

## DRAC Meeting 2/21/2024

### Attendees:

Amy Lazzell, Anne Melo, Chris Carthum, Christa Schulz, Cynthia Horne, Darren McCroom, Erica Steele, Erin Casey, Erin Emry, Evan Wren, Gwen Pederson, Ichi Kwon, Jeanne Gaffney, Malachi Phillips, Megan McGinnis, Nicole Larson, Rax Organa, Rebecca McLean, Sebastian Mayotte, Tim Fitzpatrick, Travis Cram, Vanessa Blackburn, Mica Della Sala

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

The February 14, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved. Motion by Chris Carthum, second by Tim Fitzpatrick.

#### 2. Who We Are Presentation: International Affairs Association (IAA)

- a. Malachi Phillips presented on behalf of the IAA with additional comments by Cynthia Horne.
- b. The IAA seeks to educate and empower students to productively engage in global issues and is committed to fostering critical and inclusive study and discussion, cultivating community and intercollegiate exchanges, and equipping capable, skilled members who are ready to contribute to effective international problem-solving.
- c. Activities include Model UN, Global Issues Forum, documentary film support, international content teach-ins, campus wide speakers and learning opportunities on international topics and current events, and movie and game nights.
  - i. Model UN is a simulation of the United Nations in which students research the policy positions of countries and represent them in a committee of 15-250. WWU IAA is attending three Model UN conferences in the 23-24 academic year and have won various individual and collective awards in the past.
  - ii. All IAA activities are open to all WWU students or alumni; IAA membership requires a student to attend a Model UN conference or attend 3 IAA meetings and grants students the privilege to vote in IAA elections.
    1. There are 38 current IAA members; 20-25 of whom are actively engaged
    2. Members range from freshmen to graduate students
    3. Membership includes majors from many different departments and colleges; interest in reaching out to more STEM and CFPA students
- d. IAA has a total budget of \$40,359 which includes conference registration, lodging and travel expenses, activities, course release, and a balance of \$3,827. DRAC funds pay for all Model UN costs except food and discretionary transportation.
- e. ADEI initiatives: IAA has expanded training opportunities for new members to increase comfort and encourage participation; provides implicit bias and discrimination training as well as training for advocacy (self and others), and covers most costs to reduce barriers to participation.
  - i. Cynthia Horne added that they have expanded ADEI efforts beyond the Model UN to meet the internationalization mandate of Western and have intentionally worked more closely with broader Bellingham community.

- ii. When a diplomat in residence or foreign service rep comes to campus, they emphasize that the field is open to all majors, trying to communicate that beyond political science and history majors.
    - iii. No experience is required to become a member, extraordinary mentoring experience for all students.
  - f. Discussion and questions:
    - i. Amy Lazzell recommended a pie chart to show sponsorships or support from others. Cynthia responded that IAA is fully funded by DRAC.
    - ii. Travis Cram asked about alumni involvement in IAA; no DRAC funds can be used to support alumni.
    - iii. Tim recommended some editing of slides.
    - iv. Discussion of expectations for cultivating sponsorships or fundraising by DRAC student constituent groups. Important to recognize the variability in constituent groups and not have the same expectations.
- 3. The next DRAC meeting will be held the first Wednesday of spring quarter to discuss budget development.
  - a. Next week, Rebecca, Vanessa and Tim will meet with S&A committee student reps. Others are welcome to attend if interested.