

Western Washington University Associated Students
AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, November 16th 2017 VU 567

AS Board Officers: *Present:* Simrun Chhabra(President), Hunter Eider (VP Academics), Julia Rutledge (VP Activities), Alex LaVallee (VP BusOps), Erick Yanzon (VP Diversity), Ana Ramirez (VP Governmental Affairs), and Annie Gordon (VP Student Life)

Advisor(s): Eric Alexander (Advisor), Casey Hayden

Guest(s): Julia Berkman (AS Review), Jose Rios-Sanchez (AS Business Director)

MOTIONS

Motion-ASB-17-F-33 Approve the MOU for the Sustainable Action Fund Education Coordinator transfer to the Office of Sustainability. *Passed*

Simrun Chhabra, AS President, called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

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

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests*

A. Presentation by the AS Business Director

Rios-Sanchez explained that they were here primarily to seek advice from the Board, there are a lot of decisions to be made about how to precede that we don't want to make ourselves. They went over how the budget is decided every year, each office writes a budget and the budget committee looks them over and puts them together. Then it goes to the Board, then the S&A fee Committee and then the Board of Trustees. There's a couple big things to consider for the next fiscal year, first that the S&A fee got coupled to tuition, which means it can only grow at 2.2% max. The AS will see a marginal bump to revenue, if any. The AS also usually gets a library contribution but that seems unlikely this year because the library has to move. Additionally we have growing expenditures, namely the minimum wage increase, programming and supply costs also go up every year. This year we have many grants ending which is another cost. Rios-Sanchez is confident that fiscal year 18 will be fine, we just want to start planning for fiscal year 19. Student salaries will go up by \$45,000, ending grants have a cost of \$71,000, permanent salaried staff wages are going up as well and we don't know how much yet, this is all on top of our limited revenue growth. Looking forward we see that few of these are one-time costs, they aren't going to stop next year. Since the budget was crafted with the expectation that the S&A fee wouldn't be coupled with tuition, then because we couldn't raise the revenue we thought we would be able to we ended up with a deficit. We can either try to raise revenue or do some reallocation, our number one priority is making sure the AS retains financial security. Our next step is to talk to management council and make sure offices know about this before submitting budgets. Typically the Business Office asks offices to submit budgets by the end of this year but it looks like we're pushing that back to midwinter quarter. LaVallee said that hopefully the AS Board can give guidance about what we say as priorities. Rios-Sanchez said that although this year we had an \$84,000 deficit we are confident that we can end up even this year, but keep in mind that means if we submit the same budget as last year we start out 84,000 in the hole before any other increased costs.

Alexander asked if he saw freezing additional grant funding as a potential solution, moving it into operations. Rios-Sanchez said that it was a possible solution but not one he wants to look into at this time. They said that balancing this budget was a big task and one that might not be achievable without cuts, if cuts are necessary then direction from the Board would be valuable. Rutledge asked what grants were thinking about being operationalized. Alexander responded that the Student Enhancement Fund was one of them.

Chhabra said that it would be best to table this for now and go into executive session. Berkman asked the Board their reason for going into executive session. Houck pulled up the RCW. The reason to close the session was under RCW 4230 litigation or legal risk to a proposed action or current practice that the agency has identified. Berkman asked if the board needed legal counsel. Alexander said it was in Section If, evaluating a legal complaint against a public employee.

The Board went into executive session at 9:24am for fifteen minutes.

The Board came out of the executive session at 9:40am.

The Board went back into the executive session at 9:41 for five minutes.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:46.

Hunter Eider and Simrun Chhabra left the meeting.

The Board went into executive session at 9:46.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:47.

The Board reentered executive session at 9:47am for five minutes.

The Board exited executive session at 9:54am.

V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests*

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

VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board*

A. Election Appeals Committee Charge and Charter

Chhabra introduced the Election Appeals Committee Charge and Charter. The Elections Board handles elections misconduct and someone can appeal an Elections Board decision and it gets brought before this committee. Hayden said that there was concern that the way this could play out is that there could be board members not seeking reelection on the committee who support a particular candidate, causing a conflict of interest. This could also lead to there not being sufficient Board members to fill the committee. Alexander suggested reaching out to the student concerns appeal committee in the office of Student Life. Chhabra suggested that this item be deferred until the Board had more information.

B. MOU- Sustainable Action Fund Coordinator Position

Chhabra introduced action item A the sustainable action fund coordinator. LaVallee said they had the update draft of the MOU, added a timeline section and simplified the document.

MOTION: ASB-17-F-33 by LaVallee

Approve the MOU for the Sustainable Action Fund Education Coordinator position to transfer

to the Office of Sustainability.
Second: Gordon Vote: 6-0-1 Action: Pass

C. Facilities and Service Charge and Charter

LaVallee said they met with Greg McBride and they discussed this charge and charter, it's become clear we need to have another meeting to full detail the rules of operation for the council. This council isn't in session currently and there is interest from students about things pertaining to it so McBride is filling in some of those duties. I'll come back with a more complete proposal.

D. AS Structural Review Committee Charge and Charter

The Structural Review Committee charge and charter was tabled until the next meeting.

LaVallee said that the AS Budget director would be at the meeting at 9:00am to give a presentation about the budget and budget process, and we will be looking for priorities for the budget committee for this year.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*

A. Elections Advisory Committee Charge and Charter

This item was tabled.

B. Elections Board Charge and Charter

Chhabra introduced the Elections Advisory Committee charge and charter. The committee advises the election coordinator prior to the elections, and the elections board deals with any problems that stem from the election. Chhabra stated that they think we should combine these two groups. Alexander said that it does seem to make sense, the elections board is one of those groups that it is hard to find participation in and make quorum for because they don't always have to meet. Another difficult thing is that members can be dismissed if they are thought to have ties with a particular decision, so you really need more than the five members for quorum. Rutledge said that there should be a system for when members need to get dismissed. Alexander said that it's possible to lower the quorum from five to three. Hayden said that he doesn't see an issue with lowering quorum but that he does understand why these are two separate bodies and wants to see them in action before he passes judgement on if they should be combined. One group's job is to be knowledgeable and write the election code, the other group has to be an impartial board that adjudicates on potential misconduct and that could lead to some tension and blurred responsibility.

C. Residence Life Update

Gordon gave an update on ResLife. This document is public, she pulled it off of the website that the RA's made last year about changes they want to see. I have a meeting soon to create a timeline, for now this is just a way to keep us accountable to their asks. The Board decided to table the discussion and revisit in a couple weeks.

D. Food/Housing Security Base Building

Gordon gave an update on Food and Housing Security base building. I've been working

with some people from Birnam Wood to get a food pantry opened up but they need a little money to get it started, she wondered if and how that could happen. LaVallee asked if they could use the money set aside for university housing in HRAC, Annie said that because of construction they weren't sure if they could use those funds. LaVallee clarified that the intention was for HRAC to be used for on campus students. Yanzon said that they doesn't like that the burden to pay for these programs always falls to the Associated Students and not the University itself. Chhabra asked if it would make sense to go to the Foundation board for funding. Alexander said that that would be a good place to go to funding. Annie clarified that it was a one-time ask for start-up funding.

E. Smoke Free Campus Update

Gordon gave an update on the smoke free campus initiative. They asked if there will be a point where the Board would be comfortable taking a stance on the issue. Alexander pointed out that there was a referendum that past against smoking, and that at this point it's up to the Board to try and implement something. Chhabra said this is something that should be brought to Sabah and some of the other VP's to make sure it won't be stopped at that level. Rutledge said that they thought that there should be a new vote and that she would be onboard with moving forward. Chhabra agreed that this is something that should move forward. Gordon pointed out that the main opposition that's been voiced has been from people arguing that nicotine has health benefits. Berkman asked if any of the concerns about a non-smoking campus had to do with classism. Gordon replied that it was being looked at as an accessibility issue, and that one of the things they were thinking about was making sure to be understanding with their stance on nicotine. Chhabra asked if it would be possible to change were the places you could smoke on campus were. Gordon said that the best course of action is all or nothing, people already don't stick to designated spaces. Chhabra asked for informal opinions. Eider said they were okay with moving forward with a proposal. LaVallee said they were comfortable with discussing implementation. Rutledge said they were okay with moving forward. Chhabra agreed. The rest of the Board agreed. Chhabra recommended that the issue be discussed with a few stakeholders before moving forward with it.

F. University Housing Advocacy Committee Charge and Charter

Gordon presented the University Housing Advocacy Charge and Charter and said Shaina (RHA President) and her had talked about this and weren't sure if it would come to fruition. RHA president and Gordon are co-chairing, it is an advisory committee. Chhabra voiced concern that if the committee only meets when there is an emergency or urgent need then it might get forgotten in the next couple of years. Gordon agreed and said that the committee is a holdover while RHA and NRHH get organized to deal with issues. The committee has definite benefit but there is also harm associated with making a committee like this. Yanzon brought up that part of the reason the committee was made was because the previous AS VP for Student Life was the only outlet for complaints and grievances. LaVallee noted that money was allocated out of the reserves for this committee and if it wasn't used that would be sad.

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

X. BOARD REPORTS

Simrun Chhabra, President, did not give a report.

Hunter Eider, VP for Academic Affairs, did not give a report.

Alex LaVallee, VP for Business and Operations, reported that he had been looking over the budget Jose Rios-Sanchez, AS Business Director brought today. University Planning and Resource Council (UPRC) met last night and discussed the pathways program that is being introduced to the university and how faculty were being included in that decision.

Julia Rutledge, VP for Activities, reported that they were dealing with Naomi Grossman stuff as well, talking to people and getting feedback.

Erick Yanzon, VP for Diversity, reported that in light of the things happening with AS Productions and the Resource and Outreach programs with the Naomi Grossman event the Disability Outreach Center and the Women Identity Resource Center are holding a space to talk about what's going on from 5:30 to 6:30 today for people with disabilities, and then 6:30 to 7:30 is a space for everyone else. After that this Monday there is going to be a meeting for all of the AS to talk about programming and inclusivity. Right after that the Underrepresented Student Employee Council will meet to debrief and talk about our agenda. On Monday at 5pm the ESC will have a forum about what students want from the ESC.

Ana Ramirez, VP for Governmental Affairs, did not give a report.

Annie Gordon, VP for Student Life, reported that tonight at 7 in the Kappa lounge is the meeting about safety and the Board is all invited. It's important that the Board acknowledge that some students are feeling unsafe on campus and express that to them. She wants to gain an understanding of what exactly students want from them.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 10:00 a.m.