

# Western Washington University Associated Students Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, January 24, 2014

VU 567

**AS Board Officers:** *Present:* Carly Roberts (President), Josie Ellison (VP Academics), Jarred Tyson (VP Activities), 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):** Nie Doherty, AS Elections Coordinator, Katrina Haffner

## MOTIONS

**ASB-14-W-8** Approve the minutes of January 10, 2014. ***Passed***

**ASB-14-W-9** Approve the 2014 AS Election Code to be implemented starting February 1, 2014, limiting the spending to \$150 for campaign expenses for candidates, with a limit of \$150 in public financing for candidates, and increasing the cap for public financing to \$3,000 with the addition of “relevant AS policies” to the legality section, and “legality and feasibility” to the Board sponsor section. ***Passed***

**ASB-14-W-10** Approve Consent Item A. Committee Appointments. ***Passed***

***Carly Roberts, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:12p.m.***

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*MOTION ASB-14- W-8 by Eckroth*

Approve the minutes of January 10, 2014.

Second: Guizar

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

## II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

## III. PUBLIC FORUM (*comments from students and the community*)

## V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests\*

### A. AS Election Code

(20minutes)

Doc. 1 Galloway

Nie Doherty, AS Elections Coordinator said there were just a few final changes made.

On page 4 “regularly scheduled” was added to this section because occasionally special meetings may be called to address specific situations and it should not count towards the three meetings for review.

The value of donated items will now be determined by the AS Elections Coordinator.

“Legality and feasibility” replaced of “legality and desirability” to help make the purpose of having a Board sponsor clearer. Doherty said that they expanded upon legality to help provide clarity about what this means. Carly Roberts, AS President wondered if they should add AS Policies to legality, but she is unsure. Doherty said that he will add AS Bylaws because those cannot be changed except by a referenda (which can be suggested by students). Doherty said that initiatives can suggest changes to the AS Policies, but they cannot directly change them. Roberts suggested adding “or relevant AS Policies” to section 5 after “WWU policies”. Kevin Majkut, Director of Student Activities said that occasionally the policies come into play at times, but the electorate could suggest changes to policies as well. The Board retains the authority to make the decision as they see fit, there can be a political cost for not doing what the electorate said in a vote. But if the Board feels it is not a good idea then the Board can make the decision to go against the vote. Doherty said if a state initiative passed then it becomes law, but this is more advisory based. Majkut said the new language “instruct” is more than advisory, more than recommend, but less than actually making the change.

Josie Ellison, AS VP for Academic Affairs suggested leaving the limit at \$150 for campaign spending and increasing public financing to \$150. This would offer as much public financing as

they can offer to create a truly level playing field. Eckroth wanted to have a level playing field, but also not have excessive advertising. He thinks this is a great compromise. 3 dittoes. He said that people who have more money wouldn't be getting an advantage over students who don't have extra money to dedicate to the election. Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs said that she still likes the \$200, but feels that this is a good compromise. Roberts said that if they have 20 students running, then they could make the cap \$3,000 for the new budget. Roberts doesn't feel that they can dictate actions of future Board's but they could give a note to the Budget Committee to increase the amount for Public Financing to a more appropriate level. Robby Eckroth, AS VP for Student Life said that if increasing the limit would only cost \$3,000 total, then he is comfortable increasing the budget in the code. 4 dittoes.

Galloway said that campaign spending a. #3 she would like to have "at the discretion of the AS Elections Coordinator" to insure that people report the printing of posters. Doherty said that it does need to be included in the financial disclosure, but this could be added.

Doherty said that "tools" are things that do not end up being used in the campaign, (e.g. a ladder used to hang posters.) All printing is expended at the standard amount for campus printing services. Doherty said if candidates print it at home they would still be charged at the cost for printing services. Eckroth asked if they could just require people to use on campus resources. Guizar said that she waited in long lines at campaigning time on campus, and she is worried about the time that this could take. Doherty said that the committee talked about requiring on campus purchases, even for things like duct tape, but they decided against including it. Majkut said that he spoke last time about having a compelling governmental interest and narrowly tailoring. This is important as far as campaign expenses and how much is printed and displayed on campus. There is an interest in keeping a balance for people who don't have resources and those who do. He feels that is important. He doesn't feel that using on campus printers or at home printers this fits in this category as long as they are both included in expenditures. Eckroth would like to reference the minutes and motion and the date within the code to help future Boards understand why decisions were made. Galloway wondered if they should have a definition for "tool". Doherty said that the interpretation is in the hands of the AS Elections Coordinator. In general, everything in the code can be interpreted by the coordinator. Eckroth suggested adding another few examples. Roberts thinks that with policy, less is more. She thinks that there are lots of areas they could add more detail, but then it would be more confusing. Eckroth dittoed.

*MOTION ASB-14-W-9 by Galloway*

Approve the 2014 AS Election Code to be implemented starting February 1, 2014, limiting the spending to \$150 for campaign expenses for candidates, with a limit of \$150 in public financing for candidates, and increasing the cap for public financing to \$3,000 with the addition of "relevant AS policies" to the legality section, and "legality and feasibility" to the Board sponsor section.

Second: Ellison                      Vote: 6 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests\***

A. Washington Student Association Lobby Day Funding Request (15 minutes) Doc. 2 Galloway  
Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs said this is part two of the budget readjustment. Due to increased costs and other factors she was not allocated enough funding to cover travel to this event. Ellison said that Viking Lobby Day was successful and she thinks that it would be good to have another opportunity for students to talk to Legislators. Cindy Monger, AS Board Program Assistant will provide the information on Operating Enhancement expenses and remaining balance for the next meeting. Roberts thinks this document looks great.

B. Legislative Action Fund Fee Restructure (15 minutes) Doc. 3 Galloway  
Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs said that this is the return of the Legislative Action Fund (LAF). It is currently an Opt-in fund that is allocated by the Legislative Affairs

Council. Galloway is hoping this proposal will lead to a referendum that would change the structure of the fee to an opt-out fee. With an opt-out fee every student would pay two dollars per quarter with the option to be refunded if they choose. The benefit of this change would be increasing the revenue and providing more stability for this fund. With the current structure it is hard to track and budget for what students will donate. The objective of this fee is to increase student representation and the account has been fulfilling its duties with additional opportunities. Carly Roberts, AS President said that the reason this is coming to the Board is that all fees must go before the Board of Trustees (BOT). She must turn in her report following this meeting and she would like to get some input from the Board before mentioning it to the trustees. They can take this as a discussion item at the April meeting and the BOT would vote on it in June if the referenda passes. Robby Eckroth, AS VP for Student Life thinks this is a great idea. Ellison dittoed. During Summerstart Eckroth heard an Econ professor suggest that students not donate to this fund. None of the students knew what it was so they didn't donate. He thinks that there has been an increase in representation and involvement and this is a good time for it to become an opt-out fee. Roberts said that students would have to go to the Student Business Office to request a refund. Josie Ellison, AS VP for Academic Affairs believes it can be reimbursed through Higher One with the new system. Eckroth said that it is not hard to get the Alternative Transportation Fee refunded. Roberts raised another perspective. She feels that making it an opt-out fee is close to mandating the fee. She has a concern with the education that has happened around this fee in letting the students know what it is used for. She thinks that there is an inherent value in having students opt-in to this fee, if they automatically pay it, they will not know where it goes. If the reasoning is to provide a more steady income then they should make a bigger request during the AS budget process for more student representation. Galloway dittoed. Roberts said that the difference with the Alternative Transportation Fee is that it is a contracted relationship, but the Washington Student Association (WSA) is not contracted [The WSA is an organization of universities and colleges in Washington State and dues are paid for by the LAF fee], Galloway said that Roberts' concern with education is a good concern. She feels that there has been a lack of education. The referenda would be partially an education campaign and the option would be going to students so that they can express their opinions. Galloway does think they should increase funding to representation within the AS budget as well. She had to come for many funding requests for representation this year, including the one proposed earlier in this meeting, which depletes Operational Enhancement. 3 dittoes. There is precedence for turning this into an opt-out fund at Central, they ran a referenda and found that students supported it. Eckroth thinks that this is an important fee because keeping student interests at the forefront is really important. Unanimous dittoes. Jarred Tyson, AS VP for Activities feels that this is crucial in the efforts and connections provided by the WSA that represent student voices. He thinks that the idea is great, but the process is not strong and education is really necessary. He thinks that they need to think holistically about the other fees that might be increasing, while fighting to keep tuition low. He would like to see a different way of funding this. Roberts thinks that the referendum is a good way to educate, but it is only one generation of Western students that will be educated. She hopes this will be around a long time and thinks there is more buy in if it is opt-in. Majkut said that the training for citizenship is a critical job that the AS does for the students. In the past few years there has been an increase in representation. He has been speaking with Galloway about institutionalizing opportunities for students to learn how to be active in society, at Western, and in their communities in the future. Unanimous dittoes. Majkut said that operationally none of the fees currently are opt out fees. The Alternative Transportation Fee is not opt-out, there is a way to be refunded because the administrators have provided guidelines for circumstances that allow for this. Majkut feels that there is sometimes a negative reaction to opt-out fees. Really there is more money because people don't want to go and get the refund. There are also concerns on campus about the increasing number of fees and how many fees there are. This is an administrative concern. Majkut said that lastly the AS budget could certainly be used for representation. There have been small increases S & A fees, but not enough, as things are really

starting to come together in this area. Mayra Guizar, AS VP for Diversity is strongly in favor of the opt-out fee. 3 dittoes. She feels it will offer more opportunities for lobby days or educational things. The hope is that education will trickle down through the years to other students. But efforts will be needed by the Board to educate. Ellison thinks that this is a low input for a high output. They can't educate about the fee without having the funding to educate about the fee. She doesn't think that it is a very good educational opportunity during class registration because people are focused on registering for classes. Galloway is in favor of a Referendum because it gives students a voice and a vote on matters that affect them. It helps to get people involved, and if it doesn't succeed because people don't want to pay \$6 a year, then they have at least educated students. Galloway feels that in the past few years there has been a strong correlation between increased student lobbying and increased support for higher education from the legislature. For \$6 a year, students could be saving a lot of money in tuition. [There was a freeze on tuition last year.] Galloway said that leaps and bounds have been made this year because she has been very dedicated to improving this. She has put a four page document online with the history of the fee and a budget that has anticipated revenue and a budget for this fund. This is all available to students online. Most of the funding has been used and it is only half way through the year. There is also a funding request form for students to request funding from TAF. There is increased accessibility and education happening already. Eckroth complimented her efforts. Roberts thinks that more money is good, but there are two different ways of accomplishing this: education or opt-out funding. She is trying to raise up issues that students might have. What many students say is that there are too many fees in number and they are too high in amount. This is a low fee, but is one more fee. A way to do increase funding would be to ask for a larger percentage from the Services & Activities (S&A) fee. Even though there is high output from this fund, when a student sees another fee, and they don't know what it is, it might be an irritant to them. Roberts said it is obvious that more funding needs to be allocated to student representation, but she would like the Board to think about whether a referendum to make this an opt-out fee is the best way to get this funding and to serve the average Western student. Eckroth understands that they shouldn't be adding more fees but he would like to see money being delegated for this cause. He asked if people had ideas for a different budget for this cause. Tyson dittoed. Roberts said that there is the AS operational budget, and the Board ultimately approves this budget. They can ask the Budget Committee to consider the interests of the Board at this point. The S & A fee got separated from tuition this year. It is not a new fee, it is now just more noticeable, and there was a thread on the Viking Village forum about students who were upset about the fee. Roberts said that S & A is mandated through state law and all WA State universities charge them. As a part of the tuition freeze the S & A was separated. There is the possibility of increasing funding this way by either requesting a larger chunk of the pot or increasing the fee. Galloway said that from her perspective if they keep it within the operational it is at an opportunity cost for other areas. Keeping it a non-operational budget allows students the opportunity to lobby on issues that are not necessarily on the AS Legislative Agenda. There are things that happen within the LAF budget that aren't all AS sponsored. Galloway doesn't think that it should be up to a group of 6 people to make a decision about this instead of letting the students decide. Roberts thinks that if they can find another way to do this, they owe that discussion to the students. Roberts thinks that referenda can be aggravating. She feels this is why they are a representative government. People voted for them to make decisions on behalf of the students. Roberts thinks that if they are spending funding on sending students down to Olympia they should not be lobbying for positions that have not been approved by the people voted to represent the students. There is a reason that the Board votes on the AS Legislative Agenda. Galloway said that one lobby day is being run through the Environmental Center. Her inspiration for making this funding available to students was AS Activities Council (AC) her understanding is that the funding is open to students and they don't necessarily have to be in compliance with all things AS. Roberts feels that the mission of the Environmental & Sustainability office is not to do policy advocacy. Eckroth dittoed. All AS clubs have approved constitutions. When something is before AC it is funded because it is a

good return for student investment and is in line with the club constitution. Tyson said that it is for students within their interests, but there are a lot of things that the students go through before they get funding. Eckroth said that two dollars adds up to a lot of money. Galloway has a list of things that could add up to \$75,000-80,000 a year. Eckroth understands that Galloway has amazing ideas, but not all AS VPs for Governmental Affairs might spend this money. Galloway said there was conversation about \$1 per quarter which would still bring the LAF to a larger number than what they are getting now. They average between \$6-7,000 a quarter on a normal quarter which puts them at about \$18-20,000 per year. With an opt-out \$1 it would bring them up to about \$45,000 per year. She thinks that it is a good stepping stone to charge one dollar if they don't want to go the whole \$2. She thinks this is an important conversation for creating processes for this. LAF has had very little accountability or structured number tracking. There is a reserve because the funding isn't being spent. Galloway thinks that the processes that students go through in AC might be great and part of her efforts has been to create processes for using funding from the LAF. If they can compromise and increase the S & A Fee \$2 for legislative interests then this would be consolidating a fee into the current structure. Roberts thinks that it is important to keep the opt-in for WSA dues as a voluntary supplying of funds. In a couple different states their student governments have been under attack by their state legislature. Arizona is a good example. S & A use is under scrutiny because they are basically viewed in the same category as tax dollars since they are required by RCWs. The more institutionalized they make at danger more danger they put it for being susceptible to legislative action. She respects the legislature in Washington and they are very student friendly; she doesn't foresee this happening. However, they should have a long-term view on this and protect the funding. She is concerned with the reasoning that they can find things to spend the extra money on. She would like to see a clear plan and feels that they need more than one year of showing all of the funding is being spent to propose an increase to the student body. Roberts think that this is the way this organization works, it grows incrementally as needs are found and met. Ellison said that in the past they may have some extra left in the fee, but not enough funding to complete a project. Majkut said it is not unusual for things to take a little time to gel and figure out where it is going. It is an accurate statement to say that money had been building up in the reserves of LAF. The initial intention was for groups to come and ask for funding to travel to Olympia to lobby about things that matter to them. This didn't really happen and it became mostly a fund that the VP for Governmental Affairs utilized. Now there is a little energy about students requesting funding, but there is still a ways to go. Majkut said that there is a question about what should come out of the S & A fund or LAF. He thinks that Roberts's comments about not knowing which way the political winds will blow about issues of student representation is a perceptive thing. Majkut said that when they are talking about the S & A money it is either increasing the fees or making some tough decisions about at what to fund. Majkut said that the AS is bursting at the seams right now in terms of how much they can manage, how many people are working here and the kinds of things they are doing. There has been efforts to pull things back a little and sometimes they have to prioritize efforts to try to keep costs low for students. He thinks there have been three or four trips like the environmental trip to put students in touch with legislators, but they are not necessarily representing the AS. A club could come to AC to ask for the same thing. There could be overlap depending on what the club's purpose is. Roberts said that she could include in her report to the BOT that the AS Board is looking at changing the way that the LAF is structured pending approval of a referenda that could run in the spring election. Galloway feels that they could have done this much without her spending time compiling these documents and discussing it at the meeting, she would like a stronger statement. Roberts stated that a robust conversation needs to happen before this comes to the BOT. Roberts appreciated everyone's time. Four dittoed. When she speaks at BOT meetings she is speaking on behalf of the students of Western. If the whole Board hasn't been in involved discussion on an issue she won't take it to the BOT. Eckroth doesn't know how he feels about this right now and isn't prepared to make a stronger statement. There seemed to be a lot of agreement for the need for increasing opportunities for more student representation. Unanimous

dittoes. The discussion then is how to organizationally make this happen. The TAF fee is under discussion, the role of S & A fees is under discussion. There has been success in the past and recent success, so there needs to be more opportunities. Roberts will also include in her report a summary of Viking Toby Day. She will emphasize there is not proposed referenda language.

#### **VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS** *(subject to immediate action)*

#### **VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board\***

#### **VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board\***

#### **IX. CONSENT ITEMS** *(subject to immediate action)*

##### **A. Committee Appointments**

##### AS Structure and Programs Advisory Committee

Clinton Kvistad-Renaissance

Senior

Sociology

*MOTION ASB-14-W-10 by Guizar*

Approve Consent Item A. Committee Appointments.

Second: Ellison

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

#### **X. BOARD REPORTS**

##### **President**

Carly Roberts reported that Toby Day was excellent and offered Kudos to Galloway for her dedication in planning the event. This year saw all seated members of the AS Board attending, she thanked all of the Board for participating and engaging in the process. Roberts also offered kudos to the Elect Her Planning committee, she is looking forward to seeing the event happen again this year. Roberts reported that she and Western Students Give Back Logistics Coordinator Sarah King are looking for people who maybe available from 11:30am-1:20pm on Wednesday February 26th to attend the Bellingham City Club. There are up to 8 spots, and lunch will be provided.

##### **VP for Academic Affairs**

Josie Ellison reported that Academic Coordinating Commission had approved the motion forwarded from Committee on Undergraduate Education that would remove the SAT/ACT exemptions for English 101. Ellison will be able to talk on the ENG 101 motion one more time at Faculty Senate but it will probably pass without much contest. Student Tech fee has received a total of 17 abstract proposals and will be meeting to discuss them soon.

##### **VP for Activities**

Jarred Tyson reported that AS Pop Music is currently going under the AS Structure and Program Advisory Committee review process. They will be having a concert featuring Washed Out on February 2nd. AS Special Events opened up registration for its annual laser tag event to be held on February 8th. The Club Hub has had a conversation with the Western Gives Back Coordinator and discussed the potential of having AS clubs contribute to community service efforts. AS KVIK is also going through the SPAC process. KVIK's recommendations included new camera and recording equipment due to the fact that their current technology is about four years outdated. Another KVIK recommendation for SPAC is to get a new assistant coordinator in the office. Tyson reported that he met with the Ree Center Advisory Committee for the first time this quarter. The committee discussed the problems and conflicts involving renting out space to the community and its effects on students and sports clubs and the difficulties of allocating practice times to sports teams.

**VP for Diversity**

Mayra Guizar reported that the Ethnic Student Center's Black Student Union will be hosting their Heritage dinner Saturday, February 8th. Tickets for students are set at \$12 and \$15 for the general public. She said their theme this year is "My Black Is ", and doors open at 5:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Guizar also said she sat on a hiring committee for the Personnel Office's work-study position, and would like to welcome Victoria (Tori) Engström to the Associated Students. She said Engström was very eager to start working with us, and said that Board members should stop by the Personnel Office whenever they have time to say hello.

**VP for Governmental Affairs**

Kaylee Galloway reported that Viking Lobby Day was a huge success. She said that 72 students attended making it the largest AS Lobby Day to date. She said that 104 meetings were scheduled and that she had heard good feedback from everyone including students, administration, and even legislators that were impressed. She is very proud of everyone who attended and thanked the Board, Board Assistants, and Cindy Monger for all of their support in planning and executing Viking Lobby Day. (Roberts dittoed) Galloway emphasized the importance of having a thorough and comprehensive post-lobby day plan. She encouraged the Board to submit their group's notes, fill out the survey, and to send a thank you email to each legislator or staff person they met with. She said that thank you cards should be available soon. Galloway also reported that the Legislative Affairs Council has recently passed funding for both the 2014 US SA LegCon and a charter bus for Environmental Lobby Day. She said that she is really excited for both of these projects. Galloway thanked Nina Olivier, ESP Associate Director, for all of her hard work in planning the Environmental lobby trip and looks forward to seeing how the trip goes. As for LegCon, Galloway said that as of now, WWU will be sending five delegates including Josie Ellison, Mayra Guizar, Sarah Kohout, Heather Heffelmire, and herself. She is really enthusiastic about sending this group and whole heartedly believes that each delegate will be able to contribute tremendously to representing WWU at the federal level as well as bringing back the skills and knowledge to campus to improve ASWWU efforts in years to come. She said that the WWU Chapter of the Social Labor Action Project (SLAP) is looking to send a delegate as well. Galloway also reported that Western Votes held a successful day of action for the DREAM Act in honor of Dream Day. She wanted to extend her gratitude to Sarah Kohout, Western Votes President, for everything she has done to make Western Votes a really strong group this year. (Roberts dittoed) Additionally, she said that the WSA Statewide Lobby Day is on February 14<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to attend. Galloway also reported that she had a successful meeting with President Shepard, VP Swan, and other higher education stakeholders to update everyone on the happenings in Olympia. The Western Advocates is hosting a reception on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Galloway also wanted to recognize Graham Marmion, the REP Associate Director, for all of his hard work and dedication to making sure this year's Elect Her amazing. As a member of the planning committee, she has been really impressed with the organization and thoroughness of the planning and preparation process. She encouraged all of the Board members to register to attend the event, which will take place on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Furthermore, Galloway reported that next Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at noon in VU 460, there will be a really important rental safety meeting. She said that she met with Joseph Levy, Local Liaison, and Samantha Goldblatt, LIC Coordinator, and Cade Schmidt, Editor in Chief of the AS Review, to plan this meeting. Invites have been sent to all of the main stakeholders in the rental safety efforts including councilpeople, Campus Community Coalition, and AS representatives including Board, REP, LIC, and AS Review. She thanked Joseph Levy for taking initiative in planning this meeting. Lastly, Galloway wanted to thank Nie Doherty, Elections Coordinator, for his due diligence and commitment to presenting, amending, and passing an incredible Elections Code. She also wanted to recognize his efforts and initiative in hosting a

quality special election including a great candidate meeting, forum, and accessible voting booth. (Roberts dittoed).

#### **VP for Student Life**

Robby Eckroth reported that the bottled water committee met this week and are working on developing an educational campaign to remind the campus why Western is eliminating the sale of bottled water. Leonard Jones, the Director of University Residences, is also working with the 7 stakeholders on campus to assure that they are included in the process. He gave huge kudos to Students for Sustainable Water for all of their hard work! Eckroth reported that the Structure Programs Advisory Committee met and were given presentation from the Personnel Office, KVIK, and the Legal Information Center. Eckroth also reported that the Divestment Committee met this week and are working on developing a document to present to the AS Board of Directors.

#### **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. The Board would like an update on the Student Senate Reform. They had originally requested a monthly report. The Board will find a time for a work session.
- B. Roberts sent an email about the Western Advocates Higher Education Legislative Reception, she feels it is important to have student representation there. Guizar will attend.
- C. Roberts will write a letter regarding the changes to the English 101 waiver that says it is important to protect students' interest in having an expedient graduation and a manageable class schedule. The current test out system does not provide an affordable option to receive a waiver. Ellison said that it does disproportionately affect students without access to AP and running start.
- D. Galloway will need help wrapping up Viking Lobby Day in terms of receiving notes from meetings, thank you notes and surveys. Many of the people in the room are group leaders.

***The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 5:06p.m.***