



Western Washington University Associated Students AS Board of Directors

October 23rd, 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)

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Jillian Trinkhaus

Motions:

ASB-20-F-14 To move the WTA document to an Action Item. *Passed.*

ASB-20-F-15 To make an advisory vote to select option one of the Whatcom Transportation Authority Alternative Transportation Fee for Winter Quarter. *Passed.*

ASB-20-F-16 To approve the AS Senate Pro-Tempore's Job Description. *Passed.*

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

None

II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

III. BSO Demands

1. Brock stated that he is working with Residence Life for feedback with their new move-in program, and that he, Ford, and Molina will be having a meeting with Residence Life next week.
2. Ballard stated that the WSA general assembly was the previous week and they will be lobbying for statewide mandatory DEI training across all campuses. She is looking on how to advocate for a better program. The Ethnic Studies Program funding is being advocated for by students, faculty, and administrators. They are continuing work on planning what the program would look like once funding is received.
3. Harren stated that she had a meeting with Shannon Sandberg from the Office of Sustainability, to talk about idea labs for the SEJF (Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund). There are many opportunities to fulfill funding for the BSO demands through funding from SEJF.
4. Ford stated that he will be meeting soon with BSO leaders to talk about space allocation for black students and the Black Student Coalition. The Faculty Senate this week passed a few motions for the BSO demands including evaluating major

requirements, a motion for immediate action through the UPRC to shred the Aramark contract, and a motion for the annual school recognition celebration of Black History Month, including Juneteenth.

5. Handa stated that a couple of the Faculty Senate subcommittees, asked her what she'd like to prioritize on their agenda this year. A couple of her priorities listed were cross-cultural education and removing the GPA requirement for majors. Handa had a meeting with Jeff Young to discuss BSO demands to bring to Faculty Senate.

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

1. Ford stated that the Q&A function will be open throughout the meeting, so students are able comment at all times.

V. **Action Items - Guests**

A. Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA)- Brock and Ballard

1. Alexander stated that this would be an advisory vote, which means that this does not approve the item, but groups can see how the elected student members would favor the item.

MOTION ASB-20-F-15 by Harren

To make an advisory vote to select option one of the Whatcom Transportation Authority Alternative Transportation Fee for Winter Quarter.

Second: Ford

Vote: 4-0-3

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

*Abstaining: Ford,
Handa, and Molina.*

VI. **Information Items - Guests**

A. Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA)- Brock and Ballard

1. Brock stated that this document states the proposal for the Alternative Transportation Fee (ATF). At this point, the WTA is not charging fares because of COVID-19 and therefore there is no ATF, however this will change starting January 2nd. There are two options for the fee. The first bring that during Winter and Spring quarter, students taking six or more credits will be charged a \$3 fee to cover administrative costs, as well as an opt-in system in which students can pay \$28.50 for a bus pass, the ATF would cover the \$11.50 margin to cover the WTA bus pass that totals \$40. The second is that the ATF would not charge students for the fee, and those who wanted the bus pass could buy it directly from WTA for \$40.
2. Ford asked if there's any current data about bus use on campus, how many people are using the bus service. Brock responded that there is no data for this because of the current free bus use, however there is still 1,000 people living on campus and employees working on campus as well.
3. Trinkhaus projected, on the higher end, that in the Summer about 2,000 people with Western affiliation were using the bus service. She proposed looking at the number of students with a Bellingham address, which is about 5,000 currently.

This contract is both for Winter and Spring, and it may be a good option for evaluating after the Winter quarter.

4. Brock stated that during the Winter it's more difficult to access other modes of transportation (such as biking or walking) because of the weather, and students cannot use financial aid or scholarship money to cover the costs if the second option is selected. A lot of people with disabilities use the bus to get around campus as well.
5. Trinkhaus stated that students also use the bus to go other places, such as jobs. The ATF would have to market this option to students since it is opt-in.
6. Ballard stated that she is in favor of the first since it is subsidized and can come out of financial aid.
7. Kaemingk and Molina voiced their support for the first option. Molina asked how this would be advertised to students. Trinkhaus responded that an email would be sent to students, it would be advertised on social media, and perhaps in the Western Front.
8. Trinkhaus explained that the Mandatory Fee committee is meeting the following Wednesday and would like to know the direction of the fee in order to send it out to students.

MOTION ASB-20-F-14 *by Handa*
To move the WTA document to an Action Item.

Second: Molina *Vote: 6-0-1* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining: Ballard

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

- A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

- A. Senate Pro-Tempore Job Description
1. Handa stated that she wanted to clarify that the Senate Pro-Tempore does not work up to 25 hours during the Summer, just 15, and the hour count goes up Fall through Spring Quarter. The overall salary was changed to pay rate. There was also a change to the job responsibility of serving as a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees to attending the Board of Trustees meetings as a recurring invitee, as members are only appointed by the governor.
 2. Handa stated that she has had trouble being invited to the Board of Trustees meeting, although it is in the job description and it is possible in the Board of Trustees Charge and Charter. The Student Senate, as an equal body to the Executive Board, should have the same representation.

MOTION ASB-20-F-16 *by Ballard*
To approve the AS Senate Pro-Tempore's Job Description.

Second: Ford *Vote: 6-0-1* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining: Handa

IX. Information Items - Board

A. None

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

A. AS Personnel Committee

1. Renee Witherspoon

a. Kaemingk stated that he would like to review other applicants before consenting to Witherspoon's appointment.

B. Student Publications Council

1. Robert Stein

a. Kaemingk stated that this council has been going on since this Summer, and Stein has been involved in this committee, and he is a journalist and social science major, so he seems to be a good fit.

C. 1. Kaemingk requested to remove Witherspoon from the Consent Items and add it to next week's agenda.

XI. Discussion Items

A. Finance Council

1. Ford asked for input on the appointment of a Vice President from the AS Executive Board.

2. Alexander explained the Finance Council has a new format to fit the needs of the new governmental structure with the AS Student Senate. Finance Council will see every budget in the AS and makes decisions about grant applications as well. This is a pretty heavy workload in Winter and Spring Quarter, so this should be kept in mind when appointing a VP to the committee.

3. Molina showed interest in being a possible nominee for the council, as this year is a critical year for budget, and having a justice lens would be crucial.

4. Ballard asked if there was a plan moving forward for group meetings with the board members. Byers responded that there was a board member working on it.

5. Ford stated that VPs should be thinking about things to add to their legacy documents for future VPs.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President had nothing to report.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities had nothing to report.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that he has been working on the AS BIPOC caucus, and the working title is "Wellness and Thriving as a BIPOC Student Employee Caucus," and it would focus on keeping the mind body and spirit healthy in the predominantly white organization of the AS. The purpose would be to hold meetings that offer personal, professional, and leadership development. They would like to invite speakers as well, to hold a space so that BIPOC students are able to thrive. Molina would

also like to possibly hold a similar space for all AS employees. He is also working with the ESC to create a BIPOC network to give them internship experiences and connections with BIPOC WWU alumni to foster professional experience.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that the candidate forums for the state and local elections will be held next week, and the hubs will be open on voting day for printing ballots. Brock and herself met with the police chief and assistant police chief as well as someone from live safe which is a safety app WWU is looking at utilizing.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services had nothing to report.

Nora Harren, VP for Sustainability had nothing to report.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she has been working a lot to try and be invited to the Board of Trustees meeting. She has been getting other people in the conversation for a more diverse representation of opinions on the matter. There will be others that may be excluded from the conversation in the future, so it is important to set a precedent now.

XIII. Senate Reports

A. None

XIV. Other Business

A. None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:00 p.m.