

ASWU Minutes 3/2/2016

- I. Call to order: Justin 5:02pm
- II. Mission Statement: Connor
- III. Minutes: Approved, none opposed
- IV. Club Updates – Physics and Engineering Collective
 - a. Eric Reichel (Adam): I'm the VP. This is our first year as a club and we wanted to build a strong community with the lower and upper classmen. We have been holding events to build a community and academically.
 - b. Eric Zimmerman (Adam): We had an ice cream social with 50 people there with staff as well. We also hosted an internship panel and we had 7 students talk about their internships with 30 people there. The last event was a 4-year plan open house with 30 people there with a lot of freshman and sophomore.
 - c. Sarah Gady: We hosted a dodgeball tournament this semester and we always had an EMI panel with Whitworth alumni about serving Christ through a stem discipline in 3rd world countries.
 - d. Lauren (Adam): we have other things planned as well as 2 panels, one with the physics professors to tell students about careers. Later on, we will have a professional panel to give students a chance to network.
 - e. Brena: when is the first panel?
 - f. Eric Zimmerman (Adam): it was going to be March 9th but we had some scheduling issues. We are hoping to have it this march.
 - g. Justin: COVAC students interning with Whitworth what are your thoughts?
 - h. Sarah Gady (Adam): my personal opinion: there are a lot of benefits to have the accreditation. While Whitworth is doing a good job preparing students, there is a gap. Also not only can students delve into engineering classes, they can also get the liberal arts experience. They would just be able to gain more of an engineering background.
 - i. Katie: Is there anyway to hold a meeting to have the majors talk about that this month?
 - j. Sarah Gady: Yes I think we would be more than willing to do that.
 - I. Guests: Joe (keep up to date), Brett (keeping up to date), Brad Pointer (thank you to support our requisition), Lana, Sedona, Emily (wanted to see what was happening), Maddie, Becca, Eliza, Karlen, Caleb, Rosetta Rhodes, Jim Munyon, Greg Orwig.
- V. Updates on University Budget and Tuition:
 - a. Jim: I'm the interim VP and I took over for Jerry. They wanted to do a full national search so I was invited to help. I am here to share some discussions with Beck and his cabinet. We have some developments and it's time to reach out and give an update and get a dialogue going. Since this is budgeting time, it's in that process that we are informed in some landscape changes. So some background. It is important to remember that Whitworth is on a growing trend. We have 12 more students per year on average for the last 15 years. We had a goal to get 625 incoming students to get 2300 undergrads and in the process we had 2 years in the last 4 where we exceeded and 2 where we did not. As we speak now and on current estimates, we are going to fall short. It is becoming more and more apparent that we are probably not going to get to an academy of 2300 students. First of all, it is more competitive than ever because there is less students out there than ever. In addition, there are shrinking demographics in the Midwest so those schools branch out to recruit. Also we are all aware that income growth has not been where it could be. There is more of a focus on vocational degrees versus a liberal arts degree that is broader. On top of that, half the people that come here consider a public university. Locally, we have seen a 25% cut in tuition in public education. Taxpayer money has lowered that rate. There is also a lot of aggressive financial aid that has had

some effect on the structure. So, what's happening is that because of tuition going down, there is a squeeze going on in the budget. We are going to have to look at differences. Tuition increase at 3.5% is low in history. That is the board of trustees understanding the load of tuition. So some of the costs we have to bear aren't easily affected. Outside control of things like healthcare and utilities. Also technology costs. So we are constrained a little bit on new programs and salary increases. And there are other strategic investments that will probably have to be postponed. So we are going to appoint a task force that will restructure the budget for less than 2300 students. We do have reserves but we can't do that year after year. We want to do it in a controlled and efficient way to keep the quality intact. Examples, we run our budget by presenting to the board in April and all the expenses are loaded in: staff hiring, class additions, and that is all done before we know what students are coming so that puts some volatility in the revenue side of things. We might have to move those expenses to the fall. The other thing I wanted to share with you is the structure for income. Largely, we are tuition driven at 83% of operating budget. The auxiliary represents room and board. The other moneys are endowment at 3% and we continue to build that. And then the last is the annual fund when folks give us money to run the school. This is a representation for the functional expenses. The largest block is the financial aid provided by Whitworth. The next one at 21% is faculty and academic support. And then the auxiliary again is room and board but this is for Sodexo and upkeep. The next is the benefits. The next is the student services that are made up of student life, admittance and athletics. And then Admin function is like 6%. Debt Services is the payment on bonds for the buildings. Facilities is general upkeep at 4%. The last one is advancement, which is campaigns and alumni. When you look at overall cost, we like to remind folks of our value proposition of coming to Whitworth. Again, these are the benefits. We got to remember the class sizes are better, taught by PHD staff. 11-to-1 ratio. 85% students graduate in 4 years. It is less than half of that at a public university. So you'll pay in time. Very rich residence life is built in here. Retention rates and grad rates are above national average. We have study abroad, service learning. 94% of grads are in grad school or employed after 9 months. Excellent facilities and athletics, performing arts. We are in fine shape. We have a growing endowment and committed staff. We have growing enrollment but it is flattening out. We need new work on those expenses, not huge adjustments. We aren't going to have 2300 undergraduates like we hoped. We will get the involvement of everyone. We believe we offer a valuable proposition and we intend to keep that going. Questions?

- b. Justin: Before that, we can give the assembly some conversation time.
- c. Jordan: what is the dollar amount per annual revenue? Do we get anything for having athletics?
- d. Jim: It is roughly \$110 million. We are nonprofit.
- e. Greg: about 30% of students are varsity athletes. And a lot of people choose to come here to play sports.
- f. Jordan: so we lose money?
- g. Greg: well it costs but athletics generates some of their own revenue through sponsorships. They put on fundraising events, all of which generate donor dollars. We don't have any sponsors for jazz band or debate team.
- h. Mak: today I was talking to somebody and they said they have 5 classes with 4 teachers who are visiting teachers is there a benefit?
- i. Jim: they come for a couple reasons. Sometimes it is hard to find a replacement so we will hire someone for a year or try out some folks. When someone comes in, they are paid less, but that is not the intent, we want the right people.

- j. Greg: they is probably pretty unusual. Over the last 5 years, we have made a commitment to have less visiting teachers. Sometimes it is to make sure there is an interest.
- k. Brendan: we have been talking about housing costs and not being able to pay for on-campus housing. Are there any plans in effect to address that?
- l. Jim: Almost all of our cost of meals is the cost of Sodexo to provide that. There is always a cushion that goes back into student life. In comparable schools, our costs are in the middle so we are definitely competitive, but it isn't cheap. Living off campus sometimes you can help on meals but not really on rent and car cost. It does provide for the residential environment we want to create that you won't get as much as off campus. Sodexo has their costs as well but we try to keep each other honest.
- m. Bailey K: When I looked into Whitworth I looked at similar schools like George Fox. So our tuition is going up and enrollment is going down?
- n. Greg: enrollment is still going up. Coming in is still bigger than the graduating classes.
- o. Jim; we aren't growing like we hope to grow.
- p. Bailey K: my sibling goes to George Fox and their enrollment is going up and their tuition is going down. So how are we competing?
- q. Greg: we are doing all kinds of things to hit enrollment. Programs and marketing, and identifying potential students. We are leaving no stone unturned. But there are some head winds. I was a student here and the enrollment was 1100. That was the last time we were in a demographic downturn. There are fewer college students now. The thing about tuition that is tricky is there is the list price and the actual net price after financial aid. I have looked at George Fox's and both of ours are higher. We charge more and we give away more. We set the list price to set the amount of quality. We set the tuition for the US News competition, we are in the top 10.
- r. Jim: We are below the increases of the 14 in our network. We are trying to get more in the middle.
- s. Chase: What did we learn in 2013? I remember a similar conversation then.
- t. Justin: in 2013 there was a big budget concern including printing.
- u. Greg: when we launched the 2021 plan, we recognized if we quit growing that the way to continue to invest, we would have reallocated resources. That was kind of an effort in 2013 maybe before there was quite the same amount of urgency driven by the economic reality. The biggest thing that happened then is closing down the Costa Rica center. Now I would say, we haven't achieved our economic goals and the enrollment so that has squeezed our money.
- v. Jim: 2013 was one year where we thought we could get to 2300 students.
- w. Rachel: Is the task force open to select students or anyone?
- x. Jim: none of that has been worked out.
- y. Greg: we plan on working with Justin.
- z. Rachel: will it be this year?
- aa. Jim: task force will be next fall.
- bb. Justin: What can we do as students to help out as students? Are we being wasteful in the dorms?
- cc. Rosetta: be thinking of ways we can reduce our expenses. We would appreciate suggestions.
- dd. Greg: Beck has said many times, everything we do at the university is good. If it was wasteful we would stop. We covet your input. Secondly, I think you guys are our best advertising to possible students. We appreciate that.
- ee. Connor: My understanding that tuition increases were planned to go to faculty pay. But it sounds like it isn't. Where is the match up?

ff. Greg: we are actually adding new faculty positions to targeted places. There wasn't an attempt to bait and switch. The costs are actually going up for that.

gg. Maddie: Is financial aid increase going to affect all students? SPU increased their scholarship and that affected current students as well as incoming.

hh. Greg: part of the reason why it is increasing is because we are increasing the scholarships every year for each incoming class. We try to address the fact that academic scholarships stay the same is by reserving the endowed scholarships only to returning scholarships and department scholarships as well.

ii. Bailey V: from the year I enrolled to when I graduate, tuition will increase \$10000 but my scholarships don't increase so I want to understand that.

jj. Greg: I am going to look into if there is anyway we can ... if we increase aid so your cost stays the same all four years, then there is less new revenue to cover costs that come up for the institution or invest in new services. We would be less able to do those things.

kk. Bailey V: I feel not helped at all as tuition is increasing. I try to pay this without loans. And even if something took a little dent, I would feel a little more supported but instead I spend time trying to find other scholarships. And that is a big burden. There has to be a consistency for current students.

ll. Justin: students tell me they don't expect tuition to increase each year.

mm. Greg: We try to be up front about that when recruiting. But we are trying to bend it down so that the increase is smaller. I am going to see if there is anything I can do.

nn. Jordan: you talk about being upfront, I guess just keeping consistent that tuition is increasing in percent every year helps with the transparency so I recommend that when talking to us. Why not decrease tuition to get more students to come and then have happier students that reach 2300 students?

oo. Greg: lower tuition and lower aid, we aren't convinced.

pp. Jordan: keep aid the same.

qq. Jim: it doesn't translate to the 75 extra students. Because financial aid changes the net income.

rr. Greg: I think we are doing what you are saying by flattening the net increase in price. Studies show money is associated with value of the school. Also if the scholarship is bigger students are more likely to come.

ss. Brittany: I hear that it isn't worth it for the value. It has increased \$5,000 since I have come. I hear people saying they aren't going to recommend Whitworth because of cost. And people want to be RAs just for living costs. Also not everyone can afford Study Aboard options.

tt. Jim: it's a tough situation. Sometimes, public schools are cheaper but is it going to get you where you want to go?

uu. Jeff: if you lower tuition, you might get better retention.

vv. Greg: which is partly why we are trying to lower the increase.

ww. Jeff: what is the average amount you make per student?

xx. Greg: so 83% of revenue comes from tuition and 35% goes back to students. So what's left covers the other stuff.

yy. Jeff: do you have a number?

zz. Greg: \$18,000-20,000 per student.

aaa. Kevin: Every student cares about dollar amount, but how much do students care about the rationale behind a raise? And educating students on it?

bbb. Greg: I would be interested to hear what you guys think of the letter we sent out. We try hard to explain why we increase. But you are the better judge if that resonates.

ccc. Brendan: my impression is people know it's the letter. People don't want to look at it. I didn't really understand how it directly affects me.

ddd. Kevin: A common theme of off campus is they didn't understand the increase but they wanted to.

eee. Greg: It used to be 2 and half pages but we will try to unpack it more.

fff. Jim: every school raises tuition to some degree so it shouldn't be a big surprise. If you think about it, you are paying for high cost items, and services. It is 67% talented people and that drives our costs.

ggg. Norma: **First of all**, thank you for being here. **Secondly**, I am the Boppell senator. **At the beginning of my term, I was told by a few of my constituents - specifically speaking the sociology department - that** a majority of their professors are adjuncts. **Essentially**, they feel like they are being robbed by not getting the **benefits of attending a private school** nor money's worth **by having adjuncts teaching the courses because they simply lack the skills to do so**. You mentioned that the increase **in tuition** is to hire professors, **does that include adjuncts?** (Norma)

hhh. Greg: we added 3 long-term professors in the next budget. We have 4 in the sociology department. We have made a shift to depend less on adjuncts and invest in permanent faculty.

iii. Jim: we do have to fill in gaps, and sometimes they aren't planned.

jjj. Justin: you can all give feedback but let's thank them. Let's take a 1 minute break.

VI. Reports:

a. Skyler: we had one requisition from the basketball club. They are going to a competition in Oregon. So we gave them \$250. 1133 17316

b. Connor: are they any good?

c. Bre: Yes.

d. Skyler: and they are respectful.

e. Connor: I just wanted to make sure we are supporting winners.

f. Justin: The external committee has some ideas. One is to write a letter to faulty letters as paper cranes and personalize them. We are also looking at getting a petting zoo and talking to REI and talking to Whitworth auxiliary as well as alumni and local bands. I am on the search committee for the new VP so Chase will be leading next week.

g. Aric: nothing.

h. Nicole: pass.

i. Nate: pass.

j. Adam: the Awkward Middle School dance was neat.

k. Mak: pass.

l. Ryan: auditions for Warren Peace is next week, 10 11 12 of March and sign ups are at the info desk.

m. Mike: pass

n. Niehls: we have our last snowshoe trip on the 11 and biking on the 12. And spots for Moab.

o. Norma: pass.

p. Bailey V: on Friday at 3pm there is a double feature of the Hunger Games. No food. I could get food, maybe. Second, talk to me if you hear from residents for different concert ideas.

q. Rediet: pass.

r. Brendan: pass.

s. Nate: believe conference is this weekend.

- t. Peter: I had a student who expressed concern about the recent merging of Student Life and Security. The email that was sent to us did not give much detail about this, so I was wondering if the rationale will be explained to the student body?
- u. Rosetta: We want to integrate with a unit. Another reason, it would be better for students and security to build connections and better able to support students. So we are embarking on a community policing idea. More present and more foot patrols and more integrated. Also training is a key piece in that.
- v. Jeff: I had a resident with similar concerns.
- w. Rachel: the dance went well. BMac made sweatshirts together so we started our **Ballard** bro tanks. Also second chance prom is now "Black Tie Affair" at the **Bozarth Mansion** on April 16th 7-10.
- x. Jeff: Is \$5 a lot?
- y. Kasey: pass.
- z. Rachel: pass.
- aa. Jordan: we ordered 500 t-shirts for this Saturday. It says "Buc up or ship out." We will need help passing them out.
- bb. Bre: logistics. I am meeting with grounds for locations tomorrow.
- cc. Kevin: shoutout for the rollerskating. Also, you should support _____ club.
- dd. Brena: advertising. We almost have the logo and snapchat filter and we are going to have an ice cream promo.
- ee. Bailey K: the dodgeball is on the 12th and proceeds go to Boys and Girls Club. And we are funding 500 students to get into the game for free. And Bailey and I are the entertainment committee and we got quotes for inflatables and you should be able to order your sweatshirt.
- ff. Savannah: Roller-skating was a hit, it had a 150 people.
- gg. Connor: How many students go to the basketball games?
- hh. Bailey K: last week was 500 students.
- ii. Connor: I brought a stack. We have a few problems getting into the dorms in the mornings. Senators and reps I would appreciate you putting them in common areas.
- jj. Katie: awhile ago residents were complaining about the washing machines. Just the opening is smaller not the whole washer. But there is an inconsistency in prices.
- kk. Kelsey: pass.
- ll. Kasey **Kaysee-Li (Kaysee)**: **Diversity** Monologue auditions are going on.
- mm. Kiersten: documentary at 6 this Sunday
- nn. John: pass.
- oo. Jordan: entertainment for spring fest. Send me artists to use.
- pp. Chase: This Monday, meeting in the hub at 5:10 pm for Laser Quest.
- qq. Connor: we have our newspaper meeting at 5:40.
- rr. Chase: 5:10 is when their group time is. It will be \$7 (**Norma**).
- ss. Norma: we would miss dinner?
- tt. Chase: correct. We start at 6 and get back at 6:45. For sure can go: 4. I'll see if we can move it. I'll email it. MVPs: Adam and Rachel for the Awkward Middle School Dance was a success. Great music!
- uu. Bre: shoutout to Connor for helping me on Thursday at Unplugged. I appreciate that. Thank you.
- vv. Rachel: Shoutout to Bre and Bailey and all the senators for help with the dance.
- VII. Motion to adjourn.
- a. Adjournment: Justin 6:35 pm