

**Western Washington University Associated Students
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday,

April 29th, 2015

VU 567

AS Board Officers: *Present:* Annika Wolters (President), Jaleesa Smiley (VP Academics), Giselle Alcántar Soto (VP Activities), Chelsea Ghant (VP BusOps) *via phone*, Cristina Rodriguez (VP Diversity), Sarah Kohout (VP Governmental Affairs), and Zach Dugovich (VP Student Life).

Advisor(s): Eric Alexander (Advisor)

Guest(s): Matt Smith (AS Assessment Coordinator), Nate Panelo (ESC Coordinator), Israel Rios (SIRC Coordinator)

MOTIONS

ASB-15-S-09 Approve the Hospitality Policy with adding in the word club in from of “earned”. Removing the word “faith” and the word “meaningful” from meaningful contributions. *Passed.*

ASB-15-S-10 Approve the 2015 SPAC Recommendations for the Social Issues Resource Center with the amendments of “fostering activism” added to the SIRC job descriptions. *Passed.*

ASB-15-S-11 Approve the 2015 SPAC Recommendations for the Outdoor Center and stating number 2 was already passed at the date it was passed. *Passed.*

Annika Wolters, AS President, called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests*

A. SPAC ESC Recommendations

Ghant said they will be reviewing the recommendations for the Ethnic Student Center (ESC). Hopefully they all got to read all the recommendations. She is going to go through them and then they can ask questions. The first recommendation was the AS Board commit funding for the ESC Conference to be a 2 night 3 day conference which is \$17,300 per year. The original grant was for two years and it expired this year. This SPAC assessment is proposing to commit funding starting the 2015-2016 fiscal year for the conference, which allows for the continuation of the conference at Camp Casey. Ghant said that the extra day for the conference has been incredibly impactful and there has been assessment which shows that. It would establish a budget under FXXEOR/ASBEAF and it would go under the operation costs. The reason it was a 2 year grant was to show if it was needed in the operation costs and usually if it needed, it wouldn't continue being funded out of reserves. The second recommendation is the AS Board consider paying for front desk staff in the ESC. They have seen this request earlier in the year and they decided to fund one. They wanted to fund one position in the upcoming year. All of these requests are subject to Budget Committee's decision. Some of the long term goals is to get continued support for a full time academic advisor in the ESC. There is a part time advisor right now which is funded out of

Student Outreach Services (SOS). They are advocating for a full time advisor for the ESC. The second long term goal is to continue expansion/ relocation conversations with the ESS and AS/VU to move out of the 4th floor and into a more prominent area. As the demographic of students of color grows the resources for those folks also needs to grow and it hasn't. The third recommendation is address the increased admission of students of color at WWU without increase resource of the ESC. The resources don't match the need of the ESC. Kohout asked if all of these would have to go through budget Committee? Ghant said yes. Smiley asked what the difference between program services provided and what we offer as listed in the SPAC report, on the first page. Panelo said it was a formal introduction to show what services they provide which is part of their mission statement. The bullets are from the mission statement and then they further detailed how they did that. Program and Services provided are how they follow through on their mission statement. What they offer is the conversation of what the ESC offers students in the ESC such as Scholarships, internships, mentorships, advising and allowing them to help articulate the things that are happening with their staff. They want to make sure to continue their services knowing others are asking for their services as well. Alcantar Soto asked if anyone who sits on the Services and Activities Fee Committee could tell them if they plan on getting an increase in funding because they keep approving funding and she hasn't heard if there will be an increase in funding. Ghant said as it stands now, student fees don't look like they will increase but that doesn't necessarily mean that they won't get an increase. What they are looking at now is about 97,000 increase. It has been incorporated in. they have put in their request and they are deliberating and she is hopeful. Dugovich asked what is the additional cost for the second night at the camp? Panelo said it isn't as significant as they would think. It is for room and board maybe around \$5,000 difference. Smith said as a clarification, the numbers could seem misleading. It shows the \$17,000 but it was a grant before, and really the increase is \$5,000. This recommendation would be the put it in the operation budget. Ghant said it currently funded out of reserves. Smith said the idea was when it was a grant it was to test it out. Alexander said historically the \$12,000 was in the operation costs and when the decision was made to fund the addition, the Board said to take all of that funding, out of operating costs and take it completely out of reserves. So then when they come back, it looks like this huge request, opposed to what it really is, which is the \$5,000. Ghant said she was in S&A fee, they were allocated \$2.4 million and they get their total allocation, and they budget conservatively but all of the fees have come in and it is \$100,000 over from what they originally budgeted for and it is being budgeted out to the constituents. That is money they weren't counting on and now they have access to. There is wiggle room to put that \$17,000 back into operating costs. Alcantar Soto said she heard multiple time from Rodriguez and the work she's been doing with the issues within the ESC such as the clique climate within the ESC and especially the needs of queer folks of color. She wonders why it is not reflected in this report. She would really like to see it written out so that the work is continued. Panelo said he agrees. He thinks that those conversations haven't been brought to the ESC yet and he thinks they are still formulating. He hasn't heard directly what it is, but he has heard that the queer community feels isolated with groups within the ESC and there has been a lot of internalized issues with the uses of the resources within the ESC. He thinks it is important to reflect with the demographic needs but it's also been hard on the staff because changing the climate of the ESC doesn't come from only the staff but the students as well. He would say internally they are addressing it as much and trying to provide a more inclusive conversation and being able to hear the feedback from the students. One of the issues is not being able to have a centralized conversation about what it is that needs to change and be worked on that is needed from all participants in the area. He hopes to see it in a SPAC report but hopefully in the mission statement as well. Alcantar Soto said she would really like to see it in the SPAC report because even if it hasn't been spoken about in a very centralized forward manner, she thinks its okay to have a vague statement saying they will continue to do work on looking into this work. She would feel a lot more comfortable if that could be included. Rodriguez said she viewed SPAC as more fiscal needs but she likes the idea of having

it written for continuation. She would be happy to get it in writing for the next meeting. Alcantar Soto said they have seen a lot of SPAC reports that say they will continue to work on this item and that is totally fine. Smith said this brings up an interesting issue in terms of these items being SPAC approved. If they add an item, does it have to go back through SPAC? Alcantar Soto said from her understanding the Board has the ability to make final decisions and it doesn't have to go back through the smaller committee but definitely check with the advisor. Rodriguez said if they have to go back through SPAC, how long would it take? Smith said one to two weeks at minimum. He will get back to them tomorrow about it. Ghant said she would echo it, and she doesn't think it would have to go back through SPAC because they have made changes to many other recommendations in the past. They definitely want to respect that committees work though. Rodriguez said she looks forward to adding all of this in writing. Panelo asked Alcantar Soto if there is anything that she would like to see reflected in the addition specifically. Alcantar Soto said she would like to direct more of that to Rodriguez because she has been doing all the work this year, but something to do with the climate of the ESC. Smith asked if there any additional questions about the other fiscal implications or recommendations of this SPAC report? Kohout said they funded the front desk position this year; is that position still going to be funded? Ghant said that position was funded for that specific time and this proposal is to put that cost into the operating budget and they would have to find the funds to continue to fund that position year to year. Alcantar Soto said they would hash this out in Budget Committee, but if they can't find the funding for that, would they come back and ask for funding? Panelo said he doesn't know and he doesn't know if he could answer that. They would have to hire students regardless but they would just have to hire work study positions. Alcantar Soto said would they ask for a grant position? Panelo said it wasn't on his mind but possibly. Ghant said all of these are contingent on Budget Committee but she would like to recommend that the Board say these are priority to Budget Committee. Smiley said the budget for one non-work study position is here, are they wanting to only have one? Panelo said yes, it is a pretty well. It was good to test it out and if they need additional students in the future they could ask again. Rodriguez said in the long term goals with the remodel, could it say having more student involvement with that conversation? A lot of the things she has been hearing is that students want to be part of that conversation. Alexander said they have shaken out what the process could look, and they are collecting a team. The hope there is to have student and staff there that are going to be affected in those areas. It is about creating a more open and welcoming space for all students and right now it doesn't feel that way. The team would focus on that work and the majority of the team would be students so they would get the majority vote. Smith said would they still like to see it reflected? Rodriguez said perhaps putting the context that Alexander just shared in would be helpful.

Y. ACTION ITEMS - Guests*

A. Hospitality Policy

Ghant said it wasn't reflected in the document because the change happened earlier that day. They have removed the word "Faith" per their request. Cindy will add "club" in front of earned. That was the only changes that have been made. Kohout said the per diem increase, what departments and offices will be affected by that? They may not see the increase in their budgets but it will start costing more to go on those trips. Alexander said Hospitality and travel, his understanding, are two separate policies. There is a Hospitality Policy and a Travel Policy. Hospitality means hosting, the AS may host outside of Bellingham and the food may cost more than it is in Bellingham. Kohout asked if they would be seeing the Travel Policy. Ghant said yes. Alcantar Soto said she sees at the end, it talks about removing sections, for clarification C6 and D1. Why are they removing those, to clarify for the minutes? Alexander said the non-contracted part was removed because the types of hospitality that are possible are covered in other areas. It is repetitive to have a separate area to just talk about

volunteers because they are covered in the other areas. The nonperishable items and retaining food, if it is going to be put out, they usually bring it to the next meeting and it's still going to students it was also repetitive. Wolters said the old policies said it is up for interpretation by the AS Board of Directions and AS Business office, and this one doesn't say that. Ghant said it may be the Peabody format. Alexander said it is an AS Policy, different members of the AS will be interpretation. Wolters said so the finance office may be the ones to interpret this one. Alexander said yes, but they can bring it back and talk about it. Alcantar Soto said number 7 C it talks about meaningful contribution and she wonders what everyone's thoughts about "meaningful". It would be up to the office who interpret this and the office who have the volunteers but she wanted to bring it up. Ghant said is she thinking it is too vague? Kohout said if they are a volunteer they are a volunteer, she agrees with striking meaningful.

MOTION: ASB-15-S-09 by Alcantar Soto

Approve the Hospitality Policy with adding in the word club in from of "earned". Removing the word "faith" and the word "meaningful" from meaningful contributions.

Second: Ghant Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

B. SPAC Social Issues Resource Center Recommendations

Ghant said they looked at this last week and no changes have been made to these. Alcantar Soto said on the recommendation number 2 with the check ins. She thinks they are a wonderful idea but she is concerned that they are busy enough. Are they adjusting the requirements as an office to make room for these check ins? Ghant said they are recommended by those already in the office. Dugovich said they are making the recommendations of those things that would make their jobs easier. Smith said it is not 2 hours each, it is 2 hours collectively. It could be incorporated into their office hours. The Veterans Outreach Centers office hours is outside their office too. Rios said they are asking to have these 2 community check in hours inside their office hours. Alcantar Soto said would that put them behind on events? Would they need to take out an event to leave room for those 2 hours? Rios said that is a valid concern, but there are three folks in the office whose busy time is different than one another and he doesn't see it as being a problem.

MOTION: ASB-15-S-10 by Ghant

Approve the 2015 SPAC Recommendations for the Social Issues Resource Center with the amendments of "fostering activism" added to the SIRC job descriptions.

Second: Rodriguez Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

C. SPAC Outdoor Center Recommendations

Smith said he made the changes to the mission statement that they talked about, adding the comma in the right area. Ghant said other than that no other changes were made. Alcantar Soto said for number 2, didn't they approve that? Ghant said yes, but it is just incorporated in the whole SPAC document. Smith said they could just say it was already approved separately.

MOTION: ASB-15-S-11 by Alcantar Soto

Approve the 2015 SPAC Recommendations for the Outdoor Center and stating number 2 was already passed at the date it was passed.

Second: Dugovich Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS (subject to immediate action)

VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board***VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*****IX. CONSENT ITEMS** *(subject to immediate action)***X. BOARD REPORTS****President**

Annika Wolters reported that AS elections is happening. She wants to give a shout out to Belina Seare for the last candidate for AS President. She gave a speech at the employee recognition and Greg McBride and Kathy Louzao was recognized. They don't need to wait for that one day a year to recognize each other. She would like to extend a friendly challenge to recognize each other. She is working on the Bellingham police to have a meeting and have a tour. She went to President's Cabinet yesterday and they were reviewing a policy and she didn't want to use him or her in the policies.

VP for Bus Ops

Chelsea Ghant reported that she went to Oregon State University recently. They went to see the student experience center grand opening and it was amazing. She was a little jealous, there is a lot of excellence in that building and she got to meet with AS President. She got really great ideas which she will share in different areas. They have four different cultural centers. She had S and A Fee committee and she brought up as a vice chair which is a chair, and they could run for chair the next year. She wants more student representation at the front line on that. The SUV has been purchased. The van is still being negotiated.

VP for Academic Affairs

Jaleesa Smiley reported that student Technology Fee committee got through all of the proposals and two out of the three student proposal got full funding. Scholar's week is looking for volunteers for their banquet. The student caucus on equity diversity and inclusivity is meeting.

VP for Activities

Giselle Alcántar Soto reported that they are still working on trying to get the clubs to bring back write ups and what they learned after they get funded.

VP for Diversity

Cristina Rodriguez reported that for the Resource and Outreach Programs had a couple events this week. The ESC had another Presidents Council and they reflected about the meeting and next meeting.

VP for Governmental Affairs

Sarah Kohout reported that AS Elections is in full swing, tell everyone to vote! Washington Student Association general assembly is happening that weekend. She has been working on the committee they will be discussing in other business. They are going to be talking about a voter access item at WSA as well.

VP for Student Life

Zach Dugovich reported that earth day was a great turn out and the ESP director did an amazing job. The Sustainable Action Fund will hopefully have a good turnout.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. TBD Committee

Kohout said she has been working on this committee and she would like feedback on the super rough draft. They have noticed some of the flaws that the organization has. They are super overworked, and the AS Elections. They haven't done this in 50 years to reevaluate the structure of the Association Students to make sure the organization is doing everything it should be doing to serve students the best pay possible. She is hoping to bring this as an information item next week. The membership is super up in the air. She wants to make sure it is representative of the AS. She is hoping to get an update next spring. Wolters said why TBD? Kohout said that means to be determined, she is looking for the best name for it still. Alcantar Soto said is this going to look at the entire AS? How did this come about? Kohout said it has been an ongoing conversation between her and Alexander and she realized after talking to a lot of other schools she realized that there are other ways and when she found out it hasn't happened in 50 years she felt it needed to happen. The way they served students 50 years ago is completely different than the way they serve students now and they should be using student fees in the best possible way. Alcantar Soto said what about the student senate? Kohout said they have been thinking about that, she thinks it's a bigger problem at hand then just adding in the student senate. Ghant said would this be like an internal audit? They have a SPAC committee that assesses the offices, would this be to assess the Board of Directors? The Board of Directors is not in the Assessment processes. Kohout said yes, she thinks the Board needs assessment. This wouldn't be looking at individual offices. This would be more of a global assessment. Ghant asked if this committee would be working with other committees such as Budget Committee and SPAC? Because they are already working hard on those. Kohout said possibly. She was wondering if the VP for Business and Operations should be the chair for this committee but she wonders if that position is already overworked. Ghant said that works with that committee, they may have too many out there. Wolters said they can nominate their own chair as well. Alcantar Soto said the VP for Business and Operations may not be the best one. She thinks the President and VP for Business and Operations, but those are the two that are the most overworked. If this is going to look at the entire organization, which Wolters position is, and more internal operations with Ghant does. She thinks that Christina Van Wingerden should be part of this committee and Alexander or Lisa Rosenberg. She wonders about the RHA rep and she thinks it's a good idea to include them. Kohout said she included a dean of student's advisor for it. She thinks it's important to have RHA because it is a group of students they should be including. Dugovich said they are overlooking the problems they have right now. No one is running for elections, no one is going to events. This committee would be a public outreach committee. If they start looking at student fees they are getting too deep, they need to look at why students aren't getting more involved in the Associated Students. Smiley said would it get at the main items of the charge? Kohout said she isn't looking at the fee specifically, this is why they aren't getting involved. Alexander wants to appreciate Kohout vision on this and time on it. Annually people thinks about it and they haven't had people to push it forward. Having conversations from former AS Presidents and former staff employees and they said they wished they could have taken a look at how they do business. His hope would be that this is work that is very important and they want to make this the best it can be so they are going to commit the resources they need to, and they want to make sure the value of their education isn't taken over. Kohout said they will see this as an information item next week.

B. International Divestment Boycott and Sanctions Taskforce

Alcantar Soto said she sent everyone an email about the applications of the taskforce and she did erase the names because they asked her too. They are still discussing things that were said by students. They should go to executive session.

Went into Executive Session at 8:31p.m.

Came back from Executive session 8:46 p.m.

Wolters said no action has been taken and they discussed the appointments to the International Divestments Boycott and Sanctions committee. Not the charge and charter just the taskforce.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:47p.m.