

The Student Government of Wheaton College

Minutes

Wednesday, 20 January 2021 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Present: Daniel Ju, Estefania Hernandez, Ray Jin, Alyssa Miller, Amelia Miller, Brett Bauman, Connor Woodlin, Drew McMillan, Emma Riddle, Laurel Kruse, Mason Laney, Natalie Kral, Nathan Fruh, Riley Hobby, Amber Simic, Jacob Elsen, Tiffany Parks, Sofia Flores

Absent: Crystal Cartwright

CALL TO ORDER

VP Ju called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm.

DEVOTION

Given by **Administrative Manager Jin**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from 12/9/2020 are unanimously approved.

REGULAR REPORTS

President Hernandez

Good afternoon, it's good to be back with you! Hope you all had a great break and I can't believe we are in Spring semester! I was reminded that we need the LORD and to rest. I'm thankful for the break for our vision to be clarified. I pray that we enter into this semester that we will serve with dignity. Some updates. We sent the student mid year survey. That will definitely help us plan for the semester. We will close the survey on Jan 27. I am pleased that we have two board members joining us. Sofia Flores as PR manager and Tom Graham as B&S Manager. We will introduce Sofia today and I am excited to welcome her. She has already started to use our social media platform now. We will also share about the two letters floating around too. I look forward to our discussion today and to continue service with all of you.

VP Ju

Welcome again to the new school year and I hope you rested. This semester, I will make sure our legislative procedures run more smoothly. I have looked at the constitution and seen there are some ways we can make some possible minor amendments. As Estefy mentioned, we are welcoming two members into the Administrative Cabinet. We will need a vote for the new EVP of GE and do not need a vote for the Administrative Cabinet members. Sofia, we will give you time to introduce yourself to the board soon. I also encourage the board to continue to view your executive summaries. Student Engagement has been a little tough due to COVID, but I'm hoping the mid year survey will make it more clear. Aside from that I encourage you all to review the COVID guidelines and do your part in leading in a positive way in going into a safe campus. That concludes my report.

SWEARING IN OF SOFIA FLORES, PR MANAGER

Sofia Flores takes the oath of office from **VP Ju**

PROPOSAL

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Two Letters of Petition from CCP Hobby

CCP Hobby: The reason I brought it up in the Slack group message is because I was concerned. It was because SG was in a conflict last year in regards to stances. I just wanted to bring this up and talk about the context.

CCP Elsen: Point of information, I never heard of the letter until this afternoon. Can anyone briefly explain?

CCP Hobby: There was a letter written to the Senior Administrative Cabinet and the main point is that Wheaton College will be more anti-racist and ban Trump phanpuila. The second letter is a counter and said that the letter wanted Wheaton to be more for “free-speech”.

President Hernandez: Like Riley said, there were members of SG last year that supported something last year with their titles. You can have your own opinions, however, we must be careful in what we post in regards to political nature. Our titles hold weight.

CCP Hobby: I thank Estefy for clarifying this. But yeah, like last year when someone used their title, it made whatever members of SG say reflect SG itself. It’s something to keep in mind.

CCP Kruse: I appreciate what you have been saying, Riley. I’ve been conscious about having conversations about policies and as SG members, we should be doing this. We should look at these letters as a way to have genuine conversations.

President Hernandez: I would like to make a motion to make this discussion for 30 minutes.

Motion made for debate to end at 4:41 PM

CCP Hobby: Question I have. As SG members, I’m wondering with these two petitions if we are feeling the same way. If this is something we should make a proposal about? This seems different from the thing from last year as this is partisan.

CCP Kruse: I agree with you about the partisanship as student government passing a proposal wouldn’t be the most representative to the student body. As SG members, we should encourage people to have disclosure but not get involved in passing something.

EVP Laney: I get what Laurel is saying and it’s accurate. In addition, I heard President Ryken is coming out with a response. I think we should hear what the Administration says about this. I do agree with Laurel in regards to representing people with these controversial matters.

CCP Hobby: I was curious if Daniel and Estefy would have any insight in how the administration would respond to this.

President Hernandez: We will be meeting with President Ryken tomorrow. We will see. Tomorrow, we will talk about these two letters.

EVP Miller (Amelia): I was in a meeting with an Administrator. The administration is aware of these letters and the most valuable thing I heard is that they were deciding to either give a prompt response or take their time to make a decision. They chose the latter as they want to give a clearer answer to the student body.

President Hernandez: I encourage you to read the two letters. There is a part of the student that is hurting and we should keep them in mind.

CCP Simic: Thanks for filling us in on this. Are students aware that the administration is forming a response?

EVP Miller (Amelia): I heard it was communicated to a couple students but not the student body at large.

CCP Parks: I want to offer a thought. The statement from the staff and faculty is also important too. I want to share two verses I've been meditating on (Matt. 5 and Romans 14). I just think the important things to remember are not only to be peace keepers but also peace makers. I can put a reference in the chat. I think it's important to remember these verses in our conversations and interactions surrounding our topic. How can we be reflecting Christ in regards to peace?

EVP Miller (Alyssa): Thank you Tiffany, I think something we should think about is that we should be peacemakers as well as advocates. We should reflect on how justice, mercy, and love are parts of what it means to be peacemakers.

President Hernandez: Thank you Alyssa. I believe the LORD can provide healing. If you want to talk about this after board with me and Daniel, feel free to do so. I encourage you to pray for the student body as we head into the spring semester. I'm glad we can engage in these discussions. Thank you Riley for bringing up these matters as it is a difficult thing to talk about.

CCP Hobby: Thanks everyone for talking about this. Move to table discussion.

Discussion has been tabled.

FORUM

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.