

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

Friday, November 9th, 2018

VU 567

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

Absent: Ama Monkah (VP for Activities)

Advisor: Leti Romo (Equity & Identity Resource Centers Coordinator)

Guests: Simon Thomas (Western Front); Sammy Baxter (AS Alumni Coordinator); Henry Pollet (AS Legislative Liaison)

Motions:

- ASB-18-F-37** Approval of the October 26th meeting minutes with the mentioned changes and the November 2nd meeting minutes. *Passed.*
- ASB-18-F-38** Approval of all revisions to the agenda. *Passed.*
- ASB-18-F-39** Approval of the Management Council Charge & Charter with the amended changes of adding an AS WWU Student Senate and the AS President. *Passed.*
- ASB-18-F-40** Approval of the Communications Committee Charge & Charter with grammatical changes. *Passed.*
- ASB-18-F-41** Approval of all committee appointments. *Passed.*

Millka Solomon, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In regards to October 26 minutes, there were some changes to the Public Forum section. Erasmus Baxter wanted to clarify that Baxter and Furukawa only met with Melynda Huskey and not Sabah Randhawa. Additionally, in regards to the Student Publications Council, there is not a policy to consult with Carolyn Nielson but it is an option. There is no set policy that they would have to meet with them but it is an option.

MOTION ASB-18-F-37 By Eckman

To approve the October 26 meeting minutes with the mentioned changes and the November 2 meeting minutes.

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

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Levi Eckman stated that there are students from the Industrial Technology-Vehicle Design (IT-VD) program. He would like to move Other Business to the beginning of the meeting.

MOTION ASB-18-F-38 By Eckman

To approve all revisions to the agenda.

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

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Eckman stated that this past Tuesday, he met with students from the Industrial Technology-Vehicle Design program. The meeting with the students was very productive and they distributed a survey to the students to collect the information and data shown. Eckman explained that he has been trying to determine what happened and every time he meets with someone new, he gets different responses. In the survey, they asked if they were made aware that the IT-VD program was not an accredited program. Eckman explained that much of the reasoning for putting the program in moratorium was because it was not an accredited program. Students knew that it was not an accredited program but all 12 students expressed that they still had the desire to continue studying in the program. He has not been given a reason for why it could not be accredited. Another reason for putting the program in moratorium was because there was no academic rigor in the program, so they asked the students to rate the academic rigor of the program. Through the survey, the students felt that the program was academically rigorous. In the survey, they asked if the students were aware of the possibility of the program being placed in moratorium prior to departmental vote. Thirteen people said that they were not aware of the possibility of the program being placed in moratorium prior to the departmental vote. Eckman explained that in a moratorium, there could be three types: where you know the program is going to come back, a program you know will not be coming back, and a program that you are unsure whether it will return. Several faculty and deans told Eckman that there was no plan to revive the program but alumni and students said that a plan was being developed. In the survey, they asked if folks ever felt pressured or coerced to switch majors. Nine students stated that they felt pressured or coerced to switch majors. Eckman had also asked by whom they felt coerced. The department chair, Jeff Newcomer, was named more than once. The next question on the survey was if they have switched majors since the program was placed in moratorium. Ten students stated that they did switch majors because they were unsure of the certainty. They also asked "if no, why", and many said they could not afford another year of tuition and their financial aid was used up in the four years. The anticipated quarter of graduation changed for three students. They asked if the students ever felt like they missed opportunities within the College of Science and Engineering due to their major or pre-major of IT-VD. All 10 students said yes. It is a red flag if students are feeling that impact within their curriculum. During the meeting, the main reason for the program being placed in moratorium was faculty conflict, which is an unreasonable reason to put the program in moratorium. A representative from the IT-VD program stated that it feels petty with what faculty is saying. The faculty say that there is no interest in the program, which is not true. Each year there is competition between students to get into the program. There are a handful of students that are interested and the process went through it went through to be put in moratorium does not seem proper. Natasha Hessami asked if their cohort has discussed what has been going on with the program. The representative from IT-VD stated that it was thrown on them in an email, there was no real discussion. Another member of the IT-VD program stated that if students were not present, the topic would fall off. Yesterday, they spoke to

a faculty member about the situation. The way the engineering department is set up, this faculty member has a vote even though they are not in the engineering department. This faculty member supported the moratorium in the sense that it could improve and be accredited but did not understand why he was voting on it since he does not know anything about the program. Their knowledge on the program was lacking but he heard from other faculty members that it needed some work. The email was very off putting to the students. It was sent to 12 students, it was very upsetting, and their professor was not included in the email. After the initial email, the department chair and the professor were both emailing the students but they were not directly communicating. They stated that it feels as though the department does not think their education is insufficient compared to other programs. In addition, they do not have funding from their family, so they are questioning whether they are doing the right thing. They did not have anyone to talk through these issues, so they are glad to be involved in this conversation.

Additionally, some of the faculty are saying that the IT-VD program needs to go into moratorium to become accredited but there are other programs in the engineering department that were accredited without going into moratorium. They are worried that if this program goes moratorium, it will never be accredited. Eckman stated that the Academic Coordinating Commission was supposed to meet and cast a vote on Wednesday but they chose not to. Eckman stated that it was a concerning conversation. An IT-VD representative stated that they thought it was interesting that the faculty were referring to what the students want/need but the students were never talked to. They are looking at their degree from the point of view of what their graduates are doing but it is not matching up with the current students. Eckman stated that the chair, Newcomer, did not allow comments from the public at the meeting. Eckman met with Newcomer on Thursday and was told that part of the process of putting a program under moratorium is the advisory board looking at the program. Eckman asked whom the advisory board consisted of, which was only two people. It is not a full advisory board. It was hastily done and Eckman is concerned with the lack of transparency and he does not see an issue with slowing the process. An IT-VD representative stated that the processes for putting a program under moratorium was very unclear and barely addressed the students. Another issue was that it was prematurely announced. Students were upset when a company representative came to one of their classrooms and was under the impression that the program already went under moratorium. They also heard that one of their alumni was asked about why the program was put in moratorium during a job interview. Since that question has already come up prior to the program being put in moratorium, it is concerning. It raised a red flag from them and they are concerned what would happen after they graduate. For a bigger company to see that your major no longer exists would be difficult to explain. Hessami asked if other public 4- year universities provide IT-VD programs. Western's program was unique; there are not any close to the WWU program in the state. Eckman will continue working with these students and as a student, he is very upset with this situation. On Wednesday at noon, Eckman will be presenting the data presented today at that meeting.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests*

A. Students for Zero Waste

Gwen Larned stated that they are the founder and president of WWU Students for Zero Waste. Larned and Hope Peterson, Zero Waste Coordinator, are here to speak

on behalf of Students for Zero Waste and the previous AS club Students for Sustainable Water. Students for Sustainable Water was the club that originally campaigned to ban the sale of bottled water on Western's campus. Larned explained that six years ago Students for Sustainable Water campaigned to ban the sale of bottle water on campus because water is a basic human right and should not be privatized by corporations. It reflects both as a sustainability initiative as well as a human rights issue. Students overwhelmingly supported the ban on bottled water. Thus, for the last six years there has been an agreement between the AS and procurement, it is not an official policy of the university. The concern for Students for Sustainable Water was that if their group disbanded and the students did not think there was reasoning for the ban, the university could start selling bottled water again. Many of the students from that club have graduated and the club has disbanded. Larned stated that two years ago, they were asked by the Western Front if the ban really reduces plastic waste and they found that the ban has reduced plastic bottled waste. Larned recognized that several waste stakeholders (like dining) are not in support. They are working on a policy, which was originally drafted by Students for Sustainable Water. They presented it to the Director of Sustainability, Seth Vidaña, who supports it. The VP for Enrollment and Student Services, Melynda Huskey, has had the chance to review it. They are hoping that the Board of Directors would be in support of the policy. Hessami asked what "enhanced water" includes. Larned stated that "enhanced water" does not include something that is carbonated; carbonated drinks are considered soft drinks. Genaro Meza-Roa asked whether this includes any beverage that contains water. Larned stated that the original decision was because it would be difficult to work with dining to eliminate all bottle beverages. With most beverages, the main ingredient is water. Straight water can be distributed out of a water fountains on campus. They do not want to limit the choices on campus but the main reason for the policy is because folks can get water in other ways. Hessami added that water is needed to survive but soft drinks are not. The AS Board can vote on a resolution to support a policy. Anne Lee added that Huskey wants the Board to take a stance to push this initiative along. Millka Solomon asked if they have asked administration to pass the policy. Larned stated that it is unclear to them how they should go about that. They were told that they needed a VP to support the policy, which is why they approached Huskey. Huskey wanted to see that other students on campus are still support the ban, so they are planning a meeting between the Students for Zero Waste and Huskey. This is another avenue to get support. Lee stated that she has a meeting with Huskey next week. It seems like it would be beneficial for the AS Board to show their support.

B. Students for Ethnic Studies

The club for Students for Ethnic Studies have sent this proposal through WIN about having an event tailored to students and faculty. They want to push for ethnic studies on campus and make sure that they maintain and sustain their faculty that support ethnic studies on campus as well as maintaining faculty of color. They want to form a coalition with faculty who are allies and faculty of color. They want to have this event to acquaint faculty, staff, and students of color with each other on a primarily white campus. They want to create a community and let the faculty know that students appreciate their presence on campus. They propose that the event take place on Tuesday, November 27th from 6:30pm-9pm in Academic West. They have been

marketing the event to the faculty and staff they want to attend the event and will be sending invitations Wednesday through Friday of next week. The design has been finalized but because they are a somewhat new club, they need funding. They are requesting \$250 to provide food at the event and \$25 for marketing purposes. They are requesting so much money because their club only has \$20. They would appreciate the Board's support of this event. Hessami asked what their outreach looks like so far to faculty and students. They have developed a list of faculty, staff, and students that they want to attend. They also have a faculty administration board who are helping add to the list. In regards to students, they are having their club members RSVP for the event. They have been asking their student members who are faculty and staff they would like to see at the event. Eckman asked if they have reached out to new faculty. They have reached out to Professor R. Mata who is in their second year at Western. They are going to ask them what other professors might be interested. Professor Mata is a mixed-identity person who was having a hard time adjusting to Bellingham, which is one of the main reasons they wanted to host an event with faculty and staff. They want to retain faculty and staff and have them join the cause of Students for Ethnic Studies. All the members of the board for Students for Ethnic Studies have been meeting with folks individually trying to build personal relationships with those people. Eckman stated that they just appointed a new director for the New Faculty Mentoring Initiative, Shirin Deylami. Eckman stated that they would be a great person to invite. Sammy Baxter asked if alumni are being invited to the event. At this event, they are only inviting current students, faculty, and staff. They want to continue support for them but they do plan to bring alumni to their spaces to talk with current students. Lee stated that she is on the Board for Students for Ethnic Studies and they have met with a new history professor, Peter Pihos. From talking with different faculty, staff, and people of color, they have expressed that it has been difficult to find community at Western. In this social, it is a better way for students to engage with faculty and staff to build alliances with them. Solomon asked if they requested funding from Activities Council since they are an AS club. They contacted Ama Monkah and they were only offered to ask the Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund. Camilla Mejia stated that since they are an AS club, they could request funds from the Large Event Opportunity Fund if they wanted to make the event larger. Henry Pollet stated that to ask for funding from the Large Event Opportunity Fund, they would need to ensure that at least 250 people attend the event. Lee stated that they also discussed requesting funding from individual VP budgets. Eric Alexander stated that the Board has the opportunity to fund anything out of Discretionary Reserves. Alexander added that they should be able to get funding from Activities Council. Solomon stated that they will check with Activities Council but Board Members would be willing to help with funding the event. Alexander added that when they are targeting specific communities for events, they need to seek approval for having an event that is not open to all members of the student, staff, and faculty community. The Students for Ethnic Studies were discussing whether the event should be exclusive or not and they ultimately decided for the event to not be exclusive. They noted that they are being selected to ensure that those who attend are in support of the cause.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – Guests*

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

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – Board *

A. Management Council Charge & Charter

Eckman stated that the change is adding “AS WWU Student Senator” to the membership. Eckman stated that the Senate Pro-Tempore would appoint a senator based on interest and availability. Solomon stated that she would like the AS President added to membership since all other heads of departments are members. Eckman does not see an issue with adding the AS President. Alexander stated that he does not think there would be any issues with adding the AS President to the membership. Meza-Roa voted against the motion.

MOTION ASB-18-F-39 By Eckman

To approve the Management Council Charge & Charter with the amended changes of adding an AS WWU Student Senator and the AS President.

Second: Lee Vote: 5-1-0 Action: Passed

B. Communications Committee Charge & Charter

Solomon stated that the changes to the charge & charter are updating position titles and formatting. They added the AS Club Promotion & Outreach Facilitator, which was originally not represented in Communications Committee. Hessami asked if they could capitalize “organizing” in “AS REP organizing and Outreach Coordinator”. Solomon added that there should be a space between “developagendas” in the Chair portion of the charge & charter.

MOTION ASB-18-F-40 By Hessami

To approve the AS Communications Committee Charge & Charter with grammatical changes.

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

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS – Board*

A. University Housing Representation and Advocacy Committee

Lee stated that the only change is updating the month and year of edits. Eckman would like to add a Student Senator to the membership. It would be useful to see how senators are engaging with university housing. Lee stated that this would be fine but she wondered whether she should remove the students-at-large. Eckman stated that they could stay. Mejia asked if the ESC representative should be appointed through Leadership Advocacy Force. Lee stated that they might have to have a committee wide conversation about designating representatives but LAF would be a good place. Hessami asked why all offices from the SAIRC are represented except the WIRC. Lee will ask the WIRC and see if they would like to be included in the membership.

B. Budget Committee Charge & Charter

Meza-Roa stated that he reached out to the Assessment Coordinator who did not want to join the membership of Budget Committee. They have also been having a conversation about dissolving Budget Committee completely. Meza-Roa stated that in Business Committee, they have seen that “the Budget Committee has historically been a retarding process in the budget development.” The budget authorities and Business Committee could do the work of Budget Committee. Meza-Roa noted that there is concern of reducing student eyes but he feels that there is a sufficient amount of students looking over the budget process. Eckman stated that he has been involved in this conversation as well and is fine with absolving Budget Committee. Eckman stated that the Student Senate would be reviewing the budgets before they are taken to the Board of Directors. Solomon stated that she is not in support of absolving it because she thinks it is important to have folks that are not involved in the AS reviewing the budgets. She understands that it often takes a long time for the budgets to go through Budget Committee but they could stress the timeliness or making a deadline for the committee. Solomon does not support getting rid of the option for students-at-large to have a say in the AS budgets. Eckman asked about adding student voices in a subcommittee of the Student Senate. Eckman explained that they gave the power to create subcommittees of the Student Senate. They could create a subcommittee where they appoint students-at-large to help the AS Business Director. Alexander stated that the 3-5 at-large positions in Budget Committee are not represented in any of the other steps in the budget process. Historically, it has been difficult to fill those positions. Alexander explained that in his time at Western, the most has been two students-at-large. The process is lengthy and at the S&A Fee Committee level, there are folks not associated with the AS reviewing the budget. If the committees met early in the fall to begin their training, the process could move much more quickly. Lee referred to Meza-Roa describing Budget Committee as “retarding” the budget process and stated that as this meeting is on public record, Meza-Roa should be careful with the language he chooses to use. Lee asked if Meza-Roa could have used a better word to describe that process. Meza-Roa stated that it means to slow down and stated that he does not see an issue using that word. Solomon requested that they refrain from using that word in the future. Meza-Roa stated that as it is a technical term, he does not see an issue with using it. Lee stated that the student body could read that and be affected by it. Lee stated that it is about the student body, it is not about Meza-Roa. Solomon stated that even if Meza-Roa means no offense by using that term, when it goes on public record, there is no backstory of Meza-Roa’s thoughts. Meza-Roa stated that it is not a word that should be taken as an offense. Solomon stated that Meza-Roa could not be there every time to tell people not to take offense. Pollet stated that he has had his issues with Budget Committee when he was the REP Director because he felt as though they did not take what departments brought to them seriously enough. Between the S&A Fee Committee pushing back the timeline, Board approval, and now Student Senate approval, he worries that the Board would not be able to adequately look at the budgets as well as what is necessary. Pollet stated that the Board has the best knowledge of what is going on in the AS and is in the best place to know whether the funds are being used well. Hessami stated that if they do dissolve Budget Committee, she would propose adding some of the positions from Budget Committee to Business Committee, like the VU Finance Manager. Meza-Roa stated that he is open to that and in Business Committee, they discussed with the AS Business Director possibly adding students-at-large to the membership of Business Committee. Solomon stated that since this an

Information Item, they could continue to think about it. She stated that she wants students to be involved but if it is a time issue, they do not have to make it a necessary step in the budget process. Hessami added that since the Student Senate has not formed yet, she would be wary of dissolving a committee with the promise of a new one that has not officially formed yet. Meza-Roa clarified that the only change to the document would be removing the addition of the Assessment Coordinator.

C. Office Hours

Eckman stated that he wants to ensure that the Board of Directors is transparent and there is very little accountability within the Board. This proposal would be enforcing the job descriptions of the Board. Eckman referred to the written proposal and stated “The AS Board of Directors (ASBOD) has been tasked with serving as the elected representatives of WWU’s student body. Additionally, the ASBOD has been tasked with maintaining office hours per their job descriptions, in order to address student questions and concerns. When an AS BOD member disregards, or fails to comply with their aforementioned job description, it not only seriously impedes their effectiveness as an elected official, but it creates instability within the ASBOD and the consistency of the quality of work we are able to then produce. This proposal would aim to deliver consequences to any ASBOD member who fails to post their office hours in accordance with their job description, as well as in accordance with the AS WWU By-Laws. This proposal suggests allowing the ASBOD, in coordination with the AS Personnel and the Assistant Director for Student Representation and Government, to implement a reduction of 10% per Office Hour not posted (E.G. If 4/5 are posted, a 10% reduction. If 3/5 are posted, a 20% reduction. Etc.) against any culpable ASBOD member, including the AS WWU Student Senate Pro-Tempore.” Eckman stated that the AS Board of Directors could not adequately serve the WWU student body without being available to them. This would increase the transparency and accountability of the Board of Directors. Pollet asked if this would have an impact on someone who has the office hour posted but is not present during that hour. Eckman stated that he does not want to police people and as elected official, he thinks they should hold themselves accountable but having a policy to govern themselves would be important in a situation like that. Eckman clarified that the 10% reduction in pay would be per pay period. Mejia stated that during her office hours she often has meetings, so they could possibly have signs on their doors that say either “at lunch” or “in a meeting”. That could be an easy fix to mitigate issues with people not being physically in their office during their posted office hours. Alexander stated that they should also include the chair of the Student Union Board. Alexander asked how long the reduction would last. Eckman stated that after the situation is rectified, it would be immediate. Alexander stated that it would be worth checking this proposal with Washington labor laws.

D. Personnel Committee Charge & Charter

Mejia stated that she was not able to be present at the Personnel Committee meeting where these changes were discussed but she did check in with committee members to discuss the changes. Mejia explained that the changes made to the charge & charter were changing the date the document was edited to October 2018 and a change to the committee’s charge. The third bullet point of the charge reads “hearing and making funding decisions for requests in excess of \$400 from the Student Development Fund (FXXSDV)” but the amount has changes to \$500 because things have gotten more

expensive. Mejia added that the vice chair was changed from the VP for Business & Operations to be appointed by the committee. The needs of Personnel Committee changes each year, so the vice chair would be appointed by the committee each year.

X. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Committee Appointments

Student Enhancement Fund Committee

Celia Major Senior Communications Studies

Student Rights and Responsibilities Committees

Ari Winter Sophomore Political Science

Counseling Center Search Committee

Dee Mooney Senior Fairhaven (DOC representative)

*MOTION ASB-18-F-41 By Eckman
To approve all committee appointments.*

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

XI. BOARD REPORTS

Genaro Meza-Roa, VP for Business & Operations stated that he would be looking into the AS non-profit situation.

Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that in regards to the situation with the College of Science and Engineering is improving with conversation. Hessami and other student leaders within the college are sensing urgency and action. They still are not ready to add the pre-healthcare decision package to the agenda. Tomorrow is the WSA General Assembly from 10:30am-5:00pm in VU 565. They have a full group of voting members but anyone is welcome to attend.

Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs stated that the issue with CSE in regards to the IT-VD program is not improving. They will be voting on it next Wednesday. Eckman stated that he would use all his report time at Academic Coordinating Commission to advocate for not placing the program in moratorium. Eckman is working with the students so they can individually meet with Brad Johnson. Senate Elections are going well, all the publicity is up and they will likely be tabling in Red Square next week. Eckman stated that one issue is that the elections system they purchase cannot do instant runoff voting. He added that he is planning the dinner for the deans and the senators in the winter.

Camilla Mejia, VP for Diversity stated that ESC Executive Committee and student employees from the ESC and the SAIRC are meeting with the Multicultural Center architects next week to develop finishing touches on the MCC. They would be developing policies for the space and who they want in that space. Mejia added that ESC Lobby Day is being planned.

Anne Lee, VP for Student Life stated that she and Mejia met with the new Men's Resiliency Director, Brandon Joseph, and were very impressed with what he has to bring to the table. They are excited to continue working with him on addressing the preventative root causes of sexual violence. They also met with the Sexual Violence Response and Prevention Work Group and Sabah Randhawa present for that meeting. Mejia and Lee were able to give Randhawa their feedback on what students need and what is missing in Western's response to sexual violence.

Millka Solomon, AS President stated that she attended the Board of Trustees meeting and they approved the construction of two physiology labs in the Carver building.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mejia stated that they should be mindful of the type of language they are using because intent versus impact is a huge thing. They talked about this at the beginning of the year. Whether or not someone means to offend someone, it is not up to the Board to say if they meant to offend someone; it is the impact of the choice of words. Baxter stated that everyone makes mistakes but acknowledging those mistakes is an important step in the learning process.

Solomon adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.