



2018-19 ASWU Meeting Minutes | **September 5th, 2018**

In attendance:

Tersa Almaw President	present
Andrews Boateng EVP	present
Chelsea Shearer FVP	present
Catalina Corvalan EAA	present
Rohini Vyas Campus Activities Coordinator	present
Amber Van Brunt Sports Events Coordinator	present
Morgan Bucher Sustainability Coordinator	present
Ethan Clardy Senior Class Coordinator	present
Jira Hammond PR/Marketing Coordinator	present
Abdul Haq Special Events Coordinator	present
Talya Jackson Spiritual Life Coordinator	present
Utsal Shrestha Cultural Events Coordinator	present
Emily Clemons Oliver Senator	present
James Parrish McMillan Senator	present
Jose Aguilera Warren Senator	present
Katie Rose Ballard Senator	present
Lauren Sfeir Arend Senator	present
Katie Ludlum Baldwin-Jenkins Senator	present
Sarah Haman Boppell Senator	present
Almat Yeraly Stewville Senator	present
Elizabeth Sanders Off Campus Senator	present

Meeting brought to order at 5:00 PM in ASWU Chambers.

Mission Statement read by Sarah H.

No minutes for approval.

Beck Taylor, PhD.

President, Whitworth University

Pirates Persist Initiative

- Thank you for being here, and for the work you're doing. Goals are that over the three next year, we'll go from a good to GREAT university to retain students. More specifically, 90% of 1st-2nd year retention, and 80% until 6th year. Sadly, on average, 13 of 100 students don't make it to their 2nd year. Other 9 won't graduate in 6 years. We can work together to find strategies to retain and persist into graduation.
- *Retention* = rate students go from year to next. Most common freshman to sophomore.
- *Graduation* = rate which beginning students persist to 5/6th year.
- (Most public schools aren't good at graduating in 4 yrs, so go into 6th for average.)
- 80% is gold standard in retention. We average 85% in last 7 years. We are closing into the 90% range. We average 75-76%, which we want to get to 80%.
- Compared to other peers, as we picked West region schools, SPU, Linfield, PLU have lower retention rates and persistence rates. We also have schools that are our aspirants, and surpass us into the 90%*s*, like Whitman.
- There's a relationship between retention and graduation. Compared to Christian Colleges Conference schools, Whitworth's in the middle. Wheaton is the outperformer. In the Northwest Conference, Lewis & Clark out surpass us.
- These show us we're good, but we want to do more.
- There are aggregated studies that show factors, pressures we all feel that keep us from these rates--financial, social, logistical challenges such as away from home, "fit", amenities, disappointed with offerings, especially when their major isn't here, disconnected from peers and family, and poor decisions and agency.
- We have a retention committee and off-campus housing initiatives because students off campus have usual lower retention rates, since it's easier to

disattach from school. There's also an early alert system with faculty if they see something problematic in students, and Student Success is notified.

- There are also diversity offerings which have extended, and targets historically underrepresented students, and first-generation students. We're increasing our support services and personnel, counselors and vet core counseling for our increasing veteran students.
- Also have DAWG, which looks at data to see patterns.
- Potential predictors list show us that it's students who have larger percentage of unmet financial need from Federal, State, or university that have tougher time to retain.
- Also a factor is race and ethnicity, because of historical reasons, but is lowering. Underrep racial and ethnic populations show that our efforts bring our lines together, which makes it a weaker predictor, and is awesome. Since 2008, 168% increase in students of color at WU. 21% decline in majority white students.
- First-generation students at risk. If you are not first-generation, you retain better.
- If you are on campus, you retain better than off campus.
- Overall, we're good, but 85% average can be greater. We need to identify groups that need different supports.
- If we invite a student on campus, it is our moral imperative that we support this student through graduation.
- We won't be able to retain students without student input. We recruit students one at a time, and we need to retain them one at a time. Every student is unique and valuable, and we need to meet them where they're at. We have the attitude and culture to do this--one of involvement and encouraging.
- It costs us money to lose students, as well--it is forgone revenue we can all use.
- Some of these initiatives are going to require us to spend resources--let's not be shy because it pays itself if our goals are met in the next couple of years.
- Today I had first meeting with committee--you'll hear of activities, events for us to work together. I hope ASWU can take up this initiative
- Brooke Keiner (bkienner@whitworth.edu) is associate provost, and she chairs the retention committee.

Jira: How do you see ASWU helping?

Beck: Keep it in your radar, in your mind, doesn't need to be motivator of everything you do, but have it as a lens as you make recommendations, lead,

etc. Have students serve in committees. We will want to form a committee to better support off-campus community. We can replicate or extend support for them--you are off campus, you have input which we need! There can be several task forces.

Lizzie: Any way to get that DAWG group information that we can incorporate into our programming?

Beck: Kent Brown (kbrown@whitworth.edu) serves as Chief Information Officer, and chair of DAWG. If you have data needs, and if you ask, he can supply that. White papers (research papers) will be published from the committee findings, and we'll make sure ASWU has access to those. We will be a better university because of this initiative.

Pete Tucker, PhD.

Professor, Computer Science & Mathematics

TextMuse

- Been working on an app, Text Muse, for couple of years. Goal is for students to find events on and off campus in community. Also, it's a way to share the events more easily by simple text. Residence hall and theme houses can use it as an incentive for help--for instance, Sweeto Burrito has an ad, if you share it three times, \$.25 cents off a burrito!
- Can help with Midnight Madness, with shirts, or badges, which you can get by using Text Muse, might make process easier.
- Any partner can get a website, takes me short time to set it up, you get a password, and you can put your content in there. Have tabs for events, can make a content, add a note for the event, etc, you can add urls, images. You can choose time frame for event, and which people to send it to, and the incentive that follows.
- I'm trying to make it easy as possible, and if you use it, give me feedback so I can make the app work better for you.

Utsal: Does it need an incentive?

Pete: No, you can leave the field blank.

Talya: Does it allow you to add a graphic?

Pete: If it's on the web, or computer or phone, you can upload it to my server and it'll show.

Alex Montgomery: Only way for people to see is if they have the app?

Pete: Yes, on the app, or if you choose to send and share thru text, they'll get it by text.

Alex Montgomery: Can you add IG, FB, twitter, etc?

Pete: I can also add Twitter on this. You can add your handle and your feed will show, and you can choose from those.

The app is free to download it. I'll never charge Whitworth to use it--if money is made, it's from outside organizations and businesses.

(Student): Do you see it only for Whitworth or outside groups?

Pete: I'd love every college in the world to use this platform. Makes it so much easier to connect and update events.

Jira: What companies are you currently partnered with?

Pete: DeLeon's, Petit Chat, Eagles Ice Skating, McClain's Pizza, Lilac Lanes, Sweeto Burrito, Genesis Coffee/old Service Shop. I want this to be an app you want, with content you want. So let me know who to reach out to.

Sign up with name, email and affiliation (group, club or residence hall) and we can start uploading.

Utsal: Can we email you of people/clubs?

Pete: I want to meet with whoever might use it.

Alex M: Can clubs use your business partners as well?

Pete: I can work with you to connect with them, I can't speak for them and their incentives, but I can help with outreach.

FVP Updates

Chelsea: \$20,000.00 in capital amount.

\$29,154.29 in unallocated amount.

No club updates.

EVP Updates

Andrews: EVP Shoutout to A freshman, Elizabeth M.--this week she came to Chambers, and asked about ASWU, what we do, how she can get involved. She was ready!

President Updates

Teri: Want to thank each and every single one of you for orientation.

Newcomers stand up(assembly claps). Thank you for coming in and being a part of our first meeting.

Campus Reports & Vibes

Amber: A report. I'm in charge of finding people to be the mascot. I have a short list of people who want to work for that. You can get paid for it. Senators, add that to your newsletters, give them my contact info to sign up.

Jira: How much are they getting paid?

Amber: However many hours they go for it. Emails best way to contact.
(avanbrunt19@my.whitworth.edu)

Ethan: 1st event today--outside the HUB, we gave discount cards for seniors, had giant 2019 balloons. 219 seniors came by--good number. Seniors can still come by the HUB desk to get the discount, add to your newsletters for seniors in your res halls. International students here for a semester count as seniors too, and will be put in my email list.

Movie night is at Beck's this Tue Sept 11 at 7PM.

Rohini: Do you need permission if it's on Netflix?

Utsal: There's a Netflix list that doesn't use rights.

Ethan: You can always get the hard copy instead of Netflix too.

Jason: We have contract with a group that works with the rights to show movies, we have movies leftover from last year.

Utsal: International Orientation went well this week. International Ice Cream Social in the loop this Friday at 4:30PM. Show up!

Abdul: Bingo Night at 8PM this Friday, open to EVERYONE. Senators, remind students to bring student ID, you will receive email sign up for volunteers. Some things have changed, and will be reflected there. Things already ordered and coming in from Amazon, and will go out tonight to Walmart and Costco. Morgan will go get giftcards, she might need help.

Lauren: Orientation went really well. Freshmen had lots of fun, and thanks for working on that.

Katie L: I've had a lot of students coming to me regarding student reps positions--they're really excited for it.

Andrews: We're in the process of forming SEC, we will have our first meeting next week, and then we can plan for elections.

Rohini: Need 4 more people to be at locations for scavenger hunt. I sent an email. Bring ASWU nametag, stay for the duration of the game, stamp once you give the second part of the hint and students answer. You can offer help if you want. I have dinosaur stamps. It'll be this Sept 8th at 11AM.

Talya: Are you giving the hints on day of?

Rohini: Yes, they're on the email.

Lizzie: Off campus BBQ this Friday. Clubs can go, and advertise these students. Green Dot is going.

Jason: Send me times for one-on-ones. Execs meet next week, senators and coords the week after. Let's post office hours, too.
Also, Student Activities, ASWU and Dornsife will work on a voter registration drive. Need 3 people to organize materials, what you can and can't say, etc. See me or email me after the meeting.

Teri: ASWU members come from 1:30-4:30PM this Tuesday for the promo video, moved from Wednesday.

Shout-Outs & Questions

Andrews: For Sarah H.; while Almat wasn't here, she did his newsletter for Stewart. Thank you for that.

Sarah H: Shoutout to Ethan for the great event today.

Teri: Lizzie, Rohini, Jira and Abdul for MCing.

Lizzie: Amber has given lot of her time.

Sarah H: Teri, for breaking it down .

Amber: All of the senators for losing voices, and putting in all your work.

Jason: All of you to pull off WU photo--so glad we did that.

Utsal: Rachel, Jason, Steven for orientation.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM.