

Minutes
February 21, 2006
5:00PM – HUB 310

Respectfully submitted by Senate Secretary Travis McCoy

I. Call to Order

Alex Kim called the meeting to order at 5:07PM

II. Approval of the Agenda

The motion was made to approve the agenda. Seconded. Passed without objection

III. Public Forum – Dr. Nancy “Rusty” Barceló, Vice President for Minority Affairs

Dr. Barceló said she has been working on all three campuses with issues regarding diversity.

She said one of the new initiatives being developed is a Diversity Research Institute for faculty and researchers. She said she hoped it would help to solve some of the issues of diversity in society as a whole.

She said that last year, UW had more applications from diverse populations than at any other time. She said the problem was that those students didn't ultimately come to UW. She said an assessment is ongoing regarding how UW is perceived from the outside and what progress is being made on the issue.

She said she believed that not only campus needed to be diverse, but that students at UW need to be prepared to work in a diverse world.

Andrew Everett said the number of officers in training programs have been dropping for several years. He asked what was being done to address that issue.

Dr. Barceló said she grew up in the US Air Force and that she had just finished a meeting with ROTC, so she was personally concerned with that issue. She said she would look into the issue more fully.

Selma Dillsi asked what work is being done with the ASUW commissions to increase efforts toward diversity and what is being done on a university administration level.

Dr. Barceló said UW applications are being more thoroughly reviewed

Jon Evans asked what sorts of ideas are being considered in further years to increase the number of students from diverse backgrounds who accept UW's acceptance.

Dr. Barceló said letters needed to be sent out sooner, from herself, the President, and the office of admissions.

Jon Lee asked what impact I-914 would have on the school if it were passed.

Dr. Barceló said it would not allow the school to use diversity as a factor in its admissions decisions.

Vanessa Williams said she had heard the UW was being limited in the number of times their recruiters could visit high schools with large minority populations.

Dr. Barceló said the UW has a counselor based out of Garfield High School, and that many efforts to recruit and engage students begin in middle school or earlier.

Gregor Stoddard asked what the OMA's roll is regarding queer students on campus.

Dr. Barceló said the OMA sponsored the queer center, and that she thought progress was being made on the issue and raising awareness on campus.

Jono Hanks asked how the term "underrepresented group" was defined and applied by UW.

Dr. Barceló said they used the federal government's definition. She said there is a myth that OMA doesn't serve all students, and she emphasized that it was meant to work with all students at UW.

Magnus Gordon asked if anything was being done to increase religious ethnicities on campus.

Dr. Barceló said her office works to ensure discrimination doesn't occur against religious ethnicities, but that no specific recruitment program exists.

Jill Edwards asked if Dr. Barceló worked with the University as a whole or with specific departments.

Dr. Barceló said work is done not only in OMA but also in departments, and that it was an important thing for students to realize that increasing diversity was a campus wide effort.

IV Committee Meetings – 10 minutes

Committees met for 10 minutes outside of the general Senate meeting.

V. Committee Reports

Faculty And Administrative Affairs – The committee had no legislation to consider

Academic Affairs – The committee discussed ASUW coverage in the news

Publicity and Outreach – The committee discussed ASUW press coverage

Membership - The committee discussed R-12-24 tabled it indefinitely

Campus Affairs – The committee discussed R-12-23 and passed favorably

Off Campus Affairs – The committee brainstormed places to advertise the commuter forum

General Affairs – The committee considered R-12-22 and it passed with a unanimous favorable recommendation

Sam Al-Khoury moved to place R-12-26 as the first item under New Business. *Seconded. Objection.*

The motion failed.

Division was called. The motion failed.

VI. Chair's Report

Alex Kim said he was excited to see so many people interested in Senate.

He welcomed Dan Boirum, a Cadet and member of the ROTC committee.

Dan Boirum said the UW has been receiving a lot of criticism it didn't deserve.

He presented a letter from the military community on campus.

Student Senate,

Of the many student organizations on campus, the military community often holds a negative image. The various Reserve Officer Training Corp programs are frequently criticized by some as producing trained killers. Yet these programs are designed with considerable effort to produce leaders of integrity, courage and dedication. The individuals that come out of ROTC are some of the brightest leaders our nation is capable of producing. They are exactly the sort of people the UW should strive to produce.

The military community does not desire parades, monuments or banners. We do our jobs not for thanks nor praise. We do our duty because we believe we serve a purpose greater than ourselves. However, we resent the fact that some members of the student government would liken us to criminals or murderers. It is true that the profession of arms is a violent one. But as a professional military, our services put an unbelievable amount of effort to accomplish the mission with as little damage and loss of life as possible. The world is still a violent place and the only thing that keeps violence off of our doorstep, is that other men and women stand ready to absorb that violence.

Soldiers are not responsible for making policy. We are assigned missions by the duly appointed civilian leadership, one not unlike the concept of the student senate. Like the American public we each have our own political opinions and beliefs. The ideas and politics of each person in uniform is as diverse as can be found anywhere on campus. Yet we all share one commonly parroted ideal; that freedom of thought and liberty are divine rights to be enjoyed by all humankind.

To this day there are millions of people who live under the weight of oppression. Few people around the world enjoy the same security, luxury and freedoms that are so openly taken for granted in our nation. Gregory Boyington and men like him literally bled to protect liberty from a growing oppressive empire. Many before him, many of his peers, and many future graduates from his Alma Mater have, and will continue to pay the price of liberty with their own blood.

So easy is it to condemn and criticize others. And so easy is it to give way to ignorance and preconceived notions. We are all guilty of it, all of us. While it is not uncommon, it is also not fair that some confuse the necessity of violence with murder or fascism. No American warrior fights solely for his appointed Commander in Chief. No American warrior fights for oil. Americans take up arms not to force their choices on others, but to give and protect the liberty of choice.

Despite all the criticism and the apparent negative feelings of all involved parties, we are PROUD to be members of the University community. The UW may not always support the military community, but we strongly support the University of Washington. The UW is and will continue to be a main center of academic achievement, as well as a diverse community of politics and ideas. We firmly support the University of Washington because great minds do not think alike. Great minds think for themselves.

With Genuine Respect,
The Military Community of the University of Washington

Alex Kim said much of the discussion across the country is more argument than discussion.

He said he thought much of the country suffers from a wound by which human beings cannot talk to each other.

He said the sort of dialogue that takes place within Senate is critical for healing and consensus in today's crossfire democracy.

He said the last two weeks have taught him how important such dialogue is.

VII. ASUW Presidential Privilege

There was no presidential report.

VIII. Board of Directors Report

Jon Lee noted Lee Dunbar was sorry he could not be present. He said this was students' last opportunity to give their input on the undergraduate experience report.

Jon Lee said the ASUW would be holding a self defense class next Monday night.

Hala Dillsi said this Thursday the Board Meeting would be held at the ECC, followed by a forum at 6.

Alex Kim noted that SB-12-1 was not passed last week and said he thought that was a positive thing.

Hala Dillsi said it was tabled for a week to fix a few grammatical issues that were not the same as what is in the ASUW constitution. She said it would then go back to Senate to be reconfirmed with the new language added.

IX. Graduate and Professional Student Senate Report

There was no GPSS report.

X. Orders of the Day

A. New Business

R-12-7 A Resolution in Support of the Recommendations Made by the 2004-2005 Advising Self Study Advisory.

Erin Shields, sponsor of the legislation, presented the resolution.

Shawn Fisher moved to place the resolution on second readings.
Seconded. Objection.

Erin Shields said Jon Lee asked only that it pass by the end of the quarter.

The motion failed.

John Naughton asked why the problems stated in the advising report were not included.

Erin Shields said there was no particular reason why they were not included. She said she created the resolution in response to fixing advising ratios.

Sue Ordonez asked if the resolution included the advising offices within the Office of Minority Affairs.

Jon Lee replied it did not, and that this was only undergraduate education advising.

Selma Dillsi asked if other universities' counseling models were considered.

Erin Shields said they did consider other peer school's efforts and programs.

Jon Lee said they used those institutions' levels as a beginning benchmark for UW.

Shawn Fisher asked where the specific report could be found.

Jon Lee said he could provide reports to those who were interested.

Gary Stute *moved to close debate. Seconded. Passed without objection.*

Debate was closed on the resolution.

Tyler Dockins gave a brief OGR report.

He said the House and Senate budget for UW was much better than the Governor's, as hers gives UW only \$2 million.

He said the capital budget doesn't get any money from the house budget, which was unfortunate given UW's skilled faculty in the area of nanotechnology.

He said UW-Tacoma and Bothell were getting additional money to increase enrollment numbers.

Gary Stute asked how much influence the governor had over the budget.

Tyler Dockins said it was a supplemental budget and that it was hoped the amount given to UW would be close to what was proposed in the House and Senate.

B. Old Business

R-12-20 A Resolution in Opposition to the Denial of Federal Financial Aid Based on Drug Convictions

Karl Smith, sponsor of the legislation, reviewed the resolution.

He said the act was discriminatory as drug laws in general target minorities, and withheld the ability of those without means to get an education.

Zach Tobin moved to amend the resolution to add a citation to the 'whereas' clause regarding the discriminatory nature of drug policy. Seconded. Passed without objection.

Gary Stute said he thought Karl brought up good points and that the bill prevented people from getting ahead in life. He encouraged senators to pass the resolution.

Alex Gwozda moved to amend the first whereas clause to add the word "recent" before "drug conviction" and add "or repeated offenses" to the end of the clause. His motion also added a second 'whereas' clause stating "WHEREAS, specifically, possession of a controlled substance disqualifies a student from receiving financial aid for one year after the 1st offense, for two years after the 2nd offense, and indefinitely after the 3rd, and additionally, delivery of a controlled substance disqualifies a student from receiving financial aid for two years after the 1st offense and indefinitely after the 2nd, and," Seconded. Passed without objection.

Andrew Everett asked if there were any statistics from government entities regarding drug use among minorities.

Alex Kim said the National Crime Statistic Survey was one of the few sources of data on the issue.

Ashley Miller said a professor at UW, Katherine Beckett, had done research indicating drug useage and trafficking was higher among whites, but that arrests were higher among minorities.

Erin Shields asked what the purpose of the legislation was.

Karl Smith responded it was supposedly aimed at reducing drug useage among college students.

Steve Valm said he thought the act would prevent people from bettering themselves by restricting their access to higher education.

Bryce McKibben moved to remove the word "federal" from the title and add "financial" before the word "aid" in both 'that' clauses. Seconded. Objection.

Bryce McKibben said it singled out the federal level, and that students should oppose such practices at all levels.

Shawn Fisher said he agreed with the first part of the change, but that the committee added the word 'federal' in the title as students were still eligible for state based aid.

Travis Grandy moved to close debate. Seconded. Objection.

The motion passed. Debate was closed on the amendment.

Travis Grandy moved to divide the question. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The first part of the amendment failed.

The second part of the amendment passed.

Shawn Fisher said he hoped the resolution was passed unanimously as UW students needed to stand up for their fellow peers.

Jerome McCuin said he had noticed that every four years, the convictions on drug convictions increase. He said that drug convictions are not all the same, as some are prosecuted differently than others. He said the new law undoes what the original financial aid act did by balancing access to education in society.

Nathan Bedle asked how many students would be affected.

Jerome McCuin responded that in 2001, 9,000 applicants lost their aid, and that 836,000 left that specific question blank on the application.

Nathan Bedle said he thought the 'whereas' clause regarding the use of possessing small amounts of narcotics.

Brent Hoffsteder moved to remove the 'whereas' clause regarding discrimination. Seconded. Objection.

He said he thought it was an issue about people's personal choices, and not an issue of race. He said he didn't think it appropriate to include racial issues as grounds on which to oppose the policy.

Karl Smith said he thought it was an appropriate thing to mention in the resolution.

Jerome McCuin moved to close debate. Seconded. Objection.

The motion passed.

The amendment failed.

Karl Smith highlighted the second 'that' clause on the resolution and said the ACLU is looking for a student who has been denied aid.

Sam Al-Khoury moved to close debate. *Seconded. Objection.*

The motion passed.

The resolution passed.

XI. Announcements

Erin Shields reminded senators of the Board of Directors meeting at the ECC this Thursday.

She said Senate 101 takes place before Senate every week at 4:30 every week to address questions about Senate and encouraged new Senators to attend.

She said there are Senate Buddy applications are downstairs.

She noted that next week there would be a public forum with Vennie Gore from HFS.

Travis Grandy said this week was Ally week.

Niki Iglesias noted that the GBLTC Drag Show is March 3rd at 7:30 and still has slots open.

XII. Adjournment

The motion was made to adjourn. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55PM