



Services and Activities Fee Committee Meeting

March 13, 2026 | 1:00 PM | Husky Union Building 303

MINUTES

Call to Order

The SAF Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM on March 13, 2026.

Roll Call

| No. | Name | Position | Attendance |
|-----|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Haley Chee | SAF Chair | Present |
| 2 | Aiden Reeder | SAF Vice Chair | Present |
| 3 | Grace Clarke | ASUW Representative | Present |
| 4 | Abraham Gibson | ASUW Representative | Excused absence |
| 5 | Moises Jacobo | ASUW Representative | Present |
| 6 | Tammy Pham | ASUW Representative | Present |
| 7 | Riley Talamantes | GPSS VP of Finance | Excused absence |
| 8 | Gen Conley | GPSS Representative | Present |
| 9 | Kayla Kenyon | GPSS Representative | Excused absence |
| 10 | Helena Ochoa Morena | GPSS Representative | Excused absence |
| 11 | Alec Solemslie | GPSS Representative | Present |
| 12 | Lincoln Johnson | SAF Advisor – Student Life | Excused absence |
| 13 | Kristian Wiles | SAF Advisor – Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity | Present |

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the March 13, 2026, SAF Committee Meeting was approved.

Motioned by Tammy Pham, seconded by Grace Clarke; unanimous vote to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Public Comment

Old Business

Discussion

1. Deliberations Information

Haley reminded the Committee to prepare to stay for longer hours during the first three weekly meetings.

Haley showed the Committee a spreadsheet that each member will have to fill out during deliberations.

Tammy asked about the abstention due to a conflict of interest with the units.

- **Haley** said that for abstentions, members can put zero. She added that each spreadsheet is specifically designed for each member.
- **Haley** added that Tammy can vote for the ASUW budget since she is not on the Board of Directors and clarified that Grace would have to abstain. Additionally, Riley would have to abstain from GPSS.

Tammy asked if the minutes would be available during Spring break so that she could review what she missed.

- **Stella** answered that the minutes will be available after Spring break for members to review.

New Business

1. MEDEX

MEDEX Tacoma students joining on Zoom:

- **Evan Nenkov**, MEDEX Tacoma Class President
- **KJ**
- **Elise Kleine**, MEDEX Representative for Washington Professional Association
- **Jordan Hartley**, Representative for the National Physician Association Committee
- **Caitlin Grady**, Director of Community Outreach for the 13th Class
- **Megan Long**

Evan shared the lack of access MEDEX students face on the Tacoma campus. As students move forward, the following class would have to start over at zero in terms of advocating for this issue. Fortunately, the class before them was able to connect with Ryan Wicklund. Some of the issues MEDEX students experience include:

- Cannot check out books in the library
- Cannot reserve library spaces

- Cannot utilize the campus printers
- Student veterans don't formally appear in the veterans' association database
- Additional steps to set up student group (e.g., RSOs)
- No access to the campus gym
- The things they're paying for have no applicability in Tacoma (e.g., UPASS transit system)

Caitlin added that in her position, she wants to set up students to work with trained professionals. However, her RSO was blocked because her/MEDEX student's tuition is for the UW Seattle campus. This means that MEDEX students can't have an official RSO at UW Tacoma and are blocked from getting funding.

Jordyn noted an equity issue with not being able to access the facility because they're affiliated with UW Seattle but are going to school at UW Tacoma.

Evan shared that MEDEX students never attend classes in Seattle. They all live in the Tacoma area. It would be unreasonable for them to go to Seattle to access the gym or other services.

- **Ryan** commented that for UW Seattle, SAF subsidizes RSOs through ASUW, GPSS, and CSF. However, at UW Tacoma, the SAF Committee directly subsidizes RSOs through event funding, advising, etc. This is a big component that these students are missing out on.

Megan shared that issues with the veteran's center. She also can't go to the bookstore across from the building and get her schoolbooks. Instead, she would have to contact someone from UW Seattle for books and campus supplies, and her veterans' vouchers. After that, her books would be mailed to her, which can often arrive late. In the testing office (Disability & Accommodations), they are only given the option to fill out the form, and then they would have to say UW Tacoma in the Comments section. There are many situations of students getting to the testing sites and their tests not being there.

Evan shared that MEDEX Spokane, a UW program at Gonzaga University, has worked through these issues, and its students have access. He expressed frustration with the lack of coordination between UW campuses.

Tammy – Curious if the MOU, as it is, if you see it as a temporary or long-term situation? Do you want to work toward something more expansive?

- **Evans** answered more expansively. He would like it to be a solution that no other class has to work through. He added that it has been 13 years.
- **KJ** added that it can be easy to overlook the need for small cohorts. They're looking for a long-term solution so that the program can feel more inclusive on the UW Tacoma campus. She stressed that coming to UW adds a great sense of pride and a

big accomplishment. Some of these small issues can make you feel not part of a whole.

- **Caitlin** added that MEDEX is the 2nd PA program in the country. Many of them chose it because of the UW affiliation with it. In the past few years, the program has been going through a massive transition. Having more resources and areas to study would be very helpful to graduate students. Right now, they are limited to their classroom.
- **Megan** shared that there are dental schools and medical schools working through the same space together. So, it's not uncommon for what Caitlin is asking for.

Haley – Do you pay tuition over the summer?

- **Evan** answered that their programs include 9 consecutive quarters, including 2 summer quarters.

Aiden shared how the gym and access to the library are likely not going to be covered even if UW Seattle pays UW Tacoma the SAF. They stressed that a lot of their issues are not going to be solved through SAF.

- **Evan** answered that he understands that there are multiple committees that they'll have to go through. The point is to show SAF what MEDEX students are limited to. He's hopeful that SAF can help them achieve something.
- **Haley** added that the majority of the points you brought up are all important. However, most of the things that MEDEX students have shared, SAF has zero control over. She reiterated that if we were to pass it here, the library, the gym, the printers, SAF has zero control over that.
- **Elise** clarified that every quarter, they pay fees to SAF and STF to UW Seattle that they do not see benefits from because they're not on campus. She understands that SAF doesn't have control over all the issues; she feels that it's fair and reasonable not to cover services in UW Seattle that they do not benefit from.
- **Evan** asked if SAF doesn't approve this, how can they get this fee entirely removed?
- **Ryan** added that this is part of a larger effort to fix these issues. Expressing these grievances here and with the Board of Regents is one step closer to fixing these issues. This MOU will say to the other governing body that this must be fixed and remediated in the future.
- **Elise** shared that this has overwhelming support on their campus, in many years at MEDEX.
- **Aiden** explained that they weren't trying to say that this doesn't deserve to happen. They recognize the issue and added that they personally feel that remediation would be a fantastic idea. There are things that would be a direction translation, such as ASUWT, the Food Pantry, and the childcare service program. They just wanted to point out that a lot of the things that were mentioned are things that SAF doesn't cover.
- **Kristian** shared that most of what was said is not related to SAF, but rather to being a UW Seattle student and not a UW Tacoma student. He wonders if there is a

transfer of funds to UW Tacoma SAF, if there would still be a block to non-Tacoma students (e.g., block from RSO). He remarked that the biggest solution resides in working with another body.

- **Jordyn** said that she understood. Having SAF give a “yes” on this issue can set a precedent and allow this issue to move on. They wanted to give an impression of how their resources are allocated. She added that whatever is within SAF power would be great. She would also like to hear more about other avenues that they can explore.
- **Caitlin** asked if the Committee had any questions on why it would benefit them to have RSO at Tacoma? Anything they can clarify.
- **Haley** said she’d like to hear about RSOs based in Seattle vs Tacoma and the support that they can receive.
- **Caitlin** said that their program director said that they can get funding as a club and utilize that funding to get subject experts to come. Since they can’t work too much outside of their curriculum, they would have to do that in a club capacity. The club would allow them to find additional resources to practice things that are curriculum adjacent. They also can’t form a club in Seattle. She has an email from Daniel Nash, who explained all of this.
- **Kristian** added that to form a club at UW Tacoma, they would need to have 4 registered UW Tacoma students who would serve as officers. So, even if SAF Seattle were to transfer the money, this would still need to be resolved through an administrative office instead of through SAF.
- **Caitlin** asked if there is anything the Committee thinks is feasible through SAF?
- **Haley** shared in the Zoom Chat the SAO office at UW Seattle, email for ASUW Seattle Finance & Budget Committee, their role is to allocate funding to RSOs.
- **Caitlin** also shared Nash’s email in the Zoom Chat.
- **Haley** said that Caitlin can Teams her the email after. In the meantime, it would be helpful to reach out to the SAO advisor.

Aiden – Have you done any discussions with UW Medicine to see how this can be solved?

- **Evan** said that they are not a part of the School of Medicine.
- **Ryan** said that they are part of the UW Medicine umbrella but not the school.
- **Aiden** said that that was what they meant.
- **Ryan** added that talking to SAF would be easier.

Haley wonders if the Board of Regents could potentially help with other items that SAF wouldn’t be able to help with.

- **Ryan** added that there are ways to do this in the future. They view what MEDEX students are doing here as part of that process.
- **Ryan** added that they are also talking to the UW Tacoma Finance Chancellor about the gym issues.

Haley asked if the students had talked to the UW Tacoma SAF and if they had given their official stand?

- **Ryan** answered that they have given a tentative yes. The UW Tacoma Finance Chancellor, James. She said that as long as reciprocity is there, she recommends that this happens.

Haley thanked the MEDEX students for coming to the meeting.

Kristian said that it's very possible to sign this MOU, transfer the \$19,000 funding, and the students would still not have access to anything. The RSO issue is about UW Tacoma, not the fee.

- **Haley** agreed.
- **Aiden** asked if ASUWT also gives funding to RSOs?
- **Kristian** said that UW Tacoma has a Center for Student Involvement, a SAF-funded unit. Still, they can't be an RSO if they are not UW Tacoma students, which is the main issue.
- **Gen** shared that she used to work in that office. She shares the concerns but also wonders if there is an accountability mechanism with the money transfer. If SAF doesn't transfer the money, the students would still have no access to the services.
- **Haley** answered that that is a lot of money to figure out accountability. Another thing to consider is STF, which has not discussed this issue at all.
- **Lincoln** suggested that both SAF and STF need to have a conversation.
- **Lincoln** added that he completely understood the frustration. He wonders if there is a way of trying to work between MEDEX and the Tacoma Involvement Center about accessing the funding. He recommends that SAF hold some money in its Committee budget and utilize it in 2026-2027 when things are more solidified. He thinks that the MEDEX students are putting pressure on this Committee that's not warranted. A lot of the things that were mentioned are not covered by SAF (e.g., Counseling services). More should be done before SAF makes the allocation.
- **Haley** asks if we treat them as a potential new unit, can we fund them from the SAF Reserve for a year?
- **Lincoln** said that Haley can put it in the budget. He said that we don't want to initiate any transfer until the MEDEX students get more clarification about the Center for Student Involvement at Tacoma.
- **Haley** clarified whether Lincoln is recommending we put this directly in the budget.
- **Lincoln** said that we should include it in the SAF budget, not as one of the units.

Aiden noted that it was a little frustrating that the MEDEX students did not mention SAF resources that they could have asked for. They recognize that the students might choose to mention their priorities. However, they added that this did not feel well thought-out.

Ryan added that STF had heard about this in the Fall.

- **Haley** said that is not what Riley said.

- **Ryan** clarified that Riley wasn't there much for the Fall quarter.
- **Ryan** said that the MOU hasn't been signed yet by any party. The MOU can also be contingent upon whether the MEDEX students receive the services.
- **Haley** added that this is a committee conversation. It would be nice to have time to talk more about this as a Committee.

The SAF Committee thanked Ryan for this contribution to the situation.

Aiden asked if the Committee could get in touch with UW Tacoma SAF. The amount they proposed, \$20,000, is not a "whole lot". Aiden's main concern is whether the students will get the services that they are paying for, and Aiden is not sure how to go about it.

- **Lincoln** said that it is not up to SAF to work out logistics.
- **Haley** said that although they're asking us for something, we're not responsible for going out of our way for it.
- **Aiden** felt that the issue is whether the money transfer would do anything. But that factor is not up to SAF and is not SAF's responsibility, which makes it our concern.
- **Haley** said that they should communicate that to us on whether they can provide those services.
- **Lincoln** said he can check with the Center for Student Involvement.

Kristian shared that since MEDEX students are UW Seattle students, UW Tacoma SAF has even less reason to do anything. It would be important to have some sort of insurance before committing the funding. Additionally, it also feels like if SAF doesn't act, then the students are stuck.

- **Haley** agreed.
- **Kristian** asked that if we give them \$19,000 (the equivalent of their fee), they should have access to everything on the UW Tacoma campus. It is fine if they don't utilize it, but they must have access to it. Otherwise, the UW Seattle SAF Committee would just be subsidizing the UW Tacoma SAF Committee.

Haley said that she doesn't feel confident she can vote on this since we don't have those insurances yet. She recommends putting it in the Committee budget. She'd like to know what STF thinks about this. It would not be great if the students are given SAF resources and not access to printing (STF).

2. Potential New Unit for FY 27 - CIRCLE

Haley clarified that this is a discussion on whether to make CIRCLE a permanent unit.

Alec asked if this is the year when the SAF will have to make a decision on CIRCLE.

- **Haley** agreed.

Tammy said that with decreasing international student enrollments, she is wondering if that is factored into CIRCLE's budget request.

- **Haley** said that she doesn't think they based it on the projection of student enrollment. Most of the budget is for operations and wages.

Tammy said that we don't have to grant their entire funding request. She wonders if other SAF units will receive less funding if we make CIRCLE a member?

- **Haley** said that is a consideration. She added that the Committee should think about the potential impact of this on other units that we currently serve.

Lincoln agreed with Tammy. He added that the SAF Committee has so much flexibility with the fund balance. The amount of money that CIRCLE requests would not greatly impact other units.

Haley asked if it is true that we receive more than we project.

- **Lincoln** said that's historically correct. However, we can't confirm that for the next year.
- **Kristian** said that they're aiming for a modest enrollment increase for undergraduates. International student enrollment declined slightly, and there are also barriers for international students.
- **Haley** said that last year, the Committee spent \$150,000 from the fund balance and \$400,000 in the year before that.

Tammy asks what's a good amount that we should consider pulling from the fund balance.

- **Kristian** said that for the last 5 to 7 fiscal years, there's been a move to project a fund balance dip. The Committee has done a good job of being conservative in its approach to it.
- **Haley** said they will look at what the projected collections and total requests are. She'd then pick a fairly conservative number of how much to dip. This year would probably be around \$150,000.

Aiden voiced that without SAF funding, CIRCLE would experience significant stress.

Although there is a decline in international students enrollment, now is a crucial time for them to have those services regardless of how many students are there.

- **Tammy** agreed. She added that as a committee, we should consider all aspects regardless of how we feel initially.
- **Haley** agreed with Tammy. She added that it is important for the new unit to meet the SAF mission.
- **Gen** said that having that support (CIRCLE) is essential for both undergrad and graduate students. CIRCLE is also really trying to be responsive to students. She'd on board with making them a unit.
- **Grace** added that with UW's reputation internationally, CIRCLE is important to the student experience. She agreed with making CIRCLE a SAF unit.

- **Tammy** said that in terms of fairness, international students pay more than domestic students in tuition. They deserve to have this, considering how much they're contributing to UW financially.

Alec asked if the reason CIRCLE went to SAF is that they lost a funding source?

- **Lincoln** said that they had a budget cut like every department last year (5-6%). Their services have increased, and the funding has not been sustained. It's not because of a decrease in funding other than the cut across the department.

Haley noted that international students pay nonresident tuition, and some of them have to pay for the international students' health insurance program.

Haley said that this is the time for people to give a dissenting opinion.

Alec said this is a caution and not a dissenting opinion. There are many causes out there on campus. It's important to keep that in mind.

Haley clarified that we could ask the current Committee to defer it for another year if we don't want to vote on making CIRCLE an official unit now.

Aiden said that looking at the FY26 budget package. They had a \$50,000 Hong Kong endowment that they're no longer receiving. Additionally, in the ASUW Senate, the Student Health Fee would take another year. With the SHF, it would allow SAF to redistribute its funding, but we won't know that for at least another year. Aiden would not be opposed to deferring for another year. They want to know what the rest of the committee thinks about deferring this for another year, when we know with more certainty the result of SHF

- **Haley** added that there are concerns with the SHF, that the next ASUW leadership might not want to move forward with it.
- **Moises** wondered if it's not guaranteed that the SHF will move forward, then how far off are we going to push this decision?
- **Grace** shared that it doesn't make sense for SAF to make CIRCLE funding contingent on whether the SHF passes, especially if we want to make CIRCLE an entity anyway.
- **Tammy** said that we shouldn't delay this. This funding would give security for CIRCLE staff to do their jobs. Given the current political climate, she'd like to advocate to make CIRCLE a SAF unit.

Moises Jacobo moves to make CIRCLE a permanent SAF unit, seconded by **Tammy Pham**. The motion passes unanimously.

Announcements

- **Grace** shared information on the Homecoming Scholarship Committee, in collaboration with UW Alumni. \$6,000 scholarship for undergraduate and graduate

students. Committee members will be reviewing applications, and there will be a "Thank You" lunch.

- **Tammy** shared that the ASUW Elections begin on March 30. Members can come to the forum. The voting days will be from April 21 to April 23.

Adjournment

The SAF Committee Meeting was called to adjourn at 2:58 PM.

Motioned to adjourn by Moises Jacobo, seconded by Grace Clarke; unanimous vote to adjourn.