

Western Washington University Associated Students Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 14, 2013

5:00 p.m.

VU567

AS Board Officers: *Present:* Carly Roberts (President), Josie Ellison (VP Academics), Jarred Tyson (VP Activities), Hung Le (VP Bus Ops), Mayra Guizar (VP Diversity), Kaylee Galloway (VP Governmental Affairs) and Robby Eckroth (VP Student Life)

Advisor(s): Kevin Majkut, Director of Student Activities

Guest(s): Students: Ian Vincent, Joseph Levy, Danny Edgel, Matthew Bobbink,; AS Representation & Engagement Programs: Sarah Kohout, Graham Marmion, Nie Doherty; Western Front: John Boone; Faculty Jour/Comm: Jennifer Karchmer; Western Votes: Heather Heffelmores; Lily Jaqueith, Courtney Shilling, Michael Manley, Eileen Pollet; KING TV: Elisa Hahn, Ryan Cor

MOTIONS

ASB-13-F-13 Move the Resolution Regarding the “Riot” of October 12th, 2013 to an Action Item.

Passed

ASB-13-F-14 Approve the Resolution Regarding the Riot of October 12th, 2013. *Passed*

Carly Roberts, AS President, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT (*comments from students and the community*)

The President welcomed all who were in attendance at the meeting and offered the public to speak.

Ian Vincent lives on Indian Street right across from Laurel Park. He, personally, was appalled at what happened on Saturday. As he was cleaning up, along with some of his neighbors, he had thought this is the last place that he would expect something like this to happen; yet, Western students would be the first to leave their homes and start cleaning up after a riot. After they all started cleaning up, he realized that they need to do something back to the community. After reading all of the reports online and seeing coverage in Europe and Iran, he was outraged that they have the reputation of a riot school. He thinks that it is really important to do something to give back to the community. He had the idea of writing letters to the Bellingham Police Department. He wanted to try to organize a student clean up where they go clean up a park or do something just to show that Western students do care about this city a lot.

Joseph Levy said he went to Canada over the weekend and Sunday morning woke up to his Facebook page, in Canada, to see that this had happened. He was upset originally. He just wanted to talk about his feelings. When he got back on Sunday, he walked up to school and just walked down the street to see what had happened. He saw a broken window in one of the houses. He doesn't know if that was correlated but it seemed like with all of the throwing of bottles and cinderblocks that probably had something to do with it. It was upsetting to see that a school that he thought was so peaceful, had resorted to destruction, just for the sake of destruction. He has seen protests over something that means something before like tuition or equal rights. This was just a bunch of kids that got together to destroy things. That was upsetting to him. He thinks that it reflects on the whole body of the school. He has seen so much better from Western, which is why he was so surprised. He actually really likes the idea of doing something to make up for it because this school is not like that. It was a freak incident, he thinks.

Danny Edgel wanted to mostly thank the Board of Directors for coming forward and actually addressing this issue. He was also really upset when he first woke up and actually saw that there was a riot. He had some friends that had seen from afar, so he knew that there was something happening. But he had no idea until he watched a video of what actually happened. Edgel expressed how contemptible it was and how aggressive some students, and many of them weren't students, were that night in the riots. They just immediately started attacking the officers there. His first thought was that the people that want to cut students budgets and higher education funding

and that call this generation apathetic and uncaring.. they don't need any assistance from students in order to do that. He thinks that this is really important to show the community that the vast majority of the student body does not condone this type of behavior. He thinks that this is the best way to do it, especially with the haste component. Thank you.

VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board*

A. Resolution Regarding the "Riot" of October 12th, 2013 (30 minutes) Roberts Doc. 1

Roberts read the resolution as it was submitted to the Board for review. Roberts then remarked that the purpose of this statement is to show that students do not agree with what happened on Saturday. It is also to show that the voice of the students is one of support for the Bellingham community and a desire to be engaged citizens. She read some additional information that didn't make it into the resolution but that she thinks deserves recognition in light of recent events. Nearly 4,000 Western students were in courses that included a service-learning component in the community in 2012-13. Over the past three years, Western Washington University students have volunteered nearly 85,000 hours mentoring fifth- through eighth-graders in Western's Compass 2 Campus program. Western students contributed more than 71,000 hours to service-learning projects. Just a few examples of students serving the community include: reading stories about equality to children on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, hosting a Halloween party for youngsters at the Ridgeway University Residences, collaborating with eighth-graders in Mayor's Arts Award-winning "Monologue Project," helping produce the annual Migrant Youth Readership Conference, volunteering to help people with their tax returns, demonstrating the possibilities of inclusivity in recreation at Adaptive Sports Day, and many, many more. Academics and scholarship related to service: nine Western students and alumni won prestigious Fulbright Scholarships in 2013 to study, teach or conduct research overseas. Western ranks 13th in the nation among master's granting institutions for alumni who earn doctorate degrees. Roberts said these are just a few good things about this community. Roberts wanted to make sure that while they have the opportunity to have this attention turned to Western's campus, that they are also putting those out into the media. She knows that it may not be the loudest voice right now, but it is important that Western Students come together as a community and express what is important and why students are here and what they truly believe. These are just a few things, they could probably sit here for an hour talking about how much they love Western and why it is a great place. But now it is time to take action on this resolution.

Te said that this came as an Information Item and he believes that it will come to the next Board meeting as an Action Item. Roberts expressed that she hoped that, because this is a timely matter, her hope is that someone can make a motion to turn this into an immediate Action Item, so they can then vote on it this evening. Typically they most of their documents go through a two week process of Information and then Action, but because of the timeliness of this events she feels it would be appropriate to for someone to propose a motion to turn it into an immediate Action Item. Te would recommend hearing it again as an Action Item at a separate meeting to give time between this meeting and the next meeting to think about the resolution and to elicit feedback form students and the Western Community. This is the first school day back and he doesn't feel that they have had an opportunity to communicate with students at Western and the Board hasn't had an opportunity to communicate internally. Galloway respectfully disagrees. She feels this is a timely manner and it is important to show support for everyone who did good in this and she thinks it is important to make these contributions as soon as possible. Ellison agrees that usually the two week process is there for a reason, but this is timely. Eckroth said that yesterday he and Roberts attended a Residence Hall Association meeting. They got the opportunity to hear student concerns and for the most part their concerns are aligned with this document. Also they got the opportunity to see student feedback because over 1,000 students commented on the petition. Once again their thoughts were almost parallel with this resolution. Roberts encouraged people to sign the petition which

is on change.org. 4 dittoed. There were over 1,600 signatures right before she came to this meeting, which is 4 times as many people expressing their support and appreciation for the Western community as were out there on the streets last night. Their community's true colors are showing through in the way that they respond to what happened. She believes they will be able to reclaim the image that was stolen by the people who had those actions on Saturday night.

MOTION ASB-13-F-13 by Ellison

Move the Resolution Regarding the "Riot" of October 12th, 2013 to an Action Item.

Second: Galloway Vote: 6 - 0 - 1 Action: Passed

Eckroth feels that Roberts did a great job with this and it expresses the Western communities' thoughts on the situation on Saturday night. 3 dittoes. Te asked if Roberts could talk a bit about the release statement she made with Bruce Shepard, comparing that statement with this resolution and talking about the differences between the two. Roberts said that the statement that she released in cooperation with President Shepard on Sunday was something that they got to communicate on early in the morning. There was a meeting called with first responders from the campus to make sure there was clear communication between students, administration and the police department. They wanted to make sure that everyone was coming together to share information. The first message is the students and the administration standing together. This resolution is a statement of the student voice. It is a reflection of what she has heard from student, student leaders from Residence Halls, students who came to her office, what she has read in the petition, and in the emails which have flooded her inbox. This is document embodies that input and feedback.

Matthew Bobbink, is a student at Western is in his fifth year and also a member of the AS. He thinks that the resolution is strong language and he really appreciates the way it was written out. He completely agrees with it and he completely agrees with the statement she released with President Shepard. 4 dittoes. He could not have wanted a firmer stance on this. He is a member of Bellingham, born and raised, this is his home. Western is also his home and he could not have been more disgusted with the actions that occurred. He thanked them for the strong response to this and feels they are representing the students very well in this. He just wanted to thank them for that.

Jennifer Karchmer, is a faculty member at Western, she has been teaching here since 2006 in the communication and journalism departments. She is a proud faculty member and is proud of the student community here. She was happy to see the message that the President Shepard and AS President released on Sunday. She is happy to see this response and has full confidence in the student community. She is proud to be part of the faculty here. Karchmer wanted to make an observation/suggestion about using the word "riot" in quotes as part of the resolution. She feels it is somewhat ambiguous to use the quotes in that it sort of takes away from is it indeed a riot as defined by the Police Department or Washington State Law or if they should just own that it was indeed a riot. She questioned if they should remove the quotations. While she, as member of the community, also found the incident both deplorable and upsetting, she thinks it is important to mention that those who were arrested are innocent until proven guilty. It is important to hear what their motivations were and allow them to be prosecuted in the court of law; to hear their side of the story. Also to hear further the facts related to the events and not just rely on what they saw on video or what they hear from a third party. She thinks they can have those discussions in classrooms and in other forum, she would be happy to facilitate that. She feels it is important to hear from the 15,000 students at Western.

Galloway said that although she is hesitant about the language because there are historical implications about using that word, she does think that should use riot without the quotes because unfortunately that is how it has been referred to in the media. Really with regards to addressing it as it has been perceived this is important. Galloway moved to remove the

quotation marks and Ellison seconded. The chair let this stand. Le stated he will abstain from this vote not because he disagrees with the contents of the resolution, he agrees with them strongly. But fundamentally and procedurally he has to respect the process the Associated Students takes when they bring something to the table, in good conscious he can't vote for this even though he agrees with the content. Roberts said that the process has been following Roberts Rules. Moving the document to an immediate Action Item through a vote of the Board of Directors is in line with procedures and precedence for urgent documents being moved to immediate Action in a single meeting. She just wanted to reiterate that for anyone who isn't familiar with meetings like this or with Roberts Rules.

MOTION ASB-13-F-14 by Galloway

Approve the Resolution Regarding the Riot of October 12th, 2013.

Second: Ellison

Vote: 6 - 0 - 1 Action: Passed

Roberts thanked all in attendance and said that the resolution has been officially passed. The office will get this sent out to media outlets and make sure that word gets out that Western Students have taken a stance on what happened on Saturday. Roberts emphasized that this doesn't stop here. This is not the last action that students will take. They are going to come together as a community and rise above what happened. They are going to show the Community, state and hopefully everyone who heard about what happened on Saturday night that is not what Western is about. Western is about community service, serving the people around the university, and they're about making a positive difference and changing lives. She appreciated everyone in attendance and all the support. She is excited to see what they will do in the future, as a community. Roberts also wanted to address a concern brought up earlier. She feels it is really important to ensure that there are no witch hunts. It is not their responsibility to go out and take justice into their own hands. It is their responsibility to exert positive peer pressure and do what they need to do to create a positive culture of caring and to support positive behaviors and positivity in their community. That is their responsibility, not to condemn people on half facts or assumptions. Roberts's closing comment was to commend Ian Vincent and the other students who went out to clean up the street. That is absolutely commendable, she really appreciates what they did, that is a perfect example of exactly what Western is about. Many dittoed.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION AT 5:39 P.M.