



SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE

Associated Student Council

Minutes

Board Meeting

January 23, 2023
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ASC CONFERENCE ROOM 362

STUDENT LEADERSHIP BUILDING

1701 BROADWAY

Associated Student Council Members

Long Hei (Ronnie) KuanExecutive of Administration
Amara Schermerhorn.....Executive of Communication
Jinyang XiaExecutive of Finance
Vacant.....Executive of Issues & Concerns
Danya Vargas Almejo.....Executive of Legislative Affairs
Bennet Hailu.....Executive of Student Success
Heba SalehRepresentative, Health Education Center
Morningstar Jones.....Representative, Wood Technology Center
VacantRepresentative, Seattle Maritime Academy
Aint Myat Hmu (Nikki) LwinASC Associate

Minutes

A. **CALL TO ORDER** (1 min)

Long Hei “Ronnie” Kuan, *Executive of Administration* called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

B. **ROLL CALL** (1 min)

Everybody was present.

C. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** (1 min)

Wendy Rockhill, Executive VP of Instruction and Planning, was present as a guest.

D. **LAND USE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** (1 min)

“I acknowledge the land on which we stand today as the traditional home of the Coast Salish people, the traditional home of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations. Without them, we would not have access to this gathering and to this dialogue. I ask that we take this opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land who are still here.”

E. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** (5 min)

There was no public comment.

F. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (2 min)

Nikki moved to approve the minutes from the Jan. 09, 2023, Associated Student Council meeting.

Danya seconded and the motion passed.

G. **OLD BUSINESS** (1 min)

H. **NEW BUSINESS** (50 min)

1. **Student Union Building Update**– Lincoln Ferris, *Exec Dir of Campus Operations* (20 min)

Lincoln Ferris gave an overview of the contract that exists for the Student Union Building project:

- He suggests the Associated Student Council should take a tour of other college's student centers
- The Student Union Building committee should figure out a budget for the project
- The architects are ready to move forward with remodeling
- The Associated Student Council must present a proposal to the student body
- Winter 2023 would be a suitable time to open voting to the student body

Jinyang says he is concerned that students will be unwilling to pay more tax in order to fund the renovation.

Lincoln recommends that a proposal which outlines benefits of the renovation would help convince the student body. Examples of benefits include a wellness center or maker's space.

Amara asked who can attend the Student Union Committee meetings, students who are part of Student Leadership are permitted.

Ronnie will contact the committee about having the architect present at an upcoming student center tour. Wendy suggests the architect attends a subsequent tour instead of the first.

Lincoln reiterated that the Student Union Building committee should figure out a budget.

Amara asked when students would be able to give feedback about the Student Union Building, Lincoln answered the student body will be asked for feedback after the building's layout is finalized.

Lincoln, Ronnie, and Ricardo are planning their next meeting with the architect.

Ricardo has been convinced by the student body to rethink the Mitchell Activity Center from a holistic standpoint. He wants to ensure the students' needs are met before budgets are finalized.

The Associated Student Council will visit the student center at Green River College.

2. **Financial Aid Office Update** – Deo Manjula, *BA/Workforce Specialist* (10 min)

Deo Manjula gave an overview of the Financial Aid Office:

- The Financial Aid Office has recently hired 5 staff members.
- A new Financial Aid Director is in the process of being chosen
- They hired staff to assist with administration in the Financial Aid office.
- Students should be encouraged to explore the FAFSA website.
- The Financial Aid office offers in-person help and drop-in Zoom hours, but they do not suggest contacting them through e-mail as they are still behind.
- They do not accept copies of necessary documents.
- They suggest calling or using Zoom before visiting the office in person with questions.
- Many employees are still being trained on the spot.

Amara asked what has changed most due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- They were not prepared to work from home
- They created online forms on the spot
- The Financial Aid application frequently crashed
- Several staff members quit
- The situation was out of control
- She worked until 1am some nights to feel caught up with all the applications

Ronnie asked how students can help:

- Manjula says students wait until the last minute when the Financial Aid office reaches out months ahead of time
- Financial Aid needs time to process
- Students should always keep personal information updated
- Students should always reach out for help

3. **Decision & Ratification of ASC Executive of Issues and Concerns** – Ronnie Kuan, *Executive of Administration* (5 min)

Ronnie explains how Jacqlyn has resigned and how Nikki is the next in line.

Amara moved to ratify Nikki as the Executive of Issues and Concerns, Danya seconded, and the motion passed.

4. **Advocacy Day Introduction** – Danya Vargas, *Executive of Legislative Affairs* (10 min)

Dana gave an overview of the Seattle colleges systems and introduced the Senators and Representatives the Associated Student Council who represent the Seattle Central College district on Advocacy Day:

- Sen. Jamie Peterson
- Rep. Nicole Macri
- Rep. Frank Chopp

Danya gave an overview of Associated Student Council goals with a focus on increased Financial Aid Assistance for CTC students, which will in turn support Tetbook Affordability, Childcare Assistance, and Expanded Mental Health Resources.

She suggests that the Associated Student Council meet to create elevator pitches which relate to the bills relevant to our goals.

The Associated Student Council will speak with representatives and senators who are sponsoring House Bill 1232, which will increase financial assistance for college bound students.

She presented a schedule for Advocacy Day, including a list of groups individuals will be traveling in.

She will follow up with the remaining 3 Legislators.

Ronnie asked what the Associated Student Council is expected to say, Danya is writing four scripts pertaining to the bills.

5. **ASC Associate Hiring Update** – Ronnie Kuan, *Executive of Administration* (5 min)

Ronnie gave an overview of the ongoing hiring process, including updates and a timeline. There are 5 finalists and interviews will begin on the upcoming Monday.

I. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** (10 min: *updates on committee work/projects/discussions*)

1. Communications Committee | Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00pm

STEM-B is looking for students to serve on their committee. Meetings begin mid-February.

2. Issues and Concerns Committee | Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00pm

No meeting

3. Services and Activities Fee Committee | Fridays 2:00 – 3:00pm

They had their first hearing last Friday; they will have two more sessions this Friday and Next Friday. They will be having deliberations after the last hearing.

4. Student Success Committee | Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00pm

Bemi shared an update to the No Drop-Out policy

5. Student Advocacy Committee | Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:00pm

Danya mentions the Student Advocacy Committee has an additional meeting time, Thursdays 2pm-3pm

6. Student Union Building Committee | Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00pm

They did not meet this week, but they will be discussing the final layout and naming the building at their next meeting.

J. **INDIVIDUAL REPORT** (10 mins) *other committee updates, interactions with students, administrator meetings, other reports. Etc.)*

1. Amara Schermerhorn

A booklet for Associated Student Council was approved as a class project and is in the early draft stages

2. Bemnet Hailu

She is continuing to promote the book fund and is looking for more committee members for the President's Medal.

3. Danya Vargas Almejo

Danya is seeking committee members to look over the constitution.

4. Heba Saleh

Nothing to report.

5. Jinyang Xia

Nothing to report.

6. Long Hei (Ronnie) Kuan

He met with the Washington Student Organization Manager, Molly, to discuss future tabling opportunities after Advocacy Day.

7. Morningstar Jones

The Wood Technology Center has a student council again, they currently have 8 members.

8. Nikki Lwin

Nothing to report.

9. Ricardo Leyva-Puebla

Nothing to report.

K. **ADJOURNMENT**