

ASWU Minutes 9.17.14

- I. Call to order- Ian 5:01 pm
- II. Mission Statement-Jacob D.
- III. Approving last week's minutes: Approved!
- IV. Ian: Tonight's meeting will be a little different. After Beck speaks we will go out and do our Fall survey.
- V. Beck Taylor- State of the University Address
 - a. Beck: Thank you Ian for the time tonight. State of the University might be an ambitious title, but I wanted to give a glimpse of some main points that I made in this presentation. This is an update on current state of affairs- trying to close the issues that we dealt with last year and also to get excited about things we have coming up. Hopefully we can address questions at the end.
 - b. [Reads Whitworth Mission statement] We do have a vision statement embedded in the Whitworth 2021 plan as well [Reads Whitworth Vision statement]. This statement distills an 8 goal strategic plan and to a fairly concise statement of goals for this decade we're in. We have an 8 goal strategic plan, they revolve around advancing our integration of faith and learning, strengthening intellectual vitality, preparing students to be global citizens, and demonstrating leadership in an increasingly diverse world.
 - c. I would encourage those of you new to student leadership to go to the Whitworth 2021 website where you will find more than you'd want to know about the strategic planning efforts of the institution, and the progress on a variety of goals within the plan. The goal with the website is to be as transparent as we can be.
 - d. A few weeks before school started we had 2 devastating storms hit our campus. I will show some pictures and a video. I show the video because it demonstrates how quickly things can come down. [plays video]. We lost 90 trees on campus. About 70 came down during the storm and had to take down the rest because they were dangerous. Here are some pictures driving into the institution. We had a direct hit on some buildings including Warren, they don't build them like they used to. Warren took it and took it well. I show you this because I want you to know how well our

grounds folks worked over the three weeks getting ready for move-in. We can see scars here and there but for the most part campus looks untouched. If you see people working hard on grounds make sure to thank them. They had just finished the big dig- 17-foot deep trench. They had just got it looking good when the storm happened, didn't get a break as a result. We are going to reforest- we will use it as an opportunity to diversify our canopy. The pines are iconic at Whitworth but the problem of having them all at one height or age is that you could lose your entire canopy if a problem occurs. Arborists will be planting a variety of different species especially in the spring.

- e. Last year was an interesting year for Whitworth- we had to face some significant budget challenges. This group was instrumental in student feedback last year, and we also want to be transparent. We projected budget shortfalls for fiscal years 14 and 15. We missed budgeted enrollment targets in all areas, financial aid expenses higher than expected, and hadn't quite digested the goal for four years ago to stabilize undergrad enrollment. All these things contributed to a perfect storm. Fall of 2010 was one of the largest we'd had. That class graduated and we brought in a small class. What did we do to address the challenge- cut our budget by \$2.5 million. We did put a lot of deferred maintenance items on hold. We have a huge physical plant we have to take care of at Whitworth so we had to put those projects on hold. Other changes were reductions on insurance, left some faculty and staff lines, and one-time expense reductions across all divisions. Tended to try not to cut enrollment. All of these things come back this year, one-time expense reductions.
- f. We also had a projected budget deficit of \$1.7 million for FY15. I set up an advisory task force with student leadership on it, and university council input. Found permanent core budget reductions of \$1.3 million. (including CRC suspension, student health center fee, etc). Also the decrease in the printing page allotment. All of those things added up to about \$1.3 million. In April I presented a balanced budget for this year of \$66.4 million with a 4% tuition increase for FY15 but this is the

- lowest increase in 13 years. In our initial modeling for next year we will try to keep those increases as low as possible. We did some hard work last year.
- g. Open issues- Costa Rica Center. There is a task force that will be delivering a recommendation for us in a matter of days, which we will take very seriously. We will get feedback on the decision and Carol will be coming in to speak in October. I had a meeting with Kristiana Holmes on the student health piece. We're excited about the new start and about some things I can't say a lot about, but you should see an expansion of services offered. This doesn't close the chapter on that work but the good news is I think we're over the hump. We were able to make our enrollment goals this year and we've digested the stabilized enrollment decision. Many other institutions are trying to grow quickly, but we said we like the size we are and we want to invest in quality not size. That's a big deal in higher education and we can show that you can sustain a quality academic enterprise without having to add more students. Allows us to invest more into the quality of the experience rather than the scope.
 - h. Enrollment update- 10th class day is when we take our census of enrollment. Just under 3,000 students, we're only 6 students short of the highest head count we've had as an institution. Traditional students- 2,260. Our goal is 2,300 so we have a little room to grow. Our non-traditional programs are growing and that allows us to hold undergraduate population stable with increases in revenue. We have 85% persistence rate from first year to second year. This is very very good, but we want it to be 90% so we're working hard to figure that out. We will play offense this year as we plan for future years.
 - i. I'm hesitant to list highlights but I'll do it anyway, last year was a good year for us despite the financial challenges. Great effort last year with the million meals project that our students led. I applaud you all again for that. Successful SOE dean search, VPFA search, 6 student Fullbrights awarded, opening of Marriage and Family Wellness center, established Amy M. Ryan Professorship in the Liberal Arts and the Sue Chandler Professorship in Education.

- j. Forensics and ethics bowl teams win championships, Whitworth received \$1.4m in grants from Lilly and Murdock to establish new Office of Church Engagement, successful search for a new athletics director. We're rocking in the classroom and the field of competition. We were just named the 3rd best value in the western United States. We're celebrating 125 years this year. We've got October 9-12 as a big weekend for us as Homecoming weekend [and many other events]. 125-second lecture videos will also be great to celebrate the quality of our faculty. [plays a lecture video]
- k. We also are publishing a commemorative book for 125 years. I just donated one to ASWU. It is \$19.99 in the bookstore. Covers the stories of influential people and things. Something you'll be hearing about is that we are launching something called the campaign for Whitworth. The largest and boldest fundraising campaign we've had as an institution. The goal is to raise \$100 million for scholarships, students, etc. We will announce this on October 11, we've raised \$60 million in the quiet phase of the campaign. We've got another \$40 million to raise. This is a big deal for us.
- l. Campus safety and security: our sister institution SPU had a tragic event on their campus. I would classify Whitworth's approach until that point as diligent but maybe not urgent. I put the campus on notice after that incident- we will be urgent as to how our campus is prepared for a whole host of emergencies we might face. We had a full scale SWAT exercise on campus and did a simulation. On November 6 we will have a campus active shooter drill. Our campus will be alerted to what we would do if something like that were to happen. This can expose weaknesses in our systems.
- m. Regarding the emergency broadcast email texting system: Up to this point you've had opt-in options, but now its opt-out. You will get the messages unless you tell us to remove your number. The blue poles around campus have the ability to broadcast messages. New video monitors around. Interior locks in all classrooms. It's not just the impact of an active shooter, but also Mother Nature emergencies. Our most probable emergency on campus is a snow emergency, losing power, etc. In addition to planning for things like a violent intruder, we're also planning on more likely

scenarios. Hold me accountable to this. If you're seeing things we're not doing that we should be let me know, or if there is confusion. We're going to move the ball on this this year to get our campus secure and safe, and also maintain our accessible open campus.

- n. Questions?
- o. Jacob D: For the institutional head count- which groups fall into that?
- p. Beck: That doesn't account for how many credits someone is taking, so part time students count in that head count. That is just bodies. When we talk about full time matriculated day students, those are full time students. We have a lot of part time students. It also counts our graduate and continuing studies students. We have more undergrads on campus than we've ever had.
- q. Erika: There have been recent reports of federal government title 9 funds- is Whitworth upping their game in that realm?
- r. Beck: My answer could come across as sounding like we're doing this to fit in the regulatory environment but we have a more noble rationale for doing what we're doing. Our responsibility is to protect the safety of people on campus. That has to fit into title 9. Standards are increasing- trying to keep up with the standards, and making sure those of us charged with campus safety and security understand our responsibilities and safer reporting structures that protect and start a redemption oriented intervention. Green dot is one of our most visible initiatives outside of title 9. Were doing a lot of staff and faculty training. Title 9 issues as they relate to campus safety and security are among the top 5 issues on my desk right now.
- s. Jerrica: If we were to have another storm like this summer, are there plans for student safety? Or students on higher floors to move to a basement?
- t. Beck: Firstly use common sense. The chances of having another windstorm like this summer are very low. The extreme heat this summer was a main cause. But use common sense. Don't stand under the trees. We are working with building monitors that we now have. Working with folks for safety protocols.

- u. Tom: Survey team working with the Costa Rica center, what's the likelihood of reopening it?
- v. Beck: The task force will be delivering its report in the next few days, I don't want to give speculation or opinion before that. I want to take the recommendation and go from there. It will be sent out, be looking for that.
- w. Raleigh: As far as the campaign for Whitworth we will get on October 11, will there be the breakdown as far as where the funds will go?
- x. Beck: Yes, students have also had input on that. We have campaign steering committee now. We've garnered input from students all along, but annual giving keeps tuition costs lower, endowment provides for long-term stability, and facilities. Right now our marquee project is a major renovation and expansion of music building- we're more than half way to our fundraising goal for that
- y. Haley: For the active campus shooter drill- how will it be structured and how will students know what to do?
- z. Beck: We have some work to do between now and November 6. Stay tuned; we will work through a lot of different channels. It will be more of an acknowledgement, if I were here and this was happening where would I go or what would I do. You can't plan for these things but I think SPU handled it very well because they did active drills on a regular basis and their community was attuned to "if this happens what would I do".
- aa. Megan: You said you'll be installing inside locks in classrooms, would you also consider putting them in restrooms?
- bb. Beck: That's a good point! [written down].
 - i. The purpose of a drill is to show where our weak spots are.
- cc. Jordan: You mentioned 4% tuition increase, is there any plan to keep the physical number for tuition constant rather than just the percentage?
- dd. Beck: Our biggest cost is people as an institution. As employees you expect increases in pay, etc. My employees are no different. Many of my employees have PhD's and they are garnering a wage premium in the market. That 4% is largely made up of what

it takes to keep up with wage increase for highly educated employees. In order to keep the number down I would have to decide if I should not pay the employees what they're worth, or get rid of a bunch of them. Either of these decreases the quality of the experience on campus, so a lot of those costs are uncontrollable. Last year we cut some controllable costs, and that's more of what we need to do so we're not spending money we don't need to have to keep the number low.

ee. Guest: [question regarding reserve funds and debt]

ff. Beck: Part of how we dealt with the deficit is we just cut some budgets. We are also creating more active reserve funds. We're creating a new reserve fund. Higher education- enrollment volatility is here to stay. We need to have a robust reserve fund that can take the hit for us in the meantime so we are trying to be better on the budgeting side.

gg. Beck: Thank you all for your leadership. That says a lot about you and we appreciate it very much.

VI. Star awards:

- a. Ian: Katie! Someone stayed up until 4am on Monday morning to finish the paper that came out today. It looks fantastic! Thanks so much for providing that service to our campus.
- b. Eli: Kevin! He's been doing a good job getting on top of requisitions, and lots of people coming in with money problems. Also new clubs, etc. He's doing an amazing job.

VII. Reports & Vibes

- a. Alicen: Operation Christmas child- meeting tomorrow night at 6:30.
- b. Tom: Reminding you guys of battle for the bell- local high school football game between Mead and Mt. Spokane. I'd love senators to put that in the newsletters. 7:30pm on October 10th.
- c. Matt: Kipos garden Harvest festival on Sunday- 1 to 4pm. There will be music, produce, pies, games, prizes.

- d. Laurel: This Friday I'm bringing a game show to campus. I have enough participants but just do what you can to get people excited. Friday, MPR, 8pm.
 - e. Raleigh: A lot of unplugged spots still left. Monday 7-8:30pm in the MPR. Sign up at the HUB info desk.
 - f. Jerrica: If senators haven't scheduled All Tied Up, do it now.
 - g. Jacob S: We have space for our Friday climbing trip, Saturday hike, and movie playing tomorrow night. Also for the first aid training.
 - h. Jacob D: Booty Club shirts should be here by the 27th at the latest. Signups have been reopened.
 - i. Jordan: Intramural indoor sports started today. Basketball jerseys on sale now at the UREC.
- VIII. Ian: For the survey, you and your BOB will go to a dorm community and our goal is to reach at least 25 students per pair. Most questions are yes or no so it should be quick.
- IX. Adjourn 5:55pm