



**Western Washington University Associated Students  
Sustainability, Equity, & Justice Fund Meeting  
Minutes**

February 13, 2025 | 3:45 PM | VU 567

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members:** Lucas Senger, Faculty; Bren Anderson, SGA; Lindsey MacDonald, Associate Director SEI; Morgan Whitt, VP for Diversity; Noah Williams, Student-at-Large; Jack Hueso, Student-at-Large; Julianna Visnakova-Hamilton, Student-at-Large; Teddie Schmitt, Student-at-Large; Zinta Lucans, SEJF Program Manager and Co-Chair; Kira Davis, VP for Sustainability and Co-Chair; Jeff Aslan, FDO Representative; Megan Neufeld, VP for CENV; Meli Bernal, SEJF Ambassador

**Guests/Presenters:** Gina Finazzo, Elsa Lincoln, Kate Beck, Aeryn Garvisch

**Motions:**

Motion Title	Motion Description	Status
SEJF-25-W-06	Approve 1-30-25 Meeting Minutes	Passed

*Kira Davis, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:46 PM.*

**I. CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Previous Meeting Minutes

SEJF-25-W-6	<b>Motion:</b> Approve 1-30-25 Meeting Minutes	
<b>Motion Made By:</b> Visnakova-Hamilton		<b>Motion Seconded By:</b> Schmitt
<b>Vote Count:</b> 7 Aye, 2 Abstentions (Hueso, Senger)		<b>Action Result:</b> Passed

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- a. None

**III. PUBLIC FORUM**

- a. None

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Student Intern for Climate Resiliency
  - i. Paid internship for WWU student to work with local partners on climate mitigation and resilience efforts—enhanced collaboration & engagement with community
  - ii. Partner entities
    - 1. Whatcom County Climate Coordination Committee (WC4)
      - a. Committee of local agencies including Western

- iii. Pressing current climate challenges Bellingham is facing
  - 1. Sea level rise
  - 2. Wildfire smoke/air quality
  - 3. Flooding
- iv. Examples of internship projects: bringing air filters to vulnerable community members
- v. Timeline
  - 1. Application process: End of winter quarter/start of spring
  - 2. Internship: summer quarter 2025
    - a. 240 hours approx., part time internship
  - 3. Project development by intern: fall 2025
    - a. 3-4 students from CSPPS class will participate in a climate project designed by intern
      - i. CSPPS = Campus Sustainability Planning Studio class
  - 4. Presentation with WC4 members: end of fall 2025
- vi. Student impact
  - 1. Intern: gain hands-on knowledge and skills
  - 2. CSPPS class: increase climate resilience on campus, campus related project, 3-4 students work on intern's project
  - 3. Presentation: WWU community increased knowledge of local climate action and how they can be involved
  - 4. Sustainability impact: promoting well-being, upholding social justice
- vii. Budget request: \$5k
  - 1. 240 hrs at \$19.16/hr, about \$4,600
  - 2. Remaining funding (~\$400) for presentation food, publicity, etc.
- viii. Questions
  - 1. Extended plans: no current plans through this group to continue project
  - 2. Intern housed in SEI, working directly with Kate Beck
  - 3. Program sponsor is SEI
  - 4. Regular communication with interested WC4 members and direction, deliverables for WC4, SEI
  - 5. Shaping curriculum for CSPPS class working with an advisor
  - 6. Project and presentation not paid, only summer internship
  - 7. Application process/parameters: strict requirement of no senior status, interest relevant course progress, based around SEI student hiring process
  - 8. Presentation audience: poster publicity, SEI Instagram/newsletter in Fall, student would be planning and setting up presentation, open to the public
  - 9. Open to all majors, course history will be taken into consideration for application
  - 10. Internship influence on graduation requirements would be a small factor considered for application
- ix. Concerns:
  - 1. Single position versus wider campus focus and availability
    - a. Opportunity cost
  - 2. Students can already work with WC4 members outside of the internship
  - 3. Not super campus specific

4. Internship and credit overlap
    - a. Future question for investigation: Double check if students can receive money and credits for the same work? Who would investigate these decisions if they did not comply with regulations?
    - b. Is intern getting paid for summer work and receiving credit for CSPA work?
  5. Future funding opportunities
    - a. Position would not be lasting, though impact might endure
    - b. Funding from other sources? Scaling project up (ie opening more intern slots as time progresses)
- b. Composting 101
- i. Workshop series
    1. Community compost piles, student/local food sovereignty
    2. Decreasing food waste, increasing public involvement, decreasing public costs (industrial composting centers sell compost back to public at a cost), decrease barriers to involvement with food waste
  - ii. Workshop
    1. Learn how to make quality, crop-safe compost and fertilizer from food waste
    2. How to introduce safe, useful bacteria, avoid pests and unsafe pathogens, increase effective
  - iii. Promotion and registration happening through March
  - iv. 4-8 meetings April through June (dependent on interest)
  - v. Materials
    1. Per student: 3.5-gallon bucket, how-to guide
      - a. Buckets will be loaned to students and can/will be reused, either by farm or in future workshop series
    2. Beginning compost materials (ie straw, soil, alfalfa pellets)
    3. Compostable posters
    4. Soil test kits and tools (ie thermometers, PH testing tools, etc.)
  - vi. Workshop sites: City Sprouts Farm & Outback Farm
  - vii. Start-up project to get future funding, grant renewal needed for composting materials and project growth
    1. Project proposal is 1 year project
  - viii. Unused materials will be used by Outback Farm
  - ix. Small scale reduction of food waste, increased soil quality
  - x. Questions
    1. Promotion: open to all students, biodegradable posters all around campus
    2. Workshop will be lead by student project lead Aeryn Garvisch, future workshop series would be lead by volunteers, employees, interns (students) depending on need
    3. Ideal class size of 18-24
    4. Buckets will be brought back and forth between workshops, buckets will be returned at end of program, exact method of how students would bring their compost home at the end of the program

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

- a. None

**VI. REPORTS**

- a. None

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. None

*Kira Davis, Committee Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.*