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Amber Brost

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## Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2020

- I. **Meeting is called to order at: 5:32 pm**
- II. **Moment of Silence/Inspirational quote**
  - A. **INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE**

Read By: Sen. Ross
- III. **Mission Statement**
  - A. The ASWC Senate, as the governing body of the Associated Students of Whittier College, is dedicated to the betterment of the college as an institution and as a member of the broader community. The Senate shall assist on-campus clubs and organizations in creating, promoting and implementing dynamic programs and events that involve students and add value to their educational experience. This body will act as an open forum for students to voice their opinions and desires, always keeping the best interests of the ASWC in mind. In all its actions, the Senate will serve the students first with integrity, dedication, responsibility and humility.

Read By: Sen. Casserly-Simmons
- IV. **Roll Call – Secretary Brost**
  - A. **Present:** Sen. Casserly-Simmons, Sen. Minami, Sen. Iseri, Sen. Hagan-Martin, Sen. Ross, Sen. Mendoza, Sen. Torres, Sen. Malone, Sen. Modesti, Tres. Estrada, VP Joachim, Pres. Moya, Sec. Brost, Dir. Gil, Sen. Royster, Sen. Gracia, Sen. Segura, Sen. Garrison, Sen. Eccles, Sen. Angileri, Sen. Hidalgo, Sen. Alvarez
  - B. **Absent excused:** Sen. Green, Dir. Tejada
  - C. **Unexcused:**
- V. **Minutes Amendment/Approval**
  - A. **Approved by:** Sen. Garrison
  - B. **Seconded by:** Sen. Hagan-Martin
- VI. **Public Voice**
  - A. N/A
- VII. **President’s Message - *President Moya***
  - A. Hello everyone, I hope you are healthy and well. Last week as you all know Senate collaborated with Dean of Students, Vice President Bruce Smith in having a virtual town hall. There were about 24-27 participants. Other administrators in Student Life were also present. The main issues brought up at the townhall were concerns regarding the commencement location and concerns regarding the current grading scale. Bruce and administrators primarily listened and expressed they would do their best to get answers and address concerns. On Friday,

President Oubre had a town hall. This town hall was primarily centered on concerns regarding grading and academics. In addition, I followed up with President Oubre regarding our Executive Board's recommendation to allocate students with work awards the remaining balance of their work award at the end of the semester. So essentially if a student was not able to work off their entire award, they would be awarded the balance at the end of the semester. She said they were going to follow the recommendation and Bruce actually would have more details about this decision due to the fact that many student employees work for Student Life Departments. I will be following up with him in our meeting on the 23rd. President Oubre also stated that expenses associated with online learning that student organizations or faculty have incurred are to be reimbursed. She also elaborated on the Cares Act. The Cares Act is a piece of legislation that awarded colleges and universities a sum of money to be used to support students during this crisis. Do not quote me, but I believe WC was awarded \$1.9M. The amount all institutions in the nation were awarded can be found online, as it is public information. President Oubre explained that these funds are meant to go directly to students who are in financial need. The Act does not provide provisions for how this allocation process be carried out. She has formed a small taskforce of 3 administrators including Filone in Admissions, Justin in the Business Office and another administrator whom I cannot remember the name of. This task force will be responsible for developing how these funds are allocated to students. They are looking to Pell Grant Recipients first with respect to their account balances. For those of you do not know, the Pell Grant is a grant for low income students.

**B.** Sen. Garrison: I had some students come to me and ask me if the school will be doing online class for 2020 in the fall?.

Pres. Moya: Someone did as Linda that but she didn't really have an answer for that. She just said that they are trying to prepare if students don't come back to campus. The goal is for students to come back. Sen. Eccles also addressed how this will affect international students. No discussion has been made. It is all what the govt decides.

Sen. Garrison: I have overheard students saying that they have a big problem paying for some much in tuition then going to online classes. Many students are talking about dropping out and graduating a year later then paying for online classes with the expensive tuition.

Pres. Moya: I will bring this up to Linda and Bruce. I don't see them changing tuition.

Sen. Ross: I had a number of first year students say the same thing to me; drop

out, work for a year, and take a gap year. A few students are looking into doing a strike on campus because of the grading scale.

Pres. Moya: As Senate president, I think it is important that students voice their opinion. So please let them know if they need anything. I will bring this up to Linda. I know that one student advocated about grading a lot at Linda's meeting and I think they were invited to the faculty's next meeting.

Sen. Modesti wanted an explanation of what the problems were with the grading quality.

Pres. Moya: The current way the college is handling the grading, a lot of students don't feel like it is equitable. Many students still need that letter grade, even if they are struggling. A lot of students are advocating that final exams don't happen. They are also advocating that students pass their class with a C or better. The students just want to make sure the grading scale is equitable.

Sen. Minami: I have posted this topic on my Instagram and have heard concerns from many students. Please let them know that I am here for them and that they can reach out to me, as well as Senate.

Sen. Garrison: I know that commencement is scheduled for this year in December. Gov Neswome has talked about no large events happening in 2020. So I hope there are talks about these events that may take place in the fall.

Pres. Moya: I haven't heard anything. But I can ask about those things.

#### **VIII. Treasurer's Report - *Treasurer Estrada***

- A. General Fund Balance:** \$14,486.48
- B. Operational Account Balance:** \$14,830.21
- C. Reserve Account Balance:** \$34,631
- D. Allocated Thus Far:** \$55,518.98
- E. First Readings:** \$0.00
- F. Daily Calendar Considerations:** \$0.00

#### **IX. Constituent Reports**

- A. Academic Affairs Chair: *Sen. Minami***
  - 1. Concerns about grading scale.
- B. First-Year Class Council: *Sen. Iseri***
  - 1. The FCC is finalizing ideas for how we will support the first year class.
- C. Commuter Representative: *Sen. Hagan Martin***
  - 1. N/A
- D. Residential Hall Representative: *Sen. Ross***
  - 1. N/A
- E. Non-Traditional Student Representative: *Sen. Mendoza***
  - 1. N/A

- F. Student Body Representative: *Sen. Torres***
    - 1. N/A
  - G. Student Body Representative: *Sen. Malone***
    - 1. N/A
  - H. Student Body Representative: *Sen. Modesti***
    - 1. N/A
  - I. Student Body Representative: *Sen. Green***
    - 1. N/A
  - J. Inter-Club Council Representative: *Sen. Royster***
    - 1. ICC has elections on Wednesday for the new President and Vice President as well as our last meeting will be next week.
  - K. Diversity Council Representative: *Sen. Garcia***
    - 1. Poet internships!
    - 2. Stipends for black students
    - 3. End of your celebration merch
  - L. Social Justice Coalition Representative: *Sen. Segura***
    - 1. N/A
  - M. Media Council Representative: *Sen. Garrison***
    - 1. MC is going through nominations and voting for the 2020-2021. We are reviewing budgets. We also have the final print of the Greenleaf review!!!
  - N. Poet Student Athlete Leadership Academy Male Representative: *Sen. Eccles***
    - 1. N/A
  - O. Poet Student Athlete Leadership Academy Female Representative: *Sen. Angileri***
    - 1. N/A
  - P. Inter-Society Council Female & Male Representative: *Sen. Hidalgo & Sen. Alvarez***
    - 1. Updated isc regarding environmental action bill & contacted the committee asking for compromise.
    - 2. Update: they don't want to compromise with us.
    - 3. Have been communicating via GroupMe
- X. Committee Reports**
- A. Administrative –*Vice President Joachim***
    - 1. Last week, Administrative Committee met to discuss more updates to the Constitution. We have been revising sections to the Constitution that appear to be redundant and reformatting it in a way that makes more sense. We will be continuing edits this week at our meeting.

**B. Budget- *Treasurer Estrada***

1. Budget committee will meet tomorrow from 12:40 pm-1:30 pm. Everyone that is signed up will be reminded through SMS. The meeting will be held on zoom.
2. Pending Requests for this Tuesday: N/A

**C. Campus Relations- *Director Tejada***

1. Hey everyone! My main focus lately has been elections so I updated on that a lot last week! And once we come to a decision of a date to reopen the ballot I will send out a flyer for that. Once we have the winning candidates I will also be making flyers to announce them on Instagram. I have tried to update on specific things I have seen from other orgs and whittier, but let me know if there is anything else you'd like me to share. Thank you and stay safe and healthy!

**D. Elections- *Secretary Brost***

1. VP Joachim sent out this email:
  - a) To keep the student body up to date on the current status of the ASWC Spring 2020 elections, this statement has been drafted to explain next steps regarding the election. The ballot for elections closed on Friday at 8 PM. Throughout this process, we have been trying to ensure that every student on campus had equal access and opportunity to vote in these elections. To accomplish this goal, we advertised through all ASWC Senate channels and reached out to the communications department to have an email be sent to the student body letting them know that the ballot was open. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the school has been restricting emails and requiring that all updates be channeled through the Poet Updates emails. As a result, we were under the assumption that the Poet Updates email would be distributed on Friday notifying students that the ballot was available for voting. However, the Poet Update was not distributed until Saturday morning, meaning students were not adequately notified of the ASWC Senate ballot being open. We understand not all students utilize social media, and as a result, may not have known about the ballot being open. As a result, we will be reopening the ballot this week for 24 hours after an email is distributed to the student body to allow for students to vote who may not have been able to. The day of the reopening will be determined by the date we are authorized to send the email. We are currently working with the Dean of Students

Office and the Communications Department to ensure proper communication to the student body will be followed. A request has been made for ASWC Senate to send an email separate from the Poet Updates. We are currently working on receiving authorization for this request, and will have another update later this afternoon (4/20/2020) once we have the date confirmed for the email so we can reopen the ballot. I appreciate everyone's understanding with this situation, and feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

**E. Program Board – *Director Gil***

1. The winner of our challenge Kelsi Ikeda, she will be choosing an organization to donate to.
2. On our story is the virtual leadership advance workshop presented by the office of student engagement! Check our story for more details and resources! It will go on until Wednesday!
3. Tomorrow we will have another week of care package RSVPs open up!
4. On Wednesday one of our Directors will be hosting a live story that you can participate in to receive some goodies from Local Fixture.

**F. Advocacy- *President Moya***

1. We are meeting on Wednesday at 4:30 pm.
2. Please have students have any concerns to contact me.
3. Or let me know if there are any students you want me to connect with.

**G. Culinary- *Sen. Malone & Sen. Torres***

1. N/A

**H. Student Feedback Committee- *Sen. Modesti***

1. N/A

**I. Student Finance Committee- *Tres. Estrada***

1. N/A

**J. Environmental- *Sen. Casserly-Simmons***

1. Postponing Greenleaf Bill to finalize it.
  - a) Waiting for the business office to respond to my email about one part of the bill.

**XI. First Readings**

- A. N/A

**XII. Daily Calendar Considerations**

- A. N/A

### XIII. Misc. Business

#### A. Masks Donation:

1. Sen. Hagan-Martin reached out to Tres. Estrada says that her Uncle makes disposable face masks to donate to hospitals. Tres. Estrada said we can afford to buy 3,000 face masks. These masks are FDA approved.

Sen. Hidalgo: I think this is a great idea. I think we should call PIH because they are local.

Sen. Garrison: I would say that we should possibly donate a majority of the masks to PIH because they just open a new testing site.

Pres. Moya: PIH just posted that they are in the green for masks. They update this page daily. But I can still contact them and see if they know any hospitals that we could reach out to who are in need.

Tres. Estrada: How much are gowns?

Pres. Moya: I have no idea.

Rep. from Public: Can you explain where the masks are coming from and what it is going to say when we donate them? Is it Senate or Whittier College?

Sen. Hagan-Martin: My Uncle reached out to me. He has a bunch of masks that are FDA approved.

Pres. Moya: And the Senate eboard thought that it would be good to donate them to a hospital because they are a one time use item.

Sen. Garrison: We don't know if we are going to have to come to school for face masks. So I do think that we should have some supplies for students.

Pres. Moya: The name that the masks would be donated under would be Whittier College Senate.

VP Joachim: Sen. Garcia said that we should support the student body even if they are one time use. One thing I saw is that we could stick them in bathrooms.

Tres. Estrada: Are we looking to buy 6,000 instead of 3,000?

Sen. Hidalgo: I think that is hard to decide where they need to go. If you all are still online, it wouldn't make sense for you all to keep them. I think we should donate them to hospitals because they are in desperate need for them.

Sen. Garcia: The masks can be donated to faculty workers.

Sen. Casserly-Simmons: I would be worried about students taking more than they need if they were in the bathroom.

Pres. Moya: We have access to 50,000 masks but we can't afford them. So that is why we said 3,000.

Sen. Casserly-Simmons: I think regardless of how many masks we get,  $\frac{3}{4}$  should go to hospitals and the rest should go to workers who are exposed daily on the campus.

Ashley: I was going to say that I agree with Dalton.

Sydney: I agree with a lot of those statements. But I think we can think of ways to get students cloth masks. But with that, there would have to be some education.

Sen. Hagan-Martin: I completely understand that. With the disposable ones, I can get those right now. But for the cloth ones, I would have to go through a different provider.

Sen. Eccles: I think it is important to give masks to the faculty workers and to the students who still live on campus.

Pres. Moya: I know that eboard was looking into getting reusable face masks for the student body. But the problem is finding a vendor who could do that. I like the idea of getting 3,000 masks. Keeping 1,000 on campus and donating the rest. It will be eboard who carries this out so I do want to recognize our limitations. Please reach out if you have any ideas.

Sen. Torres: A place you can potentially donate the masks are LA Union Medical center because they are helping the homeless community.

VP Joachim: Are we okay with donating the  $\frac{2}{3}$  to the homeless population or hospitals and keeping the  $\frac{1}{3}$  for the Whittier College community?

Alright! Cool. We will do that.

Pres. Moya: Is there anyone who wants to volunteer in connecting with any of these places?

VP Joachim: Ashley does.

Sen. Garcia: Can we explain who we are donating these masks to?

Pres. Moya: The  $\frac{1}{3}$  would go to facilities. I will work with them and res. Life. The Whittier College community would get 1,000. And I think the places you all named off, we'll donate the rest (2,000). We will contact them and see how much masks they need.

Alyssa: My cousin works at PIH and they need some masks. So is it a possibility that we could still give it out to them?

Pres. Moya: According to social media, they are in the green for face masks.

Sen. Garcia: I can get in contact with Gina.

Pres. Moya: To confirm, D will reach out to Gina to find local orgs who could use the donation. Ashley will reach out to LACUS and Miranda will reach out to IFC.

**B. *Writing Program:***

1. Sen. Garrison talks about how Professor Eastman may be losing his job. He was the director of the writing program for WC's 1st years. She stated that he is dedicated to the program and helping students develop their writing from all levels into college level writing. She personally wouldn't be the same student without this program, nor would any of us really. Sen. Garrison believes that this is an essential part of Whittier College and what sets us apart from other schools.

Sen. Garrison: The College has determined his position at the school as non-essential and he will no longer be returning to Whittier College because he's not in the budget. Therefore, the writing program will either die, or maybe continue in CAAS. I wanted to voice my concerns because this is a huge part of our academic curriculum and also because Professor Eastman is an essential part of our Whittier College experience. Even if we can not save Eastman, I want at least there to be an adequate version of the program to help students and not let the program die all together. Gil Gonzales may be taking over the program but he is also in charge of the Theater. So my concern is that he won't have any time for this. I also heard that Prof. Eastman may or may not be let go. Why can admin not afford this writing program that Prof. Eastman has put forth if they are getting that money from the Care Act?

Alia Benz: This is my first time attending a Senate meeting and I am here on behalf of the writing associates. I think this will hurt Whittier's rep. if we get rid of this writing program. I know that whoever we appoint to this position, they need to be dedicated. I would be upset if this is something that died this year.

Sydney Thiroux: This is my first time attending a Senate meeting as well. I have been a writing associate for two semesters. The fact that we have to fight for a writing program blows my mind. Being able to write your mind is part of the Whittier College experience. Becoming a writing associate has made me a better writer. This has made me and other students more confident in their skills.

Anionetter Flores: This is my first time attending a Senate meeting, just like the others. Even though I have done the writing program for a short time, it is near and dear to my heart. Any type of business you go into, they look at your writing skills, communication skills, and more. That is what the writing program has done and more. This program helped my confidence in writing. It would be so terrible to see it go down the drain

and not be here anymore because it is so essential nowadays.

Pres. Moya: Thank you for all that spoke and came to this meeting. The funding for the Care Act can **only** go to students who are in financial need and nothing else. Deanna actually touched base with Sal Johnston. He will be joining us next Monday to answer any questions. For any of the students that came today, please feel free to come to the next meeting. He has said that there is no discussion of canceling this program for first year students. And we will also be having a town hall where you all could voice your concerns.

Sen. Minami: I think that it is great to see how many students have concerns about this program ending. So please feel free to come to the advocacy committee and please come back to the following Senate meeting next week.

Pres. Moya: I will also discuss this Linda in our next meeting. In our last meeting, she did let me know that all positions are frozen, no one would get fired, they are just not hiring right now. So I will ask her about that.

Sen. Garrison: In the light that Sal is going to be coming to the next meeting, I want to show you all the Greenleaf review. We have had many people submit their works. Pick up your copy, tomorrow is the last date to input your address. This just shows how Whittier College has many great writers. There are almost 150 pages of writing in the book.

Sen. Garrison shows the table the Greenleaf review and how it looks.

Sen. Garrison: I'm glad that they don't want to get rid of the program at all. But this program has been mistreated from time to time again.

Volunteers do this program and do not get paid at all for doing it, we have to go to classes with the students, and help them with their writing. Thank you so much for letting Sal know about this. I do want to request that possibly that Gil could come because he is supposed to be the one taking it over.

Sen. Minami: Thank you again Kat for everything and bringing this conversation to attention. We want to make sure that students do get credit and paid for their time while doing this.

2. Pres. Moya: If any of you know of students, clubs, orgs, or professors who had had to take money out of their pocket to pay for additional costs, like upgrading their Zoom, please let them know that they can be reimbursed for that.

**XIV. Announcements**

- A.** Christine: Just a reminder that Student life awards are due tonight at midnight!  
Also, Amber, Gina, and I had a meeting about a voter coalition. I will be reaching out to clubs and orgs seeing if they want to join the coalition.
- B.** Sen. Garrison: Are we doing orientation differently this year?  
Christine: Yes, a group of us are meeting to figure out how it will go.
- C.** Sen. Garcia: A couple of Senate meetings ago, the black community had advocated that they be used by the admin, like going to multiple meetings a week, being the face of the college etc. but not being compensated for their time. So as a council, we tried to figure out how to support these students. We thought about a stipend. At first we were going to tap into DC's account but then we thought that admin should pay for it rather than DC. We will be talking about this in the administrative committee.  
VP Joachim: Thank you for bringing this up again. I think you are right, this shouldn't fall on student orgs to pay for these things. I think this conversation should continue in advocacy committee.  
Deanna: I think that is perfect Kole. We should also bring this up to Bruce.  
Pres. Moya: I will reach out to Journee and see if she is able to join us during the advocacy committee. I will also ask her if any other students would like to join us at that meeting. I do want to make sure that these students want to receive this stipend and not assume they want it.

**XV. Adjournment**

- A. Motioned By:** Sen. Garrison  
**Second By:** Sen. Hagan-Martin
- B. Time:** 7:11pm

**Respectfully Submitted by Amber Brost, Secretary of the ASWC**