

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SERVICES & ACTIVITIES FEES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, March 17, 2023

Syre 107/108

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

- **Convene meeting (1:06pm-1:10pm)**
  - Committee introductions
    - Josh introduced new member, Nicole Switzer
  - Reviewed agenda and ground rules
    - Can raise hand or speak up if they have a comment
    - Be aware of discussions taking place and aware of the minute taker
- **Preparation (1:10pm-1:17pm)**
  - Establish priorities
    - Josh did an overview of priorities that were established in the previous meeting.
      - Quality student employment
      - Focus on student engagement
      - Holistic experience for people
      - Meet concerns of many students
      - Student to student interactions
      - Student employment as an area for personal growth and allow them to grow in their own way
      - For programming, activities, and services
      - Want programming, services, and activities to grow and be student led.
      - Discussed difference between curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular
      - Need to serve underserved students and be accessible to students
    - Nate mentioned that Jason requested \$85k, but verbally said they only need \$80k, so they can update that.
- **Public Comment (1:17pm-1:20)**
  - No public comments
- **Open Floor (1:20pm-2:00pm)**
  - Josh addressed the feedback from the previous meeting and opened the floor for that conversation
  - Alberto mentioned Giordanne's communication comment from the previous meeting. Feels there are lot of people duplicating work. Need to focus more on working together and teamwork.
  - Josh agreed and said the committee must find \$400k to cut from this budget and that they cannot afford redundancy.
  - Lexus: Commented on how peer mentoring is happening in areas on campus, but different in those spaces and they should encourage collaboration.
  - Josh mentioned that Residence Life is asking for \$4k for programming and that is similar to the amount the Programming and Diversity Board gets for an entire quarter. Also mentioned that programming is closed for the residents who live there, still wants

programming, but should come through Student Life as a request for partnership and funds.

- Gabe expressed concern and stated that some groups need autonomy.
- Carlyn expressed frustration about the residence life conversation.
- Josh thanked Carlyn for her feedback.
- Question about where residence life funds come from?
- Nate explained Residence Life receives funding through lease payments.
- Committee discussed student-led programming being a priority for them while still having staff that guide them.
- Nate told the committee that there is a 37% increase in enrollment since last Spring.
- The committee discussed whether it was appropriate for groups to come to Student Life to request funding. Majority of the committee expressed they felt this would be a hindrance and would not be a good idea.
- Josh mentioned that tutoring is asking for \$80k but has over 200k of operational funds.
- Heidi stated that not funding tutoring does not mean students will lose it, the additional funding would enhance what they already have.

- **Break (2:09pm-2:20pm)**

- **Open Floor (2:20pm-2:30pm)**

- Josh stated the current deficit was \$380,264
- Committee discussed that S&A fees are only supposed to be used on S&A paying students, but there is a priority to meet the needs of all students and create a welcoming and inclusive space.
- Nate stated that international programs and running start are contractual programs and provide about 6.5 million to the college.

- **Assign Funding (2:30pm-3:42pm)**

- **ASWCC Student Government**

- Heidi advises the committee to use this ask as a model to look at other funding request and their increases or new asks. Advises the committee to review how the current is different from maintenance level funding. She said that the student government ask has a change of \$6,500, but the ASWCC Programming and Diversity Board was removed from this funding request.
- Gabe brought up student wages and he feels they are paid minimally, feels it is exploitative to international students. Believes wages should be increased to \$17-18 an hour.
- Heidi addressed this and said if we increase for student leaders, it should probably be increased for all the students that work on campus. Should be stated in advance to requestors if this change were made.
- Gabe stated that he thinks student leaders are not paid enough for the work they do.
- Nate responded and said this is a larger conversation that would involve HR looking at position descriptions to not create equity issues. Feels that this would be an institutional change.
- Josh expressed concern about increasing student wages having a negative effect on the number of hours students can work and the impact it would have on areas such as the food pantry and tutoring hours.

- Committee talked about asking the state for more funding and this was a larger issue. Gabe expressed students should have more control over this budget and the college should be paying professional staff salaries.
  - Nate stated that adding an additional executive board position, more hours for senators, and training for club leaders seems like a good investment.
  - **Request Fully Funded for \$93,152**
- **Office of Student Life and Development:**
  - Committee discussed changes in this ask from previous years. Heidi explained that the Programming and Diversity Board will now be housed under the Office of Student Life and Development.
  - Heidi gave context that student leaders have been asking for more staff.
  - Gabe brought up concerns about student leaders working as front desk staff.
  - Nate says they should think about front desk staff more and they should work through the line items of this request.
  - Josh stated that Student Life is seen as separate from college and as an extension, the Associate Director for Student Life is not a priority for the college to fund.
  - Nate stated that if something is directly connected to students via position description that it should be paid from S&A fees.
  - Heidi gave historical context for student ambassadors moving from the Student Life office to be Pod Leaders and that Student Life lost staffing.
  - Lexus asked about the Orca Food Pantry hours for next year. Heidi responded stating 8am-5pm, and if this was not funded, programmers would perform front desk staff work.
  - Lexus asked how the programming staff is different from front desk staff.
  - Heidi responded stating the programmer ask is the bare minimum to keep front desk and orca food pantry open.
  - Josh stated programmers would have to balance front desk staffing with planning events.
  - Discussion now focused on mascot appearances.
  - Heidi explained this amount accounts for both someone in the mascot and a handler.
  - Discussion about whether or not to fund this or include it in student programmer's duties. Committee decided to come back to this topic later.
  - Discussion on student graphic designers. Committee felt this was important and would fund this.
  - Majority agreed quarterly welcome back events should be funded.
  - Majority agreed Student Leadership Conference Series should be funded.
  - Majority agreed ongoing quarterly programming should be fully funded.
  - Majority agreed Student Leadership Celebration should be fully funded.
  - Discussion about increasing Orca Day funding in the future. Majority agreed Orca Day should be fully funded.
  - Majority agreed student center supplies should be fully funded.
  - Majority agreed Mobile up engagement app should be fully funded
  - Majority agreed music licenses should be funded

- Discussion about commencement, Heidi stated that people said there were not enough activities at commencement, but they will not be increasing the ask now.
  - Committee stated they would come back to commencement later
- **Break (3:42pm-3:59pm)**
- **Assign Funding (3:59pm-4:36pm)**
  - **ASWCC Student Government**
    - Josh stated that he would like to committee to come to a consensus about whether or not S&A fees pay for front desk staff and communicate why they made those decisions.
    - Discussion around not funding front desk staff from S&A fees. Concerns about not having front desk staff if not funded.
    - Nicole stated she thinks the funding should be operational.
    - Committee votes on all front desk staff being operational.
    - Carlyn stated she didn't vote because she needs more time to think.
    - Majority agrees that they should universally move forward with front desk staff being an operational cost.
    - Committee discussed mascot appearances and that if not funded then programmers would need to need to do this, adding to their workload.
    - Gabe, Alberto, and Carlyn commented stating they believe programmers should do this as part of their work.
    - Majority agreed mascot appearances should be fully funded.
    - Discussion about commencement.
    - Gabe brings up concerns of paying for cake that are going to graduates who are no longer students and their families.
    - Josh and Heidi both responded to Gabe, stating that it is permissible, and that families can attend if it is beneficial for students.
    - Josh stated that this ask falls in their priorities.
    - Majority agreed commencement should be fully funded.
    - Committee then discusses Orca Day, concern about the ask not being enough. May need to increase ask in the future.
    - Majority agreed Orca Day should be fully funded.
    - **Request partially funded at \$250,004. Committee did not fund OSLD front counter request.**
  - **Public Comment (4:33pm-4:36pm)**
    - Giordanne Panis
      - Stated that attendance at athletic events is low and the mascot should not need that much money.
      - Stated that we should fund the commencement ask, mentioned first generation students and what it means to them to graduate. Graduates should be given cake at commencement.
      - Unsure what Mobile up app is, would like to learn more about it.
      - Believes there should be an adequate budget for Orca Day, they would like to have a drag show and stage, which cost a great deal.
    - Robert Pedicone
      - Thanked everyone for being on the committee.
      - Stated that athletics wants to collaborate and be partners.

- Acknowledged that the athletic ask is large, but it only covers basic costs, such as driving students to games.
  - **Assign Funding (4:36pm-4:59pm)**
    - **ASWCC Organizations**
      - Josh asked the committee if they wanted to fund student unions before the meeting ends.
      - Nate stated that he thought this had already been earmarked. Believed it was important to fund.
      - Josh proposed to increase this ask and that student government would help them form.
      - Gabe asked why they would do this for student unions but not Orca Day.
      - Heidi stated that if we increased this amount it would go against what they agreed upon earlier.
      - **Majority agreed student unions should be fully funded at \$3,000.**
    - **Pod Leader Program/Student Success and Retention**
      - Discussion about front desk staffing, may apply to Pod leaders.
      - Nate recommended that the committee reach back out to requestors to see how their services would be impacted if not fully funded.
      - Heidi stated that if the Pod Leader were not fully funded, Orca Central may need to scale back. Academic support is not a priority for S&A funding.
      - Nate asked if the reorganization of PDB will create more opportunities in one area while reducing them in another area.
      - Josh stated that student jobs are important to students and there are opportunities on campus. They still need to cut funds.
      - Heidi stated that the committee is not cutting a program, but supplemental funding.
      - Josh stated that pod leaders have 12 hours of desk time.
      - Lexus stated that it accounts for 80% of their time and asked whether it was reasonable to fully fund.
      - Josh asked the committee if they could fund \$6,000.
      - Nate stated that the 80/20s split it arbitrary and not true of all pod leaders. Stated they should fund this at some level and that he thinks their work is important.
      - Committee members agree with Nate.
      - **Majority agreed Pod Leader Program/Student Success and Retention should be partially funded at \$12,000**

**Adjourned 4:59pm**