



AS Board of Directors

Friday, January 27th, 2017

4:00pm

VU 567

- Members:** *Present:* Stephanie Cheng (AS President); Erick Yanzon (AS VP for Academic Affairs); Aleyda Cervantes (AS VP for Diversity); Bryce Hammer (AS VP for Governmental Affairs); Wayne Rocque (AS VP for Student Life); Mary Moeller (AS VP for Business and Operations); Eric Alexander (Associate Dean of Student Engagement & Director of Viking Union).
Absent: Alexander LaVallee (AS VP for Activities);
- Advisor:** Sabrina Houck (AS Board Program Director)
- Secretary:** Chrissa Browder-Long (Board Assistant for Internal Committees)
- Guests:**

Motions:

ASB-17-W-17 Approval of all committee appointments. *Passed.*

Stephanie Cheng called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA
- III. PUBLIC FORUM
- IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Special Events Assessment

Emma Opsal explained that the recommendation for Special Events is to alter the job description to state “concise job terms” rather than “reasonable job terms”. The first two bullets of the job description stated planning two large scale, late night events for approximately 2,000 students, and coordinating the production of 3-4 events per quarter for approximately 200 people. She explained that this is thought to be vague which creates stress for the coordinator. The recommendation is to change the two bullets into four bullets that would better outline the late night events, would explain daytime programming which wasn’t stated in the previous job description and would explain the coordinator’s involvement in planning Lawnstock and Last Comic Standing. The new job description would also list a variety of specific events they could have and how they could be collaborative. This job description hasn’t been passed by Personnel Committee yet so it can’t be voted on today.

B. VU Gallery Assessment

Opsal stated that the VU Gallery Director stated that she struggled with having 3, 3-week exhibitions per quarter. The put up and take down time wasn’t accounted for in the job description. So they wanted the option for artists to have longer time commitments for exhibition. The recommendation is to change that to “at least two but no more than three” exhibitions per quarter. This allows flexibility for certain artists who are wary of 2-week exhibitions. Bryce Hammer asked if SPAC Lite could be done on a committee. Opsal has never done it before but it would be possible.

V. ACTION ITEMS – GUESTS*

VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS

VII. ACTION ITEMS- BOARD*

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS – BOARD*

A. Academic Coordinating Commission Education Recommendation

Erick Yanzon stated that at the last Faculty Senate meeting, the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) proposed to improve the GUR system. He added that people have tried to adjust the GUR system in 2014 and 2016 but they had never come to a consensus. He explained that there are four priority areas in the adjusted GUR system. The first is writing. The faculty thought that the students don't get enough writing preparation and that English 101 isn't enough. Yanzon explained that the adjustment would have a W1, W2 and W3. The W1 would consist of English 101 and another 100-level or 200-level course that has a writing aspect. W2 would be any 200-level or 300-level class with designation. He stated that the department would decide how they would label their classes. Then W3 would be any upper division class with a writing aspect. The second priority is diversity. He explained that currently the ACGM and BCGM classes, which are basically divided into North American history and history classes about people of color, are the "diversity" classes. They thought would change those from 24 credits to 34 credits. The diversity classes would be added under the humanities and social science courses. Wayne Rocque asked how that would be explained to students. Yanzon explained that they want a more coherent GUR system and handbook with a written and visual representation of the structure and its purpose. He stated that the Writing section would mainly be up to the students except for English101. He added that if you were to test out of 101, you would still have to take one other W1 course, the W2 courses and the W3. Aleyda Cervantes asked who was responsible of the diversity section, she wondered if it is similar to the ESC FIG. Yanzon explained that all of the ACGM and BCGM courses would move to social sciences and humanities then everything with a "diversity, equity and justice (DEJ)" component would be labeled as such. Hammer thought DEJ is a buzzword when talking about race but she wondered if that would address gender and sexuality in that section as well. Yanzon stated that he assumed that faculty would decide which classes were classified under each section but that it is still to be determined. He added that the last section is faculty and student engagement since student success is higher if class size is lower. The FYE (first-year experience programs) are working well and they want to promote those kinds of programs. They also want to recommend one-on-one faculty advising for prospective majors. The ACC would take charge and use resources to move forward with a proposal. Hammer wondered if there was a way to have writing workshops within majors (not just in the library) since writing is very different in different departments. She thought it would be interesting for the possibility of being a writing tutor instead of a TA for various departments. Yanzon added that there used to be a University 101 class that discussed resources on campus and accessibility but he isn't sure why the class isn't offered anymore but the university has had issues with representation and student access and he thought that it would be important to provide a class like that.

B. Ethnic Studies Conference Proposal

Cervantes stated that she and Yanzon would like to go to the National Conference for Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University with some Western students. There is a rough budget at the bottom of the document and they plan to take 12 students. The conference is March 23rd to March 25th. They thought they would drive to the conference since it is cheaper

than flying and could take even more students. Cervantes stated that rental cars were pretty cheap and the vans were large enough for 12 people. They plan to spend about \$300 on gas and the cheapest hotel rooms were \$150 for 4 people. They thought they would leave Wednesday night, to arrive Thursday morning and the conference would start Thursday evening. Cervantes and Yanzon gave \$500 from their budgets. If they were able to do early registration, the cost per student would be \$85 per student. She explained that she couldn't use her grant for this conference but she went through the budget and found money that could be used for the conference. She thought it would be helpful to also see multicultural centers in San Francisco. Yanzon added that he asked for money from the Operating Enhancement Fund. Sabrina Houck explained that the budget is for the whole Board and should be used for enhancing the operations of the AS. But the budget has some limitations; the budget can't be used more than twice, otherwise it should be operationalized. Mary Moeller stated that she would be worried about draining the budget because some other people want to use that money as well. Cervantes explained that it could come for Student Enhancement Fund but a lot of the money doesn't get used because people don't know how to access it. She thought it would be a good use of funds because a lot of money often isn't used. Eric Alexander stated that since there isn't easy access, he thought that as Board Members they can create more access for students. He added that the SEF isn't up and running but this could be test to move it through that funding but if they don't use the SEF, the Board should be thinking about how to select the people to go and what outcomes they expect though the operation. Cervantes added that San Francisco has the first Ethnic Studies college in the nation. Cervantes planned to have an OrgSync with questions on how they would use the knowledge gained from the conference and bring it back to WWU to help them select which students go to the conference. They talked about having workshops but they are focusing on how to build an ethnic studies coalition at Western. Alexander could help with outlining how it would impact students more broadly. He added that it could be sent to SEF to see if they would fund it for the other 10 students, not Yanzon and Cervantes. Cervantes added that early registration ends Feb 15th, so she stated that if it isn't approved, there won't be enough time to register early and it would get more expensive. Houck stated that SEF is meeting 2pm-4pm on Thursday. Hammer added that SEF has about \$50,000 in it. Moeller stated that the individual students would have to go to SEF and request the funding. Cervantes explained that this is an issue because they were hoping to get the funding first and then find the 10 students. Hammer wondered if it would be possible for Cervantes and Yanzon to go to SEF and just tell them that they want to bring 10 non-AS employees to the conference. Cervantes expressed concern because what if an AS employee wanted to attend the conference but couldn't because the money came from SEF. Hammer wouldn't see a conflict with that because they wouldn't be benefiting in their job. Houck suggested that when they make their proposal to SEF, they say "up to two other student employees" just in case other employees end up applying to go to the conference. Moeller stated that she believed Personnel Committee has funded similar things before for professional development. Cervantes said that she would have to go to three or four different budgets and committees to get this money together and she wondered what was the issue going through this budget. She added that if she goes through Personnel or SEF, it limits who she would be able to take to the conference. Alexander stated that the access issue has been a problem because one group often has to go through multiple committees to get funding. The process takes too much time, especially if the conference is in March. Cervantes said that if they can't use that money, it could be moved to reserves which has less guidelines. Cervantes wants to wait to send out the application until they have the funding available. Yanzon stated that they wanted it as an action item next week to the Board, not through other committees. They could then send out the applications. Cervantes added that the finance office is in charge of registering people which could take a long time. She said that this would be the most

efficient way to receive funding. Alexander added that the Board has access to the reserves and the operating budget. He thought there would be multiple places to get money for this.

C. Alternative Transportation Fee Charge and Charter

Rocque stated that the Charge and Charter for the Alternative Transportation Fee is removing the Financial Manager for the ATF. There is no reason for that position there because that position doesn't exist. He stated that the Program Manager and the Assistant Secretary fulfill the duties as the financial manager.

IX. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Committee Appointments

AS Elections Board

Macey Crooks Freshman Psychology

AS Legislative Affairs Council

Macey Crooks Freshman Psychology
Jevne Meyers Freshman Political Science

AS Structure Review Committee

Gavan Keogh Freshman Finance

*MOTION ASB-17-W- By Yanzon
17 To approve all committee appointments.*

Second: Cervantes Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

X. BOARD REPORTS

Aleyda Cervantes, VP for Diversity stated that she had an Executive Committee meeting where Greg McBride helped them read the social space forms but didn't get very far into it. Next week is the second workshop with the architects. Next Sunday is the first retreat with the ROP staff for the restructuring of the Women's Center. They will be evaluating the Women's Center and she hopes to bring that back to Structure Review. She went to Structure Review and they went over her position and are planning on splitting it to create two positions. One will focus on advocacy and one will focus on programming. They had Steering and everything was approved. Presidents Council is on Monday where they'll have to look at the ESC Lobby Day agenda. Cervantes stated that last quarter, she hosted a breakfast for all the people she works with to get to know each other and wondered if other Board Member would want to attend. For example, the EOO staff don't know the students in the AS very well. So she having a brunch and will send out a Doodle Poll.

Wayne Rocque, VP for Student Life stated that the Board Office will be changing the common space to get rid of all the smaller fridges and have one larger fridge because all the smaller fridges are taking up a lot of energy. They planned to donate it or give it to another office since the fridges are student property. Houck stated that when she went through the certification process, the Office of Sustainability suggested that the Board Office condenses the number of fridge they have. Greg McBride and Houck have been looking for more cost efficient and energy efficient fridges. She noted that giving them to other AS offices wouldn't

help with the amount of energy the AS is consuming overall. Cervantes thinks we should keep one until there is the remodel and then donate the old one once the new one arrives.

Mary Moeller, VP for Business and Operations stated that she is working on creating spending reports more accessible, so she has been trying to find ways of making the organization more transparent. She sent an email to the Western Front and will hopefully be meeting with them soon to discuss what they will put in those reports.

Erick Yanzon, VP for Academic Affairs stated he went to Structure Review and discussed his position which would be separated into two positions. It would be the elected position for academic affairs and then the Senate Chair. He added that the Student Technology Fee Committee met and has a \$400,000 surplus so they are trying to figure out what to do with that money. The CIO thought it could be used to improve Wi-Fi on campus. He met with Hammer and Rocque and they thought it could be used with the Sustainability Action Fund to have solar panels installed around campus.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Stephanie Cheng wanted to revisit the conversation regarding the GPA required for Board Member positions. The Board had previously discussed increasing the GPA from a 2.0 to a 2.25. Moeller wondered if there was a quantitative way to track the changes in Board Member's GPA's after a year in their position. They also discussed potentially looking at what other positions at the university require a 2.5 GPA such as RAs. Cheng wondered how that would impact Fairhaven students. Cervantes said that they still have to take some credits outside of Fairhaven which determine their GPA. Rocque thought it would be good to raise the GPA because even if their GPA drops due to the position, they would still have the GPA to be a student. Hammer thought a 2.5 GPA would be beneficial because it makes sure that they put their studies before their jobs. Alexander added that another question to ask is how many students would be excluded from AS elections due to their GPA.

Cheng adjourned the meeting at 5:07pm.