



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Executive Board

May 6th, 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), Eric Alexander (Director of the Viking Union)

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

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

Motions:

ASB-21-S-16 To add five more minutes to the AS Elections Code Action Item. **Passed.**

ASB-21-S-17 To approve the elections code with the agreed upon amendment. **Passed.**

ASB-21-S-18 To approve the Local Lobby Day Agenda with the agreed upon edits. **Passed.**

ASB-21-S-19 To move the Senate Pro-Tempore Name Change item to an Action item. **Passed.**

ASB-21-S-20 To approve the following language as an amendment to the AS Constitution to be on the ballot for the AS 2021 election; "Do you approve the position title name change of AS Senate Pro-Tempore to AS Senate President." **Passed.**

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

I. Approval of Minutes

A. February 12th, 2021

B. February 19th, 2021

1. Ford tabled the meeting minutes until the following week.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

III. BSO Demands

1. Ford stated that he met with the Black Student Organizations (BSO) Coalition Development Specialist, Pro-Staff, and the Executive Board concerning the progress of the Black Student Coalition (BSC) space.
2. Alexander added that during the meeting they developed a timeline, discussed how the BSC would fit with the rest of the AS, and building upon

the operating hours of the BSO Coalition Specialist hours. Alexander stated that there are three different options as to where the space could go, but that this would need to be discussed with the AS.

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

None

V. Action Items - Guests

A. AS Elections Code- Ballard

1. Alem stated that he met with Ballard and Handa on the recommended changes the committee decided upon, however it is up to the Executive Board as to what to implement.
2. Ballard and Handa stated that they did not have any edits to the document.
3. Alem stated that his plan for the timeline would be a vote soon, and then he could update the board on the upcoming election.
4. Ford asked how Section III Election Policies, I Candidate Eligibility A., (3), stating that candidates must be enrolled in said college, and must run for the position that they chose by the candidate filing date, could be implemented. Ford stated that he didn't think this would be in line with the bylaws.
5. Ford asked to pass the item with the stipulation that if Student Senate candidates drop or switch their major, they are dropped from eligibility to run. Alem responded that this would be possible.
6. Handa changed the language to state "If running for a college-specific senate position, be enrolled in said college by the end of the filing period. If a candidate drops or switches their major before the end of the filing period, the candidate must run for the new college-specific senate position that they are enrolled in. If a candidate drops or switches their major (to a different college) after the end of the filing period, the candidate is no longer eligible for the election."
7. Hayden stated that Alem was trying to clarify the issue of candidates with double majors switching the college-specific senate position they were running for.
8. Ford asked if there was a specific reason as to why there is a time limit to when grievances can be reported.
9. Ballard stated that the deadline is in order to get through the process before the end of the year, and as soon as a grievance is filed the process can be underway. In the case that a candidate collected signatures incorrectly, the grievance process would allow the candidate to recollect the signatures before the end of the filing period. Ballard stated that the deadline for this could be pushed back, but because the filing deadline has been expanded, it may make scheduling difficult for this year.
10. Ford stated for concern about the word "may" on the code, as the Elections Coordinator arguably "must" file the grievance.
11. Ballard stated that in the Ethics Board process contains a section of the Elections Coordinators interpretation of the code. Ballard stated that if the

Elections Coordinator were to file a grievance and they are also the sole interpreter of the code, this may be a conflict of interest.

MOTION ASB-21-S-16 by Ford

To add five more minutes to the AS Elections Code Action Item.

Second: Handa

Vote: 6-0-1

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

12. Alexander stated that he did not think it would be a conflict of interest as they would be acting in their role. Alexander stated that if the Elections Coordinator becomes the sole policer of the process, this power could be misused. Hayden agreed with Alexander.

MOTION ASB-21-S-17 by Ballard

To approve the elections code with the agreed upon amendment.

Second: Lavalais

Vote: 6-0-1

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

B. Local Lobby Day Agenda- Ballard

1. Szabo presented the Local Lobby Day Agenda that can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents.
2. Szabo stated that under the housing section, the asks concerning sweeps were combined. Szabo stated that the phrasing "24-hour" and "caseworkers" were added to the ask concerning emergency shelters, and wording giving background to the family definition ask was added as well.
3. Szabo stated that under the safety ask, wording concerning ongoing after-crisis care and civilian stakeholder insight were added.
4. Szabo stated that under the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) section, wording concerning review of employment for those who do not meet standards of Anti-Racism and Anti-Bias understanding was added. Szabo stated that the ask to produce guidance to healthcare providers regarding proper gender-affirming care was added. Szabo stated that links to support for immigrant communities was added.
5. Szabo stated that under the environmental justice section, the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe water rights ask was revised, reworded, and strengthened. Szabo stated that the ask to protect the Lake Whatcom Watershed was condensed and strengthened as well.
6. Szabo stated that under the health section, wording concerning prioritizing expanding trauma and culturally informed gender-affirming care was added.

MOTION ASB-21-S-18 by Ballard

To approve the Local Lobby Day Agenda with the agreed upon edits.

Second: Handa

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

C. AS Senate Pro-Tempore Name Change- Handa

MOTION ASB-21-S-20 by Handa

To approve the following language as an amendment to the AS Constitution to be on the ballot for the AS 2021 election; "Do you approve the position title name change of AS Senate Pro-Tempore to AS Senate President."

Second: Ballard

Vote: 4-2-1

Action: Passed

**Yes: Molina,
Kaemingk, Ballard,
Handa**

No: Brock, Ford

Abstaining: Lavalais

VI. Information Items - Guests

A. AS Senate Pro-Tempore Name Change- Handa

1. Handa stated that the AS Student Senate's most popular options for the Senate Pro-Tempore name change were the Senate President, and Senate Speaker. Handa stated that herself and Barenberg agreed upon Senate President as the best option. Handa stated that the name Senate Pro-Tempore adds to the confusion and diminished the role that should be equal to the AS President. Handa stated that in this decision, accessibility, transparency, are most important.
2. Ballard asked if the name AS President would then need to be changed to AS Executive Board President.
3. Ford stated interest in moving away from the title of president, as it has the connotation of most important or most powerful and there may be VPs who do just as much work. Ballard stated agreement and suggested the wording of chairs.
4. Lavalais stated concern for how to connect to other colleges if the name was changed as it would differ from other colleges.
5. Alexander stated that Pro-Tempore name does not mean temporary and suggested reconsidering the name of all other VPs if this name change would occur. He stated that this year, as it has caused lower election turnout for many Washington colleges, may not be the best year to make all these big decisions.
6. Handa stated that this would be a temporary change that can be edited in the future in order for accessibility and clarification.
7. Ford stated that as looking at this name change, the Executive Board needs to consider what it means for the Senate Pro-Tempore to sit on the Executive Board.

8. Ballard stated support for changing the Senate Pro-Tempore name and looking at other VP names in the future.
9. Ford asked if this is a decision the current board should be making if the conversation is not fully considered, and the year will be coming to a close soon.
10. Handa stated that research has been done in the senate and they have been talking about the ramifications.
11. Alexander stated that the board can make the best decision for now and the future board can continue with their work.
12. Ford proposed "Student Senate Chair" as the name change rather than "Senate President". Handa countered the argument saying that it conveys a different meaning and conveys less power.

MOTION ASB-21-S-19 by Ballard

To move the Senate Pro-Tempore Name Change item to an Action item.

Second: Ford

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VII. Personnel Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

A. None

IX. Information Items - Board

A. Ethics Board Guiding Documents- Ballard

1. Ballard presented the Ethics Board Guiding Documents which can be viewed in full on the AS Executive Board website under meeting minute documents. Ballard stated that edits were minor clarifications, grammar, and wording changes. Ballard stated that the Ethics Board with this approved, would be able to self-govern.
2. Lavalais stated support for the document.
3. Ballard stated that currently there is difficulty recruiting students from the general student body.
4. Brock stated support for moving to the application lottery if these positions are not able to be filled from the student body. Lavalais stated agreement.
5. Kaemingk asked if the Ethics Board in the future would be able to deal with other issues in the AS. Ballard stated that this may be possible.

X. Consent Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

XI. Discussion Items

A. Housing and Dining- Molina

1. The item was tabled until the following week.

B. Washington Legislative Session Wrap Up

1. Ballard presented the Washington Legislative Session Wrap Up presentation which can be viewed in full on the AS Committee Council website under Legislative Affairs Council meeting minute documents.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President had no report.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities had no report.

Zarea Lavalais, VP for Sustainability stated that she has been working on revising the 2017 Sustainability Action plan with two senators which will be brought to the following meeting.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity had no report.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she has been working on the Administrative Lobby Day proposal to present to Melynda Huskey to take to administration with the possibility of implementing it in the following year. Ballard stated the the Washington State Assembly General Assembly will be happening in the following week.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services had no report.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore had no report.

XIII. Senate Reports

None

XIV. Other Business

A. None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 5:06 p.m.