



# Associated Students of Fort Lewis College Meeting

## Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2025, 6:00 PM

**Location:** Vallecito Room

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### **Members Present**

President Asa WORTHINGTON

Vice President LEONETTI

Speaker of the Senate Kathryn PAUL

Administrative Parliamentarian Dell CALDWELL

Senator Cynthia ACOSTA

Senator Morgan CARLTON

Senator Arden BLAKEMORE

Senator Brenna MORELY

Senator Woodrow HOT

Senator Lucy PETTIGREW

FYA Tyler BARNETT

FYA Kaden GARNESS

FYA Malia YAZZIE

FYA Henry ROMERO

FYA Amayah ANGUIANO

FAB Director Jose RENTERIA

Chief Justice Maura MURRAY

### **Members Absent**

Senator Aaliyah GUIDRY - excused

### **Guests**

Jonah FLYNN

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Called to Order by President WORTHINGTON at 6:08 PM

### **ROLL CALL**

*Quorum Reached*



## CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of Tonight's Meeting Agenda
- b. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### Requested Items:

- Public Discussion Concerning Turning Point USA
  - o Motion to extend debate to 60 minutes; Seconded
  - o Barnett suggests 2 hours
  - o Morley suggests 1 hr 30 minutes
    - Moved & Seconded
    - Passed Unanimously: Public Participation will not exceed 90 minutes
- Speaker 1 – Opposed – 3:10
- Speaker 2 – In Favor – 3:10
  - o We aren't a hate group
  - o Free market, limited government, freedom
- Speaker 3 – Opposed – 2:27
- Speaker 4 – In Favor – 2:14
  - o TPUSA has over 3500 chapters across the country
  - o 3700 new chapter requests after Charlie Kirk
  - o I have gained confidence and a safe space since TPUSA
- Speaker 5 – Opposed – 2:27
  - o Potential of infringing on current freedoms of students & faculty
    - There is a petition to get rid of gender-neutral bathrooms
- Speaker 6 – In Favor – 3:10
- Speaker 7 – Opposed – 2:28
- Speaker 8 – In Favor – 2:52
  - o Opening to conversation is the point
- Speaker 9 – Opposed – 1:34
  - o Scheduled an anti-trans speaker on trans day of remembrance
- Speaker 10 – In Favor – 0:34
  - o Trans day was not on purpose, we just meet on Thursdays, its the only day that works for us
  - o Yield to a second speaker – in favor – 1:41
- Speaker 11 – opposed – 0:51
  - o Antidefamation league classified TPUSA as an extremist hate group
    - Yield to second speaker – opposed – 1:25
    - No longer feel safe here as a queer student
- Speaker 12 – in favor – 2:36



- Just a space to talk, encourage anyone to come participate, everything I've heard I think is just a difference of opinion. Acknowledge that some students may feel uncomfortable but I've seen unsafe & this campus isn't it—you have the right to come here and speak out against what you don't want, you're safe enough to do that
- Speaker 13 – opposed – 2:16
  - Professorwatchlist, website run by Turning Point, feel like this would put our professors at risk
- Speaker 14 – opposed – 2:50
  - Had to hide myself before college—now i feel like i might have to go into hiding again
- Speaker 15 – opposed – 0:55
- Speaker 16 – opposed – 1:39
  - Yield to a second speaker – opposed – 1:31
    - Most tension ive ever seen on campus in my three years here
    - My rights should not feel up to debate
    - TPUSA seems against FLC campus values
- Speaker 17 – opposed – 3:02
  - TPUSA founder endorsed theories that seem racist, that should not have a place on FLC campus
- **10 minutes recess 7:19 – 7:29 PM**
  - Called back to order 7:31 PM
- Speaker 18 – In Favor – 3:08
  - Alum
  - Liberal arts school for a reason—cannot shut out ideas while still encouraging well rounded education
  - There was a republican club on campus when I was here
- Speaker 19 – Opposed – 1:30
- Speaker 20 – Opposed – 1:31
- Speaker 21 – Opposed – 1:32
  - Yield to another speaker – opposed – 1:28
- Speaker 22 - Opposed – 0:25
  - Yield to another speaker – 2:35
    - Petition to keep TPUSA off campus has reached 393 sinatures-23% of students that live on campus
    - FLC has a responsibility to prevent student deaths as much as possible--Randy Iker, trans student lost to suicide--we owe it to him to do better
- Speaker 23 - Opposed – 1:50



- Randy Iker was deadnamed by FLC and his family, though he was loved by them & not hated, TPUSA can claim not to hate us and still hurt us
- Speaker 24 - Opposed – 2:23
  - Grew up conservative, now know/think different. This is a beautiful community, don't want it to change
- Speaker 25 - opposed – 2:20
  - Was thinking about enrolling here, don't know if I want to come to fort lewis if this goes through
- Speaker 26 - neutral – 1:59
  - Whether you like TPUSA or not, they have hard conversations that people usually aren't having
- Speaker 27 - opposed – 0:31
  - History & anthropology, cultural relativism
    - Yield to another speaker – opposed – 1:19
      - Don't hate TPUSA, but feel strongly about the students who are impacted by this & board should consider the safety and community feel
- Speaker 28 - neutral – 2:00
  - Would make more sense if they weren't affiliated with FLC name, or if they were a republican/conservative group not associated with Turning Point
- Speaker - 29 opposed – 0:34
  - Urge board to consider students voices as you are casting your votes—its your job to represent students wants
    - Yield to another speaker – opposed – 2:26
      - On Fort Lewis College core values: value a diversity of cultures & perspectives to strive to create an inclusive environment—TPUSA would not allow for safe inclusive environment—I went to their meeting & felt unsafe there and leaving
- Speaker 30 - neutral – 2:46
  - FLC is a public institution
  - If you don't like them, you don't have to go to their meetings—you don't have to “give in”
- Speaker 31 - opposed – 1:29
  - Conversation means listening & understanding- Founder Charlie Kirk said he did not believe in empathy
  - Free speech does not entitle official RSO status—they can still operate freely on campus without being endorsed by the college
- Speaker 32 – neutral – 2:20
  - National average is 1 trans person gets killed every day



- Some people may feel more comfortable in a gendered bathroom, but neutral bathrooms were put in for safety of queer students
- Speaker 33 – opposed – 2:19
  - Came to FLC because i thought this was the safest place for me to be myself—this is the first time i have feared for my own safety in this degree
- Speaker 34 - opposed – 1:03
  - Why not start a debate club or join the philosophy club or other political club if all you want to do is talk instead of willfully associating with a group that scares people & is considered a hate group? Would support that
  - Yield time to second speaker – opposed – 1:09
- Speaker 35 - neutral – 3:00
  - I understand this is a public college, but I don't think TPUSA specifically is a good representation of people who are conservative or religious
- Speaker 36 - opposed – 2:23
  - Live & let live as long as no one is being harmed, but this has only been an issue for a few weeks and people are already feeling unsafe
- Speaker 37 - opposed – 0:58
  - Psychological impacts, studies have shown trans and queer students do better socially & academically when issues like gender neutral bathrooms are supported
    - Yield to another speaker – opposed – 1:15
- Speaker 38 - opposed – 2:41
- Speaker 39 - neutral – 2:40
  - Competed in speech & debate, I get it, I love debate & controversial conversation
  - In real life, nothing happens in a vacuum—when debate is being had about real life people & identities, it has consequences
- Speaker 40 - opposed – 0:45
  - Want a space on campus to have open communication but TPUSA is not the way to do it, would support something else

49 total speakers

- **10 minutes recess 8:51 – 9:01 PM**
  - Called back to order at 9:02 PM

## ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Approval of Turning Point USA as an RSO I**
  - a. Motion to extend debate to give TPUSA representative 10 minutes to be recognized, and to cap action item discussion at 30 minutes



- i. Moved & Seconded, Passed Unanimously
- b. Jonah Flynn recognized -
  - i. TPUSA is nonpartisan, but conservative group, we just want to host discussion
- c. Qs
  - i. Why Turning Point & not anything else?
    - 1. I think I would've gotten a similar amount of backlash no matter what
  - ii. Explicit plans about Campus Safety?
    - 1. Had police presence at the last one, that helped, would probably just work with campus police when deemed necessary or maybe hire out
  - iii. Are you aware of the different watchlists run by TPUSA?
    - 1. As far as I'm aware, it's mostly about singling out professors who are using political activism in the classroom
  - iv. Have answers about 'activism hub' on their website that we asked you at the FAB meeting last week?
    - 1. I still don't know what that is
  - v. FLYNN: We're prioritizing peaceful dialogue & everything else, just conversation
  - vi. On if this chapter would try to change campus policies, particularly about the bathroom issue: One point of TPUSA is to organize students for change, so we may strive to change campus in accordance with our political beliefs
  - vii. FLYNN: The club is inclusive, anyone is welcome to come, not intolerant of any view
  - viii. On directives that they may have received from the national organization: Turning point has told us not to do outdoor events for the time being, probably will be over by Spring Semester
  - ix. FLYNN: We understand that we violated the code of conduct with posters & incorrect use of logos and approvals but haven't done it since
  - x. (Audience Q) You haven't been able to answer some questions about TPUSA policies—why start a chapter if you don't know anything about TPUSA?
    - 1. I think that's a misunderstanding of my answers and that things are subject to interpretation
  - xi. FLYNN: I think we have a wide array of opinions on the club, we tell everyone they're welcome



- xii. FLYNN: Not partisan means we aren't on party lines, but we ARE conservative
  - 1. Believe in traditional concept of gender
- d. Morley – 0:54
  - i. Our job is to advocate for the student body as a whole, & listen to their feedback/opinions
  - ii. Previous national groups that established chapters here did not get widespread outcry & fears of safety from the student body, not associated with gun violence, so this is different
- e. Paul – 3:10
  - i. Would like to ask for feedback from table & FYA about where everyone head's at
    - 1. Picked this school because of its indigenous focus, and it feels like Charlie Kirk & TPUSA do not uphold that
- f. RENTERIA - 2:03
  - i. Concern with international students attending events and speaking out
  - ii. They have met all on-paper operational requirements of becoming an RSO I for FAB
  - iii. Questions
    - 1. Risk for international students to have their visas revoked if they speak their mind at these kinds of meetings?
      - a. It is a fear that has been communicated to me
- b. Move to close the session**
  - a. BLAKEMORE: we're in a pretty difficult spot, there is a lot of pressure on us and closing the session might allow for more discussion away from eyes of student body & speak more freely
  - b. Yazzie: 2:23
  - c. 7 – 0 – 0 / Pass for a closed session for remainder of discussion
- c. Closed Session Discussion – ASFLC Table Exited Vallecito Room & Moved to Senate Chambers
  - a. They could try to sue the school
  - b. Student Conduct, RSO rules they've violated, I do not feel comfortable saying yes, didn't seem to have concrete answers for a lot of questions, they don't seem to know their policies or ours
    - i. Unapproved posters & false use of trademarked logo, falsely claiming they were approved by us
  - c. We saw the show of hands of the feelings of the student body—we are supposed to represent their wants & opinions
  - d. Controversial clubs have been established on campuses



- e. If we approve them, there is still avenue of reporting if anything does happen
- f. Non-RSO groups can still use campus like they've been using it so far
- g. We can't allow ourselves to be bullied into our decision, the student body is our priority
- d. Time allowance on discussion expires, ASFLC Table moved back in to Vallecito Room to hold vote
  - a. 2 – 0 – 5 / Fail
- e. Statement Read by President WORTHINGTON:
  - a. ASFLC is navigating a difficult decision, one where many of our own morals and ideals must be pushed to the side in the interest of the student body. Our policies and expectations for our table work through View Point Neutrality, which requires us to set aside our own viewpoints and base our decisions on outlined policy, values, and feedback from the student body which we serve. In light of the opinions and concerns shared to us today by both sides of the discussion, with a vote of 2 in favor, 5 opposed, and no abstentions, we have decided to deny Turning Point USA's request to become an RSO I at this time. The students and community members who currently make up the body of Turning Point USA will be free to use campus resources through a different avenue than SkyHub, as all public and community groups are free to do. The ASFLC may reconsider this decision of Turning Point's status as an RSO at a future date. We encourage anyone navigating free speech alongside us to attend an event put on by the political science department on November 4th at 4:30 PM in the ballroom, that will discuss Free Speech. If you are in need of additional support or information, ASFLC can assist you in connecting you to resources. If you have questions about how this decision was reached, we are here for you. The safety of the student body and the FLC community has always been and will always be ASFLC's top priority.

## REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Committee Reports
- b. ASFLC Retreat
- c. Student Services (but everyone) we need to table more, lets follow through we had good presence tonight

## ADJOURNMENT

- a. Table Business
  - a. Bee Club
  - b. N7 weekend this weekend—recognizing indigenous athletes at football game saturday and volleyball 3pm saturday and soccer 1 pm sunday





- c. Soccer on friday 7PM, people there in costumes
  - d. REACH halloween party 8PM friday
- b. HERO Award
  - a. ANGUIANO → CALDWELL
- c. Adjournment
  - a. Adjourned by HERO Award Recipient CALDWELL at 10:34 PM