

### **ASWSU-DDP Leadership Retreat**

I want to thank all of you who made it to the retreat. I enjoyed meeting the new senators and seeing the returning senators. I hope your accommodations were adequate and that you had a great time. I would like to take a couple of minutes during the meeting to see what you liked, what you did not like, and what you would like to see included in the next leadership retreat.

### **Student Government Council (SGC)**

As I alluded to at our retreat, the SGC members are preparing an MOU to ensure unity as we work to design our legislative agenda for this year. This MOU will establish a "Cougar Coalition" to bring strength to the WSA (Washington Student Association). Though this is not a budget year, we are trying to strengthen our position to ensure the WSA acts aggressively in working for students' rights.

During the Cougar Leadership Retreat, which Larry and I attended, the SGC hammered out the final edits to the MOU and the addendum which sets the tone for this year. What it establishes is that each branch campus is to hold the WSA accountable to specific demands. If it does not, then the "Cougar Coalition" will collectively pull our membership out. I believe this will be a strong position for WSU collectively and will make the WSA fight for students' rights.

As part of this, each campus has agreed to find a Director of Legislative Affairs (DoLA) and employ them to represent each campus at the WSA meetings and vote on the behalf of the student body. This person will be our lobbyist and will keep us informed of legislative agendas and will be responsible to work with other DoLA's from WSU campuses.

### **Director of Legislative Affairs (DoLA)**

I have attached a draft budget for this position and am asking the senate to discuss and approve funds. I am ready to request resumes for the position and will be asking a couple of you to sit on the interview board. As I discussed with you at the Leadership Retreat and above, this is crucial for our part to ensure our student body is represented and that we get information quickly. This will be crucial next year as we get closer to the second wave of tuition increases and budget cuts. The student body is increasing in size and we need to consider our students and the effects the legislature has on our student body. By establishing this position, the DDP DoLA will work with other WSU DoLA's in ensuring our voice is heard at Olympia. This person will also be responsible for coordinating the Coug's Day at the Capital for DDP students (in conjunction with other branch campuses). It will be a very active position.

Sam Shaddox, the WSU-Pullman DoLA, has a lot of exciting ideas and I can only imagine what he can do with the united front of five additional student lobbyists. ***I would like one of the senators to champion my cause and put it to a vote to approve for the estimated budget of \$3600.***

### **Cougar Leaders' Retreat**

Larry and I were invited to attend the Cougars' Leadership Retreat along with other branch campuses. This was a very productive weekend as we got to meet with other Pullman campus clubs as well as many resources that we and our student body can utilize. The theme was "WazzUnity" and everyone was encourage to mingle and see how each program and executive (ASWSUs) could better serve the student body of WSU through collaboration between branches, committees, and clubs.

We were very please that they asked questions about DDP and the DDP student and were willing to seek ways that we could work together. It was a very worthwhile time and relationships were built, increasing the visibility of DDP students and ASWSU-DDP. The group was excited that DDP was present and made

a huge deal of it. Larry and I also got an opportunity to feel young again and stay up late playing "carpet pool" (past midnight!) and participate in a skit. Larry has got carpet pool down!

### **Meeting with President Floyd**

I will be speaking with President Floyd on September 9<sup>th</sup>. I will be addressing the "cost" of closing the learning centers and concern for any more changes that affect the resources and "connection" of students to DDP staff. If there is anything that you have concerns about, please let me know so that, if he has time, I can address them.

### **Meeting with Provost Bailey**

I am trying to set up an appointment with Provost Bailey to discuss the needs and the loss of resources to DDP students. This appointment will be the morning before Larry and I attend the next SGC meeting in Pullman the first of October. Again, if there is anything you want us to address with him, please let me know.

### **WSA September 12th Meeting**

I have asked Larry to attend the WSA meeting, which will be held at the University of Washington on September 12<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is in the morning and he may be late for our event at the Silver Cloud. I appreciate his willingness to attend this and, hopefully, we will have a DoLA for the next meeting. He will give us a report on the proceedings. Thanks, Larry, for your willingness to do this.

### **S&A Fee Committee**

Christina and I will be working to get a supplemental S&A fee allocation set up so that we can address the fees allocated to the Learning Centers that are now closed and the need for Bobbi Thomas to find ways to fill in the gap. This will require new meetings and a public announcement. We will be able to use the same committee but must reappoint them for this school year. This will allow the ASWSU-DDP to request additional funds for the DoLA position and any other funds it may need due to the unforeseen events.

**See you at the Silver Cloud. Go Cougs!**