

# DRAC Meeting – Teams

## October 21, 2020

### Attendance:

Travis Cram  
Patrick Roulet  
Erica Steele  
Darren McCroom  
Rebecca McLean  
Kevin Harris  
Quin Wilder  
Cynthia Horne  
Evan Shuster  
Adam Hess  
Vanessa Blackburn  
Mary Piekarczyk  
Amy Lazzell  
Megan McGinnis  
Jeff Newcomer  
Ella Banken  
Rich Brown  
Jeanne Gaffney  
Allison Mazurek  
Ichi Kwon  
Keenan Kaemingk  
Nicole Larson  
Ryan Meredith  
Jack Herring  
Heather Dalberg

Review the 10/14/20 minutes and correct.

Motion to approve the minutes: Quin Wilder motioned to approve.

Second: Darren McCroom second

### Approved:

Kevin Harris, Travis Cram, Cynthia Horne, Quin Wilder, Patrick Roulet, Jeanne Gaffney, Vanessa Blackburn, Darren McCroom, Erica Steele, Ella Banken, Evan Shuster, Mary Piekarczyk, Jeanne Gaffney

Motion to approve August 4, 2020 minutes: Darren  
Second: Cynthia Horne

Approved:

Quin Wilder, Mary Piekarczyk, Cynthia Horne, Kevin Harris, Travis Cram, Erica Steele,  
Vanessa Blackburn, Evan Shuster, Ella Banken, Patrick Roulet, Darren McCroom

Jeanne Gaffney: Abstain

Reports:

Winter classes will be held largely the same as the fall.

8% dip in enrollment for fall.

Fall retention data continued a negative trend, but it is not clear how much is COVID related.

The Strike team on Mandatory fees shares 4 assumptions:

- 1) Bonds and contract payments have to be met.
- 2) Employment should be protected insofar as possible.
- 3) Services should try to maintain provision if possible.
- 4) Reduce operating costs as much as possible.

Travis shared how DRAC has approached these assumptions in the past two quarters:

- 1) Protect the integrity of your program. The activities we are engaging in do matter.
- 2) Many of us are adapting to unique modalities. Online programming in lieu of travel or physical meetings as one example.
- 3) All of us must seriously consider and honor what is in the best interest of students at Western Washington University, as they are the ones paying the fees. How do we achieve the balance of offering meaningful experience while taking care of students in a tough economic situation?

Rebecca McLean mentioned at the task force meeting that DRAC constituents couldn't cut the fee because we are using it to continue our programs for the students.

Prepare a short statement from each group of what we are facing:

Forensics:

Not a lot has changed from August discussion.

40% of costs tied up in personnel and it has increased slightly because of the time it takes to build to a digital world. We are paying more for software licenses and support for a digital footprint. We are moving our travel money to technology resources to participate digitally in our debates. WE could operate with \$10,000 less in the Winter quarter but we can't do anything drastic such as a 40 or 50% cut to our revenue.

## Music:

We still need to fund salaries for student workers supporting student ensembles, orchestra meeting in person, percussion, jazz ensembles and the students are supporting choir and band that is meeting in person. We have to support funding instructors for Viking Band and Opera. We are licensing software, paying student staff, remote rehearsals for virtual performances, and we are funding students to attend virtual music conferences. We are working on making experiencing rewarding for students. Saving on printing costs, cleaning costs of the facilities, labor for stage and house manager, and travel costs. I do not anticipate us cutting much more than what we already have. Quin says we are also buying equipment, mics, cameras, cables to hook up into rooms so students who can't play their instruments at home they can come to the PAC and take lessons through that technology to be able to play.

## Theatre

8 productions

1 is in person rehearsal

Broadcast

4 new works

Focusing on artistic development in new works allowing more students involved.

Spending less on physical expenses – costumes,

Attend a conference in winter quarter digitally but will save on travel cost

Cutting on cleaning and personnel costs for shows

Saving money on printing

We could manage another 5 or 10% cut but it would be hard to go much deeper without creating serious problems.

We use our production budget for the second slot for winter to bring in a lot of guest artists for our students to work with and increase our diversity to the students. Paying royalties. Bringing in artists from around the country. Instead of building sets and costumes we are funding guest artists.

## Student Publications:

Challenges are that the Western Front brings in revenue in ad sales and since we do not have a print publication happening we are losing a lot of advertising revenue. We are moving to online ad revenue but we will not come at all close to generating the same revenue. We are updating our fees for advertising. Our shortfall will be significant. It will be offset by the no printing costs and we are not paying delivery folks. We are still planning to print our yearly publications at the end of the year but for the time being Planet and Klipsun are online only right now. We are upgrading the website and improvements in software and programming.

We will be cutting our travel and possible cuts in equipment. We don't want to stop printing for the long term. We have a little bit more room to do cuts but want to maintain the option for printing in the future. It does rely on students being on campus to get the publications

distributed. We are hoping to keep print budget on our minds for the next academic year. We still pay for online editors, and pay the same amount of staff and personnel. The actual paying the students to do the work continues and we don't see any changes to that. The only positions that are not filled currently are the delivery folks.

We are trending more to paid positions and we are looking at using our budget for the pay. Students need jobs and we have more students taking the work for pay instead of credit than we have seen in the past. We do have a cap for student budgets in payroll.

#### IAA

Our budget is for travel to attend Model United Nation's conferences. Many of the conferences will be virtual this year. That means we will have a lot of savings in terms of travel expenses. We estimate we will save \$30,000. If we are asked to reduce our budgets we will be able to absorb that – especially since one of the conferences has been completely cancelled and that eliminates a \$4000 expense.

We attend normally 4-5 conferences and the one that takes place in Canada has been cancelled. The other 3 have been moved completely online or at a Hybrid format. The one that is hybrid is in NY but we will only attend virtually.

We need funding for fees to attend the conferences. We hope next year we can attend our conferences in person. We could cut a large amount, at least 50% – 70% of it.

#### Racing

We are not getting very much money from DRAC and not in a good position to absorb budget cuts. We are building an electric car, which is more expensive than combustion cars. We will be saving slightly on travel costs since not all of the team members will be going to in person competition. There is still fees associated with the in person and online portions of the competition. Much of the electric drive train will need to be purchased this year.

Competition for us this year is hybrid, part of it virtual and part of it in person. It depends on how the virus numbers are doing at the time of the event.

Cynthia raised a concern about DRAC supporting curricular needs rather than student activities. There is a difference between the services to be supported in activities through departmentally related academic endeavors. How do we reinforce the firewall that show what is activities and what is curricular? Music and T&D were invited to respond to this concern. T&D: We have presented productions in Music, Theatre and in collaboration with Operas and Musicals. The quality of the productions are very high because of the resources of DRAC. Music: We recently lost an alum to breast cancer. The opera in 1998 cost \$70,000. It was brilliant and incredible and Erin Wall went on to sing at the Met, singing all over the world. What we do with DRAC has a big impact on our campus community but also was the spark that gave her that impetuous to have a career and one of the best careers to perform all over the world. Supporting DRAC is vital for our students.

Cynthia clarified that her concern was making sure DRAC was prepared to demonstrate those differences as budgets receive higher scrutiny in a time of economic turmoil. Travis affirmed this concern and suggested the entire committee consider this as it makes budget plans during the Winter quarter.

Meeting adjourned 10:51