

DRAC Meeting Minutes

2/9/2022

Location: [Zoom](#)

Attendance:

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

1. Minutes approval

The February 2, 2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Motion to approve by Mary Piekarczyk seconded by Darren McCroom.

2. Preliminary budget guidance discussion

Travis noted that Rebecca has sent the updated budget approval sheet and invited anyone with questions to follow-up with her directly.

Rebecca has received questions about what planning assumptions DRAC members should use 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 like 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 send it as early as next week. She acknowledged this approach requires additional work up front but would allow DRAC to present the most favorable budget once direction is provided by the S&A Fee Committee without last minute changes.

Rebecca invited questions about this approach.

Lisa Beard asked for guidance about how much to cut in the more conservative scenario.

Rebecca stated 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

a. International Affairs Association

Mary Piekarczyk, VP of Logistics, provided an overview of the International Affairs Association (IAA).

The IAA offers several activities, the primary one being Model UN. The Model UN simulates procedures, affairs, and issues in the United Nations. Students represent various UN Member States and typically travel to 4-5 conferences annually.

Participation in Model UN develops academic research, writing, public speaking, leadership, negotiation, and group work skills.

In addition, the IAA brings international issues to campus, hosts speakers, conferences, and meetings. The IAA serves broad base of students from over 20 academic programs.

Travis provided an opportunity for questions; there were none.

b. Theatre and Dance

Erin Emry, Darren McCroom and Rich Brown provided an overview of Theatre & Dance activities.

Theatre and Dance typically offers 8- 10 performances each year, offering a mix of theatre and dance. Students do not have to be theatre or dance majors; auditions are open to everyone.

Theatre and Dance uses DRAC funds to support production-related expenses including:

- Production support staff in the costume shop and scene shop
- Royalty licenses
- Production equipment
- Costumes
- Scenery
- Lighting
- Program printing
- Van rental for scene shop
- Student travel
 - Student wages
- Workshops
- Guest choreographers and theatre professionals
- Advertising

The department is working hard to make theatre going free, by using DRAC funds and getting rights to offer at home streaming of shows. New this year, the department is offering free admission to mainstage productions to encourage attendance among Western students. 700 students took advantage of this opportunity and attended Cabaret the musical in December free of charge.

Activities planned this year include workshops, theatre and dance productions, and conference participation. The department brings guests directors and choreographers to campus. They will also send students to participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the American College Dance Festival and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology. Any interested student can submit an application to request registration be paid with departmental DRAC funds.

They are seeking out opportunities to use DRAC funding to support ADEI initiatives in the department. They collaborated with the Latinx Student to encourage engagement with Ana Maria Campot, the guest director of Sonata Escondida. The Men on Boats playwright has replaced white men with gender non-binary or female identified characters and they will reach out to similarly engage LGBTQ+ students with that production.

Travis provided an opportunity for questions; there were none.

c. WWU Racing

Allison Mazurek, Business Director, provided an overview of WWU Racing.

WWU Racing is an AS recognized club that is open to all Western students. The club's mission is to produce the best students possible, using race car as the platform. The club has faculty advisers within the Engineering & Design Department

and the College of Business and Economics. WWU Racing consists of students from six colleges, 50% of whom are pursuing a minor or double major and has a ratio of 60.9% male to 39.1% female.

WWU Racing is currently ranked 35th in the world for IC Cars; they moved up three positions since start of the pandemic. They currently work remotely and compete in static events over Zoom.

With students returning to campus and many new club members, recent activities include lab orientation and tool classes. They are considering a return to a one-year build timeline and evaluating the pros and cons of EV development. There is the potential for multiple teams in the future who could participate in multiple competitions.

Travis asked about the motivation for traveling to multiple events. Receiving feedback from professionals judging their work is critical for professional development.

Travis asked about the global reach of competitions. Allison responded that there is not a set circuit but different events are offered throughout the US and the world, including Michigan, Mexico and Europe.

Travis provided an opportunity for additional questions; there were none.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35am.