

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wednesday

February 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 Viking Union 462 A

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

**Advisor!s):** Eric Alexander (Advisor)

**Guest!s):** Cora Cole (AS REP Committee Coordinator)

**MOTIONS**

**ASB-18-W-4** Approve the ESC Lobby Day Agenda. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-5** Approve the ESP Lobby Day agenda with the stipulation that the numbers of the House bills referenced be updated. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-6** Approve the DOC Lobby Day Agenda *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-7** Approve the amount of \$5,100 for three years, to support the efforts in installing a food pantry in the VU out if FXXRES. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-8** To approve all consent items and to add an additional student at large seat to the Elections Advisory Committee. *Passed.*

*Simrun Chhabra, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests\***

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

**A. ESC Lobby Day Agenda**

Yanzon presented the agenda that the ESC Presidents Counsel approved last Thursday, there are some changes from what the Board saw last week. The sections already done in the Western lobby day were removed, more asks were added to the section on supporting marginalized students. Rutledge mentioned that hiring teachers of color is not in the control of the Legislature. Yanzon said that they still felt it was worth including. Yanzon moved to approve the ESC Lobby Day Agenda. Gordon seconded.

***MOTION ASB-18-W-4*** by: Yanzon

Approve the ESC Lobby Day Agenda.

Second: Gordon

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

Action: Pass

**B. ESP Lobby Day Agenda**

The only change is that what was the carbon tax, Senate Bill 5509 got absorbed into Senate Bill 6603. Gordon moves to approve ESP Lobby Day Agenda with the stipulation that the number of two house bills will be updated. Yanzon seconded.

*MOTIONASB-18-W-5* by: Gordon

Approve the ESP Lobby Day agenda with the stipulation that the numbers of the House bill referenced be updated.

Second: Yanzon

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

Action: Pass

#### ç **DOC Lobby Day Agenda**

Yanzon states that no changes were made to this document from last week.

*MOTIONASB-18- W-6* by: Yanzon

Approve the DOC Lobby Day Agenda

Second: Rutledge

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

Action: Pass

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

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

##### **A. Food Pantry Funding Request**

Rutledge said that funding has been increased to make it more easily divisible it is now \$5,100 and it was specified who would handle running the food bank, namely the SIRC Work Study and the ESP Works Study and the ROP Coordinator. Gordon said that they changed the name from the Viking Union Pood Pantry to the Western Pood Pantry, to dissociate from a mascot that not everyone identifies with. La Vallee clarified that the amount of money is easily paid, it is a very small request, given the current amount in reserves.

*MOTIONASB-18-W-7* by: Rutledge

Approve the amount of \$5,100 for three years, to support the efforts in installing a food pantry in the VU out if FXXRES.

Second: Gordon

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

Action: Pass

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

##### **A. Ethnic Studies Conference Funding Proposal**

Yanzon explained the proposal, it is to partially fund twelve students to travel to the Ethnic Studies Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University. Last year's AS VP's for Diversity and Academic Affairs went to the conference and Yanzon wants to continue promoting this kind of work at Western. Yanzon would like to continue focusing on representing historically marginalized groups at Western. They are taking the same number of students as last year, however the trip is much more expensive because the conference is on the East Coast. Depending on the funding available they may only take eight students, they are also going to focus on taking students who will be with Western for as long as possible in an effort to be sustainable. Registration for the conference is \$100 per person, lodging is \$450 per room, and airfare is \$550 each. Yanzon said that they are asking for funding from other sources, they are asking for either \$1,200 or \$1,800 from Activities Council and around an \$2,000 from the Student Enhancement Fund, depending on if eight or twelve students go. They are asking for \$5,774 from the Board if twelve students go, and \$2,116 if eight students go. Yanzon mentioned that the conference is in four weeks so they would like it to be an action item next week. Alexander asked if any Western faculty would be attending, because it could be possible to combine resources. Yanzon said they didn't know. LaVallee clarified that Student Enhancement Fund (SEF) has given as much as \$750 per person. Yanzon said that this year

they have had more requests. Yanzon said that the proposal was subject to change by next week, and that for that reason they had chosen the maximum costs as estimates. La Vallee asked how the Board felt about using reserves to fund a club trip. Hayden brought up the value question of what the Board thinks reserves are for and how trip funding should be acquired in the AS. La Vallee said they think it is worth reevaluating how the SEF allocates funding, for example they think a club like Dead Parrots Society getting \$600 dollars a person vs a trip like this having to ask the Board for funding seems wrong. Gordon said that their thought was that if the money had to come out of reserves they were fine with that but they would prefer to have the larger chunk come out of SEF. Yanzon agreed but said that that was a committee decision. LaVallee said he will check the SEF funding budget. Alexander suggested proposing a not-to-exceed number and as other funding comes in to lessen the amount from reserves.

## IX.

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

#### A. Committee Appointments

##### AS Activities Council

Ryan Mouche Junior Linguistics

##### Committee on Undergraduate Education

Sadie Frances Strain Senior American Culture Studies

##### Emergency Management Council

Sandra McCall Sophomore History and Political Science

##### Teacher Curricula and Certification Council

Shane Wood Junior History and Secondary Education

##### Elections Advisory Committee

Marquis Mason

Cora Cole presented a consent item concerning the Elections Advisory Committee. Cole would like to add a student-at-large seat to the Elections Advisory Committee and fill that seat with Marquis Mason. They explained that the committee doesn't meet all year but when it does it has to meet every week. The committee has not been meeting Quorum and an additional seat will help it do that. Cole also mentioned that the student academic grievance board is looking to have some meetings soon so if the Board could pass those quickly it would be appreciated.

*MOTIONASB-18-W-8by: Yanzon*

Approve all consent items and to add an additional student at large seat to the Elections Advisory Committee.

Second: LaVallee Vote: 6 - 0 - 0 Action: Pass

## X. BOARD REPORTS

**Simrun Chhabra, President**, reported that they met with Patrick Freeland from the SOS, they had a conversation last quarter about support for indigenous communities. They discussed civic engagement within marginalized communities, specifically talking about how to get students civically engaged and barriers to entry to things like lobbying. Chhabra is currently setting up ESC club meetings, they would like to get a feel for questions or guidelines on what topics the Board would want to talk through at club meetings. Chhabra is also working with the alumni

association on creating an alumni position being created. Chhabra is working on language for the position description that is in line with the rest of the AS.

**Alex LaVallee, VP for Business and Operations**, reported that first Structure Review Committee meeting occurred and the Board will be seeing a revised charge and charter for that committee next week. It was evident from the first committee meeting that the context behind the committee is so complex and convoluted that student at large input isn't helpful. LaVallee said that the purpose of the committee continues to expand and change, LaVallee has discovered some possible alternatives to changing the structure of the AS. They hope for the committee to focus more on finalizing the constitution. The Business Committee meeting will be talking with Chhabra about renewing the SEF. There is potentially a referendum for another student fee coming along. In Personnel Committee they talked about the change from salary to hourly and voted last night to make it so that employees could not opt into their positions again and had to reapply. This make sure there is equal opportunity for application for AS positions and that the offices don't become insulated. LaVallee said that the committee is also looking at some changes to the AS employment policy. S&A fee committee is going well, LaVallee and the AS Business Director are giving a presentation about programs and services offered by the AS. LaVallee didn't know the status of the S&A fee bill that is down in Olympia. Alexander said it was passing between the Houses. LaVallee is working with the personnel office to cut down and streamline the AS hiring process. Yanzon asked if the Budget Committee and S&A Committee had challenges approving things this year. Yanzon would like to have a discussion with the Board about budgets. LaVallee said he would meet with Jose to develop a packet to give to the Board to make the budgets easier to understand. Alexander added that the conversation needed to be public because it will be about budgets, and that it could be brought as an information item to the board to give everyone an update. Yanzon said he hoped to have more context about what is in the budget and why. Alexander said that this year the University knows what its gain or loss will be because the Legislature finalized the State Budget. Gordon asked when fees and referendums were due to the board. Eider said they were due February 21<sup>st</sup>. Houck said that they need to be finalized in late March or early April, so that there is time for there to be discussion on referendums. It was clarified that referendums don't need to be voted on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The AS Election Codes need to be to the Board by February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Julia Rutledge VP for Activities**, reported that collaboration working group met and was very productive, they have been working on a list of to-dos brought up by the group. They are working on a guiding document for Activities Council that will solidify some unspoken rules. Rutledge is also working on a funding proposal for the foundation proposal for the foundation board for another food pantry. Chhabra said they would be happy to look the proposal over and that Sabah had personally asked to see it.

**Erick Yanzon, VP for Diversity**, reported that there is a meeting for all the lobby days this coming Thursday. The Undocumented Students Support Working Group is working on a protocol for when ICE is on or near campus. In an hour at the non-profit meeting you will see an item about the Undocumented Student Scholarship. The ESC has been having a lot of conversation about compensating student leadership for hosting events. Yesterday Yanzon met with the ESC to plan a ground baking ceremony for the multi-cultural center, they were thinking about having it in March or at the beginning of spring quarter. This weekend we have the black history month summit at the Performing Arts Center (PAC), there is one Friday and one Saturday morning, Yanzon sent an email about it.

**Hunter Eider, VP for Governmental Affairs**, reported that the Student Technology Fee (STF) Renewal Committee finalized budget last week. Tomorrow they will get an advisory vote from the AAC about the division of funds and next week a proposal will be brought to the Board as an info item. The fee hasn't been increased or decreased.

**Annie Gordon, VP for Student Life**, reported that University Housing Representation and Advocacy Committee (UHRAC) is having their first meeting next week. The Residence Hall Association (RHA) president resigned and a new one was elected for the year, Bren O'neil. TaVallee is in his math class. Gordon finalized a rough draft for a safety assessment survey to have numerical data about approaches to take to make residence halls feel safer. The Housing and Dining's system budget work group is meeting every week to finalize next year's budget. Gordon will be getting the Sustainable Action Fund (SAF) fee language to the Board for approval soon. They are going to have a meeting with ResTife administrators and the Rep Office to increase residence hall voter turnout for the Board elections. Gordon is close to finalizing the training days for the suicide prevention training. They are doing one with the Eden's-Higginson community later this month. Yanzon asked Gordon if that training would be possible to implement in ESC Clubs. Gordon said yes.

### **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chhabra acknowledged that there were only six board members present and read a statement prepared by the Board. "The Associated Students Board of Directors of Western Washington University state the following concerning the resignation of our Vice President for Governmental Affairs, Ana Ramirez. We recognize that this decision may not have come easily and we applaud Ana's efforts and willingness to serve on this board. We honor and respect her decision to resign and are thankful for what she has contributed to this organization. In regards to the unfilled position: In the beginning our terms, we as a group decided that despite the University, State, and Nation's inability to pay Ana, we would maintain the voice of the WWU students who voted in Ana. Our decision remains the same. We acknowledge that this defies our existing AS bylaws and are actively choosing this route due to the special circumstance. Filling this position would be a very decontextualized and ahistorical approach to what is fundamentally a deeply rooted symptom of white supremacy. Approaching this issue simply by asking who fills the position simplifies and delegitimizes the mass magnitude and complexity of the context and ignores the larger issue being, a fundamental lack of support for undocumented students. Throughout this process, we have become acutely aware of and have had the opportunity to critique ourselves in the way that we uphold the societal norms of oppression. Therefore, we have chosen not to fill this position because we recognize that filling it would uphold the neoliberal structures in higher education that we are committed to breaking down."

*The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 4:08p.m.*