

# Western Washington University Associated Students Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday,

November 12th, 2015

VU567

**AS Board Officers:** *Present:* Annika Wolters (President), Jaleesa Smiles (VP Academics),

Giselle Alcantar Soto (VP Activities), Chelsea Ghant (VP BusOps), Cristina Rodriguez (VP Diversity), Sarah Kohout (VP Governmental Affairs), and Zach Dugovich (VP Student Life)

**Advisors:** Lisa Rosenberg

**Guests:** Brian Bates (AS Excursions Coordinator)

## MOTIONS

**ASB-14-F-24** Approve to switch Information Items- Guest A with Information Items- Board A.

*Passed.*

**ASB-14-F-25** Approve the OC Gender Targeted Back Country Skiing Excursion to move to action item. Passed.

**ASB-14-F-26** Approve Outdoor Center Back Country Skiing Gender Targeted Excursion. *Passed.*

**ASB-14-F-27** Approve Committee Appointments. *Passed.*

*Annika Wolters, AS President, called the meeting to order at 5:37p.m.*

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

## II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Kohout, no guest for information guest for legislative agenda but there are guest for information item A under the board section and it would be better if they switched those items for the sake of the guests' time.

ASB-14-F-24 *by Kohout*

Approve to switch Information Items- Guest A with Information Items- Board A.

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

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

## IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests\*

### A OC Gender Targeted Back Country Skiing Excursion

Ghant said this is the Outdoor Center (OC) back country skiing gender targeted excursion proposal. It outlines that the OC would like to have a female identified excursion to go back country skiing. They think this is a great opportunity for female identified folks because most outdoor related sports are male dominated and she thinks that it's good. Bates said the OC has been doing it for years now. It's a good use of empowerment and all the trip leaders will be female identified. It's a very male dominated sport and they are trying to bring more diversity to it. It's a one back country ski excursion and they will have a back country ski course and then later in the year they will have another back country skiing excursion open to everyone so this particular excursion won't be the only one offered. Kohout asked how successful has this event been in the past. Did people enjoy themselves and was there a good turn out? Bates said usually they are always full within two weeks of being open to register. Alcantar Soto said in the proposal it said "it would have a great opportunities female gender targeted" and she suggest changing it to "female identified gender targeted". The second thing A similar approval last week, with the Veterans Outreach Center, the AS Board had them bringing in their budget. Bates said he can explain that reasoning because with that excursion there was additional fiscal impact but with this excursion it's already built into the budget. They aren't adding an additional excursion it's just that this particular one is for female identified participants. Rodriguez said this is a chance for female identified people, but what if the people who apply are beginners and they are with people who are very experienced. Has the OC considered what they will do with the different levels of experience? Bates said as with all excursions, they are all beginner friendly, they don't have to done the sport. But with this particular excursion they do ask that participants know how to ski because the excursion isn't about teaching how to ski. If you are going to the back country they will be teaching back country basics and you wouldn't learn well how to ski in that environment. They won't let anyone sign up for a backcountry ski event if they've never skied. They have gotten really good feedback in the past when they talked about how the trip leaders may have been helping other participants so this really experience person came back and helped them. It's usually a good thing, they want those different levels Not only for experts, but it's about communicating that they would like participants to have skiing basics before they take the participants to the back country. Bates said that for publicity restraints, he would like to request that this item go to action item if they all felt comfortable voting on it.

ASB-14-F-25 by Dugovich

Approve the OC Gender Targeted Back Country Skiing Excursion to move to action item.

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

Wolters asked if there is any discussion. Seeing none, she will entertain a motion on this action item.

ASB-14-F-26 By Ghant

Approve the OC Gender Targeted Back Country Skiing Excursion

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

**V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests\***

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

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

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

A. AS WWU Legislative Agenda

Kohout rough draft passed through Legislative Action Council (LAC). How Legislative Agenda's come to be is that they start brain storming, they pick different groups they want to be part of, so all of these agenda items they all met in these groups. None of them could make it tonight. So if the board has questions she will try and answered those and hopefully next week some committee members can make it. LAC has a meeting tomorrow and this will be the first thing they will talk about. There is an issue choosing process they have to go through. It's three (3) different pages, there is a chart, and there are different questions asked like is this something students can get behind, is it winnable? These are the paragraphs they put together. Then they present it as an information item then goes to an action item. These are the items LAC feels affect the majority of the study body and they can get momentum behind. Some of the items are very similar if not exactly what was on the legislative agenda last year. If it is okay with the chair she would like it if they could go through each item and discuss them separately. The final document will have a space on the back of the document for each of the AS Board members to sign. This document is just the language. If there are any huge substitutive changes if any of them want to make, if it could be sooner than later that would be great because it will have to go back through LAC. Wolters said that it is okay to go item by item.

The first topic is New and Dedicated Revenue.

Dugovich said in this document one of the items is to double the estate tax. Although it is a really good idea, among the states that have an estate tax, it's one of the highest already. He doesn't want to say unrealistic but he doesn't know how many people would get behind this.

Kohout said she would definitely agree with him but because only 300 people affected, so that because such few people are being affected she thinks this wouldn't be too controversial. This is the same kind of thing they fought for last year. Kohout asked if this is something he is worried about. Dugovich said he has confidence in the committee who knows more about these issues and has put the time and work into it. They wanted to include new revenue.

Adding new wouldn't be the end of the world. Wolters said she proof read this document already for grammar so if they were going to discuss those items they've already been corrected. Smiley said she wanted some clarification. Allocate revenue from the possible expiration of the B & O tax incentive. She wanted to know what B & O stood for and R & D. Ghant said B & O is Business and Occupancy and R & D is Research and Development. Kohout said so these are for those companies those get tax breaks. Ghant asked if everyone is comfortable with the language being used and does everyone know what everything means? Kohout said if anyone thinks any of these items is something students wouldn't want they should let Kohout know because this is going down to Olympia on behalf of all students. Dugovich said really liked the first bullet point and thinks it's a good idea.

#### Support Survivors of Sexual Violence.

Kohout said most of these items are for campus services to provide more and better support to those survivors of sexual violence and making sure they are doing their duty. Alcantar Soto said bullet point number three (3) it says "The development and implementation of a training program for all faculty and staff" and she thinks it should be mandatory and it would read "implementation of a mandatory training program". Kohout said something they discussed would be faculty and staff and whether AS students were included in that. Making it mandatory would be good though. Alcantar Soto said even if it doesn't happen as mandatory it would make a stronger push. Kohout said yes it would because those training programs need resources. Wolters asked if every state has an achievement council. Kohout said she thinks so for the most part. She knows Oregon has an Oregon Academic Commission. They do the K-higher Ed. If they found a need it would be implemented and Washington State did. Wolters asked if it would be helpful to put Washington Student Achievement Council. Kohout said yes because even when she was reading it she got a little confused.

#### Voter Access

Ghant asked why eleven (11) days? Kohout said because that's what's been supported in the past. Washington Student Association is also supporting it. A lot of this was taken from their legislative agenda and it's the deadline they came up with. Also she thinks it has to do with Columbus Day being in there. Usually it use to fall on Columbus day and the Auditor's office is closed and then they would need to get it in the Friday before so it didn't make sense to have it due on that day. Alcantar Soto said she wanted some clarification when it says "in person on the day of election" meaning they can register and vote that same day. It confused her by the wording. Also to do with voter access is that she doesn't think it's always necessarily that students don't know how to vote it's that they don't have enough information prior to make a decision about the topics on the ballot. She thinks that it would be good to include something about education program for young voters. Kohout said for her first part she will reword it. She thought the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) bullet point was good and her suggestion was really good because in her neighborhood she had a really tough time finding the voter information booklet and if it was hard for her to get the information someone not knowing where to start would have an even harder time. Accessibility of

information is a really important topic to discuss. Alcantar Soto said she just wrote it down like “advocate for education programs” and something along those lines.

Smiley said she had a comment for the previous topic. On the third bullet point where it says “Use inclusive language that doesn’t place blame on survivors or make assumptions”. She thinks it would be more helpful if they gave examples for kind of inclusive language they are looking for because sometimes people don’t know what that means. Kohout said okay and thank you.

#### Funding for Carver Academic Facility

Kohout said this is another one that was taken from last year. It was all on the agenda to be passed but the budgets didn’t passed. This is also something the administration is working on. Ghant said could it say “\$73 Million more is required for the renovation” instead of the project? Kohout said yes. Alcantar Soto said are they going to include pictures in the formal document? Kohout: yes Alcantar Soto thinks that if they add another point somewhere that the students aren’t willing to pay another fee for this. If they put it in writing it would mean more. Kohout said she will include something the state should pay for it and the state should be the one to provide safe classrooms and students shouldn’t have to make up for it in fees. Dugovich said on the first bullet point it says “further inaction on this life and safety issue”, he doesn’t like that they used the word “life”. Kohout said yes, it could just say “on the safety issue.” Dugovich said yes there are other ways to re-word it too.

#### Student success

Kohout said the student success was inspired by both the university student success package and the state of emergency campaign that the united state student association is working on. In regard to funding services in support for marginalized students and other services for students with disabilities. It does include a point on survivors for sexual violence because it’s been coming up lately and campuses aren’t funding them properly. Ghant said could the bullet point where it says “ensure success for students of color, first-generation students” could it also include “and other marginalized identities” because more than students of color and first generation students need more academic advising and tutoring. Dugovich said he is thinking about when they are presenting this document to conservative legislators and how they will take some of this. They need to be thinking about more conservative language. He thinks that maybe there maybe two different documents. Kohout said a lot of this language is off of the universities legislative agenda and they probably have somewhat of a feel for how they should be writing this document. There are a lot of different languages that could be used but having two different documents would be confusing and if they had one it would be an all-encompassing document. She will definitely go back through and see if there is anything they can change to help this. They will also prep people for legislators who historically had problems with certain types of language. Wolters said she will include some context that in previous years in a board of trustee meeting someone did ask “what is a student of color anyways?” they shouldn’t just assume people should know even if they think they should know. Alcantar Soto said they should include some types of facts and numbers to really push this point about what students are going through so they can be more receptive to it. The whole paragraph is geared towards marginalized identities and those who need more access to help and it doesn’t really say that in the introductory paragraph it just says student. Kohout said it was actually written at the FAC meeting and the facts were cut out because some of the numbers didn’t add up correctly but she can definitely put some of them back in. Wolters said others numbers on retention of students of color can be found at the registrar’s office. Rodriguez said in the fourth paragraph she thinks that something should be added about proper disability accommodations. Sometimes the DRS they say they fit the accommodations of students

with disabilities and then they settle saying they are taking care of their needs but those aren't looked into further and the accommodations they get aren't actually helping the things they are asking for. What she is getting at is the proper or efficient accommodation that is requested for. Kohout said they may do some rewording in the paragraph, perhaps striking properly in front of supporting and maybe put it somewhere else? Rodriguez said maybe its fine only being said one, she just feels it needs to be more emphasized. Alcantar Soto said so maybe along the things of individualized support or on a case to case basis. Alcantar Soto said on the document as a whole she is wondering why there isn't a phrase that says "AS WWU advocates for:" it does say WWU Administration but it's not everywhere, so does that mean they aren't backing up these three items? Kohout said the university set another agenda that is very similar and that signifies that it's also on their agenda. Alcantar Soto said she would like to see come continuity. Kohout said yes thank you. Kohout asked if the group would be okay with having it say "AS WWU Advocates for". It would change some of the wording. Ghant said on the third bullet in the section "New and Dedicated Revenue" where it says "Generate \$114 million." Ghant asked where they got that figure from. Kohout said it was what was said last year and she can provide the source of that. It was going to change every year. Ghant said it would be nice to have something more accurate. Kohout said she will go through and look at these figures and see if there are updated ones. Dugovich asked about the research and development firms and which ones specifically they are talking about in this document? Kohout said she could provide that and she can send out that proposal too. Dugovich said and why Western would be advocating for that. Kohout said she thinks it's because they have been getting a lot of tax breaks. And it's a tax they've been getting. Dugovich said they should say "allocate revenue for higher education from the expiration".

From the AS board of Directors.

Kohout said this is a letter that goes on the back of the legislative agenda. She really wants to be inclusive especially voter access she knows not everyone has the ability to vote she wanted to make sure the wording wasn't too weird but it was also inclusive. They are going to run into the more conservative legislators who won't understand some of the wording. Wolters said whenever she found that some of the wording was confusing she put voter registration such as "by making voter registration more accessible to students". Ghant said the second paragraph was a little confusing and she has some grammatical edits she will get Kohout afterwards. Alcantar Soto said in the beginning it should say "With great pride and respect". Kohout said usually there are only three items. If the board feels that there is an item they don't want on here, they have the ability to strike things. Dugovich said that should be worked out in LAC who has been working hard on this.

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

### A. Committee Appointments

#### Recreation Center Advisory Committee

Danielle Crow	Biology	Junior
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#### AS Student Technology Fee Committee

Patrick Eckroth	Environmental Policy	Junior
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**Election Code Review Committee**

Katie Rogers

Psychology

Junior

*MOTION ASB-14-F-27 by Kohout*

Approve the Committee Appointments.

Second: Ghant

Vote: 7 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

**X. BOARD REPORTS****President**

Annika Wolters reported that they won't be meeting the day before the break on November 26<sup>th</sup> so please get anything that is needed together for next week's board meeting. She met with Bruce Sheppard WWU's President and talked about the climate friendly fund. The ball is there court on what they want the proceeds to go to. She has been told that the Foundation Board will make sure there is the minimum \$20,000 endowment in the fund regardless. The minimum for an endowment is \$20,000. Once they reach \$20,000 the AS will have to decide what to do with the 4.5%. She is open to their suggestions like perhaps Environmental Activist Award. She has reached out for Students for Renewable Energy to see what they would like to see happen to this money. She attended the Washington Student Association (WSA) meeting. She also went to the Veterans Day Ceremony and the Marine Core's birthday. Matthew Swisher, the Veterans Outreach Coordinator was the MC for the event.

**VP for Academic Affairs**

Jaleesa Smiley reported that today she went to University Planning and Resources Council. Becca Kenna-Schenk the Director of Government Relations was there and she talked about the legislative session and how it was challenging fiscally this year because of the McCleary decision and the passing of the classroom size initiative. She mentioned she would create a report from her time from Olympia which Smiley thought would be good to have. Scholar's Week Planning Committee happened last week and they decided on a speaker. Sandy Grande she has great reviews and that's happening May 16<sup>th</sup>. Inclusivity Climate grant is due November 16<sup>th</sup> so she is just working on the final touches on that document.

**VP for Activities**

Giselle Alcantar Soto reported that there was no Activities Council. She has been doing work on finding spaces for dance clubs and martial arts club for hard wood. She is working on that with

Shalom Long the Event Services Supervisor and Activities Council. A lot of her times have been going to managing some club disciplinary issues.

### **VP for Diversity**

Cristina Rodriguez reported that President Council met on Monday. The Western Hmong Student Association got recognized as an ESC club. Regarding Presidents Council she is opening up a lot of discussion on the exclusive tendencies the ESC has for queer students of color. She has gotten some push back, but she has a lot of ideas and she will continue to talk about it. There is an event happening right now called Addressing the Cycle which is an open discussion on race, law and Ferguson in AW 204. How Privilege, Differences, and Oppression are is happening at the Teach in. Tomorrow she is leaving with seven (7) students to go to the Oregon Students of Color Conference and all her funding got approved.

### **VP for Business and Operations**

Chelsea Ghant reported that Business Committee did some hospitality updates then they moved over to Services and Activities fee. That particular fee is weird because there are no spending guidelines. They are trying to navigate that and understand some questions that have been coming up. Shout out to Alcantar Soto for the Mixer on Friday because she heard great things about the event. The Personnel Office is working on their Employee Appreciation. She is attending the Publicity Center (PC) staff meeting tomorrow to strengthen that relationship. One of the copy services employees has moved over to the PC to work out some of the problems between the two programs. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> Matt Smith the Assessment Associate Director will be coming with the Structure and Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC) recommendation to remind all of the board members their responsibilities are in the process.

### **VP for Governmental Affairs**

Sarah Kohout reported that Heather Hefflemire the Legislative Liaison and the Political Science Association have been working on Western takes Olympia. November 17<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6pm VU 565. This event is to prepare students for Viking lobby day and that legislative session and to break down the views of what lobbying is. Washington Student Association (WSA) had its General Assembly. WWU had sixteen (16) students went. It was a tense meeting. They finished up their legislative agenda. Appealing I 1351 free speech zones and understanding the policy on different campuses on those. They have to have a deeper conversation on dues and what each school owes. She has been working on a Social justice Lobby Day and a Environmental Lobby Day. She is hoping to make a Carver Coalition Athletics, Alumni, western Advocates and the administration and more and they can work together. They hired the AS Board Assistant for Viking Lobby Day.

### **VP for Student Life**



Zach Dugovich reported that campus suicide prevention grant advisory committee today. The main topic of that committee was whether or not all western employees and student employees should be taking Kognito training, to see if all employees and students in residence halls must take that. Mental health fair was last week and it went extremely well. They had 327 people attended over two days. Upcoming events for Movember. Is November 19<sup>th</sup> Eric Hippie in AH 100 7pm. the Walk of hope is on November 20<sup>th</sup> that will be a walk through campus and it is working with the program Brave at 7pm. Best mustache/beard that will take place on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Environmental and sustainability programs will have an event tomorrow at 10pm in the MPR and its called Survival skills for a small planet. It will have sustainable food, Sustainable living and more. Tomorrow there are two events from 6-8pm fall environmental club summit to get all the environmental clubs on campus to collaborate more ideas on how to make WWU more environmentally friendly. Tomorrow morning is the second draft meeting for the Sustainability Action Plan for the Waste Draft. The Waste Draft is the campus's plan on how to reduce WWU's Waste. Finally Green Energy Fee (GEF) Committee first meeting on Tuesday at 4pm on VU 543.

### **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Dugovich said he would like to add that in the Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee there were some statistics from the counseling center. Actual visits are up this quarter from previous quarters. Thoughts of suicides are up by 50%. The amounts of actual suicide attempts from the average 3-4 to 7. Mindful that this is an extremely stressful time of the year for a lot of students and if they see anyone who looks sad or withdrawn there are a lot of amazing services on campus that they can point those individuals too.

*The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:42p.m.*