

Western Washington University Associated Students
AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 13th 2018 Room VU 567

Minutes neverformally approved.

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)

Guests: Jacob Molloy, Natasha Hessami, Jeff Bates, Erasmus Baxter

MOTIONS

- ASB-18-S-4** To approve the AS Review Assessment Proposal. *Passed.*
ASB-18-S-5 To approve the AS Personnel Policy. *Passed.*
ASB-18-S-6 To approve all consent items. *Passed.*
ASB-18-S-7 To adhere to the election results and reinstate Ana Ramirez as the VP for Governmental Affairs. *Passed.*

Alex LaVallee, AS VP for Business and Operations, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Committee appointments were added to consent items.
Chhabra entered at 4:11 p.m.

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

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - Guests*

A. Local Lobby Agenda

Chhabra ran through the parts of the agenda. Housing, equity and inclusiveness, public safety and criminal justice reform, voting accessibility by amending the city charter and making registration more convenient, environmental stewardship and continuing a moratorium against further fossil fuel exports. Molloy asked why the GRACE program was used as an alternative to jail. Hessami said that it was a recommendation from the Vera Institute. Molloy also asked about a discussion about Salish people being added to the ballot. Hessami said that that was not considered in the process. Chhabra said that they would talk about adding that in the LAC. Gordon mentioned crosswalks and safety on the Ridge and explained the process they had gone through to try and get crosswalks there. Gordon also asked for information about the GRACE program. Hessami explained that it helped people continue living normal lives instead of staying in jail. Hessami said that May 3rd was local lobby day and that people can and should sign up.

V. ACTION ITEMS - Guests*

A. AS Review Assessment Recommendations

Gordon asked how to ensure communication between the Review and the Board and make sure not to further harm the groups talked about in a story. Baxter said that they agreed with that and thinks it would make sense to implement that in training to create that groundwork. Gordon clarified that they would never ask them to not report on something, just keeping in mind when it is appropriate. Bates brought up that right now the AS Review had the power to write whatever they wanted. Chhabra said that the relationship they wanted to build was one of open

communication. Baxter said that it may make sense, either in the job description or training, to have a section about adhering to the society of professional journalist's ethics. Rutledge suggested having a meeting between the Board and the AS Review at the beginning of the year. Alexander said that it was worth thinking about, for this and future Boards about how much support should be given to the AS Review. LaVallee said they would like to see the elimination of paper printing of the review and have it be the front page of the AS website. Baxter said that that is a direction that could be taken next year.

MOTIONASB-18-S-4 by: Yanzon

To approve the AS Review Assessment Proposal.

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

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

VII. ACTION ITEMS - Board*

A. AS Personnel Policy

Hayden ran through items from the discussion from last week. There were some changes clarifying language and the removal of mandated evaluations. A sentence was added allowing employees to miss training for excused absences. LaVallee expressed interest in not voting on the document today.

MOTIONASB-18-S-5 by: Yanzon

To approve the AS Personnel Policy.

Second: Chhabra Vote: 5 - 1 - 0 Action: Pass

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board*

A. AS Visioning Session

Yanzon talked about their proposal and said that the things in it were in no way final. They said that a lot of the reason for this proposal was the proposed restructure and the history behind it. Last year there was a Restructure referendum passed by the students that has not been approved by the Board of Trustees yet. The current plan has three priorities, a fall special election to vote on a changed constitution, a continued restructure of the AS Constitution and changing of position descriptions. One of the primary problems was knowing what it means to restructure the AS and what direction to take a shift. Yanzon continued that there needed to be a cultural shift both in the AS and in the institution as a whole. Event attendance has decreased, less people are running for the AS Board, leaders are burnt out because the Board was the only group with the power and access to change systemic issues, students of color provide a lot of the emotional labor, and there was little intentional collaboration and fundraising. The AS was inaccessible, and students-at-large were not often included. Yanzon moved into problems with individual positions. Often the AS VP for Academic Affairs was the only one representing student voice in faculty committees. There is no centralized communication between appointed students in academic committees and students at large. Yanzon emphasized making sure that students felt like the committees they are on is worth their time. The AS VP for Governmental Affairs position was well supported but students once again were not involved enough in their own representation. The AS VP for Student Life position has too much work for one person, their job encompassed student services and sustainability and other resources on campus don't always provide enough support and collaboration. Gordon said that oftentimes their position was one of the only student voices talking about health and safety on campus and that was a lot of

responsibility. Yanzon said that there was not currently a streamlined funding source for student activities. Yanzon said that the AS needed to make sure that students everywhere in the AS were supported in an equitable way and would like to see more transparency as far as funding. The AS VP for Diversity tackles all Diversity issues on campus. Yanzon said that they believe Student Unionization can help a lot of these issues. It did not necessarily need to be a separate entity but a support system for students on campus. Yanzon wanted to see a restructure of solidarity and WWU and an increased support students from the faculty and administration. Yanzon also wanted to talk about how to best support those who are most marginalized including those with intersectional identities. Diversity support should come from student services, programming form offices, and academically through ethnic studies and staff and faculty. Thinking about how we offer sustainable and constructive support for all students. Not only cultivating on-campus students but growing an alumni support system. Everyone's commitment to change was needed to make change happen. Chhabra took a moment to recognize all of the work and commitment that had gone into creating this presentation and restructure. A guest brought up a concern about tokenizing faculty with initiatives aimed at having more diverse faculty. Hessami said that they had spoken to a faculty member who had spoken about not wanting to come to Western because of its lack of diverse faculty. Alexander said that Western wasn't keeping pace with the diversity of the region around us and we should think about how we can encourage that diversity. Chhabra said that to increase diversity we have to increase support for those same people, we need to create a structure that supports faculty and students of color. A guest said that they felt like the university consistently places resources that they think people need without student input and when the administration does look for student input it tokenizes their experience. Chhabra said that they have been thinking about how students were volunteering their time to be represented while others are being paid to be there. Yanzon said that moving forward the AS has to keep in mind the cultural shift that needs to happen.

B. AS Structural Review Committee

TaVallee ran through the changes made to the Structural Review Committee and how it had been streamlined and clarified. Molloy asked when this committee was disbanding and what exactly its job was. Chhabra clarified that it would continue to meet until it had accomplished its goal and it exists to restructure the AS.

C. AS Board Grant Priorities

TaVallee presented a document detailing all current Board grants. Gordon asked how it would work if grants were operationalized but not spent. Alexander said that grants currently are part of the reserves, but if they were operationalized they become part of the total operational budget and we need to find a way to raise that money. At the end of the year the university looked at the budget holistically and tried to balance it.

D. AS SEF Proposal

TaVallee said that the SEF grant was running out this year and this item proposes approving a \$25,000 grant for one year out of FXXRES. It also proposes creating a position to support the Student Enhancement Fund.

E. Revitalization of the Business and Operations Task Force

LaVallee explained that this item would create a committee to find and address deficiencies in the internal operations of AS Offices. Yanzon asked how long this committee would exist. LaVallee said that it was primarily about the AS Centralized Services branch of new AS structure. Chhabra said that the people that would be on this committee were already meeting and the VP for Diversity should potentially be on the committee. LaVallee said that this was more to address operational problems in the AS, different than the personnel committee. Alexander suggested the Assistant Director for Student Activities as the advisor. LaVallee said that they hoped that the committee would continue after this year.

IX. CONSENT ITEMS *(subject to immediate action)**MOTION ASB-18-S-6 by: Yanzon*

To approve all consent items.

Second: Gordon

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

Action: Pass

Academic Coordinating Commission and Academic Honesty Board
 Michelle M Runyan English Graduate

AS Structure Review Committee
 William Martin Political Science Senior

Student Conduct Appeals Board
 Colton Redfeldt Journalism Junior

X. BOARD REPORTS

Simrun Chhabra, President, reported that the Board of Trustees met yesterday. They discussed a fee proposal concerning summer classes. The student-trustee search committee was meeting next week. They have been getting started on WSA proposals, the deadline had been extended. Sabrina is setting up the meeting with the Wall Street Journal. They had a conversation with Houck and Alexander, and they decided to open up spots for students-at-large from the Blue Group to go lobby in D.C.. Alexander said the institution strategic plan passed at the Board of Trustees today as well as the update to the Weapons and Armaments code.

Hunter Eider, VP for Academic Affairs, reported that they set up a time for the Board to go to faculty senate to talk about the year.

Julia Rutledge VP for Activities, reported that they were also at the first meeting for the Travel Task Force. They have done more work on where the VU Food Pantry will be and the Viking Funder for it.

Alex LaVallee, VP for Business and Operations, reported that the Travel Task Force just had the first meeting and talked about consolidating funds. S&A fee met that week and got updated numbers from DRAC.

Erick Yanzon, VP for Diversity, reported that the ESC executive committee met yesterday and looked at furniture designs and graphic for the MCC. Next week the Board meeting should be rescheduled because it conflicts with the MCC groundbreaking ceremony.

Annie Gordon, VP for Student Life, reported that UHRAC was halfway through the first draft of getting feedback on the list of RA demands. The SAF subcommittee was up and running and has come up with what they are going to look at for the quarter. The Res Hall survey was up so people in the Res halls should take it. Western's Got Talent was a week from today in the PAC.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

TaVallee moved to call an executive session to review the qualifications of a public employee for ten minutes, until 6:40.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:42 pm. They had discussed reinstating Ana Ramirez

in her elected position.

MOTION ASB-18-S-7 by: Rutledge

To adhere to the election results and reinstate Ana Ramirez as the VP for Governmental Affairs.

Second: Eider

Vote: 6 - 0 - 0

Action:Pass

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:43p.m.

DRAFT