



**Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Executive Board**

January 8th, 2020
MS Teams

Board Members: *Present:* Abdul Malik Ford (President), Keenan Kaemingk (VP for Activities), Nicole Ballard (VP for Governmental Affairs), Carson Brock (VP for Student Services), Ranulfo Molina (VP for Diversity), and Sargun Handa (Senate Pro-Tempore).

Absent:

Advisor: Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator), Eric Alexander (Director of the Viking Union)

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Mario Alem and Karen Deysher

Motions:

ASB-21-W-1 To approve the meeting minutes from the date of November 30th, 2020.
Passed.

ASB-21-W-2 To approve the 2020-2021 Western Lobby Day Agenda with the amendments stated. *Passed.*

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

November 30th, 2020

MOTION ASB-21-W-1 *By Ford*

To approve the meeting minutes from the date of November 30th, 2020

Second: Brock

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

III. BSO Demands

1. Molina stated that the BSO's Coalition Development Specialist application went live at the beginning of Winter Break. The application closes this Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
2. Brock stated that there's a workgroup started for Black affinity housing in the new dorm.
3. Alexander stated that McBride and himself met with Facilities Development and Capital Budgeting to get an update on space planning in the Viking Union.
4. Ballard stated that there are a couple demands addressed in the Lobby Day agenda, and bills are being dropped in the Washington Legislation to lobby on in future.

5. Handa stated that the Huxley Black art syllabi and accommodations in curricula are all in motion.

IV. Public Forum (*comments from students and the community*)

None

V. Action Items - Guests

A. Western Lobby Day Agenda- Ballard

1. Ballard stated that the agenda passed through the Student Senate and the Legislative Action Council committee.
2. Ballard stated that under the Centering Equity at WWU item, an edit to acknowledge that BIPOC and underrepresented students have a different experience in higher education.
3. Ballard stated that under the College Affordability and Student Loan Forgiveness item, the Native American Assistance Program ask was removed as it did not have support from tribal relations. The HB 1028 ask was added which would remove the EdTPA requirement for teacher certification. The test costs \$300 each time a student takes it and has been proven to be racially biased.
4. Ballard stated that under the Environmental Justice ask, the SB 5000 item was added which would create a pilot program with tax exemptions for fuel efficient cars.
5. Ballard stated that the Mental Health and Wellness item was edited to include information that because of the overload on counselors at Western they are usually only able to see students for two to three sessions. There is additional stress on students due to COVID-19, and the current social climate specifically impacts BIPOC and underrepresented students. An item was combined an expanded to ask for \$225,000 for a Student Development and Success Center as well as the Minor Works Program, which would relocate some offices. The ask to support HB 1009 was added to expand types of medical access for students.
6. Ballard stated that the Facilitating Comprehensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Trainings item was edited to add "reoccurring" to the third ask.
7. Ballard stated that the Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence item was edited to add that the reason underreporting happens is due to lack of action from universities. Another ask was added to clarify the item.
8. Ballard stated that the Coast Salish Longhouse was edited to ensure that NASU (Native American Student Union) students were acknowledged for all the work they've done advocating for the longhouse, including a video they made. Another addition was data surrounding retention rates of Indigenous students.
9. Ballard stated that the \$10 Million Dollar Equity Funding Ask was edited to add language from last year's agenda surrounding Ethnic Studies, which was drafted by Grace Drechsel and the Students for Ethnic Studies Coalition. Another edit was the ask for funding for the Endowment Scholarship.
10. Ballard stated that the Support and Resources for Undocumented Students and DACA Recipients ask was edited to add an item supporting the budget provision that would provide COVID-19 relief to undocumented student that have filed for the WAFSA (Washington State Financial Aid).
11. Ballard stated that the Meeting Basic Needs ask was edited to add support for SB 5800 which would provide assistance to foster care and houseless students. Additional edits were to create a grant for Universities in Washington to provide

food and clothing assistance, to create a student basic needs survey, to support HB 1893 to make SNAP benefits more accessible on state campuses, to support SB 5012 to create a tax on vacation rentals for funding of affordable housing programs, and to support SB 5027 to mandate closed captioning on televisions in public spaces.

12. Deysher from WHOLE made a public comment and stated that during Fall quarter there was an average of 97 students attending each free food pop-up.
13. Ballard stated that the Dedicated Revenue ask was edited to add SB 5096, which would tax capital gains, an ask to remove some exemptions to the Real Estate Excise Tax, and an ask to tax the Washington State Lottery winnings.
14. Alexander stated that the Dedicated Revenue ask is very important, and having students explain the long-term effects of these programs on higher education, as well as its effect on the economy is critical.

MOTION ASB-21-W-2 by Brock

To approve the 2020-2021 Western Lobby Day Agenda with the amendments stated.

Second: Ballard

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VI. Information Items - Guests

A. AS Elections Code- Ballard

1. Alem stated that the filing for the AS VP for Sustainability is posted on WIN (the Western Involvement Network). Filing will close on January 14th, and on the 15th the candidate meeting will occur. Campaigning will begin from that point, and voting will begin on January 24th and will be open until the 29th. This is informed by the AS elections code, which has been edited and will need to be passed before the candidate meeting. The only changes made for this election will be the ones that were made for the Senate election of Fall quarter 2020, for example getting rid of the petition requirement, and removing specific dates as this is a special election. Another change was to the eligibility requirement, adding eligibility for employment in the United States and on campus. Alem stated that once the Elections Code is changed, it will be reviewed as to how to improve elections in Spring Quarter.
2. Alexander stated that because everyone is paid through the payroll system, they must have some sort of documentation. This information was in the candidate packet, and so should be consistent in the AS Elections Code.

VII. Personnel Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

A. None

IX. Information Items - Board

A. None

X. Consent Items (*subject to immediate action*)

A. None

XI. Discussion Items

A. AS Employee Winter Training

1. Molina stated that in the Winter training there was a lot of conversation on how the AS can become more proactive to become an anti-racist organization, and by BIPOC student employees on how to support them in their offices. Molina asked if any of the board members have ideas or would like to create a taskforce for this goal. Molina stated that it seems to be mostly BIPOC students speaking at the forefront for this goal, and creating a taskforce with a student from each office would spread out the work.
2. Alexander stated that there is a group in the Viking Union on a diversity action plan with goals to support programs, trainings, education, and hiring and retention of diverse staff.
3. Brock stated that Fall training had different caucuses, and perhaps different offices or departments should have different discussions.

B. Office Hours

1. Kaemingk asked about starting and scheduling office hours for small groups of board members during Winter quarter.
2. Molina stated that he and Brock and Kaemingk have been working on collaborative office hours where students would be able to drop in and ask questions. Current hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every other week, and Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President stated that there is a virtual Martin Luther King event on January 18th starting at 1:00 p.m.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities stated that he has been working on the Winter Info Fair with the Club Hub, getting more involved with student engagement and the food pantry.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that the search committee for the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Engagement has begun. The Title IX Civil Rights search committee is starting up as well, as candidates from last quarter did not make it through the process entirely. He has been working on the M.L.K. even with for and with LGBTQ+ Western and the Prevention and Wellness center on creating a video series that focuses on care of LGBTQ+ students. He has also reached out to past VPs for diversity to get history of the position and meet the needs of the Western community.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she has been working on the agenda for Western Lobby Day, and stated that Natale Szabo, the Local Issues Coordinator, is putting together a panel with representatives from the City of Bellingham to discuss zoning laws and how the definition of family affects housing in Bellingham.

This meeting will be next Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She stated that she is also starting on working on the Western Intersectional Lobby Day Agenda.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services stated that he is working on starting up the SEJF committee, finding members for the Resident Hall Black Affinity Workgroup, and working on updating Charge and Charters for committees.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore did not have anything to report.

XIII. Senate Reports

A. None

XIV. Other Business

A. None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 1:36 p.m.