Student Government Association

Proposed Agenda

November 12th, 2014 Meeting

I. Roll Call

Meeting called into order at 7:05 pm

Nate S excused

JP excused

MK excused

Scott

Courtney excused

II. Approval of Agenda

Table Claudia Tomeny until next week

Second

Stefano: Move to approve the agenda

Erin: Second

III. Approval of Minutes from 11/5/2014

Erin: Motion to move minutes as sent out

Kiera: Second

IV. Guest Speaker

a. Andres Esparza: What they learned from MEM Forum

Andres: I started in the MEM program here. There are 35 grad students on campus doing great things. Sara asked me to talk more about the MEM program. ENVS and John H wanted to bring in another grad program into
Western. We boosted our ENVS faculty from 4 to 12 and are adding one more. We have a couple tracks: Integrative Land Management and Sustainable Community which works with third world countries. As grad students, John wanted to give us an opportunity to create something extra in the campus. We came up with the MEM forum with the goal to get undergrad, faculty, staff, and the community together to talk about pressing environmental issues. We had 75 people show up and we split up into small groups and talked about issues that mattered in the Gunnison Valley and how to address these issues. We wanted to figure out what people are passionate about and how to improve these issues for the people of the Gunnison Valley. People were interested in things all across the board. However, people were passionate about many issues and wanting to see change. From this, we decided the rest of the forums this year is going to focus on change such as GMOs and other issues. The next forum on December 3rd will focus on this. We hope to get more people than the first and a more diverse population in regards to undergrad, different majors, and so forth. I’ll be working with John a bunch on this and would love to get SGA involved. We feel that making connections with this group is a great opportunity and we hope for you all to get involved. I am the Community Outreach and Engagement person in the LEAD Office. We are working with a sustainability fund to help us be more eco-friendly. My main function is talking to students and get them to help us out on projects. As I come up with
more needs, I might come to you for more help. My main office hours are Thursday 1-3. If you have information that will help us connect better.

MK: Within the masters programs, are there places for other places on campus to get involved such as biology and so forth.

Andres: A lot of our Masters Projects is coming up with us coming up with ideas. However, John H has put emphasis on using undergrad experience. He is the person to get in touch with.

Katie: What would you like to see from SGA?

Andres: It would be involvement and coming to the forum events. As we come up with more tangible events, we would come in asking for connections, help, and so forth. Getting to know the graduate community is important.

V. Discussion Items

a. Bill Allocation Criteria

Emma: Connection to the student body was seen as important. Budget Committee wants us to be more specific through example. When I come back next week you will see more of that. The word sustainability is a hard word to have in this. We are looking for more of a, “Lasting Impact”. That would be looking to see if bills follow their clubs mission statements to see if there is a lasting impact. There needs to be evidence of answering the question, “what will the student walk away with?”

Katie: We are going to discuss this week and vote on it next week.

Emma: Yes

Katie: If you have something to say, say it this week.
Emma: We talked about food at budget committee and the taboo that we have had in the past. We have had a notion in the past of not funding food, but we do not know why. Also, double dipping is something that we have used. We have defined it as people asking money from us and then something we fund as well. Another form is that a group comes to us and then charges us to go.

Bryce: In the event of a fundraiser, if SGA is paying to put on an event to raise funds. If the students have to pay to go to this event. If they are profiting off funds students already put forth, it seems wrong to me.

Stefano: We are investing money so students can go to these. I don’t see anything wrong with falling through with that investment so students can see the money.

Lindsay: Who decides if it benefits the whole student body?

Emma: Senators do.

Katie: I am thinking about how to write out criteria; I see this being in the Constitution down the road. I see it having overall broad themes and then moving down into more detail. When we finally write it out, I wouldn’t say that it should benefit the whole student body, but it benefits a portion of the student body (who is being targeted).

Kiera: How loosely are we going to interpret what the students will walk away with? I feel it could be as this student got an item, or went instead of a body.

Emma: I don’t think for the final copy I won’t use this.
Stefano: In part, when it is nonspecific, it gives the senate more power to decide what is worth this money. In this sense, not every bill has to fill every single one of them. You get the freedom to decide if the event is good or bad.

Kiera: Is there something that is going to be implemented about people coming back so we can see how it went?

MK: I don’t see how that could hurt. We should come back and see how it went.

Lindsay: Would somebody come talk to us and present?

Emma: We would have the person give a report, short report in their senator report just so the whole GA can hear it. I will draft up something and send it out soon. Look it over before next Wednesday and we will do a vote.

b. Scott on Shared Governance: if Claudia cannot make this meeting

c. Conference in Denver

Sara: We brought this up two weeks ago and Bryce had a couple ideas. The organizer was very impressed with you. She wanted to make sure you all were getting something out of it and how you all could possibly be involved. How to affect change within the institution. It averaged out to be 100 dollars a student (covered by specific entities the student is involved with). Do we want to go back, present, help design the program.

Kiera: What happened last year.

Amy: It was a peer leadership conference in Denver. I did a couple different workshops. There was also a booth time where you could go around and
collaborate with different groups from other schools. There was workshops, collaboration, and so forth.

John: It was cool to see what other things the schools were doing to get involved.

Emma: The biggest benefit that we had as a group was bringing together leadership entities on campus. Before, there was a disconnect and we didn’t know what we were doing.

Sara: The days are 6 and 7 of March

Katie: Do we want to get involved with workshops.

MV: She was very impressed with our collaboration across campus.

MK: How to reach the population you want to reach.

Stefano: Also, fundraising

John: Networking around campus.

Amy: We could do something on sustainability (WHAT WE CAN DO).

Lindsay: How to more effectively lead your peers

Ben: How to reach peers without giving them food- its real dude.

Amy: Peer leadership

Bryce: Community outreach and community development. Why some things work and why others do not.

Sara: We could put together a task force separately and work on this and present back.

John

Luke
d. Student Emergency Fund Process

Katie: Last week Gary met with a few people about how student emergency relief fund should be allocated.

Gary: Some of the expenses covered by this fund are accidents, emergencies, medications, safety needs (family emergencies), and so forth. We would not be covering tuition fees, cable tv, study abroad, household, and so forth. You would have to show financial hardship, judicial and academic good standing, all other resources through student financial services have been looked into, eligible only one time during the student academic career, and supporting documentation to be eligible to apply. The supporting documentation is listed as medical bills, estimates for repairs, documentary evidence, letters of support, and financial information. If you have an outstanding balance owed to the University, I cannot give money to the student if they owe the University.

Ben: Usually students who need money are already in debt with the school. How quickly can this group meet.
Gary: I feel like we could mobilize quickly. We would have up to three students, so mobilizing won’t be too difficult. If students get this gift it might impact your aid package somewhere down the line. There are federal regulations that I need to look into.

Katie: How would the money be given to students?

Gary: My understanding would be giving students money through a transfer at the Cashier’s Office. I will find out about how it would impact a student if they owed money to the university. We have already had faculty come to the SA office asking for help with a couple students. I would like to vote on this next week.

Katie: I am uneasy about the statement, “currently enrolled students and in good standing (academically and judicially) with the University.” Whether you are in good standing or not good standing if someone passes away, why does it matter if they are in good or bad standing?

Gary: My thought process is this is a benefit, so having students in good standing is important.

Kiera: What difference would it make if students were on or off campus in terms of a student breaking into a dorm or something?

Gary: I don’t think it would matter if it was on or off campus. If someone does something on or off campus that broke University policy, they wouldn’t be eligible.

MK: Why is it specifying what travel costs are for under “travel costs related to a death or illness in the immediate family”?
Gary: We are trying to put parameters on it. We know we have had students who have lost people. We could certainly modify that statement.

Bryce: Only being eligible one time during the academic career seems hard. People have bad years and things do happen. Denying people based off them already having applied seems odd.

Gary: We would like to create a strong track record, but 5000 dollars goes by extremely fast. If we could get SGA involved to fundraise to work with the alumni and the Foundation to make the fund more stable.

MV: Going back to the travel costs that MK brought up I think that it should be based on the situation.

Gary: I’ll email this out so you can look through it and talk about this to your peers and vote next week. I am thinking an online application form. I would like to have one SGA student on the committee to help us decide. I think the smaller the committee, the better.

Adam: I would recommend that if we do one person, we have a background person as well. If you are out camping for a couple of days, we should probably have a backup.

Kailie
Luke
Mia
Ben
Adam
Katie: Make sure you are talking to your constituents about this and next week we’ll vote on it.

VI. Action Items

VII. Advisor Reports

Gary: Are you going to talk about the email I sent out today (to Katie- yes). We are fortunately having lots of students take advantage of counseling. Unfortunately there is a 2-3 week wait for students. That is not acceptable. We are working on getting more help so we can fix this.

Kailie: How you ever considered peer counseling or is that a liability?

Gary: That is a good question, I’ll look into it.

Emma: That seems abnormal to have such high numbers, is it just because the word got out?

Gary: Not sure. It has been a tough semester for mental health.

Kiera: If people have pressing issues do they get moved up?

Gary: Yes if they are in danger of hurting themselves or others, they will be moved up.

Sara: Would a group of you be interested in working with me to go over issues that we should be covering over transfer orientation?

Ben

Lindsay

Stefano

Motion to table Scott’s talk for next week

VIII. Executive Reports
Stefano: City Council finalized their 2015 budget. NMUN is having a fundraiser event next Wednesday this time. We have all kinds of cool stuff and are doing a silent auction.

Luke: Taping me to the wall.

Emma: We may meet next week for budget meeting. Advisory be there- advisor or you. Weird stuff happened last month with pay. Sara and I working on it. If next month you get paid a funny amount I’ll explain. We are working it out.

Katie: Next Tuesday, Dr Salsbury is hosting an interviewing workshop 6-7pm in North Ballroom. Going over interview do’s and don’ts. Job seeking skills and so forth. Tell others. He is a business guru and knows his stuff. Next Thursday, he will be presenting the Western story to the student body 12:30-1:30. The only spot we could reserve was the Aspenall Wilson Center. My question is do you think it is worth having it in there or postpone it.

Amy: The fact that everything is going on, there are many students that probably won’t be able to go.

Gary: I would say that the Western Story is a part of the Strategic Plan and it should be heard.

Sara: Could we do it at a different time?

MK: If we held it a place where we could break into small groups.

6:00 if he is available

Katie: Gary sent out an email today for me. The marketing department and Salsbury asked me to send out an email outlining a contest where you can win a ski pass or a 500 dollar cash prize. You would need to send facts out to a
perspective student and CC student admissions to it. Neat facts about Western that sell it.

Gary: It is an effort to help increase our enrollment. You have up to 10 entries. Read the email and send it out.

IX. Committee Reports

Kiera: We would like to formally apologize for typos in the top of the world. We are sorry. It will be better next time. First bio posted today on SGA Facebook:

Ryan Paull

X. Advisory Reports

Amy: Friday is the English Honors Lip Sync battle. Katie and I did one last year. It is three bucks to get up on stage. You don’t have to actually sing. There are awesome prizes going on like a trip to Vegas. Saturday annual Ski bunnies and Hot doggers party at powerstop. They have prizes as well. In art, the BA gala is being installed and also update on the renovation: there are contractors everywhere. We will be picking out who is going to design and build Quigley.

Kyle: Football has last season game at Mesa. Two hour drive so a lot of people are going. Moustache Mesa. I talked to Jason Carmichael today and sending a survey out to all NCAA athletes. Working in SAAC to sell golfballs for make a wish foundation. 10 dollars a golf ball- 1000 dollars for the winner. We are behind so far. We need to sell 101 to give money to make a wish.

John: Bring them to SGA?

Kailie: We could sell them as senators as well at our districts.
Ryan: Hockey team has games at Mesa this weekend so come if you are going to the game.

Rachel: No report

Lindsay: On Friday 2:50-3:20 club fair preview day. Get there anytime after 2:00 to set up.

Mia: Buy tamales from me until December 2nd.

MV: Floor hockey tonight. Alex has residence doing it. Next week Soph experience is giving a thanksgiving potluck for the complex.

Bryce: Moab multisport- biking, canyoneering, climbing trip. The first weekend of trip. Four days leaving Friday. Will be back to get in time for Thanksgiving. First year for the trip. 150 dollars with the pass covering transportation. If people need something to. Avalanche Awareness Seminar going on next Thursday at 7 North Ballroom (the 20th). This is a huge fundraiser for Mountain Sports. Tons of gear to give away- close to 5000. A dollar a ticket, 10 for arm length, 20 for wing span. We have already had two locals get caught and partially buried in an avalanche. Department trip: We are trying to spread the word: if you want to organize a trip, we are doing it at cost. Gear swap: 10-4 Thursday North Ballroom.

John: LEAD office put on a movie night tonight. Next week we have the turkey trot on November 20th, Thursday. They are giving away aprons and turkeys. I'll let you guys know next Wednesday on time. We have an ugly sweater dance early in December perhaps in the ICE House. TIPS Training: nationally recognized certificate. You can serve alcohol at parties.
Sara: Everyone in our office should get it.

John: November 20th 12:00-1:30. Organized through WRAP.

Sara: Pass it on to other groups.

XI. Senator Reports

Adam: No report

Ben: No report

Lindsay: No report

Marielle: No report

Courtney: No report

Nate Z: No report

James: Mountain Report doing big things. Donate money

JP: Live music: KU$HLYFE

MK: It is important to get involved in research on campus. If we could get undergrad research, it would help the student body. Have students talk to advisors or professors. Have funding to give money for Research Assistants.

Kailie: No report

Kiera: We owe the athletic department a thank you note, they got us a board to use.

Josh: No report

Erin: No report

XII. Special Topics

XIII. Remarks for the Good of the Order
Kyle: Quick statistic: First time we have won 5 games since 1997. In 1997, we won conference.

Katie: Motion- move the December 10th meeting to be an ugly sweater meeting.

Second

Sara: We might change it from the 10th. It could be on the 12th in the ICE House.

Kailie: No meeting but party instead!

Katie: Regardless of meeting or no meeting. What do you think is better

Consensus on Friday

XIV. Late Roll Call

Nate S: Excused

Scott

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:41