



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

May 5, 2025 | 4:00 PM | VU 567

Attendees:

Committee Members: Amy Westmoreland, Director for the Office of Multicultural Student Services; 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; Megan Neufeld, VP for CENV; Meli Bernal, SEJF Ambassador; Brandon Joseph, Faculty

Guests/Presenters: Samantha Schmidt, Travis Tennessen, Daron Skinner

Motions:

Motion Title	Motion Description	Status
SEJF-25-S-5	Approve 4-1-25 Meeting Minutes	Passed

Kira Davis, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

I. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Meeting Minutes

SEJF-25-S-5	Motion: Approve 4-1-25 Meeting Minutes	
Motion Made By: Hamilton		Motion Seconded By: Schmitt
Vote Count: 7 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Abstention (Joseph, Hueso)		Action Result: Passed

- b.

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Gaysian Theatre Festival is not in attendance

III. PUBLIC FORUM

- a. None

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Campus Food System Coalition

- i. Food system: ways food is created and gets to the table to be eaten
 - 1. Production, transportation, preparation, consumption, waste management, policy and budget, education, resources...
- ii. Two main parts: coalition and inaugural retreat
- iii. Coalition
- iv. Retreat
 - 1. Day long event, long-form discussion opportunity, relationship building and strategic planning
 - 2. Off campus
- v. Intended members of the coalition
 - 1. Students (esp those already involved with food system and those who are marginalized with regards to food access), staff, faculty
 - 2. Focus on people who are either already involved with the food system through majors/minors, clubs, projects, etc. and/or those who have a
- vi. Structure of coalition
 - 1. Intended to be planned by coalition members during retreat
- vii. Need for coalition
 - 1. System disconnection
 - a. Project redundancy, sense of disconnection/loss of hope, inefficient resource use
 - b. On-campus food people are splintered and don't know each other; communication is poor
 - 2. Campus food system
 - a. Food justice, environmental protection, cultural relevancy/diversity, agency of choice
- viii. Student impact
 - 1. Food system impact
 - a. Would benefit/impact all students who eat on campus
 - b. Nutritious options, accessibility, basic needs resources, experiential learning opportunities
 - 2. Coalition participation
 - a. Increased participation and agency for students, value on student voices, relationships and community
- b. Project Questions
 - i. Davis: Center for Community Learning, what is that? Why them? Future of project?
 - 1. Engaged in getting students and larger Bellingham community engaged and involved with each other
 - 2. Houses City Sprouts Farm
 - 3. Staff from both CCL and Center for Basic Needs are excited for the project
 - ii. Whitt: seed money meaning?
 - 1. Seed money: starter money, not money for plant seeds
 - iii. Schmitt: plans for future and funding?
 - 1. Ideally would use very little money, instead needing time
 - 2. Sam Schmidt will be continuing to chair the program next year; might be moved to a paid position (either student or staff)

3. Plans to integrate what already exists rather than creating new programs, so hopefully money will not be super needful
- iv. Westmoreland: how would dining services be interacted with? What kind of relationship is there/is planned?
 1. Still up in the air—plans to invite a Chartwells representative, balance between passion/enthusiasm/engagement and decision making power
 2. Leaning slightly more towards excitement
- c. Discussion of grant projects
 - i. Neufeld: likes that it builds on work of a previous student and their senior project
 - ii. Davis: Sam Schmidt has already worked on improving a lot of sustainability in Chartwells—has a history of completing projects and taking initiative
 - iii. Schmitt: happy with amount being asked for in comparison for potential impact
 - iv. Westmoreland, Williams: Chartwell investment is going to be super important to the impact of this project, slightly concerned about unclear planning towards their involvement
 - v. Westmoreland, Hamilton, Whitt: Use of ESC clubs felt somewhat tokenizing; engagement/involvement unclear
 - vi. Westmoreland: appreciative of student centering and involvement
 - vii. Whitt, Schmitt: how necessary is the funding request to the success of the coalition? Most of the items in the budget are towards an off-campus retreat. Would feel better if coalition was an existing project with history
 - viii. Hamilton: concerned about lack of structure and vagueness as to how a project will proceed
 1. Davis: similar projects have been approved and been successful, though lack of specificity can still be a factor in your decision
 - ix. Schmitt: why is the event off-campus? Campus is relatively accessible and can increase community engagement over a preselected group of people
 - x. Williams: would like more built-in structures for bringing multiple groups and viewpoints in (ie planning for retreat to allow more people to attend)
 - xi. Davis, MacDonald, Neufeld: community event needs to be co-created like is proposed
 - xii. Lucans: inclusion of ESC clubs without any backing work was addressed during grant proposal by Lucans; was not addressed by team
 - xiii. Joseph: use of communities/groups of color being used without their knowledge to prop up teams has been seen before, especially with regards to native communities
 - xiv. Williams: what information or clarifying details would we want to see in order to feel good about this project?
 1. More shareholder involvement and by-in
 2. Details about involvement of specific ESC clubs and how involved in/aware they are of this project
 3. Why were these specific clubs mentioned by name, and what steps have been taken to fully involve and integrate the clubs?
 4. Some concerns are not addressable by information gathering
 5. Too many contingencies/retroactive demands are unfeasible and would be better addressed by a denial and invitation to return
 - 6.

- d. General discussion
 - i. We have enough funding to approve all the projects this quarter
 - ii.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- a. None

VI. REPORTS

- a. None

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Kira Davis, Committee Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM.