

## Open Senate Minutes

### New Business

#### Update on Climate Survey

Dean O'Connell: moving forward with climate survey. Using the Diverse Learning Environment survey this is from a higher education research program in UCLA. Send it out to all RCW students. Can find out more information about DLE from HERI at UCLA. Overall goal is to use research for the improvement of practices that advance student success. Survey will be in your mailboxes on **Feb 2nd**. There will be a reminder once a week until you fill it out. Please tell your peers that it's not a short survey but it has interesting questions.

We will not get the results until the summer -- won't put out results until all colleges have the results as well. But the advantage is that we will have comparative data.

Megan Edwards - what is purpose of Mary Baldwin taking this survey?

Dean: The purpose is to confirm practice or change. We will get a lot of information about academic and student life experience.

Madison Miller - Are you only going to take action once the results of the survey comes in?

Dean: We will have to wait to get our results but it doesn't mean we can't do anything in the meanwhile.

Ciara McLaren - Will we have access to all the data from the survey?

Dean: Yes. They will give us the data files. We are also doing all the optional modules. For example, classroom, religion and spirituality, etc. We are trying to get all the information that we can.

Dean: I know the question came up about whether or not we can find out who is taking the survey - Lew Askegaard is looking into that, and another way is to rely on the honour code. The more that you all can encourage students, the better it is.

Jazmine - The survey is only for RCW? And do a certain percentage of students have to fill it out?

Dean: Yes. And for the second question, they will give us the results no matter what, however, it is more valid if more students respond. We considered including ADP but then decided not to. Many of the questions would not be relevant to them. Their perceptions might also skew the results.

Megan Edwards - Will the survey be sent to commuters as well?

Dean: Yes.

Dean: HERI will know whether or not someone has filled it out but we will not know about individual students having filled it out. It's completely anonymous from our perspective

Sharanya Rao - Is there a certain until which you can take the survey?

Dean: The last reminder will be a week after Spring Break, and you can take it until April, but we really want students to take it before Spring Break.

Tralen Neal: Election Process

The EC revised the bylaws for the election process.

- Section 1 is changed - we are going to have two slates instead of three. You will have EC and Class Officers on slate one. RHA, BPB, ICC, and all other board members will be on slate two.
- Under Section 2 Number 3, instead of having a petition, you will now submit an intent to run form that includes basic information as well as a statement and your platform.
- Everything will be submitted electronically at 11:59 on the Sunday before your election.
- If you look at d under Section 2, you can begin campaigning at 9 am on Monday morning.
- If you go to e under Section 2, meet the candidates will now be held in senate again.

Megan Edwards - What inspired these changes?

Tralen: It usually goes on for three weeks to a month but the momentum dies down after two weeks. We were hoping to keep the momentum going. We also think that an intent to run form is more thoughtful and professional. We're trying to get the best student leaders.

Reetu Sinha - What will we do about run off elections and open positions?

Tralen: Runoffs will be held as usual on that Friday. For open positions, the chair will send out applications.

Madeleine Stout - motion to vote  
Seconded.

The revision to the bylaws has been passed.

Committee Reports:

Jazmine - Smoking Policy

A letter has been drafted to be sent to administration by the end of the week.

Jazmine - Senior Regalia

We are looking to get the restrictions changed. A letter regarding is in the process of being drafted.

Theresa Jones - people have been complaining about the mail room hours.

Rolanda Williams - we have a concern about security. A few residents in King made calls to security but did not receive adequate aid.

#### Gallery Concerns

Megan Edwards - Where are the comment boxes located?

Jazmine - They are in the laundry room/main lobby in every dorm.

Megan Edwards - What about students who do not live on campus?

Jazmine - There is a box in the commuter lounge. Anybody can also email us.

Ciara McLaren - I just wanted to suggest something regarding snow storms in the future. We were discussing getting student feedback regarding the shovelling/patrolling. We understand that it's a matter of time, but maybe in the future, there can be an email sent out saying "this is whom to contact if a particular walkway has to be cleared"

Tracy Hiner - I hope most of you saw my email regarding the green boxes. There was a sign up sheet in the beginning, and once we got rid of that, we didn't get most of them back. Some of them have been returned, but please encourage

Regarding the Senior 12 plan, we get a list from the registrar, and we have all those names on a Google Doc. The default if you don't fill that out, is the meal 19. The business office generates the refund which will either be credited to your account or a check.

Rolanda Williams - To try and help getting the green boxes back, is there any way of figuring out who has already checked one out and they can't check one out unless they return the previous one?

Tracy: We're not able to manipulate our system that way. We're trying to see what else we can do.

Rolanda: There have also been some concerns about seniors not knowing when they go over their meal plan..

Tracy: Any time you swipe your card, you can ask the cashier how many meals you have left. The system is pretty good about this. The dining hall and the pub are on the same system.

Tracy - I have been debating the dress code regarding pyjamas. We make exceptions during fire alarms, but the health department has certain standards. I don't think it would be the worst thing for students to come in to breakfast in their pyjamas. So you can do that now.

Amber: As the JB advisor, I don't see any problems with that.

Layla Williams (speaking for Laura Harmon): Is there a way to have a pay as you go meal plan for RCW?

Tracy: You have the mandatory, default plan if you're RCW, which is not regulated by me.

Aaleyah Joe: Is there any way we can have the students give input on the menu?

Tracy: Yes, it's always been there. You can go on the website and give menu suggestions, recipes, etc. I'll put another box out for recipes. Ideas are always welcome.

Tralen: Regarding pyjamas in the dining hall, do you mean only for breakfast? My only concern is that if it's at all times, visiting students may not be very impressed.

Tracy: I agree. This provision will be only for breakfast.

Tevanah Charlemagne - the only thing is that we still have prospective students at breakfast.

Madison Miller - if we do change the policy, what about brunch on the weekends?

Tracy - I haven't considered that yet.

Lilly - When we're really busy, I think it puts a lot of strain on Hunt East and there's not as many chairs either. Can they have the event in the SAC?

Tracy: We try to balance that as much as possible. I will bring that up in my next meeting as well so that she can choose times that might not be peak dining times.

Allison, Admissions Staff: I will bring this up as well!

Aaleyah: I know there's an event in Hunt, so come to dinner!

Tracy: There's an iron chef competition at 5 pm.

Tracy: We now have kiosks in the dining hall and pub and next semester you can also see nutritional information.

The newer IDs are not allowing us to scan them into the system, we have to manually do that. We're working on that right now, so please bear with us until that time.

Mike Shoaf

Erica haynes: I live in McClung, and when you walk in there from Academic, there's been huge paint chunks.

Mike: We're in the process of fixing the wall. We want the wall to soak up as much moisture as possible, so we have to wait for the snow to melt.

Mike: I just want to thank the 12 VWIL and 1 PEG student who came out to help us shovel! And if you have any concerns, please email us!

Announcements:

Lilly Parker, BPB Chair - Saturday, Hunt is closed for meal because we have Signature Ball. There are incentives for volunteers. It's free for MBC students, \$5 for guests, there's performances, a dance floor, food, from 9-midnight. Clean up volunteers will receive a special incentive.

Rolanda Williams - The annual Kwanza ceremony will be on February 6th. Come early if you want good seats!

Mari Cruz - Tomorrow LU is having an event in the Crosstalks room at 6 pm. It's about professionalism.

Lilly Parker - Tonight, we are having the transgender awareness ceremony tonight.

Shari Moody - motion to adjourn  
Seconded.