

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

Friday, February 12*, 2016

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).

Guests: Stacey Ejim (AS Elections Coordinator)

Advisor: Eric Alexander (Associate Dean of Student Engagement and the Director of the Viking Union Facilities)

MOTIONS

ASB-16-W-24 Approval of the Election Code with the Amendments that the Filing Period open on March 1st at 8am and to Collect 100 Signatures Instead of 150. Also Having the Election Board Oversee the Alternatives Instead of the AS Board of Directors and to Criteria for Alternatives. *Passed.*

ASB-16-W-25 Approve to pass changing the “Rainy Day Fund” to “Operating Reserves” and change the amount in Operating Reserves from 20% to 10% of the Reserves as well as creating a section of the Discretionary Reserve fund to be in direct leadership of the Director of the Viking Union, at an amount mirroring the contribution of FXXVU into the Operating budget.

ASB-16-W-26 Approved the Committee Appointments. *Passed.*

Hannah Brock, VP for Business and Operations, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. INFORMATION ITEMS- Guests*

III. ACTION ITEMS - Guests*

A. Election Code

Eckroth said he didn't get any proposed alternatives from anyone. Ejim said they went through and edited a couple of the items from the fast meeting. They changed it to having a minimum of 75 signatures of currently enrolled main campus students. There was an issue around safety of those collecting signatures. They added language in the code so that if they feel unsafe with the signature process they can contact the election coordinator for alternatives. An alternative example was having who ever wanted to run for a specific position, that candidate could talk to committees and club that would be working with that position. They wouldn't be asking for endorsement but it would let them talk to students and what they want to do in the Board position. This alternative would have community engagement and working with the people they would directly effect. It could be going to 5-10 clubs and get the chair of the committee to sign off saying that candidate went there. The language would be putting the alternative on the candidate not the Election Coordinator. So, if a student felt unsafe, they would come to the Elections Coordinator with an idea of something different, and that would be approved by the Board. Each student will have potential reason different for being unsafe. This would allow them to propose a new idea on their own. This will help show initiative from them and not just trying to get out of collecting the signatures. If there was an alternative proposed they would reserve 30 maximum slot of the AS board meeting. They wanted to make sure to include that the AS Board holds the right to not approve the alternative, so they added language in there about that. When the candidate meets with the Election Coordinator part the fear of collecting signatures could be lack of confidence and not necessarily safety. It could help increase the

candidate's confidence and 75 signatures is still a good option. Eckroth said that is the best alternative he's seen so far. He wanted a proposed change. He was wanting to potentially look at moving the filing dates forward. It would start February 29th. Ejim said that could work. Brock said she wanted to discuss obtaining only signatures with direct personal interactions. Do they still want to define that more? If they want to not have class interaction, they could still make that argument with that. Ejim said they could define it more if they wanted to. Alexander said the intention would be that the candidate doesn't pass a paper around to a number of people. They should try and define the behavior they are looking for. Brock said that's not to say they couldn't go to small groups doing that. They can interact with students and talk to them individually. Ejim said in red square there may be groups of 5-10 and that's okay as long as they are talking and communicating with them all. Originally it said face to face. They could say some examples could be that they can't pass the filing packets around classes. Alexander said as he look at the alternative piece, he wonders what are the possible biases from having alternatives and what are the challenges they perceive could arise? The idea about going to committees was great and he wonders if it is something that could be required for all candidates not just the person who wanted an alternative. He keeps going back to there is a potential for bias. Each year the Board may be in a different place. The idea they just came up with seems really focused on interacting with those people Board members interact with. There is a lot of content and validity there, but they could say that is the additional option and not have it made up by the candidate. Ejim said like a standardize alternative? Alexander said yes. Palumbo said the only thing she is worried about with the alternative is that it's proposing that they go to groups they will work with as clubs and offices and those folks have some of awareness of the Board already. When candidates are collecting signatures they are reaching people who don't know the AS exists. It's important to reach out to those groups they will be working with however it's not the same purpose of the signatures. They don't think that's enough to be the alternative. Ejim said that's not a definite alternative but it's a suggestion. Realistically with the times clubs meet they may not have enough time to get to five to ten clubs. They would have to make subjective calls even then. Alexander said he thinks it's great to have those discussions. But hearing a couple grievances, people get really nitpicky for the language of the Election Code. Rios said he thinks it's great, but his only concern about Board being the one who approves the alternative. Board members may be trying to get re-elected then there would be a bias from the Board. Eckroth said the Election Board could do it. He had a question about adding criteria about options for the alternative such as good community engagement and so on. Alexander said why do they gather signatures for this process? Brock said the reasons signatures are gathered. Comfortable speaking to students. It brings awareness that the elections are happening. It's going to be uncomfortable but being unsafe is another thing. Eckroth said who liked talking to random people? He didn't, but he was glad he did it. Brock said her too. People have done it in a day. 75 signatures is a good number and it wouldn't hurt trying it for a year. Eckroth said if they do have the alternative, would they still want candidates to get 150 signatures? Brock said she broke it up in a week and it worked well. It could be okay. Rios said 150 was good. 75 really means 100 for that extra buffer. 150 encourages people to get the alternative because it is a larger number and 75 may look better. Dove said 75 would still accomplish the same thing. Ejim said it's not about comfort at all. They have to be uncomfortable. This is general safety and it's hard to ignore some things that have happened on campus. Uncomfortable is okay, being unsafe is not okay. There are some students that were being aggressive or peoples saying transphobic homophobic sexist comments. Some people really don't feel safe or feel worth. They don't want to diminish the signatures but some students wouldn't be able to do that. This is about genuine safety. If they want to think about the signatures that's fine. They know of people who gave up with the signatures and they could have been a good candidate. It's not about lowering to make it easier, but to make it more accommodating. For the alternative activity, the Election Board could be a second body to check the Board. Alexander said why do they think they need to have any barriers for students to get their name on the ballot? Eckroth said there is no barriers for Evergreen State College. They don't have people who are dedicated to the positions. It's about showing that dedicated to the positions. Community engagement is another piece of that. If they could find an alternative that worked that would be great. Alexander said if someone said I am not feeling safe, do they have to have more information than that? Another question about the criteria. Some of the things he is

hearing is how they will speak with student constituents. Second would be discussion of their platform. Third would be engaging a certain percentage of the student population. The last criteria could be somehow showing a way a dedicated to community engagement. Ejim said lastly there were changes with the referendum. They added language about saying yes or no on the ballot. The language they added was the “AS Board may approve a question in a different format if it’s technically feasible with the online voting program”. The candidate packet they added a sentence stating that the AS Board Program Assistant will have access to their GPA and credit history and will share that they meet the requirements with the Elections Coordinator. There were no other changes with the initiative or referendum packets.

MOTION ASB-16- W-24 by Eckroth

Approval of the Election Code with the Amendments that the Filing Period open on March 1st at 8am and to Collect 100 Signatures Instead of 150. Also Having the Election Board Oversee the Alternatives Instead of the AS Board of Directors and to Criteria for Alternatives.

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

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

VI. ACTION ITEMS - Board*

A. Reserves Restructure

Brock said they have been talking about the reserve restructure and later on they will bring the policy that will encompass the changes they decide. They had this as a topic on their work session. Are there any comments, questions, or changes that they’ve been thinking about? Rios said moved it to an information item? Brock said she wanted to move it to an information item because there are some questions and it’s a big change, didn’t feel comfortable bringing it when there are two Board members who aren’t there. Rios said they saw it for three weeks now and they had opportunity to comment if need be. Brock said they want to make sure they feel about it. She would like to know how they feel, if they know Only part she heard was in discussion was the amount of leadership would have authority over and that amount being proposed is the same amount as FXXVU, 36% and she hasn’t heard a different amount proposed. Alexander said another item they have been talking about is what to do with the discretionary reserves. He knows Seare is working on the Conference Funding and that could go into that decision. He chatted with Brock about how would they make it a good program that the met criteria which money is collected for. They could portion the Discretionary Reserves into three parts instead of two. One being the Directors area, 2nd being the AS Board area and third would be the grant area.

Eckroth said he would suggest keeping it as an action item. Brock said the reason she didn’t want to move on this was to respect Seare and Ramos. She has reached out to them. They can vote on it today if they want. Palumbo said it wouldn’t prevent anything for conference funding correct? Brock said no it would be easier. Alexander said they could then have separate vote around that portion of the Discretionary Reserve later on. Brock said that would be up to the Board around how much they can spend on that.

Eckroth said there could be unforeseen expenses and he wonders about it being at 10%. Alexander said if something bad were to happen, it would come from Rainy Day Reserve. Brock said they have had unforeseen expenses like the raise in salaries, and it didn’t make a dent in what they have.

MOTION ASB-16- W-25 by Eckroth

Approve to pass changing the “Rainy Day Fund” to “Operating Reserves” and change the amount in Operating Reserves from 20% to 10% of the Reserves as well as creating a section of

Hannah Brock, VP for Business and Operations reported that she has been working on SPAC. Emma Opsal, the AS Assessment Coordinator, Lisa Rosenberg, the Assistant Director of Student Activities, and her are looking at assessing the SPAC process. They are looking at bringing in an assessment class. The SPAC process could be improved. It's only been going for a few years. The budget process is going, they are almost done approving the budgets. Structural Review Committee is going well. They are looking at other university structures right now. She may be looking at the Reservation Policy and maybe making some improvements and changes.

Israel Rios VP for Activities reported that Activities Council (AC) is seeing a proposal to standardize club names. Clubs are having a hard time trying to look up club names that have WWU, Western Washington University or Western in them. If it goes through, and it is a substantial change it will go the Board. They want to make exceptions for those with good acronyms. Clubs have had trouble finding their budget because the name is different than they thought it was. The Club Conference Fund will ran out. This will be the earliest it ran out. On another note the AS Bookstore Donation Fund is running really slow. Remind anyone they can get bookstore donations. Everyone should look at their job descriptions as they are due next week.

Emma Palumbo VP for Student Life reported that Environmental Lobby day is happening this weekend. Vandana Shiva, an Eco-feminist is coming to speak at WWU. Shiva will be presenting on women in agricultural. This event happening on February 25th at 6:30 in Performing Arts Center. This will be an awesome an event. They will see a rate increase brought by Kurt Willis in two weeks. Propose the rate increase for housing and know about that. Eden's North is almost going on a full month with no hot water. She has been working with those students to figure out a solution and they are thinking about potential refunds. She is going to Presidents Cabinet instead of Seare because Seare has a class. So if anyone has anything to bring up to Presidents Cabinet, please let her know.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Rios said he wanted to throw out the idea putting out the notes of the Board work sessions because he thinks they are inaccessible. Alexander said they are supposed to post notes.

Hannah Brock, VP for Business and Operations, adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.