



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Board of Directors

November 13th, 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), Nora Harren (VP for Sustainability), 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): Hunter Stuehm

Motions:

ASB-20-F-22 To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of October 23rd, 2020. *Passed.*

ASB-20-F-23 To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of October 30th, 2020 with Handa's amendments. *Passed.*

Nicole Ballard, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. October 23rd, 2020

MOTION ASB-20-F-22 By Brock

To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of October 23rd, 2020.

Second: Molina

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

B. October 30th, 2020

1. Handa requested an edit for the October 30th meeting minutes. Under Discussion Items- Board, the Student Senate / Anti-Blackness Training item, number eleven states "Handa stated that within the Honors system, racism and slavery are required subjects and this can be traumatizing for BIPOC and black students." This is not correct and should be "...racism and slavery from the colonizer's perspective, and white authors are required subjects..."

MOTION ASB-20-F-23 By Brock

To approve the AS Executive Board meeting minutes from the date of October 30th, 2020 with Handa's amendments.

Second: Harren

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

1. Handa requested to move the Western Washington University Board of Trustees Resolution from an action item to an info item.

III. BSO Demands

1. Molina stated that job description for the BSO student coalition is in the progress of being created and should come out the following Monday
2. Handa stated that she has been training senators
3. Alexander stated that Ford and himself attended a meeting to discuss space planning for Black Student Organizations in the Viking Union, both in the short term (3-5 years) and in the long term (a Black Cultural Center).

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

None

V. Information Items - Guests

A. None

VI. Action Items - Guests

A. None

VII. Personnel Items (*subject to immediate action*)

A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

A. None

IX. Information Items - Board

A. Committee Reformation- Brock

1. Brock stated that the process of appointment to committees is working currently, and the Office of Civic Engagement is overworked. Brock's proposed solution to this would be a Committee Council to review and appoint students to committees and connect with committee chairs.
2. Handa asked Brock to specify the "reviewing and appointing" section under the charge, as well as if this would take away power from the board.
3. Brock responded that the goal would be to have the committee review student applications for committees without names, and also to review the committee meeting process for greater accessibility to students from outside the AS.

4. Brock stated that committee Charge and Charters would still go through the Executive Board, but approval to committees through the board (consent items) would not be needed.
5. Alexander stated that it is common in other Universities to have a committee on committees that reviews the necessity of committees and makes sure they are up to date. Alexander stated that this process may work as a task force as well.
6. Handa expressed her concern in the separation between the Executive Board and the Committee Council. This may affect Board Member's job descriptions so stronger guidelines would be needed. Handa requested a report on committee updates to the board, stating that board members may not have the ability to appoint to the most applicable committees (that match their job descriptions.)
7. Ballard asked if other schools have different systems, as she was concerned in the possibility of this structure making the process less effective.
8. Brock stated that currently there's a lot of confusion surrounding who is supposed to handle the appointment process for different committees. A chair of a committee could be biased, and there's no one else reviewing the process. Adding more perspectives could be effective.
9. Harren stated that she believed that Western Washington University was one of the only schools in Washington with only one person handling committees. She stated that other schools have a similar structure. She asked if the council would review both AS and University committees.
10. Brock responded that the council would, as it's important to improve student involvement and advocacy especially on University committees where students may not be prioritized.
11. Kaemingk stated that the council may also market and advertise committee application to students.
12. Alexander asked if there is any information on the transition away from the committee coordinator. Byers responded that the decision was made by her previous advisor, Dr. Leti Romo, due to concern about budgets during COVID-19.
13. Ballard stated that the expiration for the council Charge and Charter is June of 2021 so that after this year, the council can be reevaluated and changed if need be.
14. Brock stated that appointing students to committees does not seem like it should be board member's jobs. There are more productive tasks for student advocacy.
15. Handa asked if there was a possibility to reserve the right for the Senate Pro-Tempore to appoint students to academic councils. Brock responded that this would be possible.
16. Molina asked if it would be valuable to bring in faculty and staff that are not a part of the AS as a non-voting member, since the council would be looking at non-AS committees. Ballard stated that she has an issue with faculty or staff deciding what students can be on committees. Faculty already have a lot of say on who's on committees in general, so students should be able to decide what students sit on committees. Molina agreed and stated that advising from a non-voting non-AS member may have history of committees on campus and guidance for appointment.
17. Brock added that since there are so many different types of committees, it may be hard to pick one staff member to represent all. The Committee Council may also meet with committee chairs to make sure chairs are involved and passionate about the committees and about transparency and student opinion.
18. Handa stated that there is no specific ESC or diversity centered representative on the committee. Brock responded that the goal would be to have the At-Large senator focus on this.

- B. Western Washington University Board of Trustees Resolution- Handa
1. Handa stated that most changes were grammatical, and the other changes were the addition of sources, selection of the agreed upon title, and the request for distribution to a larger range of people. The in detail-document is located on the AS website.
 2. Handa stated that the Board of Trustees (BOT) stated that having two representatives instead of one is never a bad idea, and also that the existence of the student senate made the BOT reevaluate and question the current procedure. Handa stated that she, in this resolution, is doing exactly that.
 3. Handa stated that the item is not an information item because she still has to confirm the legality (or lack thereof), and necessity of the BOT not ratifying the Student Senate's Constitution.

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

- A. None

XI. Discussion Items

- A. Shred the Contract (Contract)- Handa

1. Handa stated that the resolutions that the senate and board have passed that support Shred the Contract (STC), leave a paper trail, but just writing this is performative so the student government needs to do more to help STC. Handa proposed writing a resolution in support of STC. STC was upset largely because they discovered the renewal of Western's contract with Aramark through the general email Melynda Huskey sent to all students.
2. Ford stated that more communication between students and administration needs to happen, and admin need to set a plan of what will happen once Aramark's contract is up.
3. Kaemingk stated that there's a huge distrust between administration and students. This needs to be addressed, more communication and transparency is needed.
4. Alexander stated that the Executive Board has different forms of power within addressing this issue. For example, contacting representatives from housing and dining. There are multiple sides should be looked at.
5. Handa asked when the administration informed the board about their decision to extend the contract. Kaemingk responded that it was a couple hours before the school wide announcement was released. Ford added that they were not involved in the decision-making process at all beforehand.
6. Brock stated that all students, not just those in student government should be involved in these conversations.
7. Handa stated that it would be a good idea to create a resolution this year, perhaps updating the one from last year, before the date when documents are due for the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting, December 1st.
8. Stuehm commented that the resolution can reference the previous commentary on the contract and build upon it, or the board could strategically redistribute the board's previous statement.
9. Handa stated that, in a conversation with an administrator, the administrator said that the BOT weren't there to fulfil BSO demands, but rather to evaluate them and see how they could deliver upon them in their own way. Handa stated that this was upsetting as these are not requests, they are specific demands.

10. Ford stated that the Executive Board is invited to attend the BOT meeting on December 11th to introduce themselves and to set priorities for the year ahead. This may be a good time to address this issue. Ford stated that this issue can be further advocated for in other committees, such as the budget committee, the LAC, etc.
11. Molina stated that a next step may be to figure out exactly how to address and present this with the BOT.

B. Shred the Contract (Hate)- Handa

1. Handa stated that she attended a Shred the Contract meeting in the past week where unidentified students who began yelling racial and homophobic slurs, similar to what happened at Gonzaga Black Students Union meeting. Handa asked the board how they can protect students. The senate discussed sending an AS-wide email to staff and students on how to prevent Zoom-bombing. IT is checking to see if they can identify the IP addresses, as well as contacting the Ethnic Student Center's Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance resource.
2. Molina suggested making an Instagram post on the AS IT page addressing Zoom-bombing prevention. For example, having passwords for the meeting, giving out meeting IDs, or moving to Teams so only Western students are able to attend.
3. Handa asked who creates the DEI training (that covers sexual-assault, coronavirus safety, and anti-racism), and if they could create a training for Zoom safety. Ford answered that this company was EverFi. Ballard suggested creating a training for club officers through the Club Hub.
4. Alexnader added that an email concerning Zoom-safety was sent out recently, but perhaps Stuehm could help streamline and amplify this message through the Communications Office. More permanent guidelines would be helpful moving into the future, especially working with IT.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President stated that he did not have anything to report.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities stated that he did not have anything to report.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that he has been working with the Outdoor Center to construct a DEI training for their office that would operate on Canvas and would continue quarterly. There are two finalists for the Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance Director job, and there have been livestreams with the candidates. Students are looking into how MLK Day will be handled through the university.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she has been working on the Legislative Affairs Council and has sent out a survey with legislative priorities that she invited the board and students to fill out.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services stated that he has been mainly focused on the committee reformation council idea, but he has also been working on advertisements for the Alternative Transportation Fee that was approved through the BOT that will go into effect next quarter. He has a meeting about the dining decision, as well as the housing situation for this and the upcoming quarter.

Nora Harren, VP for Sustainability stated that she did not have anything to report.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she has been working on Student Senate training.

XIII. Senate Reports

A. Handa stated that the Student Senate has been in the process of training.

XIV. Other Business

A. Ford stated that there is an ACY leadership conference happening in the following week and registration ends soon, if students would like to sign up.

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:19 p.m.