacant positions
 - Underspent departmental funds
 - Changes in enrollment revenue.

The advisor noted there is **no requirement to carry forward supplemental funding**, meaning the committee could allocate the full amount if desired.

However, members expressed concern about eliminating the reserve entirely because supplemental requests may arise during the year.

Informal Vote on Additional Cuts

The committee held an **informal vote** regarding a proposed **2% reduction to Centers Activities** to free additional funds.

Vote Results:

- In favor: 2
- Opposed: 2
- Abstention: 1 (Chair)

Result: No majority; proposal did not move forward.

Chair Alex M stated that reopening full deliberations next week would likely repeat earlier discussions and may not be the most efficient use of committee time.

Proposal to Use Supplemental Funds

Committee members discussed using **supplemental reserves instead of making further departmental cuts**.

One proposal suggested:

- **Retaining \$10,000 in supplemental reserves**
- **Redistributing approximately \$15,000** among departments that submitted feedback.

Some members suggested the reserve could be reduced further to **\$5,000**, leaving a minimal starting balance while still providing relief to impacted departments.

Rationale for Potential Redistribution

Members highlighted several considerations:

- **Campus Activities** organize major student events that have broad campus impact.
- **SLICE** functions as a central coordination hub for many student programs and organizations.
- Reductions in these areas could significantly impact the overall **student experience and campus life**.

Some members also noted that the **Publicity Center generates outside revenue**, making it potentially less dependent on S&A funds than other departments.

Supplemental Funding Context

The advisor also noted:

- Many supplemental requests during the current year occurred because some areas were **underfunded in the previous funding cycle**.
- Increasing base funding now may **reduce future supplemental requests**.

Additionally, all departments receiving base funding remain **eligible to request supplemental funds** if needed during the fiscal year.

Continuing Deliberation

The committee continued discussing how best to balance:

- Maintaining a **supplemental reserve**
- Responding to feedback from departments that received funding reductions
- Protecting key **student life services and programming**

No final motion was recorded during this segment.

Proposal to Reallocate Supplemental Funds

A proposal was discussed to use a portion of the **supplemental funding reserve** to address reductions previously applied to several departments.

The proposal included:

- Restoring the **Campus Activities** allocation to full funding.
- Allocating the remaining funds available to **SLICE**.
- Reducing the supplemental reserve carried into the following fiscal year.

Under the proposal:

- **Campus Activities** would be fully funded.

- **SLICE** would receive an additional **\$10,852.24**, though it would remain approximately **\$7,000 below its original request**.
- The **supplemental reserve** would be reduced to **\$5,000**.

The committee discussed the impact of these adjustments, including the importance of maintaining essential student programming and services.

Supplemental Funding Context

The committee discussed the likelihood of supplemental funds becoming available during the year through:

- Salary savings due to staff vacancies
- Unspent departmental funds

Administrative staff indicated that historically there has always been **some supplemental funding available during the fiscal year**, often becoming available later in the academic year.

Motion: Approval of Revised Base Funding Allocation

Motion:

A motion was made to approve the revised base funding allocation as discussed, which included:

- Reallocating **\$20,000 from the supplemental funding reserve**
- Fully funding **Campus Activities**
- Allocating the remaining amount to **SLICE**
- Leaving **\$5,000 in supplemental funds** for the upcoming year

Second: Motion was seconded.

Vote:

- In Favor: 4
- Opposed: 1
- Abstentions: 0

Result: Motion passed.

The final recommendation will be forwarded to the **President's Budget Advisory Council (PBAC)** and subsequently to the **Board of Trustees** for consideration and approval.

New Business

S&A Fee Increase Proposal

The committee reviewed a proposal to increase the **Services and Activities (S&A) fee by 4% beginning Fall 2026.**

Details of Proposed Increase

- Current Fee: **\$282.50 per quarter**
- Proposed Fee: **\$294.30 per quarter**
- Increase: **\$11.80 per quarter**
- Approximate annual increase for students: **\$33 per year**

The increase would generate approximately **\$200,000 in additional funding** to support student programs and services.

The proposal will move through the following approval process:

1. Student Government Board of Directors
2. University Planning and Advisory Council (UPAC)
3. Board of Trustees for final approval

Motion: Approval of S&A Fee Increase

Motion: Approve the proposed **4% S&A fee increase.**

Second: Motion seconded.

Vote:

- In Favor: Unanimous
- Opposed: None

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

The proposal will move forward through the university approval process.

Supplemental Funding Requests

No supplemental funding requests were presented.

Old Business

Reallocation of Funds to Club Travel

The committee considered a request to **reallocate \$8,500 from SLICE to Club Travel**.

Reallocation was made possible after SLICE secured **external foundation funding** to support the **Power of You Conference**, freeing internal funds to support club travel.

This reallocation does **not require supplemental funding**, as it moves funds between two S&A-supported areas.

Motion: Approve Reallocation

Motion: Approve the **\$8,500 reallocation from SLICE to Club Travel**.

Second: Motion seconded.

Vote:

- In Favor: 4
- Opposed: 0
- Abstained: 1

Result: Motion passed.

Public Comment (Second Call)

Committee members and university representatives expressed appreciation for the committee's work and commitment throughout the budgeting process.

Comments included:

- Recognition of the time and effort required for budget deliberations.
- Appreciation for committee members' dedication to supporting student services.
- Best wishes to students for **final exams and the upcoming spring break**.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:18 PM.