

**Western Washington University Associated Students**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Viking Union 567

**AS Board Officers:** *Present:* Stephanie Cheng (President), Alex LaVallee (VP Activities), Erick Yanzon (VP Academic Affairs), Mary Moeller (VP for Business and Operations), Aleyda Cervantes (VP for Diversity), Bryce Hammer (VP Governmental Affairs), and Wayne Rocque (VP for Student Life).

**Guest(s):** Nora Selander, Duy Nguyen and Tracey Nguyen

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

**MOTIONS**

**ASB-16-F-38** Approval November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 AS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. *Passed.*

**ASB-16-F-39** Approve All Committee Appointments. *Passed.*

*Stephanie Cheng, AS President, called the meeting to order at 5:37p.m.*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: ASB-16-F-38** by Cheng

Approval of November 2<sup>nd</sup> AS Board of Directors Minutes.

Second: Hammer. Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed.

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

Cervantes said that there was a confusion and she thought that all of the items on the agenda last week were going to be moved to this week because the meeting got canceled but they didn't and they have guests here for the Vietnamese Student Association for a funding request. Didn't want to ask for the full amount of a conference from the ESC Steering fund because there is not enough funding in that fund for other events they want to put on like the heritage dinner. She thought it would be good to bring the financial request to the Board and see what everyone thought. Tracy said the conference they are wanting to attend is on December from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> and is the Northwest Leadership conference. The hotel cost is \$100 per person for the weekend and is not affordable. They already requested \$600 from ESC Steering and they are now requesting \$600 from the AS Board to fund the rest of the hotel costs for the people. Cervantes said that she is trying to bring it back as an info item next week. Cheng asked when the conference was. Alexander said that the only option for clubs do get finances from the AS is through them besides fundraising and through the colleges. Cervantes said that it is very difficult to get funding through colleges and fundraisers are a lot of work. She said that every time she goes to a conference she has gone and gotten something back from her community so she thinks that it will be a really useful experience. LaVallee asked how much the registration fee is because he said that usually for activities council they fund 150 per student so it sounds like a useful discretionary use of the money. Lily said that ideally they would want the money by the first week of December. This will be brought back next week as an info item.

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

##### A. AS Legislative Agenda

(45 Minutes) Doc. 1 Hammer

Hammer said that the Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) has brought the proposal for the legislative agenda. Nora Selander the AS Legislative Liaison is presented the agenda to the AS Board. Selander said that the first agenda item is Tuition and Revenue and said that they have never before talked about how to find funding for the students but because there has been so much leeway in the past few years it is currently written that tuition is going to go up 2.1 percent for the next few years bringing students back to how high tuition was a few years ago. She presented a graph that showed the rise and decline in tuition in the past few years. She said that this year they will be advocating for a freeze or a cut of tuition with backfill from the state. She then explained the McCleary Decision which is a court ruling that stated Washington is not providing enough funding for K-12. Because of this higher education is fighting with the K-12 system for money. Because of this, they are advocating for funding but on a spectrum from early learning to higher education. She then explained the State Need Grant which helps students who are in need of finances but it is currently not being used for 25,000 eligible students. She said the next part of that is the Services and Activities (S&A) Fee which is currently tied to tuition. The past few years there has been a temporary decoupling between tuition and S&A fees but they are looking to do it permanently this year. She then briefly summarized all of the main points of the legislative agenda. Hammer said that she wanted everyone to pay close attention to the long-term tuition policy and asked the Board about what they thought about what it says, for example if they should be advocating for free college or not. Moeller said that she thinks advocating for free college now isn't smart because legislatures might look at it as too much of a leap. Hammer said that she thinks the point may sound a bit naïve to legislatures. Selander then explained how the agenda is going to be pushed to the lawmakers. She said that usually lawmakers ask how to find the money to make the proposal changes. She presented the options for possible funding that she is going to be proposing to the legislatures which are taxing cannabis, taxing lottery winnings, closing the extracted fuel exemption which taxes any products that refinery's would use like coal and oil industries, the estate tax which should be moved up above 20% and would only effect a few hundred people, Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) exemptions which say that everyone should pay taxes on their homes, and a capital gains tax which proposes that there should be an income tax. Moeller asked if any other states are using a marijuana tax to fund education. Selander said she didn't know but she can do some research. Selander then showed the chart that shows how the capital gains tax would play out according to a couple of different metrics which are the number of people taxed and the annual investments profits of the taxes. She then explained what the revenue would be for each. Alexander suggested to label the table and Selander said it was a good idea. Selander then spoke on Support and Success which is legislation pushing for funding for support for sexual assault survivors. She said that it is for getting faculty and administration trained on how to help people who have experienced sexual assault. She said she is going to talk to Senator Ranker about writing legislation on this and then acknowledged that it is an issue on this campus and WWU's history with report. Selander said that this is also an issue for men and people who are non-gender conforming. Selander then spoke on student success which has been a collaboration over the past few years, acknowledging that we are not on par with counseling, students who are experiencing homelessness, graduation rate and disability resources that is needing. Cervantes asked if this would be to increase funding for the current tutoring center because she is concerned with the focus on STEM majors rather than only for the social sciences. Hammer said that most of the tutoring center proposal is specifically for the GUR courses but that they can expand it beyond them. Cervantes said that she hasn't felt like there was equal space on campus for students who aren't in STEM majors. Moeller agreed and said that there isn't adequate help for people who need help writing papers. Hammer said

that right now there is an idea that people can go somewhere for academic advising that is not as general and said that it would be interesting to figure out if they can find a way to do that with tutoring that is more individual in each department. Selander said that it would be good if they had resources for specific courses and students and for the more general GUR majors. She said that support for students who are experiencing homelessness is the last one and although she does not have exact numbers right now she knows that there is a real need on campus for assistance. She said they are advocating for three week stays and more money for food on campus. Rocque said that a lot of students have moved into Westerns accommodations because the downtown housing is not sufficient. Hammer said that that issue should be placed on the local agenda. Cervantes asked if for the mental and counseling services if they are advocating for funding and who would be in charge of the funding after the money is given to the University. Cervantes said that usually white people are the ones who are giving out the money and that usually it is hard. Advocate for dedicating funding for counselors who are able to reach out and identify with folks who are not white. Selander said that the next part of it is vote and talked about their current voter registration process. She said that they have been advocating for Motor Voter, which is a prompt to register 16 year-olds to vote when they sign up for their driver's license. She said that 40% of people who have registered this way in other states voted in the election. She talked about automatic voter registration, landlord voter registration, the voting rights act which is an issue that the city of Yakima took on, extending the voter registration deadline, which would extend the deadline to enable more student registration, voters with disabilities which would take away the need to have two people to witnesses to watch them vote, automatic voter registration in higher education and prepaid postage. Hammer said she has some reservations about automatic voter registration for institutions of higher education. She said she recognizes that people who go through this system are incredibly privileged so she wants to expand it to beyond higher education to reach out to a wider variety of people with different backgrounds. She said that all of these are making good progress in the House but then being held up in the Senate. Moeller asked if they have ever considered online voting and Hammer said that it hasn't been because it is a security issue. Selander said that currently nothing in Washington State is online when it comes to elections. She then spoke on civic participation and said that this legislation pushes the agenda that civic education should be taught in high school education so that high school students graduate. She said that they were going to advocate for this in a way that does not create state regulation on education but rather equips students and teachers with the training they need. She then addressed the last part of the agenda which is Student Trustee Empowerment which said that students right now cannot talk about anything and that students should be empowered to have full knowledge of the Board of Trustees. She also said they are talking about the idea of electing student trustees. She said that the governors have always picked student trustees and so they don't want to take away his ability to decide. Selander said that the governor's education advisor does not understand the way in which student elections operate. Hammer said that his opinions are not always the most relevant. Moeller said that she really likes that they highlighted the issue of homelessness on campus but it would be good if they could find out how many people are queer. Hammer said that this information is currently not collected. Rocque said that the number of students currently experiencing homelessness is around 140 students and that the definition of homelessness is not constricted solely to students who don't have a home. He said that it would be good to find ways of collecting data. Yanzon asked what they are lobbying for in increasing recruitment and retention of students of color and said that he has the data that could help them to understand how to increase faculty of color as well and lobby for that to be a change. Hammer said that they mostly lobby for retention. Selander said that in meetings with administration they mostly talk about how they struggle to retain and recruit students of color and one of the reasons is because of demonstration or incidents last year. Cervantes said that that is super debatable. Hammer asked if Selander included the sources that said that Western is whitest or the second whitest university in Washington. Selander said that WSAC does a really good job of breaking down student income by aid. Yanzon said that for the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) a lot of it has to do with student to faculty ration

within the General University Requirements (GUR) system and that it might take away from funding. Selander said that another thing faculty is proposing is to add more tenured faculty to the campus. Yanzon said that having more tenured faculty was important because it is supporting huge problems in the STEM departments. Cervantes asked if it is possible to include parts of the Student Cultural agenda with the legislation and Hammer said that they are advocating for the capital requests for the building and that they can include Ethnic Student Center (ESC) agenda in this proposal.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS - Guests\***

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

**A. Outback Farmhand Job Description**

Moeller said this is a basic position that is work study. She said that the student would potentially host their own workshop but that it hasn't been happening. She also noticed that there has not been specific described outcomes because this is a lower level position and so the goal is not as overarching. Rocque asked if there was an approximate amount of hours for this position each week and Moeller said that it was 10-19 hours. She said that they left out experience with agriculture and instead said specified interests to make sure there was no classification. Cheng asked about the delivery to the foodbank and whether or not there should be a requirement for students to have a license. Cervantes said that there are regulations on students having licenses. Moeller said that there has been ableism issues with this job in the past but there is no way to make it accessible to all students. She said that the only bad part about this job is that it makes it a necessity for students to have a license. Rocque asked if there are any parameters around safety for light construction. Moeller said that she is going to get more details on light construction and on delivery to the foodbank. The Board all agreed that they want specification in the job description on both of those areas. Cheng said they need more specification on the responsibilities to make sure that all students will be able to interpret it. Rocque asked if there could be a clarification between volunteer time and this position and asked if this position would make it so that people would not want to volunteer. Hammer asked if this was already an existing position and Moeller said that it is new. Rocque expressed his concern with the volunteer position conflicting with the salary position and the work study position and that it might add some chaos to the position. Moeller said that it makes sense to have more than one person doing these tasks. Rocque said that there are a lot of plots in the Outback that are volunteer based so it needs to be defined if this position will be responsible for engaging with the volunteers.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS - Board\***

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS - Board\***

**A. Sexual Assault Prevention Taskforce**

Hammer said that it has been addressed that there needs to be a task force to address sexual assault on campus and to deal with the aftermath of sexual assault. She said that there has been talk through the Washington Student Association (WSA) about what to lobby for. She said that she can bring the document back next week. Hammer said that the task force has already happened. Cervantes said that she is the student representative for the whole state and that she is still sitting on it and that she is waiting on more information about it. She said that she will email Sue Guenter-Schlesinger to ask what the next steps are in the task force. Hammer said that these are recommendations that the statewide task force put out and that she doesn't know if these recommendations are also for the

campus. Cervantes says that she thinks it is for campus because at the last tax force they said they were going to have a bigger one for the state. Hammer asked for any recommendations and suggested that it be brought to any students who have information on it or have a stake in it.

## **B. Academic Support Committee Charge and Charter**

Yanzon said that they changed a lot of the language to committee rather than senate. He decided that there will be two representatives from each college, one from the first two years and one from the second two years. He said that there will also be one representative from the ESC and one from the president's council. Moeller said that there should be a representative that is for students who are undeclared. Hammer asked if they could add two representatives from the graduate school and one or two students who represent undeclared. The Board discussed whether or not they should have undeclared student representatives or not. Cheng asked what would happen if a representative switches their major to a different college. Hammer said that they would continue to represent the college the whole time that they initially ran to represent. Yanzon said that we can talk about these issues within the committee. Yanzon said that for the ESC representatives it is important to make sure that the students don't also represent their college. Hammer said that they are still looking at ways that they can represent underrepresented students. Yanzon asked if the only change is on undergrad students because he wants to move it to an action item next week.

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

#### A. Committee Appointments,

##### AS Elections Advisory Committee

Alissa Vanlandingham Sophomore Undeclared

##### AS Elections Board

Alissa Vanlandingham Sophomore Undeclared

##### AS Legislative Affairs Council

Koyle Kendrick Sophomore Political Science and Economics  
Ana Ramirez Freshman Undeclared

##### AS Student Enhancement Fund Committee

George Vadino Senior Political Science and Sociology

*MOTION: ASB-16-F-39* by Hammer  
Approval of all committee appointments.  
Second: Moeller Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed.

## **X. BOARD REPORTS**

**Stephanie Cheng, AS President** did not give a report.

**Bryce Hammer, VP for Governmental Affairs** reported that Washington Student Association (WSA) general assembly meeting is happening this weekend. She is trying to decrease violence against underrepresented students to figure out a way to organize around that. She said the Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) will be looking at the local agenda. She said that she is trying to

figure out a way to organize around that. She said that WSA will be working on their local agenda next.

**Mary Moeller, VP for Business and Operations** reported that she is currently working on filling a vacancy in the communications office. She said that there is going to be a new thing where students are able to access books online. She said that there might be a way for students to access books in a cheaper way. She said that there have been budget delays and that the info desk has been struggling due to vacancies, slowing everything down.

**Aleyda Cervantes, VP for Diversity** said that they put the ESC lobby day on hold because she has a couple questions about the multicultural package. She is waiting to have a meeting to figure out where the funding from the multicultural package is because she wants to be aware of what's happening with the budget. She said that a lot of students have been complaining to her about safety issues on campus that have been inspired by the election. She said that there is a letter from the Blue Group, the undocumented student group on campus, going around. She said that faculty from WWU have been harassing students and that it is necessary to be aware of this issue. She said that she would appreciate if everyone would sign the letter going around by the Blue Group. She said that there is not a lawyer on campus for the undocumented students and so it would be smart to think about getting an emergency part time lawyer to advise folks. Hammer said that the problem with this is that all of our student fees are currently state funds. She said that they could look into. Cervantes said that the sexual awareness center has currently been closed down and that there is a need to restructure all of these offices. She said that there is a fulltime lawyer that a lot of campuses have. Cervantes also said that professors have not given them the time that they need to handle the situation and that it is not acceptable because people are dealing with the ramifications from the elections and that she doesn't know how to support these students. Yanzon asked about the Multicultural building. Cheng said that in a meeting she was in last week and that the faculty senate designee said that they can't tell faculty what to do with their attendance policy. Cervantes said that she does not think that this is acceptable because it gives them the power. She said that macroaggressions are still a problem but that now these problems have escalated to aggression and she doesn't know how to speak of safety surrounding these issues. She asked what the AS can do to make sure that faculty and staff are being held accountable. She also asked if there were any ideas about lawyers for the university. Hammer said that LAC went through a similar situation and that she could pull up some legacy documents to figure out what they did.

**Alex LaVallee, VP for Activities** reported that the Western Amnesty Club was approved this week and that at student publications committee yesterday they hired the Klipson editor and for the Western Front they hired someone named Allison. He said that the Western front one would be very communicative. He said that tomorrow he is going to the Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee and that WWU Upkeep is going well even though this week's episode is a little late.

**Erick Yanzon, VP for Academic Affairs** said that the ad hoc advising committee application deadlines are coming up so the student positions are going to be closed this week and that he will be appointing the two students. He said that ACC is writing a draft to the faculty senate about the changes in curriculum for general education that would have more writing requirements to diversify the whole curriculum beyond ACGM and possibly have some sort of diversity 101 class. ACC has also been working on coherence based upon First Year Interest Group (FIG)s and student to faculty ratio.

**Wayne Rocque VP for Student Life** did not give a report.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Stephanie Cheng, AS President, adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.*