

- Call to Order – 4:59pm
- Mission Statement – Patrick Stewart – “We, the Associated Students of Whitworth University, strive for transparent, adaptable, efficient and student-focused leadership as we foster community involvement.”
- Guests
  - Molly Hough
  - Erica
  - Eric
  - Lindsey
  - Amy
  - Tyler
  - Michael
  - Brittany Roach – proxy for Sarah W.
  - Brett – proxy for Cherise
- Approve Minutes
  - David – motion to approve; Eric – second; approved
- Big E
  - Sarah Kenney for stepping up and joining our group
- Casey Andrews – for Speakers and Artists Series
  - Professor of English but also he’s in his first year coordinating Speakers and Artists
  - Trying to create better contact between events on campus and student life
  - These events are underattended unless there’s a big name
  - Wants ASWU to be more involved and engaged in promotion (advertising but really also personal invitations); also spending time debriefing afterwards
  - Ideas for raising the profile of events on campus
  - Passing around brochures – there are many great events that don’t get into the brochure, they’d love to add ASWU events in here – also, get an idea of what events are going on
  - March – Dean’s Dialogue – happening in the HUB – it’s Michael LeRoy’s last one – talking about Educational Achievement Gap; Macy will also be speaking with the faculty
  - March 15<sup>th</sup> John Kaplan – Pulitzer Prize photographer – photographed his experience with cancer
  - 3/28 Trying to focus on Women and Gender related speakers – Julia Stronks – if a Calvinist had coffee with a Feminist
  - Donna Freitas – Sex and the Soul – 4/1
  - 4/3 – panel of WGS professors from Christian Universities
  - 4/9 – Rich Wilson – Science and Society Series; more likely to bring poets to campus than physicists, so this is good for the science – talking about Nuclear Energy and Environmentalism
  - Starting 4/11 – Manifold Greatness – the KJB turning 400 (has been to Cambridge and Oxford and now Whitworth!)
  - For next year, things are less set in stone – there’s a proposal to Shane Claiborne about upcoming elections; the series that’s more set – The Intercultural Office trying to pay more attention than we have in the past to Black History Month (ongoing arc of discussion on diversity and multiculturalism – making the issue more prominent)

- Remember the conversations can only be generated if people come
- If anything comes to you in terms of additional promotion, topics, speakers, ways to add to the conversation (like Judy Shepard discussion group)
  - Dayna – is there a student that is supposed to sit on the committee?
    - Brittany does and Jesse is supposed to but we just found out Jesse is also supposed to be there
  - Evan – try putting advertising in the dorm; we can't deliver the information like you can, as experts on the events; use Prime Times to give a taste for the events (like the KJB Bible event)
  - Katie – CO150 credit gets a lot of people there; it doesn't matter why people go if they get the information
  - Jeff – classes are a huge incentive – a lot of speakers are educationally based or center on an academically-related issue, building a core base of students (work with art department on art shows)
    - Generally, the department that might be requesting an event does a good job of advertising but it's usually limited; lots of times, people will go only for extra credit
  - Nate – for topics, during a temperature survey, a lot of students want to see the issue of sexual orientation addressed
  - Sarah K. – echo the facebook idea
    - We have done that through Brittany – is there a central person who does facebook announcing?
      - Tori – I do some of it; coordinators also do, but if you send me information, I can post it
  - Kellie – in temp survey, people wanted the more conservative sides of the issues represented
  - Meredith – who is the flier intended for? Community? This brochure doesn't seem targeted to students
    - The brochure goes largely to community, alumni; for students, there's PiratePort, the master calendar
  - Brett – probably 90% of academic conversation on campus happens during class; try and integrate material into class as opposed to just extra credit
  - Brittany – the bigger underlying issue – how do we keep Whitworth an intellectually vital place, not many people go to lectures just because they sound interesting; as ASWU we should be promoting an intellectually vital community
  - Evan – as long as we're talking about trick to ensnare people, food helps
  - Meredith – Prime Times can be persuasive; in Arend, we spent a week diving deeper into the conversation; excited students are more effective than printed word so maybe having a student committee; we are trying Big Ideas with faculty members in the res halls
  - Yoho – at some point, it has to be added to someone's job responsibility to promote this stuff because it's easy to shirk when it's not assigned
  - Meredith – we try and integrate the Speakers and Artists with Prime Time but it's hard
  - Katie – encourage RAs about inviting students
  - Laura C. – can RAs adopt that as a program?
  - Meredith – I agree, part of it is that people want to do programs that they're passionate about so if they don't see something they're passionate

- about, it's hard to have them give up their one platform; RAs are already to encouraged to point students to other places on campus
      - Yoho – Senators can do that too; mostly Senators just do a newsletter and sit at Prime Time; just hearing you highlight the events makes them come alive; meet with Senators every once in a while to learn about it
      - Stewart – rarely do people come talk to you at Prime Time about concerns, so use it
      - Brett – maybe more dialogue with the speakers; panels were more fun for upperclassmen thinking about future/careers
- Beck Taylor – Honors Program
  - Melinda met with Beck about the Honors Program; he heard we have questions
  - Overview
    - What is the purpose?
      - Would you agree that college students regardless of capacity and achievement – Whitworth is a selective institution – students can choose different paths through the university – spending time being lazy and slack and some students are going to work harder
      - We want to create different paths based on interest and dedication
      - Imagine a university without ASWU – some students would lobby for a way to serve the institution in governance
      - Some students want to spend most of their time pursuing academia; they would express that there's a lack of opportunity to extend the education beyond what's available
      - Creating a richer set of opportunities for students
      - Over time, because of the competitive nature of higher education; like universities have established similar programs; over the last 7-8 years, Whitworth has had trouble attracting some high-achieving students; we are selective but we'd like to attract that high echelon of students
      - In order to best position Whitworth going forward, we need to create a pathway of higher achievement
      - In 2006, the highest achievement level of scholarship
        - For every 10 students admitted at that level, Whitworth enrolled 3
        - Last year, it was just over 1
        - Anecdotal evidence says that this is due to a competitive disadvantage Whitworth has because of a lack of this program
      - David – is this based on academic merit? GPA?
        - In part on academic achievement before and during university study; unlike a lot of honors programs, students are not once and for all designated as honors, benefitting late bloomers; typically coming in we look at SAT and GPA
      - Chelsea – it sounded like you were using a hypothetical situation (ASWU) to make this argument; is this something you've seen or that students have expressed or is this purely admissions?
        - This is in response to what students say they want
        - There are students who attend Whitworth now and during exit interviews they cite being academically underchallenged

- Brett – did you ever think it might alienate the rest of the student body? Elitism?
- Here are common objections:
- Being offered admissions is an honor in and of itself; suggests mainstream academic program is weak; this is simply offering more academic opportunities to students
- Flies in the face of efforts to build community; academic apartheid – Beck agrees that if we create a program that does not intentionally integrate honors students into the classroom or didn't allow students not in the track to attend honors classes; we created an honors program intentionally to not separate students; just like you in ASWU don't all live and take classes together; similarly, we want to integrate this group
- We can't agree what an honors program should look like so we shouldn't move forward – unanimity is never a prerequisite for action, nor do we always strive for it; the faculty did eventually agree to do this
- I oppose a program that tracks students from admission – students can be formally accepted later and can access honors opportunities without being an honors student
- Meredith – how will it be communicated to the student body that everyone can take honors classes?
  - Advisers will be made aware; we will have to communicate it well
- Sam – if everyone can access it, what makes you an honors student?
  - GPA, etc requirements at acceptance and maintain it; to graduate with honors, one has to fulfill a set of requirements including Honors classes, colloquia, research, performances – working on creating a structure that can work with any department
- Sam – so you can access just one piece of that without being an honors student?
  - Honors students will have preference
- Jeff – before this, we had no idea what the honors program was, we've just heard about it for the last few months; everyone was upset during one meeting about the fact that we know nothing; it's hard to hear that you say you've talked to students but we haven't experienced it; a lot of people he's talked to (variety of ages, positions), do not think it's a good idea; there has been a huge break in communication before this was even developed; I don't know how much pull each group has and I understand that your leadership style is different; as ASWU, we should be the first step to the students
- Beck has talked to this group about the Honors program in November (no one is recalling\*\*); it's not correct to say we haven't had conversations; we can always do a better job; you have my commitment to doing that; I apologize if any action on my part and the administration's part hasn't reflected that; last year, we called a meeting of the Laureate Society and other students to get their input; we could have communicated that better; I just formed a task force on Internal Communication; no students came to those opportunities; we pulled together Costa Rica honors students in an effort to do that; ASWU students had representatives on department committees who were supposed to be bringing information back

- Dayna – we heard about how the program is being funded; talking about additional work from faculty? Is that in addition to the course load? More faculty?
  - Budget \$50,000/year; hiring Doug Sugano as director and working on his course load; some administrative support; will not likely tax faculty members more in terms of number of courses; there will be stipends and workshops for developing these courses
  - Jesse – who is the director?
    - Doug Sugano, professor of English, will be coming in later this month talking more about the particulars
- Dayna – some of the faculty are concerned with budget next year; some upper division class teachers will have to step into lower division classes and honors classes
  - Yes, faculty members feel pressed; the budget is looking fine for next year; we had these conversations and the faculty passed it overwhelmingly; this was deliberated very well
- Jesse – what would be a number of schools that are academically comparable but have an edge
  - PLU, SPU, Linfield College, University of Washington, Gonzaga University, WWU, UPS, University of Portland, WSU, EWU
- Stewart – the faculty is still working on the details, have you decided without extra taxation on faculty, is this going to be independent study? How could the faculty not have more work?
  - You have to view the totality of sections offered, there is slack in such a way that at the end of the day, all the sections are covered just taking up some slack, some faculty members will teach in overload but it's a choice with compensation
  - Experiences include courses, research, internship, study abroad, creative project, seminars
- Brett – no students attending the discussions – is that a reflection on how students don't feel they have a say?
  - You tell me, we have a strong history of student input; we might have been able to work to make those more convenient
- Brett – will offering these higher caliber classes squeeze out greater diversity in the class?
  - Whitworth has always had a distribution of student achievement in terms of GPA and SAT; so many students didn't come in with the best numbers but were wonderful citizens of the university – that won't change; Whitworth has changed – this has changed even over the past 5 years; we haven't been as good at attracting that kind of student; what are we changing from? A long history or just recent history?
    - We're matriculating less than half of those kinds of students?
    - Students aren't cookie cut, bringing a variety of skills, talents, passions, etc.; Whitworth should always be open to accepting a broad range of students even if this proposal is focused
- Brittany – this year has been a year of great change; buildings, faculty change, honors program shrouded in mystery; for myself and engaged students it's concerning that there's so much change that we aren't being told about – this is true even of more disengaged students reading long e-mails; across the board, there should have been more communication with student government; if we don't know what's going on, no one else will



- Last week's announcement of budget committee dates was incorrect; it will be held 4/23 and 4/25
- Dine with a Mind stopped first week of February but Academic Affairs has given \$500 more, so it starts tomorrow
- EVP
  - Next week, we're in Wey 111
  - March 13, GE 330 in the Chambers for SpringFest
  - She will send journal assignments on Tuesday for the following Tuesday
  - Constituency reports due next week
  - E-mail coming to Senators about CBS
  - Sam – is this the same as Nate's for the constituency report?
    - Yes, get more people
- President
  - Has been approached by Danny Gubitzi who wants to put together a Town Hall program discussing strategic plan, honors program, whatever issues; said that ASWU will support him; including advertising in newsletters, bringing people; this is another way to get; students involved; it's our responsibility to keep students connected to the administration; we'll talk about that more; if you want to work with him, I'll get you his contact information
  - Turn in your time cards
- Vibes/Reports
  - David – thank you for the requisition; if you have an iPhone 4 you can listen to this on your phone if you're on the network; once they get the IP stuff fixed, you can listen to it on your Android or iPhone; new wood for the station with logo; wiring for lights will be fixed; wall logo; T-shirts with whitworth.fm logo with paint splatter in the HUB, doing it before SpringFest and also at it if it works; doing stickers; Career Fair – David got some interviews; has been working for Sodexo as a dishwasher and he's disgusted at how much food we throw away; knock if you like the idea for student-based security group (so many knocks)
  - Brandon – men's basketball team starting NCAA tournament on Friday; pizza and live game in RTT at 3:30
  - Jeff – Utah trip filled up; 7 spots on the other trip left; working on that with the student staff leading it
  - Jesse – posters for Senators for Eisley (a week from tomorrow)
  - Sam – Green With Envy next weekend; Arend guys' BBQ after that
  - Chelsea – this weekend, Duvall had Fenton's – speakeasy club – talking about making it an all-campus event for Senator next year
  - Ian – to speak on the food waste issue; half the time when I have a lot of stuff on my plate it's because they serve me a half a plate of eggs
    - David – when I'm back there, I find a full handmade sandwich with one bite out of it; whole pieces of pizza; things aren't being put in the right place; for the people who work hard and aren't students here, it's awful; having gone hungry, it makes me sad to see that waste, but I understand about the eggs
  - Katie – planning BJ Bash, so many ideas, she will take initiative and choose herself
  - Nate – GWE is not this Saturday but the next, 9:30 in Weyerhauser, cookies and punch; DJ T-Rex
  - Tori – heard a lot of clubs coming in tonight and talking about advertising with Casey; I don't feel like students know I'm a resource to them, so talk to people;

met with Jessica and meeting with people, already coming up with cool Spring Fest advertising ideas

- Laura V. – going to France next year (Yoho jumped out of his chair!)
- Yoho – Sky High for off-campus at 8:30pm ; free for up to 100 people so hopefully that many people come; you have to be off-campus
- Brittany – 3/15 Jesse and her are collaborating on a comedy extravaganza – Last Comic Standing (NBC stole their idea); sign ups going out tomorrow; if you have funny friends, sign them up (that's what I did – they're upset but living with it) Jesse's MCing
- Retreat morning of 3/10
- Brittany – motion to adjourn; Katie – second; adjourn 6:24pm

\*\*<http://www.whitworth.edu/Students/ASWU/Minutes/10-26-11.pdf>

---

Melinda Leavitt, President

---

Amanda Blunt, Secretary