**Associated Students of Whatcom Community College**

**Services & Activities Fees Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Syre 105

**Members: Joshua Norton, Carlyn Finerty, Sam Maria, Nate Langstraat, Nicole Switzer, Lexus Criswell, Hillary Valentina, Heidi Farani, Keenan Kaemingk**

* **Convene Meeting: 3:08-3:09pm**
  + Josh stated that the budget forecast is $30,000 lower than they previously thought.
* **Public comment: (3:09pm-3:16pm)**
  + Rob Pedicone introduced 3 WCC soccer players.
  + Student athletes express that they were thankful to play soccer at WCC. They enjoyed meeting people from other countries. They also said they had great experiences playing other local teams. A student also stated that their teammates helped them learn English.
  + Rob stated that he wants athletics to continue to be a big part of campus.
* **Open Floor (3:16pm-4:28pm)**
  + Josh stated that they ran out of time at the last meeting, they have a total deficit of $410,000.
  + Josh had an excel sheet outlining the asks and proposed changes. Told the committee they would still have to cut some areas.
  + Josh stated that S&A fees should not fund a director level position at the college. Spoke directly about the Director of Athletics position.
  + Heidi responded stating that this would not mean the position would disappear, but they recommend the college pay their salary.
  + Nate stated that enrollment continues to decline and that they should align the level of services to that enrollment. They should address all the impacts.
  + Josh agreed. Stated that great people in a program will make-up for a decrease in other funds.
  + Nate stated that they would go through each line of the budget asks. Highlight which areas are funding more things and what is changing. Would rather eliminate a furniture budget than a person.
  + Josh stated that there is no operational budget for the ASWCC, the furniture budget is for laptops and other materials.
  + Heidi responded stating they could eliminate something and add it back in a future year, if detailed in the legacy.
  + Nate asked the difference between the student life engagement team amount and PDB amount.
  + Josh stated there is an increase in the ask and that the current PDB could not sustain the increase of in-person enrollment at WCC.
  + Heidi explained the student life engagement team is also staffing areas such as the food pantry and front desk which is why there is an increase. Heidi stated that they could cut operating hours and summer hours for the Orca Food Pantry. Explained the ask is for Monday-Friday, 8-5pm.
  + Josh expressed concern about international students that arrive at WCC in the summer and don’t have access to many food options.
  + Lexus stated that it is important to have the food pantry open year-round, but they could shorten the time it was open.
  + Heidi stated that if the Orca Food Pantry staffing was funded for 5 hours a day, the total would be $22,508.
  + Nate asked whether the student life engagement team could staff the Orca Food Pantry.
  + Heidi stated the student life engagement team could staff to an extent but would not equate to full coverage.
  + Josh stated that Mobile-up is a contractual agreement and that they must pay for it.
  + Heidi explained that the Student Life student graphic designers decrease in ask would result in no project work over summer or during breaks
  + Heidi explained the Saturday Conferences were removed, including Students Leading Change, which is written into her job description.
  + Heidi explained the club leader training stipends would fund 15 club leaders to attend trainings.
  + Committee discussed the Horizon ask; current allocations would fund 3 quarters for 3 positions. Discussion about Horizon advisor being a tenured professor to have consistency.
  + Heidi explained the welcome back was increased because it will be a more collaborative effort.
  + Josh stated that there were insufficient funds for the current sports teams, may have to cut trainers.
  + Nate explained that the college cannot use state funds for athletics or recreation.
  + Josh acknowledged that Rob has done a good job this year but believed that they needed to cut an athletic team.
  + Nate stated that student athletes contribute to enrollment.
  + Josh stated that the number of student athletes are not contributing an equal amount to the asks.
  + Lexus stated that the committee should be careful about looking at which student groups contribute to S&A fees.
  + Heidi stated that the college would be unlikely to fund the athletics trainer but would fund the director.
  + Rob stated that they are required to have an athletics trainer because they are first responders for emergencies.
  + Committee alters funding for athletic trainer to be fully funded.
  + Josh stated that they had to remove quarterly conferences and this decision was very difficult.
  + Rob stated that cross country teams can both be cut by $1,000.
  + Nate explained that the college will also have to cut allocations and use the reserves to balance. Advised committee to use reserve so that students could still have services.
  + Josh agreed, will need to use reserves for Orca Field, Will also have to get creative and combine offices/departments so resources are pooled. Focus on sharing resources rather than cutting or pulling from reserves when enrollment is declining.
  + Nate stated that the current budget is ready for the President’s Cabinet. There is still $25,000 to cut.
  + Lexus stated that it is important for the college to start getting creative.
  + Josh stated that in the future it would be a good idea to talk with requestors about how to shift gears when there is not enough funding.
  + Josh stated he wants to received feedback and may move the next meeting online and still make it open to the public.
  + Committee had no additional feedback before finalized.
  + S&A Budget moved forward at $852,612. The total was $25,815 over the 23-24 S&A budget of $826,797

*Adjourned 4:28pm*