

ASWU Meeting Minutes 03/21/2018

In attendance:

2017-2018 School Year (Voting) - President - Jeff Debray, Executive Vice President - Dylan Reyes, Financial Vice President - Shaun Fisher, Secretary - Jordan Coleman, Activities Coordinator - Danny Butler(not present), Special Events Coordinator - Rachel Henson (not present), Marketing/PR Coordinator - Hunter Smit(not present), Spiritual Life Coordinator - Hannah Palmer, Sports Coordinator - Mae Curtis(not present), Sustainability Coordinator - Claire Leveck, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator - Elisha Parslow(not present), Natsihi Editor - Michaela Mulligan, Whitworth.fm Manager - Colin Bondy(not present), Whitworthian Editor - Courtney Murphy(not present), Arend Senator - Amber Van Brunt, Baldwin Jenkins Senator - Alex Mowery, Ballard Senator - Savannah Heath, Boppell Senator - Sarah Haman, Duvall Senator - Tucker Wilson, McMillan Senator - Martin Crocco, Warren Senator - Ethan Clardy, Off-Campus Senator - Gracie Meiners, Oliver Senator - Hannah Underwood, Stewart/Village Senator - Shelby Krug, Josiah Gallegos, BJ/Stewville Zone Rep - Parker Daniels , Arend/Boppell Zone Rep - Alexa Ricks, Duvall/Oliver Zone Rep - Jacob Seo, Off-Campus Zone Rep - Lisa Huang, Off-Campus Zone Rep - Hannah Howell, Off Campus Zone Rep - Franklin

Meeting was brought to order at 5:00pm in the ASWU Chambers

Mission statement read by Theresa

Jeff: We need to review our minutes from the March 14th. Are there any corrections?

Minutes approved.

BRE LYONS - PARAGUAY PROJECT

I work for NBC basketball camps. There haven't been any service aspects to our trips and I wished participating in that at Whitworth. The only sustainability coordinator now works in Paraguay and she reached out to me to work on a project called Courts for Kids. They work with universities like Whitworth and they create courts in villages and train staff how to run the camps. At MBC we try to teach faith and leadership skills through athletics. I think this is a great opportunity for that. The cool thing about this village is that they have been trying to raise the \$5,000 for this court for 30 years. Someone is willing to donate \$30,000 to build the court which will now be a community center for the village. This all is pending due to 12 volunteers and \$5,000 to build the court. We would need 11 more volunteers in August to work on funding and help spread the word, while also going to Paraguay to help build. Each volunteer raises \$1,200 for the airfare, building supplies, and housing in the village. August 11-21st. If we could get a student movement going, I think that would be powerful. The deadline is May 1st to agree to go on the trip.

blyons17@my.whitworth.edu

FVP UPDATES: Shaun Fisher

Club Updates

Black Student Union

Jira: April 20th we have our Masquerade Ball. The theme of that is Black Panther with African vibes. Our meetings are Monday at 7pm and locations are varied.

rmontgomery19@my.whitworth.edu

Artists' Cooperative

Andy Weeks: I am the president this year. Madison Oliver is our VP. We are a safe space that coordinates with the art department to help with the artistic community development. A lot of the focus we have is not only for minors and majors but out into the community. Some of the events we have had are the Kipos Harvest Festival, and some that are specifically for the art semester like the art meeting critique. We try to invite anyone to bring their art to the meeting and develop their work. We've also had a portfolio workshop because for art majors you have to be accepted into the major and this was an opportunity for people to develop the portfolio. We are going to have another critique, Earth Day, Spring Fest booth, and a couple of outreach groups like an installation project for DACA and for Take Back the Night. Our meetings are every Monday in Lied Art Center from 6-8pm.

aweeks20@my.whitworth.edu

moliver20@my.whitworth.edu

Budget committee is a month away

Capital: \$13,175

Unallocated: \$3,568.19 taken out

EVP UPDATES: Dylan Reyes

Elections

This week we had our mandatory meeting for the candidates and we had 29 candidates which is great. Remember, campaigning won't start until after Spring Break ... Primary voting will occur on April 6th from 5am-11pm and during an ASWU GE will have a booth where candidates will sign a document about not trying to sway votes. General voting will be on April 12-13 at 11:59pm.

Alex: As a senator, when can we start encouraging people to vote?

Hannah U: You can tell people to vote, but as a senator or student leader, you are not allowed to use your leadership platform for a specific candidate to vote for. But if you're

asked on a one-on-one personal basis who you are voting for, you are allowed to talk about. Just don't try and persuade someone to vote for someone specific.

Kamau: In past years, there have been controversy over social media posts.

Hannah U: As being a senator, you will be more connected by nature, so I wouldn't use social media to encourage people.

Dylan: Any stipulation applied to campaigning won't be monitored on social media. So you can campaign more on social media and not be limited to that.

Shelby: As members of ASWU, can we help people make campaigning materials for elections?

Dylan: Contact the SCC for these questions.

Savannah: I was under the impression that as long as you help every candidate in your residence hall, you are allowed to participate, as long as it's not to one person.

Dylan: I would say just try to remove yourself as a senator for as long as you can.

Student Highlights

Martin - Bakari

PRESIDENT UPDATES: Jeff DeBray

Board of Trustees Week

Coming up right after Spring Break. It is staying in April from the 11-13th. It's when all of the board from across the country meet up twice a year in the fall and spring regarding important meetings for the future of Whitworth. If you were on the committee in the fall, you will be on the same one in the spring. Most of them run from 1-3pm that week. Please dress professionally in business attire.

Sarah Dixit isn't here but for the month of April, she has been leading a project that works with school districts in Spokane to provide them with supplies. She has been running a hygiene drive and we are looking to lead that into SpringFest to provide a service aspect. There is going to be a residence hall competition to raise the hygiene products.

REPORTS AND VIBES

Savannah: Seafood night tonight and it looks great. It seems like a good amount of people buying it. Also, the building that is going around Ballard is slowly creeping closer and closer, so people are getting a little upset.

Emily: An update for the UREC is that we are hiring for 10 positions. Apps are due tomorrow at 5pm. Intramural outdoor season is happening right after spring break.

Applicants have to measure by tomorrow at midnight. We have a bouldering festival on Saturday April 7th. If you register now it's \$10 and after it goes up to \$12.

Hannah P: I had an event on Friday night called the Stations of the Cross and you could go around and pray at the different stations in the chapel. I got really good feedback from that and I want to build that into my position.

Sarah H: Duvall, Boppell, and Oliver are getting printers put into them for testing reason and a project format. I don't know if it's temporary or long lasting. They will be getting installed after spring break. People are excited about it. They will be attached to your printing charge. Second, the Whitworth Instagram person, Kat, reached out to me about getting senators to talk about why they like living in their residence hall. It's an easy way to promote to people coming to Whitworth. Maybe try doing it to your primetime. All of the residence hall instagram accounts should have gotten a direct message. Her number is (909) 374-1187. I think she is planning on doing it on Friday.

Amber: I'm on a committee called TLAC The week after we get back from spring break, there is going to be a group of people doing an accreditation meeting which will be reviewing our school so that we can be accredited for the next 7 years. On the Thursday April 5th at 3pm, there's going to be a student event where we can ask each other questions about how we feel about Whitworth in the RTT.

Hannah U: We got an Oliver speaker for the TV but I was nervous about people taking it. I'm trying to figure out how to get facilities to lock down the speaker. We need someone to pay for it and to get someone to install it. But, when wires are involved you have to have someone install it. I don't want to pay for it and don't think it's necessary.

Jordan: It's a liability and facilities has to do it.

Teri: I don't know if you guys read the recent newspaper talking about DACA and how some people disagree with it. One thing that came to me is that I see that ASWU is trying to get the voices of the students. But, hearing that people think that you aren't, and that students didn't hear about it, what are we going to do to reach the students?

Michaela: I think the first step would be to respond to the opinion article or the editor by explaining the process and how we came to the decision. We could explain how we sent the document to everyone on campus and explaining what it was. I found the opinion piece confusing because of that.

Sarah H: For my community, I sent out an email with the attachment of the document and a link to the live poll for how people were responding. Not everyone responding but I took the votes of who did respond. I know a lot of on campus communities prefer not to email but for Boppell it was the best way to reach people. For newsletters, we didn't have enough time to add them because it was an abrupt process.

Shelby: I read the article and then I talked about it. Some things found that are there are two prominent sides with specific opinions. Who or what are we supposed to represent? I feel like there's not really going to be one standard of who we should represent. But the article

confused be by saying “majority opinion” and “majority people.” Ethan and I are co writing a response to the article. If anyone wants to jump on that, it would be great. We don’t want it to be defensive but we want it to be explaining how we get our responses and how we do our jobs to get the majority opinion or people.

Hannah H: As an off-campus representative I feel responsible for the constituent not being heard. I had a few issues with the article as she didn’t cite the resolution so I don’t think she read it. I went out and tried to get people’s opinions through emails and other ways and the majority opinion was that they did want it to be passed. The goal is to do what most people want done. But, that is in no way to squash people who aren’t in the majority but if I were to have a conversation with her about how if email isn’t enough, I would need some brainstorm ways to reach more people off campus. I’m sorry that certain people are not feeling heard. But I need some solutions to be offered.

Alex: I think that it’s tough and what we are dealing with is tough. We are not moving to a majority-minority culture anymore, We are moving to a plurality culture. There aren’t two sides to life, and what we don’t want to do is have us against the world. Conflict, being uncomfortable, and having discussion about difficult conversation is what needs to happen and we shouldn’t take it too personally.

Will: From what I heard about the off-campus representation, that it is very important for them to go door-to-door. I felt like putting a pin on a board about where I live, I think it was meaningless if off-campus senators or representatives if they don’t go to their doors. Getting letters and having face-to-face conversations is a great way.

Teri: As much as that would be a good idea, it’s difficult for students to do that.

Lisa: As an off-campus representative I talked to some of my constituents. Most of them were agreeing in passing this but some were a little angry. Some feel disconnected from ASWU with what we are doing and that they are often labeled intolerant when we talk about minority issues. This is why they don’t usually attend the events such as the Town Halls. They need someone to hear them out and I specifically referred them to come to the ASWU meetings and to tell their senators or the Execs. I don’t think they will be very comfortable with that as most of them are juniors and seniors and feel disconnected. They say that we don’t value what they have to say. I want ASWU to do something about having a conversation with those people even though it’s going to be uncomfortable.

Kamau: The way I read the two articles, one of them was about ASWU positions, and the other was about how I go to Whitworth and don’t agree. It’s a fine thing to say that I am a member of the Spokane community and don’t support the DREAM act. I think we need to address that and ask them why they feel that way about people at Whitworth. I have not seen big campaigns about people not agreeing with DACA but there have been big campaigns supporting DACA. I don’t know how to take it as some people did a year and a half’s worth of work and others are saying that people didn’t get enough information. ASWU has gone

above and beyond and even more that what the Spokane Dream Project expected them to do. I'm happy that people are expressing their opinions.

Dylan: I want to make sure we are taking a proactive response rather than a reactive response. Continue to do the work that you are doing by going door-to-door. Make sure that you are constantly being the representation of the opinions of your people, not the makeup of your people, and not your own personal opinions. As a staff, it's hard not to have a reactive reaction, but keep thinking about what more we can do to open more doors for students. Make sure to voice the responses you are getting from your communities.

Daniel: There's a danger that people are talking about to certain people. You will reach out to people that you are comfortable talking to. Make sure you are reaching across to the different people that you don't usually talk to. Don't stay in your bubble.

Sarah H: I had a big talk last semester about some faculty about the effectiveness of email. It was mainly for my own personal curiosity. We talked about alternatives to emails and the response was that if students aren't going to be checking their emails now, they will be poor workers in the workforce. In your profession, it's how your company will communicate with you. This is how the world works and that's what faculty believe. It's on the student.

Ian: If students aren't responding to emails, you need to go to the next solution like a Facebook page. There's an off-campus housing page and I think we could create one specifically for off-campus for events and ASWU happenings. Let's give more students a bigger platform so that we can hear their opinions. If they don't speak up, they aren't going to be heard. This is the first time that we have heard from off-campus students that they don't feel heard and that's great that they are using a platform to say that.

Hannah H: I would love to work with you both more on that. There was a Facebook page but it was deactivated because it wasn't active. We aren't allowed to solicit people's addresses so we don't have a way of accessing where people live.

William: Two years ago we gave our addresses to ASWU to tell them where we live at the off-campus picnic. I never heard from anyone about it. I get emails but an address that I gave to the old off-campus senator was never used.

Jeff: I don't know the policy on addresses of students but we can look into it.

Dylan: It's a FERPA violation and is through student life.

Jeff: Two general things that I have been hearing is a need to better communicate with off-campus people who make up 1,500 people. I was thinking of putting up a committee to come up with specific steps to approach this. If constituents are coming up to you about the lack of communication, it's important how the narrative is communicated. I encourage you not to take a side on an issue, but to listen and support students.

Franklin: I feel that we shouldn't portray the image that we are only for or not for things. We always forget that there's always an in-between who don't agree or disagree and have questions. We should open up things for debates or discussions so that we can provide a sense of belonging to other students. This can encourage people.

Hannah U: I think that I want other people's responses to this. I see currently this widespread fear of owning opinions on campus. I think there's a misalignment between actions they take and opinions they have. We have opportunities for students but I think students are afraid to participate. An example of this is earlier this year when I was with some off-campus this year. We were having a politically inclined discussion and someone overheard the conversation and was of the opposing opinion. They listened but didn't take any initiative to talk about it but responded angrily later to the conversation. I don't think that this is healthy on campus. I see a lot of fear and holding onto bad feelings rather than trying to challenge and grow. We should be able to talk about hard things. Friendliness of Whitworth's culture might be why we are seeing issues here but I think we are providing opportunities.

Daniel: I keep hearing that you are saying that we have ASWU meetings and people won't come and talk. Some people hold a mystique to ASWU and feel like it's an inside group. We need to advertise the meaning of ASWU and relate ourselves to other students and the entire student body.

Shelby: A lot of my residents don't respond well to emails or digital surveys so I go around and talk to them. I went and talked to at least 50 % of my residents and they said that if they want their voice to be heard, they will make it happen. A lot of residents also said that the people who want to be heard and participate are taking action toward those intentions. We have to realize that not all students are coming to make a change. A lot of them are just coming to have a college experience. At some point, it does have to be on the students to get involved. We can't constantly be putting it out, it's not just a one-way street. If they want to reach out, they can. I think it's great that Grant who wrote the article found his platform to talk about what he feels. I don't think that focussing on the amount of responses we get shouldn't reflect how well we're doing our jobs.

William: Sarah H you were saying something about emails and that students should read them. But anyone can use TextMuse to get something out and get your residents to know about something. It shouldn't be a barrier where email is the only communication. Text messaging is still something that you can send out easily. And, there is a new feature where you can send messages through Facebook.

Sarah H: I believe we did a poll in the beginning of the year and they responded that email was preferred over everything else. I don't have access to people's phone numbers but I can ask my constituents if they want to do that.

Shelby: The village will be unoccupied next year to tear it down. Stewart Hall will not be torn down. We had a pipe burst earlier this week and it was awful. Now it's all fixed. Finally, the escape room was fantastic. We made \$160 which helped us recover from the mishap last year. We had 13 of the 15 spots filled.

Ethan: Warren Peace is coming up next month but auditions will be before. This year, participants can send me a clip for what they want to perform. We extended the deadline for auditions to Friday April 6th. Warren Peace will be Saturday April 21st 12-3pm. If it's raining it will be in the chapel, and it will be in the loop if not.

Kamau: Tomorrow March 22nd at 7pm in the HUB ABC room, Lucas Nigam will be here. We will be showing his documentary and it mirrors why college students his age get involved in race discussion.

William: WhitCon happened this past weekend and it went great. At the Smash Bros tournament we had 40-50 people show up. Sadly no one from Whitworth won. SCC won.

SHOUTS OUTS

Shelby - Sarah H, Martin, Amber, Shaun, Dylan, Danny, Josh M

Dylan - everyone who is here at the meeting

Tucker Wilson: I move that we adjourn

Meeting ends at 6:30pm