

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**  
Winona State Student Senate Meeting  
5 PM, Purple Room, WSU

Call to Order: **5pm**

Roll Call: **Quorum**

President Mericer	x
VP Olson	x
Treasurer Weber	x
Chair Gort	x
Chair Hytry	x
Chair Phillips	x
Director Elliot	x
Director Sok	x
EA Wright	x
Senator Abagat	x
Senator Ahmed	x
Senator Brandon	x
Senator A, Carman	x
Senator B. Carman	x
Senator Cole	x
Senator Dauer	x
Senator Evans-Curry	x
Senator Ferguson	x
Senator Ford	x
Senator Hebrink	x
Senator Jones	x
Senator Kennedy	x

Senator Larson	x
Senator McCuskey	x
Senator Mulhern-Allred	x
Senator Prosser	x
Senator Rieken	x
Senator Roers	x
Senator Schiro	x
Senator Senchea	x
Senator Sherchan	x
Senator Siewert	x

Land Recognition Statement

Approval of Weekly Meeting Minutes: **Approved**

Approval of Agenda: **Approved**

- Organizational Reports
  - Warrior Entertainment Network
    - Shrek grocery bingo tonight
    - Find them at the Club Fair tomorrow
    - Coffee Mill Ski Resort trip on Thursday
    - Valentine's Day Dance
    - Open position for Main Stage Director - contact [jarod.zobitz@go.winona.edu](mailto:jarod.zobitz@go.winona.edu) if interested
  - Greek Council
  - Keap Council
  - RHA
  - Director of Communications
    - Support the posts on our social medias
  - Executive Assistant
    - Merch - pay EA Wright by next week
    - Valentine's Day exchange
      - Feb. 15

- Clothing/food drive
      - Feb. 21-25
      - Friendly committee competition
  - Alliance of Student Organizations Director
    - Club and Involvement Fair
      - National Pizza Day - so come and celebrate
    - No ASO meetings for February, but will continue on March 1st and 3rd
- Guest Speakers
  - Heidi Lietha & Ethan Kolb - WSU MCOM Campaigns Class
    - Real world experience regarding campaigning and pitching
    - Class requires tuition already
    - Expected to pay for one-time-use items by themselves
      - Roughly
      - Can't be returned like a textbook
    - Asking approx. \$1000 per team (4 teams)
    - Unfair advantage against those who cannot afford many quality items
    - Chair Phillips - how will it benefit campus? Have you asked the department for money? If a motion were to be written, who would it be allocated to?
      - Will bring the department together and produce better graduates
      - Money will be directed to the MCOM department cost center and distributed from there
    - Chair Hytry - does this occur every year? Any fundraising?
      - Every spring semester
      - Fundraising is not possible with the intensity of the course
    - Senator Mulhern-Allred - required course?
      - Yes - for their specific major
    - Senator Roers - no way for the organization to help with funding?
      - No, due to the
    - Senator Rieken - asked for reconfirmation on where money would go
  - Christopher Cichosz - Head of Security
    - Re-stating security measures around campus
      - Desk guards
      - Building opening
    - More difficult to fill positions

- Trying to advertise in different ways
- In order to continue desk guards and full operations
- 21 total students work in security
- 3 full-time campus security officers
  - Day - 8-4:30
  - Position - 4pm-2am
  - Night - 10pm-8am
- Senator Larson - how much has security risks increased over the years
  - Was no records system prior to his arrival, so not a very accurate system
- Chair Phillips - thought about giving students some protection to avoid security incidents in the first place? Is enterprise still on campus
  - Guards available to help students walk home
  - Enterprise has been gone since the beginning of the pandemic
- Senator Mulhern-Allred - can anyone just walk in?
  - Any student can scan into the
  - Guests must be checked in after 11pm
- Senator A. Carman - constituents feel unsafe. Any requirements for applicants? How much recruitment has been done to get full-time employees? Can senate do anything as students to get others to apply?
  - Small background check, some grade requirements
  - Are posted on the state website, anything else must be paid for
  - Open to any ideas for recruitment
  - Looking at increasing the pay again, but word of mouth works
- Senator Senchea - how long does training take?
  - Have to get students familiar with processes required for the job
- Senator Rieken - update on possible new locking system on doors?
  - Yes - still need to get approval/get appraised for possibility
- Senator Abagat - how many hours did students used to work when enough people
  - Varies by student, but averages between 16-40 hours
- Senator Hebrink - how many new hires would be non-student employees?
 

Suggestion to up the frequency of ads for jobs

  - Looking to hire roughly 20 students, but much fewer non-students
- Senator McCuskey - suggestions: flyers in the res halls or on a facebook page. Or emails to all WSU students

- Senator Larson - Could we advertise security and wages on the campus TVs?
      - Definitely in the books
- PE & Hope Club - Emily Franzen
  - Both PE and Hope Club looking to go to a conference in New Orleans for professional development opportunities
  - 16 club members looking to attend
  - April 26-30
  - Fundraisers
    - Worked concessions for sporting events
    - Garage sale at the club fair
    - Volunteering at the conference
      - Knocks price off of registration
  - Registration: \$2480
  - Flights: \$4448
  - Hotel: \$6720
    - Will be discounted with conference registration
  - PE Club asking for \$
  - Senator Ford - asked anyone else for money besides Senate?
    - Will use funds from past years
    - Follow up: how much
  - Chair Hytry - any SAFC funds you could use? Campus benefit?
    - Used most of it up for previous conferences
    - WSU known for teaching program, so this will only help the
  - Director Sok - don't have the club marked down for the ASO meetings
    - Guy who goes to the meetings also goes for the lacrosse
  - Senator Brandon - considered any other forms of transportation
    - Not considered - all the way in Louisiana
  - Senator Abagat - convention backup plan if COVID strikes again?
    - Not heard anything back
  - Senator Mulhern-Allred - how long until you know if you get paid for volunteering
    - "Early this year" is all they were given for information
  - Chair Phillips - know when answers will be given so finalized amounts are known?

- No way to tell, but hopefully this request goes through to alleviate burden on individual students
  - Senator Hebrink - ballpark estimate on how much you have from fundraising/previous funds?
    - Approx. \$150-\$200 in PE fund from fundraising
  - Chair Hytry - clarification on membership fee?
    - Must purchase fee (\$59) to register for the conference
- Committee Reports
  - Academic Affairs
    - Looking for 4 seniors to speak at graduation
    - Peer advising event
      - March 21st from 12-2 in the ballroom
      - Also an advising series
    - Vaccine campaign is finally underway!
    - Committee Recommendation

*Whereas*, WSU student workers are currently being paid \$10.33,

*Whereas*, many places on campus, such as Jack Kane dining, which many students rely on for meals are short-staffed and close early,

*Whereas*, students who live on-campus may have to work on campus due to lack of transportation to other jobs,

*Whereas*, \$10.33 is not a competitive wage as it is the minimum wage in Minnesota,

*Whereas*, this wage does not encourage students to apply for these understaffed, on-campus jobs due to the opportunity to earn more money through local businesses who pay higher wages,

*Whereas*, other Minnesota State schools already have higher wages for their students, such as:

- Minnesota State University Mankato: \$12.00
- Bemidji State University: \$12.50-\$13.50
- Saint Cloud State University: \$10.08-\$12.08
- Metropolitan State University: \$12.00
- Minnesota State University Moorhead: \$10.00-\$15.00

*Therefore be it resolved*, the WSUSS Academic Affairs committee strongly recommends that Winona State University raise the student worker wage by the fall semester of 2022 to be more competitive and comparable to other Minnesota State schools, and local Winona businesses, to encourage students to work on campus.

Moved by: Academic Affairs Committee

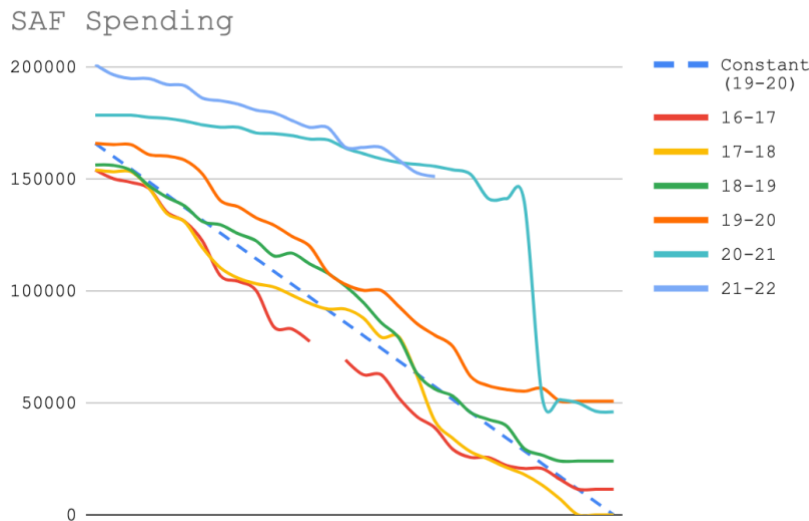
- WSU exhibits a severe need for student workers
- Limits students' options to get money
- Senator Prosser - students who don't have a vehicle/no way to commute have very limited options
- Senator Phillips - shouldn't have to work 30+ hours a week for the ability to pay rent
- Senator Ford - amends the motion to include an exact price to recommend - as a student worker, \$12 is a fair starting price
  - Seconded by Senator Hebrink - exact price shows that the wage increase must be significant and not the \$0.33 students got last time
- Senator Ferguson - reason for not exact number was due to uncertainty of how much is budgeted for students
- Senator Rieken - if we recommend the exact amount, is that set in stone for policymakers?
  - Good for admin
- Senator Jones - sits on Finance committee - they were already talking about making starting wage \$12 anyway due to inflation, so this recommendation will solidify that decision
- Chair Phillips - amends the motion to add term for minimum amount to set a baseline for change
  - Seconded by Senator Larson - doesn't want peers to not have enough money
  - **Amendment to the Amendment PASSES**
- Senator Rieken - if we say \$12, likely to get less than \$12
  - Makes an amendment to the amendment to change to \$13
  - Seconded by Chair Gort
- Chair Hytry - \$13 might look like too much to admin and idea will just fail
- Senator Hebrink - asked for clarification about the exact amount in question
- Senator Brandon - if \$12 minimum, there's a possibility it could get to \$13 anyway
- Chair Phillips - some might not be doing enough work to merit \$13
- Chair Gort - \$13 not unreasonable - should not devalue the work of fellow students
- Senator Jones - thinks admin takes senate's reports seriously, so \$12 is probably enough
- Senator Hebrink - seems like intention is to play "hardball" with Academic Affairs
- Senator McCuskey - struggling to find workers even when given incentives
- Senator Rieken - if voting no because of a \$1 difference isn't much to ask for
  - WSU would still be towards the bottom in the wage list of universities
- Senator Roers - average for comparison list is \$12.50, so going over would worry admin
- Chair Phillips - might be made to do more work to accommodate \$13
- **Amendment to the Amendment PASSES**

- Senator Jones - admin already plans to raise to \$12
- Senator Ford - knowing it was already in the plans and recommending a raise is good
- Amendment **PASSES**
- Recommendation **PASSES**
  
- Equity and Inclusive Excellence
  - Happy Black History Month
  - Looking forward to upcoming events
    - The Wiz
    - Sam Brinton
  
- Student Services
  - Looking for volunteers to sit on committee
  
- Chair Phillips moves to take a five minute recess
  - Seconded by: Senator Prosser
  
- President's Report
  - Approval of Consent Agenda
  - All University Committee Updates
    - Senator Ferguson - Lyceum Committee - speaker has been decided and will be announced Feb. 10
    - Senator Jones - Facilities - talking about selling buildings on West campus
      - Also working on getting the main internet up
  - Students United Update:
    - Officer Applications Open - Close March 11th
    - Scholarship Application Open - Close April 1st
    - April Advocacy Conference Registration Open
  - Student Senate Elections Calendar
    - Applications: Open February 28th - Close March 13th
    - Campaigning: March 14th - 18th
    - Voting: March 21st - 24th
    - Elections Committee: March 24th 5:30 PM
  
- Vice President's Report
  - [Committee Recommendation](#)
    - Need a system to allow senators back in while still having some marks
    - Chair Hytry - this language will be necessary



- Director Sok - nothing really changes, but there is some leniency
    - Recommendation **PASSES**
  - Safe Space Training
  - Office Hours
    - Make sure you're under the correct tab
- Treasurer's Report
  - SFMC Recommendations:
    - WSUSS recommends a [1.6% increase](#) to the Technology Fee as [presented](#).
      - Senator Roers - interesting to hear what all the money will do
        - Will end up with a deficit no matter what they're given
      - Senator Jones - can all agree that the wifi is less than good
      - Chair Hytry - small enough amount to be manageable while helping services for students
      - Senator Hebrink - if there a way for fees to stay the same for students while still increasing the budget?
        - Really the only way to raise budgets is to raise fees
      - Chair Gort - against raising fees/financial burden on students
      - Senator Jones - a lot of our departments are currently in debt/not doing great, so many will be asking for money
      - Chair Phillips - already get lower tuition with great services, so a \$2 increase isn't much to ask for
      - Recommendation is automatically **TABLED** for one week
    - WSUSS recommends a [1.5% increase](#) to the Health Service Fee as [presented](#).
      - Senator Kennedy - does good things for all students on campus
      - Senator Larson - any way to cut funds for programs?
        - Have the right to recommend whatever we want
      - Chair Gort - takes issue with the sentiment that it's the students' responsibility to alleviate financial burden for programs
      - Senator Hebrink - reminds that we are elected by students, so increasing their fees will not be good
      - Chair Hytry - university is considered a business, so listening to people who are knowledgeable about their budgets is beneficial
      - Senator Dauer - asked for clarification about amounts

- Senator Jones - we want access to good things, but those things cost money. At the end of the day need to choose whether it's better to not have the thing but save money or have the thing and pay the fee
  - Chair Phillips - Health Services has been doing a lot for students during COVID
  - Senator Roers - not every campus has a health & wellness section for students
  - Senator Abagat - shows to students that we value everyone's health on campus
  - Tracy Rahim - there are caps on student fees, recently moved the cap up for this one, so it's unlikely they'll ask for more in the near future
  - Recommendation is automatically **TABLED** for one week
- SAF Account Balance: \$152,760.48
  - SAF Account Balance after approval of Consent Agenda: \$151,187.24 (75.16%, 24.84%)
  - SAF Account Balance after approval of Unfinished Business: \$151,187.24 (75.16%, 24.84%)



- Unfinished Business

*Whereas*, security is an important asset to campus safety,

*Whereas*, there has been a higher number of crimes committed on campus,

*Whereas*, security is understaffed,

*Whereas*, having security in each building makes students feel safer,

*Therefore be it resolved*, WSUSS recommends security have more advertisements on campus and have two full-time community staff members to help assist with campus safety.

Moved by Senator Evans-Curry

- Still feel that the motion is necessary to support security and students

Seconded by: Chair Phillips

- Hopefully can get better funding in the future
- Senator Senchea - clearly a need for workers
- Senator A. Carman - believes senate should continue to advocate for students' safety
- New Business
  - New Motions
  - *Whereas*, the PE and H.O.P.E. clubs promote the need for physical education and health education in schools.
  - *Whereas*, the SHAPE america conference will help attendees learn valuable skills and information that will aid them in their future careers.
  - *Whereas*, attendees are already paying roughly \$460.50 each out of pocket for personal expenses.
  - *Whereas*, SHAPE is a good opportunity for students to network with other professionals nationwide.
  - *Therefore be it resolved*, WSUSS allocated \$5500 from the SAF to help cover the costs to allow PE club and HOPE club to attend the SHAPE America conference.
  - Moved by: Senator Mulhern-Allred
    - If volunteer opportunity works, students would pay way less than planned
  - Seconded by: Senator Senchea
    - Estimating \$500 with the garage sale tomorrow
  - Senator B. Carman - voiced support for the motion
  - Senator Brandon amends motion to include the PE club - clarify where it goes
    - Seconded by: Senator Roers
  - Chair Hytry - asked for clarification of better position of amendment
  - Amendment **PASSES**
  - Motion is automatically **TABLED** for one week

- 
- *Whereas*, the final capstone course for Mass Communications provides unique real-world professional experience to students,

- *Whereas*, students are expected to pay for their own promotional materials that are required for the course,
- *Whereas*, these promotional materials pose a financial burden for students enrolled in the course,
- *Therefore be it resolved*, WSUSS allocates \$4000 from the SAF to the Mass Communications department for the purchase of promotional materials for students enrolled in MCOM 440 and 460,
- *Therefore be it further resolved*, any unused funds be returned to the SAF.
  - Moved by: Chair Gort
    - Clear benefits during the presentation
  - Seconded by: Senator Senchea
    - Can't imagine paying so much for her capstone
  - Chair Phillips - ridiculous to pay out of pocket for required materials
  - Senator Kennedy - lots of money, but still wants to graduate
  - Senator Hebrink - very stressful capstone, worrying about finances will help a lot
  - Motion is automatically **TABLED** for one week

Comments from the Gallery

Comments from the Good of the Order

- Adjournment **7:57pm**
  - Moved by: Chair Hytry
  - Seconded by: Senator Mulhern-Allred

**Consent Agenda**

<b>RSO</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Special Olympics	Club Meeting Food	\$272.59
Society of Plastic Engineers	Materials for Project	\$869.11
Rochester Nursing Club	Event Food	\$11.98
Student Organization for Lationa/o/x	Club Meeting Food	\$107.28
Asian Student Nation	Paper Lantern Supplies	\$5.48
Women in Computer Science	Club Meeting Food	\$204.17

Computer Science Club	Club Meeting Food	\$77.18
Students for Reproductive Justice	Club Meeting Supplies	\$8.48
Biology Club	Club Meeting Supplies	\$16.97