

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

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015

VU567

AS Board Officers: *Present:* Hannah Brock (VP BusOps), Zachary Dove (VP Academics), Israel Rios (VP Activities), Patrick Eckroth (VP Governmental Affairs), and Emma Palumbo (VP Student Life).

Advisor: Eric Alexander (Advisor)

Guest: Nate Panella (ESC Manager), Bill Martin (Student-at-Large)

MOTIONS

ASB-15-F-53 Approve \$9,500 from the AS Discretionary Reserve for 1 year for International Students and Scholar Services. *Passed.*

ASB-15-F-54 Approve the Committee Appointment. *Passed.*

Hannah Brock, AS VP for Business and Operations, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Palumbo wants to remove the AS ESC Employee Space from the agenda because Abby Ramos won't be there.

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

Martin said he had a statement to read that he will also send to Abby Ramos and Belina Seare so they can read it. "Over the past week I have heard and witnessed Western Washington University described as a Climate or Culture of racism, a university that does not make its students feel safe, an institution that is biased. I have witnessed firsthand and been part of discussions in which many people, lots of people, with the same opinion, articulate the same things over and over, where everyone agrees with ONE another. To paraphrase it, it goes like this "Racism is disgusting" "no one wants it's here" "Racism is ignorance" "can't stand to be around it" Why I am speaking to you now, is because I cannot sit on the side-line while my university, our university is defamed and mischaracterized. I believe too often the loudest are the only ones heard, in this case a small fraction of people made comments that were inappropriate, I am not minimizing it, but rather trying to put in context of our collective university. I acknowledge that one comment which included a threat was stupid and disgusting. There are no excuses for what that individual posted. I urge all of us to look at the big picture. There is a lot of good here at Western and there is a lot to be proud of at Western. Western is not a climate nor a culture of racism, Western is a place where all ideas can be shared and argued about. Some people cautioned me not to speak to you, for fear of my safety, but I told them this is Western and the people here encourage free speech. I urge all of us to stop allowing the loud racists define Western. I want my representatives to know how a population at our school feels. As I have said, our university had a lot of good. We have a history of being respectful and treating all students fairly, let's not let the popular politics of the day overshadow us or define us, let us not be a pawn for the media. So please when representing Western be sure to capture the true spirit and not just the loud extremist. Thank you." Martin said he doesn't know if this is the right place for discussion Brock asked if he drafted the letter himself? Martin said this is probably not the best place to be speaking about this because he hasn't experienced it and certainly others have. He is not qualified to talk about it. The Board can have

a counter statement if they wanted. Martin said he was still hesitant but he wants them to know the big motivator. He doesn't want his family and friends to think about his school like this when it's not. Dove said it is a good point. A large part of the student population doesn't think it is. Dove thanked Martin for sharing. Eckroth said it's very illustrative of the problems that is happening everywhere and it happened to western. Alexander said it is very rare that they hear from students in public forum. He appreciates the comment and certainly the Board meeting is a place to have an opportunity to share those thoughts with. Palumbo said if Martin wants to have more conversation, they can have a conversations with her. Brock said they have office hours for a reason, one hour per day. That's a way for students to talk to them.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests*

A. Ethnic Student Center (ESC) Position Changes

Nate Panelo the ESC Manager said there are a lot of changes happening in the ESC right now. This is the first time the two job descriptions are coming to the Board. It was presented to Personnel Committee (PC) and it will be going back to PC soon. At the beginning of the summer he looked at the structure of the ESC. There was some drastic changes to the workload and they wanted to provide more opportunity to the student staff members for them to feel more accomplished in their position. There have been a lot of changes to the two fulltime staff positions down in the ESC. They took some of the responsibilities from the Program Coordinator position and moved it over to the two student positions. They also took some of his position, the ESC Manager and moved it to the Program Coordinator position. It had gone through Human Resources and they finally said it was good to go. They are here to get the approval of the student positions from the Board. He has more information for them if they want. Trying to be more intentional about what the positions are bringing to the as. Brock asked if there is any fiscal impacts. Panelo said no, he may come to the Board to request additional assistant positions later. Alexander said it was very well done about the shifts. Perhaps maybe Panelo can come back and talk about the changes in the ESC. Panelo said yes. He also wanted to mention that Ramos put a lot of good language in these. Brock said what is the timeline to hire? Panelo said these will be done by the current students in these positions, this would just change their responsibilities. He has conversations with the current students in those positions and they are excited. Brock said the Board meeting is next week and they can see this again then. He can present the ESC information next board meeting.

V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests*

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

VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board*

A. International Students and Scholars Services (ISSS) Renewing Funding Proposal

Brock said this is the same proposal they saw last week. They are asking for it to be renewed for one additional year for 9500 until they lock in permanent funding. Business committee agreed that they are on board with it. Palumbo said she talked to Ramos and she is in very much support of this.

MOTION: ASB-15-F-53 by Eckroth

Approve \$9,500 from the AS Discretionary Reserve for 1 year for International Students and Scholar Services.

Second: Dove Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passed

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*

A. Communication Committee Charge and Charter

Rios said the only change is adding the AS Communications Coordinator, because this committee is meant to help the Communications Office and it would be good for both communication staff members to be there. Brock said thanked Rios for being vice chair for this committee.

B. Foundation Account Support for MLK Event

Alexander said Whatcom Community College (WCC) and the Martin Luther King event planning have historically received funding from the AS. The event is open to everyone and co-sponsored by ASWWU. It takes place at WCC. This year is the request anything over \$200 can be included as a cosponsored. This money isn't directly set aside anywhere in their budgets. They do have Foundation dollars of about \$4,700 remaining. They amount they would want to contribute would be subject to their decisions. This is the kind of thing they could use that money for. Brock said how many years has this fund been accumulating money? Alexander said they can look into that. Dove said what is also used out of that fund. Alexander said not a lot because historically they don't get a lot of external request. Their operational budget covered what they need internally. Palumbo is this in place of the on campus event? Alexander no, it's at WCC. Dove said what is their timeline? Alexander said the event is at the beginning of winter quarter. Perhaps the next board meeting they could make a decision either way. Brock said if they did decide to, they would need to make sure to do outreach on campus and make sure everyone is invited. Alexander said is there any additional information he can bring for next week? Brock said what it has been used for in the past. Alexander and the letter that they received for the request.

C. Sustainable Action Fund (SAF) Charge and Charter

Palumbo said some of the changes to this were adding in "or designee" for the AS VP for Business and Operations and the Environmental Sustainability Programs Director. They did add one more faculty representative back on and it was originally how it was. They moved too quickly to change it and they are finding there were some issues with only have one faculty member. Part of the feeling was making sure faculty were intergrading SAF into classrooms and they need faculty for that.

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

Services and Activities Fee Committee

Julianna Jackson

MOTION: ASB-15-F-54 by Palumbo

Approve the Committee Appointment.

Second: Dove Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passed

X. BOARD REPORTS

Zach Dove, VP for Academic Affairs reported that Dove said faculty have been encouraged to provide accommodations for students who don't feel safe coming to campus, time is of the essence to make sure students know of this accommodations. It shouldn't come from the students but from the university. If there is a time it hasn't been sent out, should he send it out? What is that time? He will be contacting Molly Ware, Faculty Senate President again. He is thinking he will have to send out a bullseye email soon. Eckroth said he thinks Dove should. Brock said professors don't know what making accommodations means because they haven't had training. Her professors don't know what to do. Dove said Ware touched on this briefly, accommodations would be constructed based on the class. He asked Ware to provide more details. Dove said he will send it out at 4pm tomorrow if he doesn't hear back. Martin said it's important for students to know. It doesn't matter who sends it out. Dove said on one hand, it's a message that needs legitimacy behind it. Some students may see information from them and not believe it. Also if there was any push back it wouldn't be directed to the AS but to the University. Brock said a lot of the communication has been seen directly from Seare or Ramos and it's not. They already have too much on their plates. They need students to know about it, but try to think critically about what a message from the AS would look like. Dove said if 4pm tomorrow comes around and they haven't sent it, he will send it. Alexander said tell Ware these concerns? Dove said yes. Should the message be sent before 4pm tomorrow? Palumbo said the sooner it goes out the better. Alexander asked if they have a message built already. Dove said yes but it needs a little work. Dove said the Student Technology Fee Committee has opened the period for students to submit abstracts to of the fund is ongoing. They have gotten one student abstract hopefully more will come.

Patrick Eckroth, YP for Governmental Affairs reported that the Viking Lobby Day (VLD) agenda is almost finished and they will be working on the language at the next Legislative Affairs Council meeting. Registration for VLD is going good so far. Hopefully they can get a lot more folks to register. Last year they had about 150 register but they want a big waitlist because people drop at the last minute. LAC has started discussion on Environmental Lobby Day. Huxley students and the Environmental and Sustainability Programs Director have reached out to environmental clubs to get feedback and proposed agenda items. They will have those proposals in February for the Board to see. Washington Student Association (WSA) will be on WWU's campus next Saturday December 12th in OM 340. There will be lunch provided.

Hannah Brock, VP for Business and Operations reported that they had a meeting today about planning for the AS pre winter quarter training. They didn't come out with any action but lots of good dialogue. They canceled the Public Relations training that was previously scheduled. They didn't think it was appropriate to have it that it wouldn't be needed. It would be better to have a different training. They will bring it to Management Council to get feedback from that group. She doesn't know what is going to happen from there. They haven't sent out a google doc because they need to decide and have clarity on whether it will be having the training or not. She finally made the financial request form and someone is piloting it to test it. This form will be also used for accessing the Supplemental Event Fund.

Israel Rios VP for Activities reported that after the last Board Meeting he went to Communication Committee and it was interesting. They are trying to figure out what to do with the website. They are potentially looking at ways to make it better. On the Student Publication Council they voted for the Western Front to publish once a week instead of twice a week because there is a larger emphasis with the online presence. They insist that the same amount of articles will still be published. They money they received will be going towards making their online page better. They don't know fully what they are doing yet. In Activities Council (AC) approved three clubs. In the Large Event Opportunity Fund, they

approved 3 request so far. There is \$27,000 out of the \$65,000 after fall quarter. If they have offices they oversee, let them know the money is going down quickly.

Emma Palumbo YP for Student Life reported that she just wanted to acknowledge that Abby Ramos and Belina Seare are not here. She wants to be critical of the space they are in right now and noticing who is not in this space.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Hannah Brock, AS Vice President for Business and Operations, adjourned the meeting at 7:09p.m.

DRAFT