

Colorado College Student Government Association
Executive Council Minutes

November 13, 2012

Present: President Nathan Lee, Student Concerns VP Charis Whitnah, Finance VP Stanley Sigalov, Executive VP Patric Knecht, Constitutional VP Elliot Mamet, Prof. Peter Blasenheim

Absent: Associate Dean Rochelle Mason

Staff Present: None

Staff Absent: Office Manager Mohammad Mia, Communications Manager Jacob Walden

The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM by President Nathan Lee.

Guest Speaker—Hannah Sayles

Han Sayles, reporter for the CIPHER, was invited to present on a self-sufficient wage. Han reported that ten years ago, the Ad-Hoc Committee on Fair Labor (CCFL) fought for self-sufficient wages at Colorado College. In a memorandum dated December 19, Pres. Celeste agreed to adopt a wage based on “two parents and two children as the basis for the coming year.” Apparently after the recession in 2009, the College lowered its classification of a self-sufficient wage from two parents and two children to a single adult. In today’s terms, this reduced the wage for lowest paid workers from \$13.42 per worker to \$9.04 per worker.

Han recommends that we aim move away from the single-adult wage of \$9.04 per hour and advocate for a wage of \$13.42 per hour, which is the minimum self-sufficient standard for two adults in El Paso County.¹ Han believes the College should fulfill its promise to move toward the notion of a minimum “self-sufficiency” wage. In Han’s CIPHER article, VP of Administration and Finance Robert Moore was quoted as saying that it would cost \$125,000 to boost the bottom 50-60 employees at CC to the pre-recession standard of two adults/infant/preschooler. Stanley estimated that this would cost \$62.50 per student.

Prof. Blasenheim reported that the self-sufficient wage campaign was one of the most successful student initiatives he has seen in his 40 years at the College.

Pat noted that there are other ways beside paycheck to better the livelihood of these hourly workers. Han noted that she has interviewed 7-8 of the hourly employees who feel as though they couldn’t speak up about their wage situation without endangering their jobs and livelihood.

Student Concerns Report—Charis Whitnah

Transportation Task Force

¹ This is from 2011 data from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy.

- Charis reported that the Transportation Task Force is working on the transportation proposal. The Task Force is working on providing transportation to events in Denver and along the Front Range, like for concerts.

Mental Health and Wellness Task Force

- Non-profit fair. Charis reported that various student groups have been contacted to table with a local Colorado Springs non-profit tomorrow from 12:00PM-3:00PM in Worner.
- Charis reported that Ryan Haas is planning a meditation room in Worner during Fourth Week, as well as arts and crafts projects.
- Charis reported that some students are interested in starting a GROW for substance abuse and alcohol abuse.
- Charis reported that some task force members are interested in having a townhall next block on party culture.
- Charis reported that the College has not yet hired a SOCC.
- Charis reported that the Task Force is generating resources about when GROW and other support groups meet. The Task Force is also promoting awareness of eating disorders.
- Charis reported that the Task Force was considering appreciation cards for faculty and staff.
- Charis reported that students are having trouble renting the Carriage House as well as Gates Common Room.
 - Nathan will contact Dean Edmonds and the Strategic Planning Committee to talk about space issues

Constitutional Report—Elliot

Clubs Task Force

- Elliot reported that The Roundtable was highly successful, bringing together twenty club leaders for conversation and collaboration. The Clubs Task Force (chaired by Ryan Haas) has been working on many action items, including a centralized calendar space to coordinate events and a location where student organizations can store supplies in Worner.

Governance

- Elliot reported that the Governance proposal has been circulated to Full Council and that Part A, as amended, will be voted on at the Nov. 14th Full Council meeting.
- Elliot reported that the Governance Task Force is currently working on a proposal dealing with the constitutional amendment process at CC.

Outreach Report

Pat reported that the City Relations Task Force is working to organize a CC student to intern in City Hall. Pat is also scheduling City Council members to speak at the Full Council meeting tomorrow. Next block, Pat is going to revamp the Bill of Rights into a

more palatable statement of student rights and responsibilities. He also intends to go through the Pathfinder to highlight areas that need work.

Finance Report

Stanley reported that \$1482 has been funded to Carnivore Club for the Flannel Formal, and that \$6404 has been funded to Play Hard Productions for Ice Age. The student activities fee was discussed.

President's Report

Nathan reported that he met with Pres. Tiefenthaler for their monthly meeting.