



# AS Board of Directors

Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

4:00pm

VU567

**Members:** **Present:** Stephanie Cheng (AS President); Alex LaVallee (AS VP for Activities); Erick Yanzon (AS VP for Academic Affairs); Aleyda Cervantes (AS VP for Diversity); Bryce Hammer (AS VP for Governmental Affairs); Wayne Rocque (AS VP for Student Life); Eric Alexander (Associate Dean of Student Engagement & Director of Viking Union).  
**Absent:** Mary Moeller (AS VP for Business and Operations)

**Advisor:** Sabrina Houck (AS Board Program Director)

**Secretary:** Chrissa Browder-Long (Board Assistant for Internal Committees)

**Guests:** Josie Butcher (QRC Coordinator); Abigail Borchert (ISSS); Richard Bruce (ISSS); Henry Pollet (REP).

## Motions:

**ASB-16-W-40** Approval of the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Passed.**

**ASB-16-W-41** Approval of changing all seven Board Member GPA requirement from a 2.0 minimum to a 2.5 minimum. **Passed.**

*Stephanie Cheng called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.*

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*MOTION ASB-16-W- By Cheng*

*40*

*To approve the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

Second: Hammer      Vote: 4-0-0 Action: Passed

## II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Wayne Rocque stated he wanted to move International Student Scholar Services to Information Items - Guests.

## III. PUBLIC FORUM

## IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - GUESTS\*

### A. Queer Resource Center Update

Josie Butcher stated that she and Kieran Flowers met with ResLife and discussed the issues going on. Butcher stated that Leonard Jones said they are using preferred names on doors and are being accommodating to gender inclusive students but it doesn't seem to match up with stories they have heard from students on campus. They discussed campus climate and how to help students living on campus. She explained that apparently there is already RA training geared towards queer identifying students but some RA's actions don't portray that training due to the stories of RA's using queer-based slurs and verbal harassment. Bryce Hammer asked if there is any follow up training for the RA's. Butcher said the initial training for RAs is in Spring Quarter and there is more training right before students move into the dorms in Fall Quarter. Rocque said that there was discussion about the QRC facilitating training for

ResLife. He thought that the QRC shouldn't have the responsibility of training RDs and RAs. It is up to the people in ResLife to provide the appropriate training. Butcher stated that they already facilitate training for other offices and professors. Bryce Hammer wondered if an LGBTQ advocate/coordinator could work with ResLife in the future. Rocque stated that they might have to work with the ROP and ResLife with discussing rehiring and determining what disciplinary measures are taken when RAs participate in discriminatory behavior. He stated that many of the discriminative RAs are rehired after claims against them are made. Butcher stated that even queer identifying RAs are being challenged. Hammer thought that implementing a system used like with class evaluations could be useful. Rocque said that there have been issues with the consistency of evaluations being considered in ResLife.

### **B. New York Times Proposal**

Hammer stated that the admin and the REP pay to have the New York Times available to students around campus as well as digital passes. Henry Pollet stated that last year they overpaid so they now have a \$5,000 credit that would cover this year but the price per paper is increasing to \$1 from \$0.70. But they will have to have a discussion for how they are going to fund that with the price increase. Hammer stated that this program is often put on the chopping block when budgets are reevaluated but there has been almost 100% pick up rate after the inauguration. Eric Alexander stated that they need to decide whether they want to have Pollet develop a decision package that goes through Budget Committee and then to the Board or have the Board decide first. Even though decision packages were due, Alexander thought they would accept it since it is such a late discovery.

### **C. International Student & Scholar Services Conversation**

Rocque explained that the International Student & Scholar Services are here to discuss the relationship they have with the AS. Given the current climate with the travel bans, they will discuss how the international students are affected and how the AS can be more supportive. Richard Bruce stated that their office works with degree-seeking and international exchange students. He clarified that when they refer to international students, they refer to people here on student visas. He stated that there are about 178 students from 36 countries on campus, which is about 1% of the total population. The international student population hasn't had much change over the past 13 years. So it is generally one of the more underrepresented groups of students at Western. Compared to other WA state universities, the population of international students at Western is much smaller than others WA state universities. Bruce discussed with Rocque about how the AS could help support that group of students. Abigail Borchert stated that they have some recommendations on how the AS can be more supportive of the international students on campus. She stated that the biggest thing for the population is visible support like protests and demonstrations. She was told that seeing protests on TV defending immigrants in the US was comforting to international students. She added that President Randhawa's statement was much appreciated. She thought having more AS involvement in events and activities the ISSS holds would be helpful. The ISSS have an orientation every quarter and it was great when Rocque joined them for Fall Orientation, so more involvement in their orientations would be appreciated. They are working on a video with the hashtag "#youarewelcomehere" and they have people around campus stating that anyone is welcome on campus as a message to perspective international students as well as current international students at Western. They also have an ongoing International Buddy Program and any support or publicity of that would be appreciated. They discussed with Roque about potentially providing legal resources around immigration. Also, generally reminding the students at WWU that there are international students on campus, so whenever an international student is profiled anywhere, they are thrilled. The ISSS also thought that

including international students in the plans for the multicultural center would help with inclusivity. She noticed that the AS Job Fair is coming up and she is going to encourage the international students to apply for jobs in the AS. Borchert added that requiring certain international students to have tuberculosis testing doesn't make people feel welcome. The international students often miss out on Summerstart due to them being in their home countries. She added that the out-of-state dinner doesn't allow international students to attend. For example, she had a student from Canada who wasn't allowed to go to the out-of-state dinner even though she might relate to out-of-state students more than international students. Borchert stated that it would be great to increase the number of international students on campus. If the university had a comprehensive plan for recruiting more international students, it would make international students feel more comfortable at Western. Hammer wondered if it would be possible to house international students during Summerstart because she wondered if it would help the international students if there could stay in the dorms for an extended period of time. Bruce explained that the reason they can't participate in Summerstart is due to their visa. Since they are on a student visa, they aren't allowed to come to the US until 30 days before school starts. Aleyda Cervantes said that she heard that international students don't feel welcome with students of color from the US and she wondered how they could create a more inclusive place for them. Borchert said that the number of students is a difficulty, if there were more, it would be easier. She also thought that having an "International Students Club" would be beneficial. Another issue is that a lot of students come as transfer students or are short term students. Since they don't have a base of students here for the whole 4 years, it is difficult to build a club of international students. Rocque suggested that they could discuss this issue with Executive Committee and discuss how they could get more involved. Bruce thought that if there were more international students involved with the Multicultural Center it would be a good venue for them to discuss how their experiences differ from heritage clubs. Stephanie Cheng stated that for students that can't attend Summerstart, there is Fall Advising on the Monday before school starts but it is at the same time as the International Student Orientation. She wondered why the orientations were at the same time and if there is any overlap in content. Borchert said they are working on that with Academic Advising. The main issue is on-campus housing. Their students usually move in that weekend, so they only have 2 days to get completely settled in before school starts. Borchert explained that their orientation focusses on immigration regulations, employment, basic registration questions, safety and how to get involved on campus. Due to the housing issue, they are confined to the time they have for orientation but everyone doesn't arrive at the same time. Rocque stated that it isn't enough to meet a quota of international students, he wants the AS to provide advocacy and integrate that population into Western and bridge the gap with the international students on campus. He suggested that in the committees he chairs, he would reserve spots for international students. It would be vital to hear their perspectives on student life issues. Hammer thought they could list the committees that could benefit from international student perspectives and she wondered if the international students would be interested in that. Borchert said that the students are often driven in academics and it isn't a guarantee that students will want to get involved especially with such a small population of international students on campus. Cervantes said that she would like to talk to them about how to become an ESC club or an AS club. Hammer wondered if the Board Members coming to Fall Orientation would be helpful. Borchert thought that would be beneficial. Erick Yanzon stated that the International Club was one of the five original ESC clubs. Rocque stated that he is concerned with how to get the students involved due to intimidation of the AS. He wondered how the AS could be made more accessible to international students. Cervantes said that they could invite people to come to meetings to see what goes on in the AS. Yanzon stated that there is a large number of international students that live in Buchanan Towers and

he thought collaborating with their international board programming would be beneficial. Alexander Lavallee thought that taking the international students to a basketball game might be fun. Borchert said that the International Buddy Program has taken them to basketball games and it helped them feel more of the Western community.

## V. ACTION ITEMS - GUESTS\*

## VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS

## VII. ACTION ITEMS- BOARD\*

### A. Summer Board Orientation Proposal

Cervantes was concerned with the delegation of work to the Board Members that would be there the whole time. Each Board Member might take a different approach to their jobs and if the work is delegated and done a specific way, the Board Member would either be stuck with something they don't like or have to do it again. Hammer stated that she is hesitant of having only certain people stay because the summer was the time all the Board Members got to know each other and if the Board is split up over the summer, they won't become as unified. Alexander stated that Sabrina Houck thought that instead of delegating, there would be hours where everyone else would come in for their duties so there would be no need for delegation. Hammer stated that there are certain times during the year when each Board Member is busiest and their salary is based off of an average of 19 hours per week. If the salary for some Board Members increased in the summer, then they would end up underpaid for the overall year. Yanzon stated that for his position, there could be other ways the time could be used in the summer for training. Cervantes thought that practical skills could be taught during the summer. She would also like to have more meetings with the administrative VPs and the faculty that are on campus during the summer. Hammer thought that instead of meeting all the different offices at the same time, it would have been helpful to break it up more. Also instead of everyone coming to the Board Office, they could attend office staff meetings to see what is happening in each of the entities. Alexander stated that the first option in the proposal is "no change" and if everyone feels that everyone should be there in the summer, the proposal isn't necessary and then the Board can discuss what changes should be made in the training. Cheng concluded that they don't want to change the dates and hours in the summer but want to change the training. Alexander thought the next step would be for the Board Members to meet with the training team to provide their opinions and help develop the orientation.

### B. Board Job Descriptions - GPA Changes

They had discussed moving the GPA to a 2.5 minimum from a 2.0 minimum. The Board concluded with a 2.5 GPA.

*MOTION ASB-16-W- By Hammer*

41            *To approve changing all seven Board Member GPA requirements from 2.0 minimum to 2.5 minimum.*

Second: Cheng

Vote: 5-0-1

Action: Passed

## VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - BOARD\*

### A. Grant Proposal for New Board Assistant Position

Cervantes stated that the new Board Assistant would assist with the Multicultural Center. She stated that it would be helpful for the Board Assistant for Club Committees and Cervantes.

The duties of the position would include taking notes, scheduling meeting, emails and working with Executive Committee. It is an hourly position and would be until spring 2018. Alexander explained that the funding would come out the reserve budget so it wouldn't have an impact on the operating budgets. Cheng wondered if it would be difficult to find someone to commit for that long time. Cervantes thought it wouldn't be a problem. Alexander said that Houck was thinking they would work through spring and summer and having them work during the summer would help bridge the new VP into everything that's already been done in regards to the Multicultural Center. Yanzon noted that the Board Assistant wouldn't have to report to Houck. Cervantes thought it would be better for Houck to supervise because Cervantes works more with Houck than with Lafayette Baker. Cervantes stated that Personnel Committee didn't meet today but it could come next week as a Personnel Item. Once the Board approves it, they wouldn't have to wait for Personnel Committee to meet.

## **IX. CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. Committee Appointments**

#### **AS Student Enhancement Fund Committee**

Irene Zhang                    Junior                    Biology and Chinese Language and Literature

*MOTION ASB-16-W-6 By Yanzon*

*To approve all committee appointments.*

Second: Hammer Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

## **X. BOARD REPORTS**

**Stefanie Cheng, AS President** stated that someone from Financial Aid wanted to know about how the SWAT unit will be working in Old Main. Cheng said that they want to familiarize the police of the buildings on campus so that if there is ever an active shooter, the police response is direct, rapid and efficient. Hammer would request that it would be on the weekend and they thought that warnings should be posted so students don't get scared.

**Bryce Hammer, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated WASA is tomorrow and she is coming back after the Lobby Days on Monday. Structure Review has finished bringing in all of the VPs and just need the President. House Bill 1488 passed and will be going to the Senate soon. The Senate passed a modified version of the Academic Bill of Rights that teachers can use trigger warnings but can't be fired if they don't.

**Aleyda Cervantes, VP for Diversity** stated that they are accepting conference applications. The applications consist of 6 questions. They received 3 applications the day it was posted. They are trying to figure out registration because they can't register without student IDs. She and Yanzon felt overwhelmed so they decided not to do a panel. They are working on the ESC Lobby Agendas. She went to see different multicultural centers in Seattle and took notes on what they liked and what they didn't. They are going to have an open house on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the ESC on what they are working on. They are putting the ROP along with the ESC in the multicultural services. Cervantes stated that now they need to determine how to make sure there is a good environment for both white students and students of color because the communities the ROP works with aren't necessarily students of color. She wanted to make sure that the space doesn't get taken over. Cervantes said that having conversations about whiteness with students on campus would be useful. She stated that she wants to ensure that

students of color are fully represented and feel welcome. ESC Lobby Day is happening this weekend. Last Sunday, they came up with a new name for the Women's Center and a mission with its positions and they will be submitting the positions to Personnel soon.

**Wayne Rocque, YP for Student Life** stated that he was going to amend the seats of the students at large and will bring in an international student representative and one representative from each college but 2 from Huxley and 2 from the Humanities and Social Sciences for SAL.

**Alex LaVallee, YP for Activities** stated that Mensa Latina is a new foreign language club on campus. Club Showcase started this Monday and goes until next week. Strategic Planning Committee happened and they hired a new editor for The Planet, Klipsun and the Western Lront. The chair for SPC is back.

**Erick Yanzon, VP for Academic Affairs** stated that Academic Support Committee started on Monday but they don't have a few representatives so they are still looking for some. He met with Anna Kemper and the SAL Coordinator about the possibility of installing solar panels. The students that wanted to move forward with that said that they'll need to study it first so they would ask it from SAL not STL. Rocque wondered if all the money would be spent from the STL for the solar panels. Yanzon said that there is a \$400,000 surplus and the only other proposal was for faster Wi-Li and he isn't sure if it will cost that much. He added that the hiring for VP of Enrollment and Student Services has started and they have 3 candidates now and they want to have open forum for students and faculty and want to have an open lunch with the Board.

## XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Hammer stated that Structure Review has made tentative plans on the timeline of the implementation of the new structure. They have talked with all the VPs and have settled on structure that they think would complement the Senate, the Board and the Programming Council. Rocque's position would be split into two different positions. It would allow for the ESC and ROP to have more independence than they have now. In order to implement the new structure, they need to have it passed by a vote of the students because it is different from their bylaws. Hammer stated that they could do this by a concurrent vote that suspends the bylaws and the new positions would write the bylaws next year. They were hesitant legality wise if they could operate on temporary bylaws. Then the Senate, the Board and the Programming Council would have a few years to write their own bylaws. The thought it was weird that the AS wrote the bylaws for a senate they weren't involved in. They realized that they would have to pass this referendum before any of this went into effect. So she stated that in the next 3 weeks, she will write a constitution so it can go into effect 2018. If the referendum passes with the new constitution, they need to decide who should sit on Structure Review. They thought that having Governmental Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Activities made most sense. The issue is that those positions don't know about the ESC or ROP. So the VP for Diversity would have to be included a lot of the time. They thought that the ROP Director could be added. But the ROP Director would be a staff member next year. Alexander stated that the survey for SPC is out and he would appreciate if everyone would pass it on. There will be specific focus groups going around and he wondered if having an overall AS focus group or a Board focus group would be a good idea.

### A. Executive Session - Residence Life Relationship Issue

*MOTION ASB-16-W-6 By Hammer  
To go into Executive Session until 5:50pm.*

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

*Cheng adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.  
Exiting Executive Session at 5:59pm.*

DRAFT