



Western Washington University Associated Students AS Board of Directors

October 30th, 2020
MS Teams

Board Members: *Present:* Abdul Malik Ford (President), 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: Keenan Kaemingk (VP for Activities).

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

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Hunter Stuehm, and Raquel Vigil.

Motions:

ASB-20-F- None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

I. **Approval of Minutes**

None

II. **Revisions to the Agenda**

1. Ballard asked for Breaker Chittenden to Consent Items for the Legislative Affairs Council Committee.
2. Handa asked if Discussion Items need to go on the agenda. Byers responded that it is not usually necessary, although it can be useful. Discussion Items are not things that action will be taken on.
3. Handa asked to add the Personnel Committee Charge and Charter to Discussion Items.

III. **BSO Demands**

- A.
1. Ford stated that he had a meeting with the administrators about the implementation of the Black Student Coalition to develop permanent infrastructure. The United Faculty of Western Washington University will be meeting with Ford if anyone else wants to join.
 2. Brock noted that in the next meeting he will have more information about the BIPOC student housing for this year, and early move-in options for the following year.
 3. Handa stated that she is working on anti-racism training for the Student Senate and reminded everyone to vote in the Student Senate election.

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

1. Ford noted that the Public Forum Q&A will be open the duration of the meeting for student input.

V. Action Items - Guests

A. None

VI. Information Items - Guests

A. None

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

A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

A. None

IX. Information Items - Board

A. Executive Board Resolution- Handa

1. Handa stated that she met with Central Washington University's Associated Student President, and they are both planning to write a letter for all AS Governments in Washington to sign to commit to anti-racism. She asks the Executive Board to draft a resolution to present to the Board of Trustees in order to put pressure on them for implementing anti-racism. This could perhaps be brought as an Information Item for the next meeting.
2. Ballard noted that it would be perhaps stronger if each college AS Government also signed on to the resolution that the Executive Board may present to the Board of Trustees.
3. Handa stated that she plans to bring this to the Student Senate the following week as an Information Item, perhaps this could be a joint resolution, to become an official AS statement. Handa added that she thought perhaps Stuehm as both the Communications Director and the Personnel Director, this may be a conflict of interest.
4. Handa stated that the Board of Trustees is the most powerful group on-campus. As the President and the Senate Pro-Tempore are both the most heads of the student government, sharing equal power, they should've both been invited to their meetings. However, the Board of Trustees have invalidated her work and her identity when she has attempted to attend. She created a petition for more representation and to acknowledge the oppression of women of color on campus, which as of now has over 700 signatures.
5. Alexander asked whether there is inconsistencies with Senate representation at CWU as well. Handa responded that this is their first year of having a senate and they have the representation of equal bodies and would like to advocate for the same for WWU.
6. Ford stated that he reached out to the Chair of the Board of Trustees and requested for a meeting to discuss this issue, as there hasn't been much communication between trustees and students. Handa stated that she met with administrators and Sabah Randhawa (WWU's President), and he believes that the Board of Trustees is obligated to hear her voice.

7. Stuehm stated that for a resolution released as an official AS opinion, all offices and parties must be represented, not just the student government. The Communication Office isn't to make a judgement about the messaging, it's concern is structuring, formatting, and making sure appropriate resources are included so it is ready to be published. In this case, it should not be a conflict of interest. The board however, does not have to go through this process and reserve the right to resolve what they want whenever they want to.
8. Byers stated that she would send out the official Office of Communications Guidance again.
9. Ford stated that the board should see what the outcome of the meeting with the Board of Trustees, and depending upon that, should work on a resolution.
10. Handa noted that today the Western Front is publishing a brief on this situation, and it's important to acknowledge that within the AS there have been instances in the past infringing upon women of color's safety. This is about Handa's position and identity not about herself.

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

A. Legislative Affairs Council Committee

1. Breaker Chittenden

- a. Ballard stated that Chittenden has sat on committees in the past and has been very civically engaged. He wants to be more involved in legislative affairs and seems like a great candidate.

XI. Discussion Items – Board

A. Student Senate/Anti-Blackness Training (BSO Demands)- Handa

1. Handa stated that the training is to address BSO demands number 8 and 9. As a historically anti-black organization, the AS should have anti-racism training for the senate. She wants to hear board opinions and ask for resource ideas. She is considering inviting Erin Jones, the first woman of color to run for office in Washington state.
2. Ford stated that since this is specified to the Student Senate, campus and local resources should be utilized to not have all the work as Handa's responsibility.
3. Handa responded that currently there aren't many resources on-campus to work from. She is trying to make the trainings more accessible, but she is not, for example, a critical race theorist.
4. Alexander stated that there are training and educational programs that staff have developed that could be utilized. He asked if the AS had thoughts on specific outcomes they would like to offer.
5. Handa stated that she would like this training to be something that can be used for the next Senate or Executive Board. The specific outcome would be to address whiteness in the AS as it is not a BIPOC or black person's job to educate others. It will try to advocate for these groups without having a white savior complex.
6. Ballard suggested including how to report racist faculty and staff, as in the past this process has been difficult to navigate. Handa added that BIPOC students haven't trusted the Title IX office, and perhaps alternative resources could be added.
7. Ford added that the AS wide letter that was released in the Spring could be a good starting point for training. SEBRT could be included as well. Handa responded that Randhawa just assigned her to structural equity, perhaps the AS could have a equity and bias team with the AS VP for Diversity as chair.

8. Molina stated that starting the work and conversation is crucial as a liaison. UCLA has had anti-blackness trainings that may be useful as a starting point. He would love to be added on the group that is working on the anti-racism training.
9. Ballard stated that in the training, BIPOC students should be given resources and community organizations on-campus, supporting them, not just focusing on whiteness. Handa added that in the Fall AS training, there was a BIPOC caucus and perhaps they could use this as well.
10. Ford stated that the Counseling Center created a virtual care package for LGBT and BIPOC students, and perhaps this could be integrated in the training.
11. Handa stated that within the Honors system, racism and slavery from the colonizer's perspective, and white authors are required subjects. Handa stated that this can be traumatizing for BIPOC and black students.
12. Molina stated that some senators are new to leadership positions, and perhaps we could have BIPOC leaders talking in the training about navigating systems of oppression.
13. Ford made note that the Board are not experts in this field and should never feel bad as to where their abilities lie in creating this training.

B. Personnel Committee Charge and Charter- Handa

1. Ford stated that he was unsure of the necessity of the frequency of Executive Board meetings at this time. He stated that he sees the value of having weekly meetings but having submissions in by Wednesday is a quick turnaround, and if there was more time perhaps there would be more fruitful input and engagement, with more streamlined discussion. The time period of 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays would be open, but meetings would only need to be called if necessary.
2. Ballard stated that she is concerned because the last two meetings have run over two hours and if they are every other week, they may run longer.
3. Handa stated that out of the last few meetings, eleven of the items have been hers. This is the busy part of the year for the Senate Pro-Tempore right now, but once the Senate is started, having a meeting every other week would be possible for her.
4. Molina stated that lately most conversation from the board has been on one side of the agenda. Having biweekly items may give senators time to think about bringing Information or Action Items to the agenda.
5. Alexander stated that as Winter quarter approaches, other VPs will have a lot to do. The AS Lobby Day Agenda will be coming up soon, as well as the AS Budget. Charge and Charters for committees should also start in the editing and approval process. With good time management, meeting every other week is possible but this would create a delay, taking a month to pass an item.
6. Ballard stated her concern in having meetings every other week as she puts together Lobby Day Agendas, and the LAC is already a little behind. In this case she may have to call emergency meetings to look at the items.
7. Brock stated that it may be helpful to have weekly meetings and have the option of postponing after an evaluation of the agenda.
8. Handa added that she doesn't want an item to be delayed for a month and this may just be a dry spell with items on the agenda that can be waited out in the upcoming weeks when senate elections will finish and preparations for Lobby Day will start.
9. Molina inquired about which committees the Board members are chairing and Alexander responded that this is under the job descriptions of the VPs as well as in the Charge and Charters of the committees.

10. Handa states that the Charge and Charters have been inconsistent. Last year the Executive Board voted to let the Personnel Committee to be able to change the job descriptions of the VPs, and there may need to be a checks and balances system in place to make sure there is equity in this department.
11. Alexander responded that the Personnel Committee is usually for evaluating student employees who have been having issues and have been given resources to solve the issue but have continued to have problems.
12. Harren stated that the Executive Board has a lot of power and doesn't feel as though there's undue power in the supervision of other offices. She stated that she worries about who will keep other offices in check if not the Executive Board. Students should be helping students hold autonomy and power, rather than having administrators dictate this.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President stated that he had a conversation with Melynda Huskey concerning the search for the Multicultural Director. At this point they are waiting for faculty to be appointed to the search committee and waiting for advertisements for the position to be sent out. Applications for the black mental health counselors are coming in and the job description for the retention of such counselor is in progress. Applicants for the civil right and Title IX applicants are in the final consideration process. Ford noted that the Sustainable Action Plan hasn't been taken much into consideration lately, but Brian Burton would be the person to talk to about it. Concerning Aramark, it looks as though it would take 700,000 to 1.3 million to start a self-serving dining system, so the contract for Aramark will probably be renewed for a couple more years until this can be put in place due to the current housing deficit because of COVID-19.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that he had a meeting with Rachel Smithers, the Executive Director at the University of Washington Identity Commissions, concerning their operations. Their job description is written in a way to hire students for fit the identity of the positions, which is helpful as he looks at constructing job descriptions for the BSO council. A meeting between the Counseling Office and BIPOC students will be held to meet counselors and speak on issues and distress that have been arising within the office. He is sitting on the Title IX Compliance and Civil Rights hiring committee and will be meeting with Lang Lee about the direction of this process. The BIPOC network will be meeting up with the Alumni Association to partner with the ESC. He will be bringing forth revisions to the Undocumented and Mixed Status committee Charge and Charter soon.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that the LAC is starting up this week and the Office of Student Engagement forum was this week as well. Ballard noted that Tuesday is the last day to register and vote in the election. She will be meeting with Brian Burton soon.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services stated that he has been working on the Housing Committee and Restructure Committee to make sure students can easily access and understand these. He has also been working on mental health resources.

Nora Harren, VP for Sustainability stated that she has been working on the Sustainable Action Plan, seeing where accountability can be held. She has also been working with

Brock and Ballard concerning the Executive Board's role in budgets and advisory votes. She may have an items about this in the following week.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she has been working on the training for the Student Senate, communicating with the Board of Trustees, and looking at the budget's organizational structure to ask for advisors to talk about these jobs to the Senate. She is planning on having senators be able to send their committee preferences to her, so they are able to work within their interests.

XIII. Senate Reports

None

XIV. Other Business

- A. 1. Byers stated that the Trustees meeting will be in December, and she hopes that the Executive Board will be able to attend. She will send out this invitation soon. Byers reminded the board the Ruth Flint-Blanchard sent out a Doodle Poll about office hours, and this should be filled out to move forward on organizing this information.

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:15 p.m.