

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

Friday, October 19,2018

YU567

**Members:**    **Present:** Millka Solomon (President), Levi Eckman (VP for Academic Affairs), Ama Monkah (VP for Activities), Camilla Mejia (VP for Diversity), Natasha Hessami (VP for Governmental Affairs), Genaro Meza-Roa (VP for Business & Operations).  
                  **Absent:** Anne Lee (VP for Student Life)

**Advisor:**   Eric Alexander (Associate Dean of Student Engagement/Director of Viking Union)

**Guests:**     Cora Cole (REP), Casey Hayden (Viking Union), Estefanía Cisneros (WIRC), Alec Willis (AS Elections Coordinator).

**Motions:**

**ASB-18-F-23**           Approval of the meeting minutes from October 5<sup>th</sup>. **Passed.**

**ASB-18-F-24**           Approval of all the revisions to the agenda. **Passed.**

**ASB-18-F-25**           Approval of the AS WWU Student Enhancement Fund Rollover for 2018-2019. **Passed.**

**ASB-18-F-26**           Approval of the Communications Committee Charge & Charter with the additions of the AS Communications Coordinator, the AS Videographer, the AS Video Productions Coordinator, and the AS Lead Graphic Designer. **Passed.**

*Millka Solomon, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*MOTIONASB-18-F-23 By Eckman*

*To approve the meeting minutes from October 5<sup>h</sup>.*

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

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Natasha Hessami stated that she would like to remove the AS Elections Board Charge & Charter from the agenda. Genaro Meza-Roa would like to move the Budget Committee Charge & Charter from Action Item - Board\* to Information Item - Board\*.

*MOTIONASB-18-F-24 By Hessami*

*To approve all the revisions to the agenda.*

Second: Meza-Roa Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

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

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

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

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

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

#### **A. SEF Budget Rollover**

Levi Eckman stated that the Board would be approving the SEF Charge & Charter as well as the budget rollover of \$9,242.33 from the previous year's budget. When the money was not used last year, it was moved into reserves. They want it to ensure that even more students are able to enhance their student experience by utilizing this fund. Ama Monkah asked what would happen if there were money left over again at the end of this academic year. Eckman explained that the money would be placed back into reserves. Hessami asked if Tyler Andrews had a plan to ensure that the money is utilized within the year. Andrews stated that they have been working with the Publicity Center to promote the SEF very intensely to draw in more applicants. Andrews added that they have been promoting the fund in their personal life as well as in classes. In addition, the AS Conferences and Opportunities Fair will take place in Miller Hall because it is a highly trafficked area. Hessami asked how Andrews is going to ensure that more diverse groups of students access this fund. Andrews explained that currently the Publicity Center is working on posters, which will be distributed around campus, so the entire campus community will see them. They would also like to talk with other offices to continue spreading the word about the fund. Eckman stated that he has been plugging this fund to the deans of colleges. Deans will be letting people know even more about the SEF.

*MOTIONASB-18-F-25 By Hessami*

*To approve the AS WWU Student Enhancement Fund Rollover for 2018-2019.*

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

#### **B. Communications Committee Charge & Charter**

Monkah stated that the Communications Committee Charge & Charter has been edited since last week. Monkah made changes to position titles. The KVIK Coordinator was removed from membership, the Publicity Center Account Executive was changed to Publicity Center Project Manager and the Resource & Outreach Programs was changed to the SAIRC. Monkah stated that the entire Communications Office would like to be added to the committee as well. The Communications Coordinator, Videographer, and the Video Productions Coordinator would be added as voting members. Monkah stated that the AS Lead Graphic Designer from the Publicity Center would also be added. Monkah stated that she would like to approve this today even though all the edits are not on the current document.

*MOTIONASB-18-F-26 By Monkah*

*To approve the Communications Committee Charge & Charter with the additions of the AS Communications Coordinator, the AS Videographer, the AS Video Productions Coordinator, and the AS Lead Graphic Designer.*

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

### **A. AS Senate Election Code**

Eckman stated that they will be purchasing a new elections system, it should cost approximately \$3,000. Alec Willis explained that it costs a little over \$3,000 for the installation year and a little less than \$3,000 for the following years. Hessami asked how it compared to the price of the previous system. Willis stated that the previous system increased its price this year and it would be \$3500-\$4000. Eckman added that the current elections system would not have the capabilities for Senate elections. Eckman stated that cancelling the current contract would cost \$750. Willis stated that this system could perform multiple functions; it can do multiple elections, rights choice ballot voting, and eligibility lists. It can do everything they need it to do multiple times for less money. Camilla Mejia asked how it would work for people with multiple majors. Willis stated that one person could not vote for two colleges, they would have to choose one college. Millka Solomon asked how much the previous system cost before they raised their price. Willis stated that it was about \$3,000. Monkah asked how long the contract lasts. Eckman stated that it is a two-year purchase. Willis added that the Elections Coordinator usually has money designated for this purpose. Eckman stated that now they can public finance campaign candidates. Eckman explained that for this process, it is still reimbursement but to create better accessibility, they hope to provide the money up front during spring elections. Solomon asked why it could not be done for the Student Senate. Eckman stated that they do not think they would have enough time to find the funds. Willis stated that if Solomon is interested in working on that, they are willing to add that edit to this code but would not want to put that pressure on Solomon since it is time sensitive. Willis added that the spending limit was reduced from \$150 to \$50, which will help mitigate those effects regarding accessibility issues. Mejia stated that on page 6 and page 2, the employment eligibility documentation was removed, which is great but she wondered how undocumented students who run for these positions would be paid for their labor. Willis stated that it is a great question that they have not previously thought of and are not sure whether that would be a policy passed through the Elections Code itself but instead through policies passed by the Board and the university. Cora Cole stated that the previous Board had this conversation many times last year. If the Elections Board Committee tries to make it possible for undocumented students to run and be paid, administration would not be able to find a way to pay them. Cole stated that this means that the Board needs to get creative because administration will not do it and the Elections Board Committee cannot make that decision because they do not have control of the money. Casey Hayden stated that it was a huge topic last year that was not resolved. They were not able to find a solution by the end of the year. Hayden agreed with Willis that it is not something that is governable by the Election Code. Hayden clarified that if students have DACA they can be paid but if they do not they have not been able to find a way to pay them. Henry Pollet stated that other schools have created grant programs to provide payment for students who could not be paid through the regular payment mechanism but this would not be something the Election Board could do. Mejia stated that it seems as though the Board needs to find a way to resolve the issue. Hessami stated that she consistently found errors with this document and

inconsistencies with the Election Code and the Candidate Packet. She would like to propose a working group to work through the document. Eckman stated that he loves the idea of a working group to release the best document possible. Hayden noted that this document is being edited off the code from 2 years ago, so they could edit the code from last year. Willis stated that they probably do not need to have a distinct view of the edits because it is an entirely new document, not an edited document. Hessami asked what is the last day they could have this document approved. Eckman stated that the filing period is from October 29 through November 16. The candidate meeting will be on November 19. Campaigning will go from November 19 through November 30. Elections start November 26 and will end November 30. Mejia asked what would happen if there were no candidates from a college. Willis stated that there have been some edits to Section 4 about how Multiple-Position Instant Runoff Voting works. Willis explained that if they do not have as many candidates as there are positions, they would be unfilled. It will be instant runoff voting just like with Board elections except it will stop when there are as many candidates as there are positions. Willis added that in order to ensure there are enough candidates; they created the AS Senator Recommendation Form that allows individuals to recommend someone for various positions. Both staff and students would be able to recommend students. Candidate recruitment will be their primary activity for the next few weeks to ensure it is well known. Eckman stated that if no one ran during that election, it is up to the Senate to appoint and elect people. Eckman stated that he does not expect issues with low turnout. Hessami wondered if there would be a large voting event. Willis stated that they would not have to do that since they have the new elections system. Hessami asked if there is a video about Student Senate. Eckman stated that he would be talking about that during Board Reports. Hayden stated that since they are creating a new separate code, but there is still a current existing code. The existing code does not go away; it is in effect all year long. The other code is broad enough for all elected office but they could temporarily suspend the existing code. Hayden added that he is in support of moving things along but to keep the integrity of the committee system, the Election Advisory Committee can help but they could have the Board officially charge for the code to be written. The Board is empowered to make decisions like that but they should make that public decision so the student body understands what is happening. Cole stated that there are students who are interested and passionate about getting involved in Election Advisory Committee but because the elections process was primarily on Eckman, the edits were being made while students were not on campus to apply to be on that committee. Hessami suggested that there is clause in the Election Code that states that this year is a trial year and the Election Advisory Committee can go through a more robust editing/creating of the document. Hessami stated that she is okay with passing this document but making sure to add that it is a trial for this year. Willis stated that they could add in a supremacy clause that states that this Election Code supersedes other election codes during the period in which it is active. Eckman added that in the Student Senate Bylaws, the Board of Trustees retains the opportunity to vote on these documents. Eckman stated that what this document proposes is not very different compared to other WA schools. Solomon stated that since this document distinctly states that it is for the Student Senate, it does not apply to other elections. Solomon added that it is a good idea to have different codes for various elections. Willis added that it would be a good idea to create a

referendum code as well. Pollet noted that currently the referendum processes are being run under the current election code.

### **B. AS Senate Candidate Packet**

Eckman stated that there were a few inconsistencies in this document but they can draft amendments. One of the main changes is that the spending cap is lower and the number of signatures needed are lower. Eckman stated that the elections timeline for the most part remained the same but there were some room changes. Online voting changed to the new system. Willis stated that the only thing they have had frustration with the candidate packet is finding the correct wording for “senate position sought” because they would just like to know what college they are coming from. Genaro Meza-Roa stated that he wondered why people could get signatures from any student rather than students from their particular college. Eckman stated that the signatures represent that the students believe that person would be a good senator in general, not for a particular college. Willis added that the administrative work that goes into checking every student’s signature and checking that they are part of a particular college would be super work intensive. Eckman stated that he is open to making that change if the Board feels that it is necessary. Pollet added that they should think about how many students are in each college. Certain colleges have significantly more students than others. Eckman added that it creates an accessibility barrier as well. Monkah stated that there might be a way to moderate that by having a percentage being from the college. Willis stated that it might be difficult for the people collecting the signatures having to ensure that the signature is coming from a particular college. Hessami stated that she would add a certain number of signatures come from professors from the person’s college because a large part of this position is sitting on committees with faculty. Eckman stated that Board Members also sit on committees with faculty and administration, so he asked if Hessami would suggest that for the Board of Directors elections as well. Hessami stated that she thinks that if someone would not feel comfortable asking for faculty signatures, she does not know how comfortable they would feel sitting on Faculty Senate. Eckman wondered if there could be one faculty endorsement, but he worries about the number of faculty members within each college. Hessami stated that they could discuss this further in a working group. Solomon stated that she has experienced faculty not being as supportive to students of color. She added that since students pay for the salary of Student Senators and noted that the senators are primarily serving students, not faculty. Willis stated that if there were specific requirements regarding specific departments getting signatures, they would find people wanting to run for student-at-large positions instead of the college senator positions. If someone is involved enough with a college to run for senate, it is likely that the signatures that student obtains will be part of that college already. Willis clarified that they would not recommend anything department specific for the filing of candidates for the senate positions.

### **C. Interior Changes**

Eckman stated that last year’s Board made some changes to the office. They would like to make the Board Office more welcoming because it is not an approachable space for students. They want to create a texture wall, who Nick from the Publicity Center is working on. If anyone has ideas, they can talk to Eckman or Nick about that. Hessami asked if Eckman could distribute that information to the Board. Eckman

stated that he just received it from Greg McBride, so he will send it out. Meza-Roa asked which wall it would be added to. Eckman stated that it would be the wall where the AS Charge is located in the lobby area.

#### **D. AS Budget Committee Charge & Charter**

Meza-Roa stated that the only change to the Charge & Charter was the date and it will come as an Action Item next week.

#### **E. AS Board of Directors Endorsements**

Hessami stated that she was approached by individuals involved with Proposition 5 on the Bellingham Ballot and Initiative 1631 on the Washington Ballot. Hessami stated that some questions arose regarding the legality of Board Members making endorsements. She contacted Becca Kenna-Schenk, the Director of Government Relations, and was told that they did not think there would be an issue but to contact the Assistant Attorney General. Hessami contacted them but has not heard back yet, so she will call them next week. If they are going to vote on this, they need to do it sooner rather than later. Hayden stated that his understanding has been that the AS Board can individually as elected officials, give their stance on initiatives and/or as a Board but be clear whether it is as an individual or as a Board. He has not seen this happen much but it has in the past. Hessami stated that they discussed Initiative 1631 in Legislative Affairs Council last year but it never made it to the Board. Hessami stated that they have been trying to send an email to all students asking whether they support those initiatives and gauging their legislative priorities. Solomon asked if other universities make endorsements. Hessami stated that they have not on these issues. Mejia asked if they as individuals in their official roles are allowed to endorse candidates. Hayden stated that he believes they are allowed to but it would be good to double check with the Assistant Attorney General. They would need to be mindful that an endorsement should not cost the state anything. The Board Members could not use state resources for these endorsements. Pollet stated that his understanding is that as private individuals, they may endorse an initiative but it cannot be their positions as Board Members endorsing specific measures. Pollet added that previously, Board Members have made statements that align with certain initiatives but do not directly endorse a particular initiative. Any work that one would do as a member of the Board to pass an endorsement might be state funds being used to support a campaign. Hessami stated that since it is so murky, she does not think it is worth it. Since she has not been able to determine whether it is legal, she does not think it is worth it. Solomon stated that they should ask for clarification and if it permissible, then they can discuss it further. Hessami briefly explained the two issues: Proposition 5 on the Bellingham Ballot is a renewal on property tax that is used to fund homes for low-income and homeless individuals. It was passed in 2012 and is up for renewal. The other initiative, Initiative 1631 is regarding carbon emissions fees. If you are an organization emitting large amounts of carbon, a fee will be placed on you, and then the revenue is dedicated towards funding air quality and energy programs and projects, water quality and forest health projects, and investments related to communities. Hessami clarified that it is not a tax because the revenue cannot be spent on government expenses or public programs. Hessami stated that she was approached by these two, so that is why the 10 other issues on the ballot are not included in this document. Sam Frost stated that if they choose to write a statement about the Board's

values, they could sit down with a group to draft a statement. Hessami wondered how the Board felt about Hessami speaking on behalf of the Board. Mejia agreed that it could get very messy. If they are going to say their values, all the Board Members should be involved in writing that statement. Eckman stated that he is curious about how the student body would feel about the Board making a statement like that. Hessami stated that all those questions were in the survey she wants to send out. Mejia likes the idea of stating their values but not endorsing specific groups. Leti Romo stated that Washington Student Association states that they could support or oppose an initiative but could not endorse. Pollet stated that the Revised Code of Washington has a very specific exemption for action taken at an open meeting by members of elected legislative bodies to express a collective decision or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to oppose a ballot proposition. There has to be required notice of the meeting and members of the legislative body, members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district or member of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of the opposing view. Pollet stated that a lot goes into it and if anyone is interested in it, they can help walk anyone through it. Pollet clarified that they would recommend what WSA recommends. Romo added that the Board needs to have a unanimous vote in support of it. Hessami stated that they would talk with Frost later. Hayden stated that since Frost is a public employee, the Communications Office resources could not be used for making those statements. Mejia clarified that if they did want to release a statement, the AS Board would have to figure that out during Board Meetings. Hessami asked how folks would feel about her bringing a Discussion Item on some initiatives at the Board Meeting next week.

## **IX. CONSENT ITEMS**

## **X. BOARD REPORTS**

**Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs** stated that they set up an official timeline for and publicity for Student Senate elections. He is meeting with the Council of Dean's next week. The publicity for the Senate is moving along. The Student Success Committee saw the video for Student Senate and loved it. Faculty Senate is having an issue with graduate students and any other students that do research on campus. Eckman explained that someone who approves who gets to do research has been unanimously deciding who gets to approve and who doesn't get to approve. Faculty Senate Executive Board is looking into that issue diligently. He believes that it will be resolved by using the form that was distributed and approve them more consistently, which seems like a more ethical approach. Asking folks to resubmit a research proposal is not feasible because a lot of time and energy goes into constructing a research proposal. Eckman stated that in regards to Academic Coordinating Commission, one of the colleges put a program in moratorium without letting anyone know or having it approved. Eckman stated that for a program to go into moratorium, it would need to be voted on at the department level, the college level, by the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC), and by the Senate. There should be a lot of processes and Eckman stated that students have left WWU because the program was put in moratorium. The chair of the committee has been working very hard to navigate this issue and trying to help students. They are trying to remedy this situation but it is difficult when a department takes action without taking the decision through several levels of communication that was needed. It is not good for students or faculty that were

involved with that department. Hessami stated that she checked the College of Science & Engineering website, which stated that it was put in moratorium because it was not an accredited program and noted that people will still be able to graduate out of it but they are not accepting new people. Eckman stated that ACC heard something different but noted that some people left Western because of the program being placed in moratorium. Eckman added that this action sets a precedent to other programs. Eckman stated that in the University Planning and Resources Council, WWU is looking into putting a university campus in Poulosbo. They have gathered statistics and are determining how students dollars will be affected. Hessami asked if this has been discussed at Board of Trustees. Eckman stated that it was discussed but they are not sure which programs will be offered at that location. Eckman added that the Board Assistant for Academic Shared Governance was hired.

**Camilla Mejia, VP for Diversity** stated that she is continuing conversations with Sammy Baxter on trying to create an ESC alumni network and involving ESC alumni in the Alumni Weekend event. She added that she is looking into creating a tangible AS group on supporting undocumented students. Also on determining how they will occupy space in the Multicultural Center. They will be creating a charge & charter for that and creating a new resolution on supporting undocumented students at Western. There was a resolution made in 2017 but it was a little murky, so Mejia will continue researching that.

**Millka Solomon, President** stated that the university is hiring an Executive Director for Counseling, Health and Wellness as well as a Counseling Center Director. They need students to sit on the search committees. The students will get a lot of great experience looking at resumes and cover letters as well as being involved in hiring someone who students will be interacting with for an extended period. Cole stated there have been many students expressing frustration with the Counseling Center and feel as though there is nothing they can do. If they sit on a hiring committee they not only get to decide who is hired but also they get to voice their discomfort and concerns. It is a great opportunity to support other students who are experiencing the same issues they may have experienced. If anyone wants to apply, they can email [as.committees@wwu.edu](mailto:as.committees@wwu.edu).

**Ama Monkah, VP for Activities** stated that Department Related Activities Committee met and they need two more AS representatives and students representing their colleges to sit on the committee. Monkah explained that there are more faculty on this committee because it takes a lot of work to understand the budgets. She was discussing the VU Gallery and possibly creating a taskforce to discuss how they could utilize the space available to incorporate more art. Monkah stated that she met with the Athletic Director about getting the students-at-large and AS clubs connected with the athletic department. Monkah explained that it was difficult in the past because Carver Gym was under construction, but they are now trying to get more traction with students going to sports games. Monkah stated that next week they are having a Viking Madness event and they discussed having the AS Board introduced at that event. The director recommended that the AS have a table at the event. Monkah also suggested having a student engagement event like a tailgate, which they expressed interest in. Next quarter would be a good time for the AS to become more involved with the athletic department.



**Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that next Thursday is the State Representative Candidate Forum in AW 210 from 5pm to 7:15pm. All competitive candidates have confirmed except for Jeff Morris who is running unopposed.

**Genaro Meza-Roa, VP for Business and Operations** stated that he is meeting with the Registrar of the University to have a conversation about degree and degree evaluation processes. They will discuss the fees as well as the philosophy behind how it is currently being handled.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Solomon adjourned the meeting at 5:31pm.*