

DRAC Meeting: 2/16/2022

Location: [Zoom](#)

Attendance:

Alec Newton
Allison Mazurek
Anne Melo
Amy Lazzell
Brenner Barclay
Caylee Caldwell
Darren McCroom
Erin Emry
Ichi Kwon
Jack Herring
Jeanne Gaffney
Jeff Newcomer
Johnathon Lyons
Lisa Beard
Mary Piekarczyk
Megan McGinnis
Nicole Askarian
Nicole Larson
Patrick Roulet
Rebecca McLean
Robert Butnar
Shona Carter
Steve Smith
Travis Cram
Vanessa Blackburn

Agenda items:

1. Approval of 2/9/22 meeting minutes
 - a) Minor change to names, spellings
 - b) Motion to approve as amended: Patrick Roulet; Second: Darren McCroom.
Approved unanimously.

2. Announcements from the Chair
 - a) Travis emailed the schedule to sign up for budget presentations earlier this week. To accommodate everyone, some will need to be scheduled late into the quarter but will try to avoid finals week.
 - b) Travis encouraged everyone to ask their questions during each constituent group's budget presentation so we can make efficient use of our meeting time when we deliberate on the DRAC budget on March 9.

3. Rebecca's budget request

- a) A portion of Rebecca McLean's salary is paid out of DRAC funds. In recent years, 38.5% of her salary has been paid for by DRAC. During a recent position review, it was determined that she spends an average of 10 hours per week on DRAC.
- b) Rebecca is reducing her request for DRAC funds by \$5,000.
- c) She would like DRAC to allocate \$3,000 to WWU Racing when they become a permanent member of DRAC next year and she advised them to include this in their budget request. When WWU Racing applied for probationary membership Rebecca advised them to request a smaller amount and gradually increase that request over time, but that was prior to pandemic-related S & A Fee restrictions.
- d) This recommendation would increase WWU Racing's DRAC funding without impacting other DRAC constituents. DRAC could also consider giving the entire \$5,000 to WWU Racing.

Questions:

Travis asked what percentage of the overall DRAC budget funds that portion of Rebecca's position? Would it change significantly with \$5,000 decrease?

Rebecca can't access her computer but believes Racing gets approximately 1.8% of DRAC's overall budget and her position gets approximately 2.8%. Both WWU Racing and Rebecca's salary account for about \$50,000 for the academic year.

Vanessa Blackburn asked whether agreements or expectations had been established with WWU Racing when they approached DRAC about membership.

Rebecca recalls telling them to start slow, to ask for \$15,000 initially, then increase it incrementally. This was prior to the pandemic. She would like to see WWU Racing get an amount that more closely reflects their needs; they currently have to do a lot of fundraising. Rebecca also wants to see DRAC retain the same percentage of their S & A Fees. Travis agreed with this recollection.

4. WWU Racing Budget Presentation

- a) Allison Mazurek provided a brief overview of WWU Racing activities.
- b) AY22: requested \$18,000; funds supported materials and equipment needed to complete Viking 63.
- c) Allison shared the projected and actual budget for Viking 63 to provide a sense of the expenses involved in an EV project. She explained the difference between projected and actual expenses: more maintenance was needed, specific EV equipment purchases were more expensive, and there was a need to repeat testing more times than anticipated.

- d) AY23: requesting \$23,000, 29.8% increase; funds would support Viking 64 electrical drivetrain components, software licensing and competition equipment (team uniforms and safer travel organization).

Questions:

Patrick asked whether WWU Racing receives additional funds outside of DRAC.

Yes, the team acquires support through private sponsorships and also seeks out in kind donations.

Patrick toured the WWU Racing lab prior to pandemic and found it to be very impressive; encouraged DRAC members to visit lab if interested in learning more.

Travis noted the increase WWU Racing is requesting includes \$3,000 formerly allocated to Rebecca's salary. Since there is \$5,000 in salary savings he asked what WWU would do if they received the full \$5,000 and also what would happen if they didn't get any more than they received in AY 22.

Allison responded that the funds WWU Racing receives from DRAC would go toward purchasing components that often have to be order up to six months in advance.

Lisa Beard asked if students currently pay for competition equipment such as jerseys and travel and asked whether students would be responsible for any travel expenses with an increase in DRAC funds.

Allison responded student costs were \$500 in 2017, lowered to about \$100 recently and would now be removed because DRAC funds would covers the team jersey and competition fees

Travis invited comments about the Rebecca's proposal to have some or all of her salary savings go to WWU Racing.

Vanessa said the student voice should be primary, but her reaction was positive.

Nicole Askarian said what Racing is doing is important, it gets Western's name out there and allows students to interact with Boeing and other companies. She wants DRAC to provide the level of support they initially said they could offer WWU Racing.

Travis shared it would be strategic to keep \$5,000 with DRAC and at the same time help Racing offer opportunities to Western students

Amy Lazzell asked for clarification, was WWU Racing asking for an additional \$3,000 or \$5,000? Travis noted Racing's request includes additional \$3,000 but whether any or all of Rebecca's salary savings would go to Racing was still to be determined.

Patrick said he supported entire amount since components are becoming more expensive

Vanessa said also supports the concept but recommends waiting until all budget presentations have been considered

Travis noted DRAC won't take a vote on the budget until March 9. He asked Rebecca whether the \$5,000 reflected the more conservative budget estimate and she confirmed that it did.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am

Next meeting: Feb. 23