



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Executive Board

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

MS Teams

**Board Members:** Present: Abdul Malik Ford (President), Keenan Kaemingk (VP for Activities), Zarea Lavalais (VP for Sustainability), 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), and Eric Alexander (Director of the Viking Union).

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** Mario Alem, and Natale Szabo.

### Motions:

**ASB-21-S-13** To add fifteen more minutes to the AS Elections Code item discussion.

**Passed.**

**ASB-21-S-14** To move the Anti-Asian Violence and Xenophobia Associated Students of Western Washington University Statement item from an Information Item to an Action Item. **Passed.**

**ASB-21-S-15** To approve the Anti-Asian Violence and Xenophobia Associated Students of Western Washington University Statement. **Passed.**

**Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.**

### I. Approval of Minutes

A. February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

B. February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1. Ford proposed tabling the meeting minutes until the following week.

### II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

### III. BSO Demands

1. Ballard stated that Western received around one million dollars for the creation of an Ethnic Studies program. This funding would hire five full-time faculty members, currently, faculty would like to create a department rather than an institute. She stated that she is working on ways for the African American Studies Major to be one of the first to be implemented in the department.
2. Molina stated that the BSO working group had conversation about the future of the hired positions of the BSO, the budget and how to access BSO funds,

allocating space, and making sure student representatives are a part of the process.

3. Ford stated that the space allocation process is currently in the stage of waiting on communication between committee members and the hired architects. The working group discussed the complications of moving the coalition forward, externally from the AS without using AS funding. He stated that he talked with Randhawa earlier in the week concerning the one million dollars Western received for student services and how this can help fund the BSO. Ford stated that he will be speaking with Huskey on creating a town hall meeting with the Black community and administrators surrounding the African American Counselor position. Ford stated that there was no new information about Aramark, but the legacy review process will have a more solidified timeline by the end of Spring Quarter or the beginning of Fall Quarter
4. Handa stated that the Ramadan Accommodations Resolution was sent out to the student body, faculty, and staff.
5. Brock stated that there will be a meeting concerning the Black Affinity housing in the following week.
6. Ford and Molina added that there was frustration concerning lack of input from Black students in the process.

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

None

#### **V. Action Items - Guests**

A. None

#### **VI. Information Items - Guests**

A. AS Elections Code- Ballard

1. Alem stated that candidate filing has been open and has been extended for a week due to lack of applications. Alem stated that the Elections Advisory Committee finished with the recommended changes to the AS Elections Code. Alem then presented the code, which can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents. Changes include: removing the petition requirement, changing requirements for candidate filing to include students who have not yet confirmed their enrollment but will do so before the deadline, standardizing the candidate requirements of maintaining a GPA of 2.0, if a candidate is running for an At-Large position they must be undeclared at the deadline for candidate filing, if a candidate is running for a college-specific position they must be enrolled at said college at the deadline for candidate filing.
2. Ford asked whether this change meant that students who have not yet attended Western are able to run, and Alem confirmed this edit.
3. Handa stated that it is easier for senators to start in their position in their first quarter as it is ten hours per week, but the Executive Board position is

more intensive, and she therefore believes that the quarter requirement should be maintained. Ford agreed with Handa's statement.

4. Alem stated that this change could be reinstated.
5. Byers asked about the verification process for newly admitted students, as new students may not have their information in the Western system.
6. Alem responded that to file for candidacy, a student must create a WIN account, and to have a Western email, which should indicate that they are committed and a part of the Western system.
7. Handa asked if a candidate is a double-major, would they be able to switch the position that they were running for before the end of candidate filing.
8. Alem stated that this should be an option.

**MOTION ASB-21-S-13 by Ballard**

To add fifteen more minutes to the AS Elections Code item discussion.

**Second: Ford**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

**Action: Passed**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Abstaining:**

9. Alexander stated that the nature of the Student Senate and Executive Board means that there should likely be separate sections in the AS Election Code for each body. Alexander stated that because these positions are leadership and representative positions, and is an elected position, the 2.0 GPA requirement should be really thought about.
10. Alem stated that another change would be the additional allowance of verbal student government endorsements, as a reflection of national politics.
11. Handa stated that an endorsement from a current elected official can sway an election, and this could perhaps be considered nepotism, however they should still be able to endorse a candidate in their personal capacity. Ford stated agreement with Handa's statement.
12. Alexander stated that because the positions are individually elected, and not connected to political parties, there are a different set of rules. Alexander stated that consideration should be made of how this would be enforced or mandated. Alexander stated that the Elections Code only applies to running candidates and not sitting board members.
13. The AS Executive Board decided to table the item until the following week.

**B. Local Lobby Day Agenda- Ballard**

1. Szabo, the Local Liaison for the Office of Civic Engagement stated that this agenda was based on a student survey of local issues. Szabo then presented the Local Lobby Day agenda which can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents. Sections in the agenda include housing, safety, diversity, equity, and inclusion, environmental justice, and health.

2. Szabo stated that meetings will be held with all seven City Council members, the Mayor of Bellingham, and the County Executive.
3. Ford stated that the agenda captures the concerns that he has heard on campus, and he is in support of the agenda.
4. Ballard stated that the food section of the agenda was removed as there have been emergency initiatives that have gone through that have addressed this need.

C. Ethics Board Guiding Documents- Ballard

1. Ballard stated that the Ethics Board is moving towards being able to edit and approve its own documents, but everything in the document has been presented before.

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

- A. None

**VIII. Action Items - Board**

- A. Anti-Asian Violence and Xenophobia Associated Students of Western Washington University Statement

**MOTION ASB-21-S-15 by Ford**

To approve the Anti-Asian Violence and Xenophobia Associated Students of Western Washington University Statement.

**Second: Ballard**

**Vote: 6-0-0**

**Action: Passed**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Abstaining:**

**IX. Information Items - Board**

- A. Anti-Asian Violence and Xenophobia Associated Students of Western Washington University Statement- Molina

1. Molina stated that this statement has been created in light of the Anti-Asian violence and xenophobia that has been seen across the nation and condemns racism and xenophobia on campus. Molina stated that changes include: grammatical edits, addition of the Asian Student Community Care space, removal of the BIPOC Breathing Space as it ended March 8<sup>th</sup>, and removal of the Ethnic Student Center Community Check-In as it is no longer available. The document can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents. Molina stated that he is asking for support and approval from the Executive Board in order to be released as an ASWWU official statement.
2. The Executive Board voiced support and appreciation for the document.

**MOTION ASB-21-S-14 by Ballard**

To move the Anti-Asian Violence and Xenophobia Associated Students of Western Washington University Statement item from an Information Item to an Action Item.

**Second: Brock**

**Vote: 6-0-0**

**Action: Passed**

**Yes:**

**No:**

**Abstaining:**

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

A. None

**XI. Discussion Items**

A. None

**XII. Board Reports**

**Abdul Malik Ford, AS President** stated that there are two finalist candidate presentations for the Governance Advisor in the following weeks.

**Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities** stated that there is a AS staff check-in on the following day which will go over the legacy document process.

**Zarea Lavalais, VP for Sustainability** had nothing to report.

**Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity** had nothing to report.

**Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that the Washington State budget was released and looks positive for Western's funding. Ballard stated that the WWU Police Department was awarded additional funding from the state budget.

**Carson Brock, VP for Student Services** stated that he is working on proposals for the late-night shuttle, is on the hiring committee for a dining consultant, and working on preparing resources for students for the following year.

**Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore** was not present to report.

**XIII. Senate Reports**

None

**XIV. Other Business**

A. None

**Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 5:18 p.m.**