Student Government Association

Minutes

January 28th, 2015

I. Roll Call

Scott - Excused
Nate
Mia
John
JP - Class
Josh - Class
Erin

II. Approval of Agenda

Stefano: remove Party pack bill removed
Mk: second
Stefano: I move to approve
Ben: Second

III. Approval of Minutes from 1/21/15

Ben: Motion to approve
Bryce: Second

IV. Guest Speaker

a. Sierra Freson - Mascot Idea

Sierra: I am Western’s brand manager. I might have been your admissions
counselor if you came in in the past three years. I am brand new to the brand
manager. I am here today to get support of updating Mr. Madjack. As you
might know we have a couple retired Madjacks logo. Our Madjack outfit and uniform show up all over the places. World wide bike races, admissions, parades, hugs small children, and attends lots of Western events. Lot of different places. Our madjack uniform does not match our newest logo and he in sorts looks a little homeless. I just wanted to come in and get your support.

Stefano: Would it be possible to open this to have a more direct student involvement? Have students design it.

Sierra: This is a possibility. Working with BAM they come up with a couple designs. My fear with that is if students design it they might not have the resources to design what we want.

Ben: Have students submit some designs and have them work from that.

Nate: I think it is a great idea. I don’t think that putting it out to students is a good idea. It might cause a lag going through the students.

MK: Going off of our previous rebranding. A lot of our students were upset that the students were not asked at all. To have the logo reveal is awesome and is a cool event. I think that having a student do it will have a lot more community/university support. If you could check with them and give them a design, we have some talented kids and I think it would be great.

Sierra: I will look into it.

Ryan: Are there multiple companies?

Sierra: Yes

Ryan: Is this the best one?
Sierra: I reached out and this is the one company I looked at. There might be more out there that lets people design it themselves. I would like to see a make-up of the whole body. We are going to lots of research.

Katie: What is the timeline?

Sierra: BAM reached out to me and said 7-8 weeks.

Katie: When would you like to have the concept?

Sierra: I think it would be great to have it on campus for next fall. We have lots of time.

Kiera: What is the cost?

Sierra: Somewhere between 4800-5500 dollars. Includes a manual for caring for the outfit.

Bryce: I think we need to upgrade this. When the new logo was released I feel that there was some disappointment. Reaching out to students prior to making decisions makes them feel involved.

Ben: Have you looked into reaching out to other companies and comparing?

Sierra: We can do both.

Katie: Do you want verbal support?

Sierra: I can be in contact with Scott. I’ll reach out to BAM and other companies to see the process. From there we will move forward.

Katie: I would like to move to support you further in this process.

Ben: Second

V. Action Items
VI. Discussion Items

a. Budget Committee Vote

MK: In the past budget committee has had a whole wide vote. In curriculum committee students are heard and can give their feedback but not have a vote while the teachers get the vote. I think we should move this way in budget committee. We would like to see the faculty give their feedback on issues but leave the vote to the students. What do you think about this?

Ryan: I think that would work great. We do that in rescue. Some people are part of the voting process but do not get to vote.

Katie: My question is how we officially approve this? All SGA vote, budget committee vote, or what?

Sara: My concern there is attendance for budget committee. Attendance has been poor and we should make it required.

Katie: The last budget committee was the best attended.

Stefano: It is good that we had the most attendance in a while. If you cannot make it send someone else from your group to represent you. We only had half of advisory there and that needs to approve. Advisory has the power to vote on issues and it is very important that they are there. This is where you get to provide your input on how your money is spent.

Katie: We can talk about a proxy vote where ICC could say that, “I’m not here but I’m going to have this person from ICC come and vote for me.”
Sara: I think that the discussion that the advisors bring is very valuable and they have a longer term perspective. Students have terms of 1-4 years and faculty typically have a longer range.

MK: I completely agree. Even within the last meeting, Mike Brooks brought up great ideas for continuing funding. Do you think that just because they do not have a vote that their opinions don’t matter?

Sara: No I just want to make sure that advisors will still be going. I’m not attached to my vote, I am more concerned about the discussion.

MK: I agree. I keep going back to curriculum but when they are going through the process of changing classes and curriculum, I think it was critical to have a student there. When we are thinking about student fees, it is really the students just as curriculum is ultimately decided by faculty.

MK: What we are talking about the proxy vote. For example if Amy wasn’t there we could have Mike vote.

Katie: I would entertain a motion in support for this idea. We can do a discussion at budget committee to involve the advisors.

Stefano: I move to change the voting procedure in the budget committee so that students are the one making the vote and each representative subcommittee gets one vote.

Ben: Second

All yays, one No

Amy: I don’t think that it is worth going through all the trouble. I don’t think it is going to change how our budget committee meetings go.
VII. Advisor Reports

Gary: The SERF fund is ready to go. There is an application form online. Make sure you let students know about that. Ben is the representative on the committee and Luke is the sub. We have 8k in the fund right now. We want to keep building that up in the future. There is a free income tax program called VIDA. This is starting next Tuesday the 3rd through Tuesday the 7th. It helps the Western students practice. Great free service so take advantage. We are going to be putting ads out. One in top in February and one in March. If you are traveling for spring break, make sure you are immune. Measles is having a breakout. There are lots of issues with students on depression and mental health. I will be sending out resources to help. We have added a half time position and we have more counseling available. I am going to push for next year to add more. Adams State has four or five councilors and a head staff as comparison. There is a self-help program online called life string that we haven’t marketed to students that well. It is posse motivational, connection to resources. There is a new crisis text hotline that students can text and get an immediate response from somebody. They are based out of NY but they can get people connected to resources. We just want to get more resources and have students knowledgeable about the resources available to them. We had a series of exchanges directed towards women that I saw. We would like to get input. We can prevent access from, “yick yack” on our servers. It is concerning about the lack of sensitivity and disrespect exchanges between people. I know it is first amendment right,
freedom of speech. I just don’t see a place for that. If people want to step up and own their comments that is one thing.

Kiera: What is Yik yack?

Gary: All I know is that everyone can see it. It goes away really quick.

Kyle: If it gets likes it will stay on. I have it just because I’m an idiot. I use it for music.

Gary: This thing that happened the other night went on for two hours.

John: I have seen some ridiculous things on Yik yack. I have seen funny things on this as well. Before we put a ban on the network. I would like to talk with Jess with Health and Wellness, SWEET Life about starting a campaign about being nice.

Gary: We are not going to make any decisions without student input.

MK: I would like to go back about what you were talking about more. It is evident that depression levels are higher. I think that having a text support and having the resources (included in party pack) are good. I would like to see us and SGA set up student counseling would be very helpful. I think that having student help would help lower people’s activity on Yik yack and confessions.

Gary: I think that is a great point. It has been brought up of having a student support group. Work with Sara, Jess, and SWEET Life about setting one up.

There is some liability on that with confidentiality that we have to figure out. We are doing lots of research. If you have any ideas. I have been bummed out because the lack of snow. This is a hard time of year for people. Injuries, lack of school, and so forth.
MK: I think it would be beneficial to have another resource besides a text.

Stefano: I agree with John about starting a campaign. I think that denouncing these sites would help. I don’t agree with banning because it almost insults student’s ability. If we as student leaders speak out against this in terms of talking about it, changing the idea of it, and so forth. We try and say something positive and promote a culture of being nice to each other.

Ryan: I think it would be great if we started a campaign or network going throughout the school. We are all representatives of different parts of the team. There are 28 different people in here meaning 28 different parts of the school.

Regarding the Yik Yack, it is really localized. I can’t imagine that there isn’t a thing to report in that.

Gary: There is

Ryan: Reach out to Yik Yack to see if there is some way to stop this. If you do report it, it goes to the school.

Gary: You have to go through law enforcement to get an IP address if you want to move that route. K-12 has established parameters for somehow restricting students from doing that.

Kiera: I do think that we need to do something about Yik yack. I saw a girl crying at Madjacks. We have a sociology and psychology department. Is there a way for students to get that? There would be a class for it and they could be trained... is that possible.

Gary: We could look into that. It is definitely a possibility.
Kyle: Yick Yack has a dislike as well. The only way it was getting that big was people following it. I think one of the reasons it came a big issue was it came a back and forth thing. It wasn’t one sided. I agree with Stefano when he said don’t take it away from people. I would just dislike that.

MK: It all revolves around social media. I think that everyone that has seen the confessions page, there are bad things on there. When people post negative things about a person, typically people come up and post a compliment about the person. There is an administrator. We should have an outreach and we could have people comment on it and people would come with resources. We could do that. It could be completely anonymous.

Gary: There is a community coalition meeting about resources. It is February 18th (Wednesday) at 12-1. I am planning on going, if a student from SGA would like to go let me know. The campus evaluation team meets and we have been talking about ways to have student leaders be prominent and out there. An example would be like, “Hey I’ve been to counseling before.” There is stigma around the idea that counseling is a negative thing. We want to normalize that.

Katie: I think that would be a good thing. My coach has said before that hearing people say that, “Hey I’ve been there before.” Standing up and letting people know that others have been there before and that they made it through.

Gary: Thanks for all the input. If you haven’t been in to meet with Jessica Vogan it would be a great opportunity to go in and see what she is doing. If you have any ideas go in and talk to them about it.

Sara: No report
VIII. Executive Board

Katie: I would like to welcome the new senators. Stand up and tell us your name, year in school, and something interesting.

Jodie is a sophomore and loves long neck dinosaurs. She likes elephants.

Canyon is from North Carolina. His spirit animal is a lemur.

Alejandro goes by Alex. He likes the T Rex

Mckenna is a turtle. She can be shy but also can be like Finding Nemo.

Katie: Elections are happening right now but there are four spots so they all win.

If you haven’t voted yet, do so. If the four will stay after the meeting, follow Sara to her office so you can get paid.

Luke: No report

Stefano: Last night city council approved the leasing of farmland north of town.

He is going to set up this renewable farm and is going to be looking for volunteers. He is working with Johnathan Coop where people can get hands on experience in this work. Thinking Headwaters and ENVS majors. There is this new thing going around called powdered alcohol. City council is looking into banning this or doing something about it. This is something we should be aware of. The Peer Leadership conference is coming up. Please go to western.edu/conference. Write a paragraph why you want to know. The deadline is Friday the 30th. Fill it out and tell people that would benefit. The conference is 6th and 7th.
Sara: Have you heard back yet about your presentations? How many people will be presenting at each?

Stefano: I'll email you. People in the committee stay after. If you have interest in helping one is talking about having positive involvement with other student leaders and community and then one about getting out of the bake sale mentality.

MK: Sign your stipend sheet if you want to get paid.

IX. Advisory Reports

Kyle: Big news: basketball and wrestling are traveling. Track is green and red shootout Friday at 4 or so. Adams is bringing their top guns. If we beat Adams and continue to do well there is a good chance we could win conference.

Bryce: ICE II Skills clinic this weekend. Two single day trips. $25 dollars with pass, 40 dollars for regular. Get lunch provided. WP sponsored area one avi course this weekend. It is full. We offer it every year. If you want to get your avi one, take it. Lake City IceFest is next Saturday at the Ice Park. PC can I use your printer?

Nate: Do you have a file already?

Bryce: I have a poster, could I make a copy. I would like to get posters around campus to get people to show up. I will leave a stack of posters, put them around town.

Ryan: X Games is over. You should go to track and then hockey game at 6:45. Lacrosse is still looking for people to join their team. They will be starting in March.
Amy: Women’s Rugby is in full swing. Doing tons of fundraising and we have a coach. If you have any friends you know have an interest tell them to come play rugby.

Lindsay: Apply to be an orientation leader by February 13th.

John: Lead has the western knockout tomorrow 7-9. It will be in the ballroom across the way. We have 16 clubs signed up so come support. There is going to be a lot of things going on there. SWEET Life is doing some cool stuff and looking for wellness representatives. This week it is Natural Drugs Awareness week. SWEET Life will be around. They started Wellness Wednesday talking about wellness and repping national programs.

MV: The education department is putting a nonalcoholic happy hour Thursday. Escalante staff is putting on a super bowl party in Colorado lounge. Tuesday art shops at 7. ROOT is also putting on a party. RA apps are up.

Rachel: Volleyball starts Monday if we get enough teams. Doubles pickle ball tournament on the 10th. The faculty one is on the 17th.

Nate: I am very disappointed in all of you. None of you are wearing Hawaiian shirts. The required PC meeting was today at 4:30. The pool party is right now. We talked about where we want to go with PC. We want to have more community involvement.

Mia: The Amigos Club is hosting the annual Carnival on February 20th. Buy tickets soon so they are cheaper. Under 21 it is 7 dollars and over 21 it is 5 dollars. BSA is hosting Claire Garcia for black history month on Feb 10th.
X. Committee Reports

Adam: Constitution committee- no discussion in this report will be allowed in this week. Discussion with advisory 17th and 24th. Talked with athletics director. We are thinking about changing this role. Add that Athletic Ambassador is SAAC president. Intramurals is in change as well. CCE does not need much change. We need four people next week in advisory.

Katie: If there is ever a topic that you guys get to as a committee and you can’t get an answer. We can put it on the agenda.

MK: Budget committee- we are not meeting this week. We will be meeting the week after. That way we will have quorum by the time more bills come through.

XI. Senator Reports

JP: No report

Erin: No report

James: Doing well with my senator board.

Lindsay: No report

Marielle: No report

Josh: No report

Ben: No report

Adam: Gunnison Sockeyes ice fishing tournament canceled.

Kiera: The radio station is doing suicide prevention week. Lindsay, Kyle, and Ryan can you email people involved to get team pics. Nate I need to talk to you after the meeting. Why do we not have budget committee?

MK: We don’t have quorum to vote.
Kiera: We need it before Valentine’s Day.

MK: We got it today at 5:00.

Katie: I am going to say budget committee meeting next week. Vote on it next week, vote on it February 11th.

XII. Special Topics

XIII. Remarks for the Good of the Order

Katie: I signed us up for Knockout. Be there.

Stefano: I need to talk to Bryce, Kyle, Ryan, Nate, and John.

MK: Pass stipend sheets.

Kiera: Hasn’t gotten one- fix it.

Nate: Go to pool party there are 20 Piezans.

XIV. Late Roll Call

Scott

XV. Adjournment

8:26