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Lauren Beasley

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Senate Meeting Minutes for September 22 2020

A. Called to Order at : 5:05pm

B. Inspirational Quote Senator Lopez

- a. "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement." -Hellen Keller

C. Mission Statement Read by Senator Coco

- 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 of its actions, the Senate will serve the students first with integrity, dedication, responsibility, and humility.

D. Roll Call- Secretary Beasley

- a. **Present:** President Eccles, Vice President Brost, Treasurer Estrada, Secretary Beasley, Director Royster, Director Robinson, Senator Falcon-Juengert, Senator Armstrong, Senator Benn, Senator Magana, Senator Lopez, Senator J Torres, Senator D Torres, Senator Iseri, Senator Yamawaki, Senator Garrison, Senator Angileri, Senator Coco, Senator Golden, Senator Shoech, Senator Saldana
- b. **Absent excused:** Senator Perez
- c. **Unexcused :**

E. Minutes Amendment Approval

- a. **Motion by Sen. :** Director Robinson
- b. **Seconded by Sen. :** Senator Garrison

F. Public Voice

- a. N/A

G. Presidents Message

- a. Hi all,
- b. Welcome to our second meeting of the year
- c. I hope everyone's first week and a bit of classes have been going well.
- d. As we wind into the new year and things start getting underway, I don't just encourage you all on the table to get involved in committees, clubs and events going on, I also encourage all of our students to join. As more and more zoom invites and meetings are sent out over social media, keep an eye out on the things that interest you.

One of the ASWC Senate's initiatives that we will be continuing this year is our political awareness and education initiatives. A reminder to those who are eligible, if you are not registered to vote please do so asap. Inform yourself about the positions and policies that you stand by, research all candidates rather than just the people you know about/like. An educated and informed community is a strong community so I urge you to do your part.

I'm looking forward to seeing how Whittier grows over this semester.

Enjoy the rest of your week everyone!

H. Treasurer's Report

- a. Updates: Last week I had the first budget committee meeting of the school year! We went over E-board stipends and we all agreed on an amount. The amount is \$2400 for the fall semester. That's \$685.71 a month.
- b. Pending: I need to file every senator's stipends for the 3.5 months worth of work and they should be done soon.

I. First Readings

- a. N/A

J. Miscellaneous Business

a. Constituent reports

- i. As a quick reminder about your reports
 1. they are due weekly on Fridays by 5pm PST for the next weeks meeting
 2. Reports can be in paragraph or bullet point form but what you type will be going in the minutes so please use complete sentences
 3. If you would like a part of your report to be discussed in the meeting please clarify in the email so it can go to the proper people.
 4. You are expected to have something to report every week "no updates" is not an acceptable constituent report, for this first one maybe your goals or what you would like to accomplish in your position and what you plan to do would be a great thing to report if you haven't had a chance yet to really get started!
 5. They need to be emailed to aswc_sec@poets.whittier.edu with "Position title last name CR" as the heading
 6. For example mine would be "Secretary Beasley CR" Zoe's would be "ICC Iseri CR" for committee reports it is similar "Environmental CR" "Elections CR" etc.

7. We will be going over this again tomorrow at the meeting briefly so any questions or clarifications can be made! Please make sure to have your constituent reports in ASAP! :)

ii. Senators from last week who were absent introduce themselves

K. Committee Reports

a. Administrative Committee

i. We will be meeting on Mondays but I'm not sure what time yet. So be one a lookout for a time on Engage.

b. Budget Committee

i. Budget committee will meet on Wednesday's from 12:30-1:30pm on zoom.

ii. Budget Requests: E-Sports clubs

c. Campus Relations Committee

i. Hi Everyone,

ii. I hope you are doing well and staying safe. Firstly I would like to point out that no the Senate Gear has not been sent out yet but will be sent out by latest Saturday Mid Afternoon, and seeing that there is two-day shipping hopefully you will all receive your packages by Wednesday at the latest. Also if you did not see my message in the Slack I will go ahead and go over that now. So with this new module system, and life and other responsibilities that everyone has, the Senate Meeting will REMAIN on Tuesdays @ 5:00 pm PST - 6:45 pm PST (CALI TIME). What does this mean if you have to miss a meeting for work or family or other extraneous circumstances that might be occurring during the school year.

a. Well here's what you need to know.

b. Before you have missed a Senate Meeting ensure, that your constituent report has been given to Secretary Lauren Beasley. If one needs to be brought up to the table ensure that it has been received and can be read prior to the Senate Meeting at 5:00 PST on Tuesday.

c. You have missed a **SENATE MEETING**, what do I do now.

d. Step 1: read the minutes and or the tweets within 24 hours of the meeting, **TIP:** if you cannot find the minutes go to the tweets it is the fastest way to get the information.

e. Step 2: Please write down any questions or comments you have about the Senate Meeting and bring them to your pod leader no later than **5:00 the following day (WEDNESDAY @ 5:00 no later)**. If it gets in later than

that, the information can not be brought up during our Executive Board Meeting. It is also your duty to inform your constituents about what happens at the Senate Meeting. So keep updated with the minutes!. (This is mandatory if you miss a meeting

f. 3. Step 3: Continue to kill it on the Senate Table

- iii. Trust me I understand that missing a Senate Meeting is not ideal and that it is for sure not what yall would want. All I ask is that you remain communicative during this time, please reach out to your pod leaders and make sure that if you have questions ask them. This is a time that we must remain flexible in some areas, while still painting Senate Work to be done efficiently. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions regarding the Senate Meeting. For module 2 the time and date will be looked at again. Thank you for your understanding of this as this is not everyone's first choice, but still, a decision that had to be made. With that, I kindly ask that you do read the slack, and any message that comes through please either give it a thumbs up or heart so that we know you see the updates and therefore we can eliminate the repetition of information over and over again. Also last update for Campus Relation Committee, please contact me by the end of the week to let me know if you would like to be apart of the Committee, those that let me know I will send out a doodle poll and with the available dates and times. That is all thank you.

d. Elections Committee

- i. Elections Committee will be meeting from 8:30-9:30 am PST every Thursday morning
- ii. We are currently working on expanding the FCC elections timeline to allow for more time for applications to come in for the treasurer and secretary positions. If you are an OA, Know any OA's or know any first year students please encourage them to apply when the applications reopen for two more days on the 24th - 26th
- iii. This will not alter the overall election timeline too much so that is good, but it is important that the senate is encouraging connecting and working with our new students regardless of their involvement so far in events and zoom meetings, a little encouragement and a personal invite can go a long way!
- iv. Today is National Voter Registration day and one of the promotional days for the Whittier Votes Coalition, as President Eccles asked earlier please register to vote if you haven't already and encourage others to as well.

- v. Please encourage anyone you know who is interested in getting involved in the Whittier Votes coalition whether through running an event, attending a meeting, or just better understanding what is going on to contact me or Christine Hernandez in order to get more information about the coalition and how you can get involved in civic engagement

e. Program Board

- i. Program Board's weekly meetings are on Mondays @ 6:00-7:00 pm PST.
- ii. Program Board's weekly meetings' information is posted on the Program Board Engage page.
- iii. Program Board will be programming Welcome Back Week next week Sept 28-Oct 2 and having events every day of that week.

f. Advocacy Committee

- i. No meetings yet but please reach out to join our committee.

g. Culinary Committee

- i. N/A

h. Student Feedback

- i. N/A

i. Student Finance

- i. N/A

j. Environmental Committee

- i. Hi everyone, environmental committee is having our first meeting this Thursday at 12:30pm PST on Zoom. Zoom credentials and information are included on the flyer that can be posted on ASWC social media accounts. Since the majority of this academic year will be conducted remotely, I am planning to transition the committee from having a presence on campus to a presence online for the Whittier College community. Some goals I have for the committee going forward are to:
 1. create transparency in regards to the college's sustainability efforts and areas for improvement
 2. create "calls to action" for students to carry out in their own communities
 3. serve as an educational/informative resource for folx to learn more about sustainability and environmentalism
 4. I plan to execute these goals by creating weekly informational posts for social media aiming to break down a variety of environmental topics ranging from food waste and water pollution to recycling and energy management. The topics of these posts will vary depending on current global events as well. That is to say that you can't have environmentalism without also talking about social

justice. For the committee I also plan to emphasize intersectional environmentalism and highlight the connection to current political events.

5. Thank you, I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

6.

k. Constituent Reports

i. Academic Affairs Council Senator Torres

1. My goals for this academic year

L. Build a bridge between administrators and students.

a. Hopefully, this will create a way for student feedback and their voices to be heard by those making critical decisions.

M. Find creative ways to check in on students and allow them to share their experiences with me so then I can relay how students are feeling, what's working and what isn't.

N. Questions for the Senate Table:

1. **What are the top academic needs of students right now?**

ii. Inter Society Council Senator Saldana

1. - Meeting times: Saturdays @ 6:00pm

2. - Testing new means of communication with Discord

3. - Requesting societies let to ISC know if they plan to have an NME process this year by late October, early November

4. - Currently looking/receiving E-board nominations (Secretary, Treasurer & Social Media)

iii. Student Body Representative Falcon-Juengert

1. I'm brainstorming ways in which I can connect with students (mainly on social media via Instagram stories for now).

2. I am planning to create a survey or a series of questions that would seek student feedback in relation to how school is going/events held virtually by college offices.

3. I started a group chat to collaborate with a few other new senators.

4. My main goal for this year is to connect with students and make sure I'm providing them with ways they can succeed or connecting them to people who can help them.

iv. Student Body Representative Benn

1. After having discussed my goals with my pod leader, José, I felt that I needed to understand them better myself so I took time this past week to really sit down and think about where I really want to end up at the end of this year.

I've realized that there are many voices on campus that feel they shouldn't speak up about their opinions as they believe their voices don't really matter in the sense they don't value themselves. I'd like to find ways to engage these students and help them understand that they are considered equals and that they do have space at Whittier to be able to be heard.

After discussing ideas with Anica and Alyssa, we've all brainstormed several different programming events that we could try to help increase student engagement in regards to feedback related to remote learning. I'm hoping we can start forming solid ideas that we can bring to the table eventually, however, they're just basic thoughts we've yet to discuss further.

I truly believe there's a lot of good things that will be happening within this upcoming year. I'm looking forward to getting to know other members of the ASWC Senate team better and to learning more from everyone as the year continues.

v. Commuter Representative Senator Lopez

1. As commuter representative in this pandemic my goal is to come up with something that will allow students to feel connected to Whittier College. I was thinking of talking to the program board about maybe collaborating and sending the students a couple treats. Also I would like to set up a zoom call with random commuters of all grades to see how classes have been so far and if there are any resources that they would like from on campus and see if the school can accommodate these resources. I have also heard that last year's commuter representative, Grace Hagan, was working on making a commuter board; I plan on reaching out to her and offering to help and be a part of it.

vi. Media Council Representative Senator Garrison

1. We regrouped with all of Media Council, we are going to be meeting on Fridays at 4:30pm. Feel free if you want me to email you the Zoom link.
2. KPOET, QC, VPS and WCSN are up and doing recruiting at the moment. KPOET is currently having to rework HR job descriptions and filling out SEAR forms
3. Check out the Quaker Campus @ <https://thequakercampus.whittier.domains/>
4. They are sending out articles weekly still.

5. 4. We are currently participating in the virtual activities fair! Check us out this week and next.
6. 5. We also have a new MC advisor, Associate Director Joe Melendez!
7. 6. Poet Entertainment has a temporary advisor which is Christine H. since Chris Greenwood did leave us this past summer. MC is collaborating with the OSE to support Poet Ent during this time.

vii. Inter Club Council Representative Senator Iseri

1. The Inter-Club Council E-Board met on Thursday, 9/17 to talk about expectations and for the year. The other members of ICC Eboard will be attending the Activities Fair to answer any questions about ICC or Clubs. We are in the process of figuring out when the Inter Club Council full body meetings will meet, and I am in the process of scheduling office hours. Our meeting minutes are on Engage.

viii. Student Body Representative Senator Armstrong

1. Virtually interact with my peers via instagram
 - a. Q&A's for the story
 - i. What can I do to help raise your voice at the table
 - ii. Create a highlight on my instagram profile of past Q&A's and how to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns about anything a student may need
2. Attempt to hold a zoom meeting every month with my other senators (Depending on engagement)
3. Create an incentive for students to come to meetings and engage with their representatives and senate.

ix. Residential Hall Representative Senator Magana

1. I want to get started on surveys and virtual events for the residential students. Currently, due to the pandemic, we have a handful of students living on campus and I want to make it the most accommodating for them. I plan to email Deanna and Lafayette and the RA's to ask what do the residential student need and I plan to send them a survey. I will communicate with program board to ask about any virtual events planned out.

x. Non-Traditional Student Representative Senator J Torres

1. Goal 1: create a line of communication between non-traditional students, professors, administrators and the ASWC
2. Goal 2: help non traditional students become more involved on campus

3. Goal 3: bring back the transfer club and make it accessible to all non-traditional students.

xi. Diversity Council Representative Senator Yamawaki

1. I want to foster more support between clubs in DC, on an organizational as well as personal level. I want to hold a space for more discussions, not just for club representatives, but anyone that is part of the DC clubs. I want to support my constituents in any capacity that I can, especially being online and with a new module system and everything else going on in the world.

O. Announcements

- a. How can we help the student body with the transition to the module system?
 - i. Rep Torres: Build a bridge between admin and students so that everyone can be more involved. Working with Sal Johnston
 - ii. Sen. Garrison: Speaking from my constituents perspective and from the Quaker Campus Article, most students are overwhelmed right now and everything is moving too fast as the transition has been abrupt. Most people have time constraints and issues with scheduling that has affected everyone. “If we go to the next semester with this module system I don’t know what we are going to do”
 - iii. Sen. Armstrong: I have an art class and a math class. My math class is shorter and my art classes is 3 hours long. Every day having a 3 hour class is excessive, and hard, and a lot of time. I don’t know how else they will cram fourteen weeks into seven but it makes it hard
 - iv. Sen. Magana: I am a STEM major and I am taking 3 classes this module and two of the three classes are lab based. It is more difficult to process all of that information at the same time. We all feel it is hard to fully master these classes in the time constraints even though we all need these classes to prepare for grad school so they are necessary
 - v. Sen. Garrison: A lot of my constituents believe this is taking a lot of value away from the classes that they would normally take. The time to soak in the material and get your money’s worth currently doesn’t exist. Another concern is student workers. Most feel they have to choose between their education and working which might help them put food on the table for their family. I know a number of students who quit or transferred because it was easier to be somewhere else. We lost numerous members of KPoet because they had to make hard decisions. It was harder to help the students

as an OA this year because I don't know how to tell them what to expect if we ourselves as OA's don't know what to expect ourselves.

- vi. Pres. Eccles: With our new students first years or transfer, from what I have learned from last semester. Students have the ability to go to their professors and say "this isn't quite fair". The sooner we can promote students and individuals to reaching out to their professors or to reach out to us, that we are here, that the academic affairs committee is here, the better. Showing the student body that we are there for them, whatever we can do to reach out as early as possible then we can help before we reach a boiling point. It is hard to compare our 7 week module to other schools so there isn't a measurement of comparison so we have to be proactive in saying that if a student any student has an individual experience they need to have addressed that they can reach out to us and we will be there for them.
- vii. Rep. Torres: You can reach out to me with more information, feedback, or ideas through email or over social media.
- viii. Vice President Brost: Please take this topic back to your constituents and ask for feedback and information because this is an important topic that we need to keep discussing.

P. Meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm

- a. Motion for Adjournment: Senator Garrison**
- b. Second: Senator Angeleri**