**S&A Fee Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: May 10th, 2024

Location: Syre 216

* Alaina Hirsch – President, chair
* Heidi Farani – Director for Student Life and Development, advisor

**Voting members present**

* Yusuke Okazaki - Associate Director for Intercultural Services
* Jovanka Wong – ASWCC Senator and Student Life and Engagement Specialist
* Krystan Andreason – ASWCC VP for Campus Advocacy
* Hans Nelson – ASWCC Senator
* Mariam Mohd – ASWCC Executive VP

**Voting member not present**

* Kerri B. Holferty – VP for Student Services

5 out of 6 voting members present, quorum met

Votes needed for simple majority: 3

**Meeting called to order at 3:07 pm**

**Approval of meeting minutes**

* Hans moved to approve the meeting minutes from 4/26– Mariam seconded
* Unanimous vote to approve the meeting minutes from 4/26

**Approval of agenda**

* Yusuke moved to approve the agenda – Krystan seconded
* Unanimous vote to approve the agenda

**New Business**

**Update on Budget Approval Process** – Alaina Hirsch

* Alaina took the 2024-2025 S&A Fee Budget Proposal to the Board of Trustees on 5/8, the presentation went really well, and Alaina asked for the 10% decrease of the Learning Center to be funded by operational budget
* Took it to the Senate but didn’t have an approval, so Alaina will take this to the Executive Board meeting on 5/13 to have an approval from the Executive Board and then take it to the next BOT meeting

**Presentation on Learning Center Funding** – Trevor Austin – Math Tutor

* Asked for S&A Fee allocation of the LRN to be from $57,600.00 to $100,000.00
* The reason for this is that the number of WCC students has decreased 37% since 2010, 4 out of 5 students want to get their bachelor's but only 1 in 6 do; And the tutoring in the LRN support this, it also provides jobs for students
* Expressed that the LRN purpose aligns with the permissible uses according to the 28B.15.041 RCW and the Killian Guideline, all stated to support college employees and special tutorial or co-curricular programs
* Suggested that the S&A Fee shouldn’t be spent on the ASWCC Mobile App anymore, this should be given to tech students or departments
* Trevor's proposal for the LRN to have 6% of the budget, Student Life, student government and staff that operates in student life makeup 53% of the budget. The benefit of this is that it will increase the rate of academic support offer at the college, and then this will help with student retention rate
* Take $20,000.00 from Ongoing quarterly programming ($40,000.00)
* Take $10,000.00 from student life ($100,000.00)
* Take $5,400.00 from special projects ($10,000.00)
* Take $7,000.00 from conferences and presentations ($15,000.00)
* The total of $42,600.00 pulled from above from student life and student government would give the LRN $100,000.00
* Why initially request $80,000.00 and now ask for $100,000.00? This is to invest in students’ success on academics
* Heidi gave clarification that states law stated that student life is student program, and the LRN and tutoring do not fall under student program
* Not ready to launch the Mobile App because the Coordinator for Student Life and Development is vacant right now and that is initially the job of that position
* Student life existed because there was S&A Fee; In previous years, there have been situations where students decided to fund items that aren’t permissible according to S&A Fee Guideline
* Trevor thought that this is bias, and that students’ academic success should be the priority
* Krystan mentioned about special tutors; Noticed that there aren’t tutors for classes and subjects in Higher Education
* Trevor suggested to pull more money from reserve to fund more for the LRN, why not pull $20,000.00 or $30,000.00 more since the committee is already pulling some?
* Yusuke asked if Trevor has talked to other student programs if he wants to take money from their allocation? Trevor hasn’t done that, but it is obvious that students go to the LRN the most
* If the LRN only focuses on students’ academic success, then isn’t it curricular?

**Intercultural Center Funding** – Yusuke Okazaki

* Reminder for the IC to decide from their allocation how much will go into wages and programming before June 15th

**Budget Deliberation Discussion**

* Krystan suggested to pull more from reserve so that can give allocation to the LRN at $70,000.00
* Hans concerned about pulling from reserve, this also mean not putting more into reserve; Previous years students haven’t been adding money to reserve or Orca Field Replacement. Clarification that Orca Field Replacement usually costs 1 million, it will be replaced every 7 – 10 years. This year, we are halfway through it
* Can use last year’s recommendations to have a grant to Orca Food Pantry, or the LRN; This can be a topic on the strategic plan conversation with Administration Services
* Clarification that reserve is for capital project like new buildings, space planning requests. The IC has requested to take over Syre 216 and the OSLD will take over Syre 211. Without the money in the reserve, students may not have enough money to use on these requests
* Consider this as a long-term effect, each year students can ask for the LRN to be funded operationally, gradually the college will see that need and may make it fully operational
* Reminder that not only is there a decrease in the LRN allocation, but other departments also received decreases. Heidi clarified that this is a state wide problem, many other Community and Technical Colleges are also facing this budget constraint; Green River College put $0 into their tutoring this year
* The operational budget of the college this year is 35 million
* Motion from the voting members
* Mariam moved to have $7,000.00 pulled from reserve to put into the LRN allocation to keep it at maintenance level like last year, $64,000.00 – Jovanka seconded
* 3 Yes, 2 No. Motion to have $7,000.00 pulled from reserve to put into the LRN allocation is approved
* The committee members wanted to consider the Horizon allocation since they also received a decrease, but no paperwork or further information was given to the committee. Due to timeline restriction, the budget had to be approved today in order to take it the Executive Board meeting on 5/13; In the future, if the Horizon needs more money, they can come to Senate and ask for that money

**Public comment**

* Students/Tutors who uses the LRN frequently gave comments regarding the committee choice to decrease the LRN funding
* Suggest that students should focus on academic success first and the build community. At the LRN, students get help and support throughout their academic journey, and that the LRN is the most important place on campus and it is the center of equity of WCC
* Long-term consideration is important but in the short-term students may receive negative effects, the LRN is as important as student life
* Students found community in the LRN, tutors are more comfortable and easier to work with rather than professors. Tutors are more patient and have more time to answer questions
* Students should be prioritized in having space and materials to study with, and the LRN provide all of that. Anything the LRN do can increase the rate of WCC enrollment
* The students expressed that they didn’t feel like they are heard, they have come to many meetings and made suggestions, but the committee didn’t seem to take that into account

**Adjourn**

* Hans moved to adjourn – Yusuke seconded
* Unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting

**Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm**