



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Board of Directors

September 25th, 2020
MS Teams

Board Members: *Present:* Abdul Malik Ford (President), Keenan Kaemingk (VP for Activities), Ranulfo Molina (VP for Diversity), Nicole Ballard (VP for Governmental Affairs), Carson Brock (VP for Student Services), Nora Harren (VP for Sustainability), and Sargun Handa (Senate Pro-Tempore)

Absent: None

Advisor: Leti Romo (Assistant Director for Student Representation & Governance)
Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator)

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Mario Alem,

Motions:

ASB-20-F-1 To approve the AS Board meeting minutes from the date of June 3rd, 2020.
Passed.

ASB-20-F-2 To close public forum. *Passed.*

ASB-20-F-3 To table the AS Elections Code Edits until an e-vote on Tuesday, September 29th, 2020. *Passed.*

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

I. Approval of Minutes

June 3rd, 2020

MOTION ASB-20-F-1 by Ballard

To approve the AS Board meeting minutes from the date of June 3rd, 2020.

Second: Brock

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

1. Handa asked whether there is a way for the chat to become available after the live recording finishes. Byers responded that there is a way to do that but for transparency's sake, it would be best to speak comments aloud as they happen.

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

MOTION ASB-20-F-2 by Brock

To close public forum

Second: Ballard

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

IV. Information Items - Guests

- A. AS Elections Code Edits- Doc 1 (20 Minutes) Handa
1. Handa stated that the edit would reduce the petition requirement for senate applicants from fifty to zero. It's more difficult to find signatures online during the pandemic, which could discourage candidates from running if they don't have reliable Wi-Fi or a big enough social media following. This change is only for the Senate during the 2020-21 school year.
 2. Alem, AS Elections Coordinator, added that this would be helpful in getting as many students running as possible, making the election more fair and equitable. The AS elections committee is hoping to appoint a Student At-Large in order to discuss election plans going forward.
 3. Ballard added that other schools are moving away from petition requirements, and Brock commented that this is especially a barrier for first year students.

MOTION ASB-20-F-3 by Ballard

To table the AS Elections Code Edits until an e-vote on Tuesday, September 29th.

Second: Brock

Vote: 7-0-0

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

V. Action Items - Guests

- A. None

VI. Personnel Items (subject to immediate action)

- A. None

VII. Action Items – Board

- A. None

VIII. Information Items - Board

- A. None

IX. Consent Items (subject to immediate action)

- A. AS Elections Advisory Committee
- a. Courtney Yoshiyama
 1. Ballard stated that Yoshiyama had previously created subcommittees to support disabled students and was involved both on campus and in dorm life.
 - b. Morgan Koch
 1. Ballard stated that Koch is passionate about keeping transparency and bringing in other students to be involved in student government.
 - c. Travis Felver

1. Ballard stated that Felver showed to be knowledgeable about previous AS elections, but sees the room to grow that the institution has.
- B. Counseling, Health and Wellness Committee
- d. Jade Hedeem
 1. Brock stated that Hedeem is a peer health educator and has been involved with other committees in the past. Handa added that Hedeem had reached out to her about Western counseling and Hedeem's intentions of creating better resources for WWU students.

The board acknowledged the consent items.

X. Discussion Items

- A.
 1. Brock stated that he met with Kaemingk and Molina to discuss the options for group office hours where students could come talk to multiple board members at a time, and if no students came, then the board could have time to talk and collaborate. This may be three board members meeting at a time, with three meeting times a week.
 2. Byers stated her encouragement of this idea and added that since she has the board members schedules, she can see what options are available for meeting times.

XI. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President stated that he met with Sabah Randhawa, Melynda Huskey, and Jeff Young to talk about BSO demands, and he's also trying to set up a similar meeting between the board and Randhawa to follow up on this. There is a work group to study and build a report upon the names of buildings on campus, which was said to be done by the end of summer so should be out any minute. He talked to Huskey about the option of transferring to a self-operating dining system from the current Aramark system. He stated that 1.7 million of funding is required to be spent to maintain student support services for students of color.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities stated that he has been getting reading for the Fall Info Fair, and talking to clubs about how best to support them. He and Brock have been working on creating a first-year student committee. He's been working on the AS Restructure Committee with Eric Alexander on how to best separate duties between the AS and the VU. He welcomes the other board members to reach out if they need help on anything.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that since students aren't on campus, BIPOC students aren't taking up physical space, and asked how the university honor can them still. He sent an email to folks in the AS and ESC on highlighting heritage through the year. He is also planning to meet up with Chris Edwards from the counseling center on how to especially support BIPOC students through the rough time that has been the past Spring and Summer. He has been working with L.K. Langly on Queer Orientation, working on BSO demands, and figuring out how to form a black students coalition in a virtual space.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that because of COVID-19, the edTPA exam for teachers has been cancelled and kept teaching students from graduating. She's working with Jude on how better to support these students, perhaps bringing a demand to the Washington Students Association meeting and continuing lobbying efforts to remove the requirement or substitute the test with a multivariable approach. She's trying to fill the Legislative Action Committee with students and looking at potential items to lobby for such as; mandatory DEI training for all Washington campuses, and a funding request for an ethnic studies institution. She's working on a Charge and Charter with specific BSO demands for a coalition and space on campus and would love feedback.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services stated that he had a meeting to work on the COVID-19 training video on how to stay safe, and also focus on mental health. He's working on a committee with Kaemingk and a couple others to work on BSO demands. He met with Sislina Ledbetter, the Counseling, Health and Wellness supervisor, who stated that they are about to hire a few black counselors through Seattle who would be contracted through the end of the year, and are about to hire a full time black counselor for the next year. There should be a meet and greet for the contracted counselors in upcoming weeks.

Nora Harren, VP for Sustainability stated that she has been working on getting students to apply for committees, speaking to stakeholders in the sustainability realm about transportation as Westerns, and introducing herself to people she may work with in the upcoming year.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she has been working on the senate elections, taking over various Western Instagram accounts in order to spread the word, as well as writing a press release for campus and local newspapers for advertising. She has been working on BSO demands as well.

XII. Senate Reports

A. None

XIII. Other Business

- A.
1. Romo stated that committee applications are open on WIN (the Western Involvement Network), and to tell other students about it. The AS OCE was able to get a new ballot box in red square, and the unveiling should be on October 16th.
 2. Ballard stated that the Multipurpose Room in the Viking Union will be open as a space to print ballots and register to vote on the day of the election.

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 3:38 p.m.