

71st Student Senate
Internal Affairs Committee
September 3, 2019 in Thagard 401

Call to Order: 6:02 pm

Members Present: Durham, Alvarez, Sandoval, Baxter, Villacorta

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Garau, Rios

Guests: Thomas Driscoll

Announcements: None

Committee Business:

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **Interview One-** Alicia Thimothee, WSU Director of Finance
 - **Opening Statement-** Sophomore, nursing major, interested in finance and accounting, works in sales institute at college of business, handles budgeting, just getting involved on campus, treasurer of JASA
 - **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
 - **Villacorta-** What position are you interviewing for?
 - **Thimothee-** WSU Director of Finance
 - **Questions Related to Position-**
 - **Alvarez-** Goals for position
 - **Thimothee-** Review the budget and the spending, see where more or less is needed, important to have a plan and keep organized
 - **Baxter-** More explanation of why candidate feels they are the best to “manage” and what that means to them/encompasses
 - **Thimothee-** Financial accounting and organization to keep receipts, spreadsheets organized and ensure good financial practices
 - **Alvarez-** describe more of your experience with work study and as JASA Treasurer
 - **Thimothee-** hasn’t done any work for the organization, isn’t official under SGA, may see fundraising expenditures and revenues, oversee receipts, money management
 - **Sandoval-** As DoF for WSU, how do you intend to spend all of your budget?
 - **Thimothee-** Doesn’t know what they are planning, knows they have created a budget,

- will have a team of WSU members and will utilize outside resources
- **Villacorta-** How do you intend to ensure good financial practices?
 - **Thimothee-** Adaptation to SGA Financial Code
- Alvarez-** move to return to technical non-debatable
 - **Alvarez-** are you financially certified?
 - **Thimothee-** yes
- **Questions of Character-**
 - **Baxter-** how does your identity inform how you see the world and this position?
 - **Thimothee-** Stands with WSU's views
 - **Villacorta-** How do you handle conflict?
 - **Thimothee-** believes everyone should be heard, important for everyone to give their opinion, understand where people are coming from
- **Other Questions-** None
- **Closing-** Very organized, finance has drawn the candidate's attention in work and free time, helps friends and roommates budget, manage money, will refer to team at WSU and advisor, enjoys the group and is excited for the year.
- **Deliberations**
 - Roundtable
- **Call to Question**
 - **Baxter-** motions to call to question
 - **Alvarez-** second
- **Voting Results**
 - **Yes- (4)** Baxter, Sandoval, Alvarez, Villacorta
 - **No- (0)**
 - **Abs.- (0)5**

Interview Two- Christian Sam, HLSU Treasurer

- **Opening Statement-** Sophomore, political Science and Finance double major, Peruvian son of immigrants, passionate about Hispanic community, issues of sexual assault and toxic masculinity, HLSU will help him interact with the community to address these issues
- **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
 - **Alvarez-** financially certified
- **Sam-** yes
- **Questions Related to Position-** **Alvarez-** any updates in work experience or volunteer experience that would be relevant to position?
- **Answer-** worked as a server
- **Baxter-** How will you represent all identities in hlsu and what does that look like to you?

- **Answer-** by working with the many affiliate organizations, encourage collaboration between affiliates
- **Baxter-** on application, you listed a goal, explain more
- **Answer-** as a fraternity man, it's hard to understand why we use Latinx as a term, would like to increase awareness as to why we use certain words and teach what the Hispanic community is about, can count number of Hispanic brothers on one hand, wants to serve as a bridge between his cultural community and others
- **Alvarez-** Regarding the gap between HLSU AND AFFILIATES, HOW WOULD you address these?
- **Answer-** by working and communicating with affiliates, has heard feedback that e-board was not available to affiliates, can respond quickly in an informal manner, maintain personal relationships with affiliate e-boards
- **Baxter-** explain financial background
- **Answer-** VP of Wildwood hall council, managed \$4000 budget, ran for finance chair of BETA THETA PI, was in FLI and SLC leadership committee

- **Questions of Character-** None
- **Other Questions-** None
- **Closing Statement-** Thank you, questioning has given more insight into the position and goals on application, hopes to contribute to the community.
- **Deliberations**
 - Roundtable
- **Call to Question**
 - **Sandoval-** motions to call to question
 - **Alvarez-** Second
- **Voting Results**
 - **Yes- (3) Baxter, Sandoval, Villacorta**
 - **No- (0)**
 - **Abs.- (0) Alvarez**

Interview Three- Ahan Jain, Supervisor of Elections

- **Opening Statement-** Junior, now an Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences major, passion for animals, was previously deputy supervisor of elections, wants to increase voter turnout and awareness
- **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
 - **Alvarez-** any associations with any FSU political parties
 - **Jain-** no, focused on keeping things unbiased and fair
- **Questions related to position**

- **Villacorta-** In Supreme Court case The Legacy Party v. The Amplify Movement, the opinion of Chief Justice Michael Moorhead called the decisions of the Elections Commission “Simply astonishing, simply asinine, simply outside what the statutes require of you.” How will you fix the mistakes of the previous Supervisor of Elections and election commission and ensure that election code is adhered to and properly interpreted?
 - **Jain-** communication was not effective, important for everyone to have the same interpretation, agrees with case and will be sure to communicate the rules of the election to the candidates
- **Alvarez-** voter turnout at 10% is the bar for a lot of attempts at change, recent changes call for elections to be advertised, can you fulfill statutory requirements, how do you intend to increase voter turnout
 - **Jain-** needs to communicate better, dates and deadlines made clear
- **Baxter-** Any foreseeable issues with election code that you'd like to see improved?
 - **Jain-** point system was new and confusing, talking with people to ensure understanding, recent revisions make it make more sense
- **Alvarez-** regarding point system, no go to source to see how points are currently allocated, will you keep a better record in the future?
 - **Jain-** yes, we could keep a record of the past point allocations, will talk to SGA advisors
- **Baxter-** How do you enforce penalties like fines?
 - **Jain-** fine compliance is written in statutes, not following the rules removes you from the election process
- **Alvarez-** move to extend questioning for 3 questions
- **Villacorta-** second
- **Alvarez-** Role of supervisor in seeking and finding violations, third party actors report, will you find ample time to seek out violations?

- **Jain-** believes this is one of the responsibilities of supervisor of elections, make sure everyone is following rules
 - **Villacorta-** Concrete goals for increasing voter turnout?
 - **Jain-** will reach out to RSO's about leadership
- **Questions of Character-**
 - **Sandoval-** how has being Deputy Supervisor of Elections changed your view of the role?
 - **Jain-** the last Supervisor of Elections didn't delegate properly, will ensure everyone is doing their job
 - **Alvarez-** SGA people see themselves in many different roles, how do you see yourself?
 - **Jain-** as someone who will communicate with others
 - **Villacorta-** Do you think it's important to make sure students feel as if their vote matters?
 - **Jain-** wants to be an active voice, make sure people are heard
- **Other Questions-** None
- **Closing Statement-** thank you, questioning was enlightening, wants to stay transparent
- **Deliberations**
 - Roundtable
- **Call to Question**
 - **Alvarez-** moves to call to question contingent on a letter of recommendation being submitted by call to order of the Senate on 9/4/19
 - **Villacorta-** Second
- **Voting Results**
 - **Yes- (3) Sandoval, Alvarez, Baxter**
 - **No- (2) Baxter, Villacorta**
 - **Abs.- (0)**

Interview Four- Harrison Aiton, Veterans Student Union Chief Financial Officer

- **Opening Statement-** military brat, joined the Army at 18, cadet at FSU, joined VSU, mother has finance background, wants to keep books, help veterans on campus
- **Technical, Non-Debatable Questions-**
 - **Alvarez-** are you financially certified through SGA?
 - **Aiton-** yes
- **Questions related to position-**
 - **Alvarez-** As CFO, how will you keep VSU competitive with expenditures of other veteran organizations on campus?
 - **Aiton-** hasn't seen the books yet, wants to bridge the divide between orgs
 - **Sandoval-** how will you work with VSU and manage funding?
 - **Aiton-** experience as secretary for the ROTC Cadet Activity Fund, spending their budget
 - **Villacorta-** explain more about your involvement with the Cadet Activity Fund
 - **Aiton-** the Cadet Activity Fund manages \$30,000 for ROTC activities
 - **Villacorta-** will you support the current goals of the VSU board, particularly their philosophy of inclusion for members of military families?
 - **Aiton-** yes, will go to events, talk to interested students, encourage a higher turnout at events
- **Questions regarding character-** None
- **Other Questions-** None
- **Closing statement-** looks forward to working with VSU if confirmed to bridge the divide between veteran orgs
- **Deliberations**
 - Roundtable
- **Call to Question**
 - **Alvarez-** moves to call to question
 - **Villacorta-** second
- **Voting Results**
 - **Yes- (3) Baxter, Sandoval, Villacorta**
 - **No- (0)**
 - **Abs- (1) Alvarez**
- **Unfinished Business-** None
- **Final Announcements-** None
- **Date and Time of Next Meeting-** 6:00 pm, 9/10/19
- **Adjourned-** 7:59 pm