

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SERVICES & ACTIVITIES FEES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Members: Joshua Norton, Carlyn Finerty, Alberto Halim, Gabriel Price, Kayleen Tauhid, Nate Langstraat, and Lexus Criswell

- **Convene Meeting (1:00pm-1:15pm)**

- Committee introductions and purpose of committee
 - S&A Fees Purpose: To provide nonoperational services and programming to college campuses
- Reviewed agenda and ground rules
 - Speak loud enough for all to hear
 - Be mindful of using cell phone
- Introduced Heidi Farani as committee advisor

- **Preparation (1:16pm-2:00pm)**

- Establish Priorities
 - Nate Langstraat provided perspective for his and Lexus' role as professional staff not to steer or direct how students are allocating dollars but rather prompt questions
 - Quality student employment
 - Student engagement
 - Student led
 - Serves underserved student populations. E.g., neurodivergent, students of color, LBGTQIA+
 - Accessibility
 - Retention
- Definitions for Priorities
 - Quality employment = what are students doing with their time and is it developmental with fair wages
 - Student engagement = variety of programming to meet different student needs. Student to student interactions. Creates a desire for a student to want to be/stay at WCC. E.g., 1:1 mentorship and event participation
 - Operational = what college provides as a basic service
 - Retention = students staying at WCC And completing their degree.

- **Public Comment (1:50pm-2:00pm)**

- Rob Pedicone apologized for his student rep being absent. Athletics is working on enhancing culture and shout out to the students serving on this committee and making a huge impact to the school. At the end of the day, he will respect decisions made and the time put into the process

- **Create Request Packet Priority List (2:00pm-3:00pm)**

Deliberation among the committee to review packet requests and determine if they are in alignment with priorities listed above.

- **Student Government**
 - High alignment
 - Defined as ASWCC Student Government (clubs, senate, executive board)
 - Committee comments:

- Carlyn encouraged the committee to consider students vs. nonstudents in this request specifically with Orca Day. Nonstudents are not allowed to utilize resources paid for with S&A Fees and this may cause issues with Orca Day activities.
- **Intercultural Center**
 - High alignment consensus
 - No committee comments
- **ASWCC Student Unions**
 - High alignment
 - Committee comments:
 - Alberto encouraged the committee to consider that these clubs are a part of the Intercultural Center and the amount allocated for the Intercultural Center is large enough to cover these types of clubs.
 - As the committee advisor, Heidi encouraged to bring this conversation back when the deliberation to fund/not fund requests takes place. These organizations show up each year as clubs and the intention is not just support and resources but also representation within the Associated Students.
- **Office of Student Life & Development**
 - High alignment
 - No committee comments
- **Orca Athletics**
 - Midline alignment
 - Comments from committee advisor:
 - Heidi offered historical context about the origins of Athletics. A program born out of student programs and is now a separate department. Athletics provides intramurals and clubs that are in alignment with the extra and cocurricular priorities.
- **Horizon Student Newspaper (\$23,500 request)**
 - Split among committee between midline and low alignment.
 - Committee comments:
 - Alberto voted least in alignment with priorities as there are greater needs for allocation and suggests Horizon is reaching too few people.
 - Gabriel voted most in alignment as the student newspaper is the central source for what's happening on campus, keeps administration and student government in check, and makes sure students know what these groups are doing. They are keeping the campus safe and transparent.
 - Carlyn seconded Gabriel's comments and believes it's important to have a student newspaper.
 - Kayleen voted midline alignment. Important to have newspaper, but had not heard of Horizon before joining the ASWCC Senate and the reach is not supporting the request.
 - Heidi reminded the committee to consider other sources of funding for these requests and S&A is the Horizon's only funding.
- **Performing Arts**
 - Midline alignment
 - No committee comments
- **Residence Life**
 - Midline alignment
 - Committee comments:

- Carlyn suggested Residence Life provides inclusive programming essential to the wellbeing, safety, and stability of students, builds community, and contributes to quality of life and retention.
 - Nate considered housing is open for all students and it's important for 200+ students to have ways to build community within Cedar Hall and broader campus life.
 - Josh – having a lively community in Cedar Hall is important to the people who live there.
- **Nursing Pinning Ceremony**
 - Least in alignment
 - Lexus asked the committee to take other funding sources into consideration when deliberating on this request.
- **Student Success and Retention / Orientation**
 - Most in alignment
 - Committee comments:
 - Nate – first engagement opportunity for students. Orientation may need purchases that aren't funded in other ways.
- **Student Success and Retention / Pod Leaders**
 - Midline alignment
 - Committee comments:
 - Carlyn – Pod Leaders provide programming to students and opportunity to collaborate with ASWCC who has fallen short in reaching out to Pod Leaders. Need to be careful about assumptions made about their jobs. The work that Pod Leaders do is student led – they come up with the ideas and see them through.
 - Gabriel – after speaking with Pod Leaders learned hours spent at front desk are valuable. Provide student to student services, peer mentorship, and open programs for students to engage on campus.
 - Josh – S&A priority is quality student employment. Pod Leaders do a lot of work that can be funded operationally and they have another funding source. They are filling an engagement gap on campus.
 - Heidi – reminder to not make assumptions and judgements about other's jobs.
 - Nate – keep in mind these are not all or nothing conversations. The requests are layered.
 - Lexus – encouraged to remember the Pod Leader S&A presentation with a Pod Leader present who discussed how the job is split between operational and student to student.
 - Will deliberate on fully funding or not in future meeting.
- **Learning Center**
 - High alignment
 - Committee comments:
 - Josh – Learning Center is curricular. Other CTC S&A committees have ceased funding the tutoring center.
 - Heidi – encourage to look at guidelines and laws around fees when thinking about this funding request. Even though it impacts grades, it is cocurricular as it happens outside the classroom. Reminder to think about permissibility first and then prioritization around programs as defined in guidelines.
 - Nate – reminder of priorities: student to student engagement, safe, inclusive in ways that can't happen in other areas of the institution.
 - Alberto – second Nate. Students tutoring students is a connecting piece for engagement.
 - Carlyn – tutors get the opportunity to build skills and connect on their academic journey.

- **AIR Student Advisory Group**
 - Low alignment
 - No committee comments
- **Student Services**
 - High alignment
 - No committee comments

BREAK (3:00pm-3:10pm)

Revisiting Priorities List (3:10pm-3:15pm)

- Opened Orca Athletics and Horizon for more discussion.
 - Nate – Orca Athletics is a larger request but most in alignment.
 - Josh – concurs – meets quality employment, regular on campus programming, supports recreation drop-in programs, fully extracurricular, most athletes are students of color.
 - Alberto petitioned for Horizon to be moved to least in alignment.
 - Gabriel countered that is in alignment with priorities, quality employment, engaging students, cocurricular, important central hub for information.
 - Josh seconds Gabriel. Students need a platform that is not beholden to the ASWCC or College.

Public Comment (3:15pm-3:30pm)

- Terri Thayer – Encourages the committee to think about the comments made about Pod Leaders doing something that is supposed to be done by Student Life but isn't, to think about the assessment of requests, and think about the approval of requests.

Allocation Deliberation (3:31pm-4:45pm)

- **Financial Overview**
 - Allocation spreadsheet highlights individual items and requests for fiscal year 2024.
 - Starting with the assumption of revenue amount that matches 2023.
 - Total requests submitted = 1.24 million. Revenue amount = \$855,100.
- **Assign Funding Amount Prep Conversation**
 - Heidi reminded to focus on the purpose of S&A Fees and not value of these requests. Brought back conversations around Horizon and Athletics that fell in middle alignment with priorities when S&A is their only funding. Learning Center fell in high priority when they do have other funding.
 - In guidelines for permissible usage, "permissibility for S&A Fees is for special tutoring or critical programs provided they are not a sustaining program of the college".
 - Carlyn – difficult to not make value judgements when it's hard to separate the two [operational funds vs. S&A Funds].
 - Josh – Learning Center is high value and when we give money to them, we take away from a program where the only or primary funds are S&A.
 - Nate – Think about sustaining programs that have been in place and think about this juxtaposed to new request. Funding something that's been around for a while means dismantling some of those for new requests – consider the tradeoff. Student Services request – a commitment has been made to fund (3) professional staff and defunding it risks losing jobs.
 - Josh – have ability to make changes by providing guidance to future committees and starting conversations now. Don't need to make huge sweeping changes but do need to reduce requests by \$400,000.
- **Assign Funding Amount**

- Nursing Pinning: Request \$1,419.73
 - Alberto – vote to not fund and request can be something taken to Senate next year.
 - Heidi – Academic department for certain students, invite only. Nursing also has joint funding from Foundation.
 - **Not funded**
- AIR Student Advisory Group: Request \$2,134
 - **Not funded**
- ASWCC Student Unions: Request \$3,000
 - Current club levels have high activity.
 - Represent students and have support from faculty and staff to provide and structure identifying spaces.
 - Bylaws won't be specific to these unions, but to students who want to create unions and these (3) are initiating. LatinX, Black Student Union, and Pride Club. Collaboration with Intercultural Center.
 - Gabriel – Funding would allow more flexibility in programming for these clubs who are doing amazing work.
 - Carlyn – on board and hope for a neurodivergent union in the future.
 - Nate – clarifying question for difference between student club and student union – is there a reporting structure housed within Intercultural Center with guidance under Intercultural professional staff?
 - Josh – student unions are student led, student run group of people that exist to provide resources and advocacy for students who identify with them on campus, do not have required reporting that clubs have or report to student government. Funding isn't tied to participation because they are for students who are underrepresented.
 - Heidi – students were not apart of the dollar amount to fund conversations due to the timeline of getting the request turned in.
 - **Funding decision tabled until further discussion takes place.**
- Student Services – three professional staff positions (40% Athletic Director, 100% Associate Director for Student Life, 60% Coordinator for Student Life): Request \$175,496
 - Nate supports and adds these areas aren't required to have campus life as a basic operation which is why it's appropriate to fall in S&A Funding requests.
 - Lexus supports
 - Josh supports and adds one day it would make sense to take these positions out of S&A Fees when operational budgets stabilize. These positions are vital to the operations of the programs they are in.
 - Alberto questioned why fully funding the Athletic Director and Coordinator can't come from operational dollars.
 - Heidi provided examples of impermissible uses of S&A Fees from the guidelines, "Salaries of professional employees not directly related to the student programs operations". – This is a permissible request as these positions help run your programs and activities.
 - Gabriel questioned why benefits are included in the request.
 - Heidi explained benefits follows the funding source for the salary. Encouraged the committee to lay the groundwork for this conversation for future committees to consider as this conversation is a long-term plan.
 - **Request funded.**

- **Public Comment (3:45pm-5:00pm)**

- Giordanne Panis
 - Circled back to the Student Union conversation and wanted more clarity. As VP for Pride Club, open to having unions as it benefits all students who take advantage of this space, but what would it look like down the road if they were to expand, or what would it look like for members if this wasn't funded?
 - Posed question about Indonesian Club not being offered the same option. This club has continuous enrollment and engagement.
 - Regarding Student Services request – why are full time employees being paid for by S&A Fees? Recognize importance of athletics for engagement, but low student attendance at these games. Disconnect between administration and students don't have a voice in how this money is funded.
 - What are we doing for the existing students to keep them in school. No direct communication between departments who are doing work across campus and there is a lot of overlap. What are we missing and how is talking about the money they're paying without having student voice in the room benefitting them?
 - With the programming activities and services offered, why are we doing things twice when we have a fully functional system?
- Josh Davis
 - Conversation about what's being denied vs. approved – encourages committee to do a lot more self-reflection on what deserves approval vs. what is denied. Have to make a cut of \$400,000 so why not start with the bigger request and go from there?
- Yusuke Okazaki
 - For student unions as a concept, there's a shift for the college to do this for underrepresented students and want to have resources ready for these groups. Want to be mindful of adding additional unions to ensure support to run effectively.
 - Giving student groups more money is more than just food or programming. It is helpful for getting outside people to do some of the labor, e.g. a talk from an outside speaker. Currently the students are tasked with coming up with the plan and being the content expert.
- Jeff Beha
 - Athletics makes a huge impact on the school from a retention standpoint. People are involved from different communities on campus.
 - Athletics works hard to do things at the lowest cost and it interferes with the competitive edge against other schools who are in recruitment and maintaining safety. E.g., lunch per diem of \$18 at Peninsula (rival school) vs. \$10 lunch per diem at WCC. Asking for money that they have had in the past from S&A fees to help support the fundraising they already work hard on.

Adjourned 4:50pm