

DRAC Meeting Minutes

2/2/2022

Location: [Zoom](#)

Attendance:

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

1. Minutes approval

The January 12, 2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Motion to approve by Darren McCroom, seconded by Shona Carter.

2. Preliminary budget guidance discussion

Rebecca has received questions about the planning assumptions DRAC members should consider when developing next year's budget. Since the S&A Fee Committee has not yet provided direction, she and Ichi recommend DRAC constituent groups plan a budget that fits two different scenarios:

- a. A more conservative budget similar to what was approved last year, and
- b. A more optimistic budget like what was recently released by the Board of Trustees

Rebecca will update the budget planning worksheet with a new column that includes both scenarios and try to send it next week. She acknowledged this is additional work up front but it would allow DRAC to present the most favorable budget without last minute changes once direction is provided by the S&A Fee Committee.

Rebecca invited questions about this recommendation.

Lisa Beard asked whether there will be any guidance provided about how much to cut in the more conservative scenario.

Rebecca responded that the columns should reflect what DRAC approved last year, projected expenses for current year, and projected expenses for next year. She is happy to answer questions when she meets individually with constituents.

3. DRAC constituent presentations

Travis stated the purpose of these “get to know you” presentations is to give everyone on DRAC an overview of what happens in each department and provide the S&A Fee committee members a strong understanding of how DRAC supports the mission of the University.

a. Forensics presentation

Nicole Askarian and Lyd Haindfield provided an overview of the Forensics program.

Forensics has a 75-year history and is focused on community building, global engagement, and competition as they empower students to be agents of change in their community. Opportunities for competition exist in PNW debate and policy debate.

Any student with any level of experience can participate in PNW debate which supports students who are new to the art of forensics as well as those who are more experienced. Currently competitions occur online but hope to be in person soon.

Policy debate is highly technical and offers an opportunity for students who want to invest significant time in debate; an average of 40 hours of research is typical for each debate.

Forensics students judge local high school debate tournaments, engage in community engagement efforts to promote dialogue and discussion (recent examples include a focus on food and housing), and engage the broader forensics and debate community (for example game nights), practice rounds and research and argument development with students attending other debate schools. Members debate global issues and travel overseas for debates when they are able to within Covid travel restrictions.

The pandemic has impacted conference travel and participation. Most conferences are hybrid now and debaters are eager to be interacting in person again. At present, roughly 15 students participate in Forensics, whereas “normal” conditions hope to serve around 30 to 40.

b. Student Publications presentation

Caylee Caldwell provided an overview of Student Publications activities.

The Student Publications Program at Western Washington University serves to showcase and archive the diverse talent and effort of student produced journalism, arts, literature, and research. Student Publications provides more than 50 student jobs each quarter and a platform to present the independent and academic work of hundreds of students each year. Paid positions provide experience in management, editing, photography, graphic design, advertising sales, community networking, and administration. As a service, their award-winning publications deliver independent news as well as scientific, artistic, and academic content to Western’s campus and the community beyond.

Student Publications produces the following:

- The Western Front, online newspaper
- Klipsun, long form magazine
- The Planet, quarterly environmental publication
- Jeopardy Magazine, literary and artistic publication
- Occam’s Razor, academic publication showcasing undergraduate scholarly research

c. Music presentation

Johnathon Lyons and Lucas Webster provided an overview of Music activities.

The Music department offers multiple ensemble opportunities that are open for all students to join, including orchestras, choirs, bands, percussion, jazz ensemble, and more.

51% of DRAC budget is spent on student employee and faculty labor expenses. Additional expenses include music licensing, such as a platform that allows students to perform together virtually, music streaming/recording rights, purchase of more diverse music for repertoire libraries, instrument repairs, conferences, and workshop guest honorarium.

Patrick Roulet drew a distinction between the activities students engage in vs. the curriculum offered in the department and clarified that graduate student assistants are paid to assist the directors with the ensembles, not in the classroom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46am.

