

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

Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 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), Ama Monkah (VP for Activities), Anne Lee (VP for Student Life), Genaro Meza-Roa (VP for Business & Operations).

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

**Guests:** Nora Harren (AS REP Director); Henry Pollet (AS Legislative Liaison); Sam Frost (AS Communications Director)

**Motions:**

**ASB-18-F-42** Approval of the meeting minutes from November 9th. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-F-43** Approval of the amended AS Student Senate Election Code with the mentioned revisions. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-F-44** Approval of all committee appointments. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-F-45** Approval to go into Executive Session for 20 minutes at 5:37pm to discuss personnel issues. *Passed.*

*Millka Solomon, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Millka Solomon stated that in regards to vote for the Management Council Charge & Charter, Solomon would like to note who voted against the motion.

*MOTION ASB-18-F-42 By Eckman*

*To approve the meeting minutes from November 9<sup>th</sup>.*

Second: Meza-Roa    Vote: 6-0-1            Action: Passed

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

Cora Cole would like to remind the Board Members to review the Western Involvement Network forms they are tagged in. After AS Senate Elections are completed, IT may have time to figure out better methods for committee appointments. The current system is not optimal utilization of the AS resources.

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests\***

**V. ACTION ITEMS – Guests\***

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

**VII. ACTION ITEMS – Board \***

## **A. Elections Code Charge & Charter**

Levi Eckman stated that no more packets are being accepted for AS Student Senate elections and around 50 packets were received. The meeting for the candidates will be Monday from 5pm-8pm. The Elections Code was revised and is available at [www.tinyurl/aswwuss3](http://www.tinyurl/aswwuss3). Nora Harren stated that the first change they have made to the code is in regards to the elections software. Harren explained that when they were coming up with elections software, they found that IT does not have enough time to develop a code to have runoff elections. The change to the code is that the person who wins, would win by a plurality vote. They also ran into an issue with the student list the AS has access to; they found that there is not the necessary data for each student to give them a ballot that accurately reflects their college elections. To combat that issue, they came up with four possible solutions. The best solution seemed to be that each student would be given four votes for the student-at-large positions and their college positions. Since all the senate candidates would show up on each student's ballot, it will be an honors system, so folks will have to only vote in their own college. Eckman explained that the four options were cancelling the elections all together, to cure the ballots (which would be difficult to do and time consuming), having provisional ballot (each person having four votes), and everyone votes in every college's election. Eckman stated that the third option seemed most feasible. They hope that next year, there are not all these issues. Harren stated that this has been an issue on the Registrar's radar but now there is initiative for them to make changes. Solomon asked if the deans had a list of the people in their college. Harren stated that the list they have is not one the AS could access. Henry Pollet stated that it would violate FERPA to utilize the list the deans have. The way the lists are now would violate FERPA and it would take too long to get them fixed for this election. The Registrar will be working on this issue for future elections. Eckman added that some colleges do not register their students properly. Leti Romo stated that the deans do not have an accurate roster of the students in their college. Harren stated that all the ballots would not be counted. Ama Monkah asked what would happen if a student voted in a different college and was chosen to be verified. Harren stated that the ballot would not be counted. Eckman added that Melynda Huskey and the registrar met with the Representation & Engagement Programs and Huskey wrote a letter to the AS in support of making these changes. Harren stated that the letter said that they understand that this year some issues arose but the election should move forward even though they are troubleshooting certain issues. Eckman stated that he trusts the students and next year they will have an even better representative model. Eckman is in support of this option. Natasha Hessami stated that they knew there would be issues and that this would be a trial year, so they are working out the issues. Hessami asked how they would be presenting this to the senate. Eckman stated that they would be figuring that out in the next couple of days. Cole stated that there was one candidate who could not attend the candidate meeting, so Cole provided a training for them from the material provided by the Elections Coordinator. Cole was able to give a rough description of how voting would work: folks would have four votes, two for at-large candidates and two for

their college. Cole stated that explaining to the candidates would be fairly simple. Eckman stated that they would be transparent with the candidates that this is a trial year and they are working out some issues that have arisen. Sam Frost asked if the Board would like the Communications Office to write a press release about how voting works. Eckman stated that it would be beneficial.

*MOTION ASB-18-F-43 By Eckman*

*To approve the amended AS Student Senate Election Code with the mentioned revisions.*

Second: Monkah      Vote: 7-0-0      Action: Passed

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

### **A. AS WWU Legislative Agenda**

Hessami stated that they developed their agenda for 2019 Legislative Session. December 7<sup>th</sup> will be the Board of Directors meeting to pass this item. On Wednesday Legislative Affairs Council (LAC) viewed this as an information item and they plan to pass this item next Wednesday. Hessami stated that LAC discussed 11 total items but there are only eight items currently on the agenda. Support for Undocumented Students would be added to the agenda for the meeting next week. Hessami stated that some other items still being discussed are funding for mental health services, support for undocumented students, K-12 sex education, K-12 education (sexual education, civics education, and ethnic studies), and environmental protection. Katie Winkelman will be meeting with someone on Monday about more detailed environmental protections. Pollet stated that there would be a lot of discussion in regards to reversing the Supreme Court decision that ruled the way they do culverts breaks tribal treaty rights. Hessami stated that this agenda was put together before LAC on Wednesday, so they have not looked at the survey results yet. Hessami explained that there are 11 priorities (K-12 expanded education (civics, sex education, ethnic studies), support for survivors of sexual assault, dedicated revenue, mental health services, support for undocumented students, state need grant expansion, renters rights and advocacy, prepaid postage, civilian oversight boards, Western's pre-healthcare decision package, and environmental advocacy) but they need to reduce it to six for the packet handed to legislators. Hessami stated that they are all important issues, so it is difficult to reduce it to six. There is no consensus from the survey results so far. Hessami stated that she is struggling with determining which will be the topics. She will be sending out a document with all 11 issues, so they can all be more informed on each issue. Harren asked if Hessami is comfortable with the survey being on social media. Hessami stated that the survey could be shared. Hessami needs to see where the student's priorities lie to determine their top issues. Pollet stated that if there are too many items on the agenda, it would not be readable. Pollet stated that he is able to lobby on any topic passed by the Board of Directors even if they are not on the official agenda. Legislative Session opens January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Western Lobby Day is January 21<sup>st</sup>. Hessami stated that on Western Lobby day, the meetings are only 15 minutes long, so having more than 9 items weakens their ability. Frost stated that in regards to the survey, there should be some information about each topic because when she was taking the survey, there were certain topics that were confusing. Hessami could send out blurbs for each topic. Eckman stated that having Pollet lobby on so many topics

would be placing a lot of pressure on one person to. Pollet stated that much of what is put forward would not follow through. It is beneficial for him to have the Board pass more items. It seems like it would be more work than it is but the more that is passed by the Board, the broader the range of things Pollet can do in Olympia. Hessami stated that when a bill hits the floor, Pollet would have to figure out if Western supports it. Hessami added that there are lobby days for the ESC, ESP, and DOC on February 20<sup>th</sup> and each will have different priorities. Those agendas will also be coming to the Board but will be happening a month after Western Lobby Day. Hessami stated that the goal of the Board is for them to support as many measures, bills, and agenda items as possible to support students-at-large. They need to determine what items will be on the agenda handed to legislators and what they are going to train 120 students to lobby on at Western Lobby Day. Genaro Meza-Roa stated that it is important to determine what are the top priorities are on the agenda because often they can only get through two or three items during a meeting. Hessami stated that they know what legislators are interested in, so they will select what to focus on depending on the legislator. Anne Lee asked if they could focus on certain issues in one of the other lobby days. Lee wondered whether the other lobby days have the same weight as Western Lobby Day. Pollet stated that because of timing, they do not have the same weight. Hessami stated that they would be strategic with what they bring forward. Hessami stated that she needs the Board to share the survey and help with language in the document. By the end of Thanksgiving break, Hessami will have the document prepared for all 11 agenda items. Pollet stated that the agenda traditionally has a letter from the Board of Directors or the AS President stating that the agenda represents the needs they see on campus and are in support.

## **IX. CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. Committee Appointments**

Monkah stated that Celia Major is only taking five credits but Monkah would really like to approve Major to Activities Council because males dominate the council. They really dominate the conversation and Monkah wants more representation on this council. Monkah noted that she is the only female representative on the council. Monkah stated that Major is a senior studying Communications Studies. They are also an AS club president and the council needs more AS club representation as well. Monkah explained that Major's club requested funds from Activities Council last week. The council was hesitant to provide funds because the trip seemed recreational and it did not seem that they would bring much back to campus. Monkah felt as though even though they are a recreational club, they should be able to receive funding from the AS. Cole stated that Major seems like a qualified candidate for this council and Cole noted that Activities Council has been slow to expand and get a wider body this year. There should be diversity in gender and club type in Activities Council. Camilla Mejia stated that it is important to add more gender diversity in all committees and appreciates that Monkah had that in mind. Monkah stated that Colton Redtfeldt is being appointed to the Student Publication Council. They will be review applications for student editors for the Western Front. Redtfeldt also sat on this council last year.

*MOTION ASB-18-F-44 By Hessami  
To approve all committee appointments.*

Second: Eckman      Vote: 6-1-0      Action: Passed

Monkah asked for reasoning for Meza-Roa's vote against the committee appointments. Mejia stated that when Meza-Roa was discussing the experience at Western Lobby Day where Meza-Roa stated "could not get her to shut up" about a legislator, Mejia stated that to her it was very misogynistic and unprofessional. Mejia stated that she was disappointed to see that from a Board Member who was elected to the position. Mejia stated that it makes her wonder what Meza-Roa thinks of women in professional positions if he is saying that he couldn't get a legislator to shut up about a job that she is elected to. Meza-Roa stated it did not have to do with the legislator's gender; he stated that it had do with the legislator being a very verbose person. Mejia stated that Meza-Roa did not have to say he could not "get her to shut up". That rhetoric influences the way society is and it influences male dominance over women. Mejia stated that in this society there are many men who feel entitled over women. Meza-Roa stated that he thinks that the Board of Directors think the solution to misogyny is by placing women at a level that is unmerited. Meza-Roa stated that he is not saying that he is against equality but he thinks there is a problem if the Board appoints someone to a committee solely because of their gender. Cole stated that it is important that they are careful when selecting folks to committee positions. Anyone who is a student can hold a student-at-large position and it is important to represent every voice on campus. Cole agreed with Meza-Roa that folks need to be qualified for those committee appointments. Cole asked for clarifications from Monkah because folks need to know the qualifications of the folks representing the WWU student body. Cole stated that Monkah has a lot of experience and Activities Council is something that she has been focusing a lot of time and energy into. Cole stated that just because Activities Council is a stressful space to be in because it is full of many men does not mean that it is the most important thing to other students. It just means that it is the most noticeable and most memorable because it is a very powerful experience. Cole stated that Major is also qualified to sit on Activities Council because Activities Council needs more club leaders, particularly a diversity of club leaders. Activities Council is often short on groups like E Sports. Cole thought Monkah addressed Cole's concerns about qualifications. Solomon stated that if Meza-Roa votes against a motion, she would appreciate reasoning for their vote because there may be something that the Board overlooked. Solomon stated that when Meza-Roa is addressed about something he might feel called out on, it would be good to listen and not dismiss what folks are saying to him. Meza-Roa stated that he does not think it is appropriate for people to throw out derogatory labels after a decision is made that they are upset with. Meza-Roa stated that he thought that Monkah should have waited and talked to him in person. Eckman asked when they could come to meet with Meza-Roa to discuss these issues. Eckman stated that if Meza-Roa wants to be approached about these kinds of issues, Meza-Roa needs to be available. Romo wonders if this is the norm the Board wants to set amongst themselves. Romo stated that this is important norming behavior to discuss and expect from all. Mejia stated that they have been trying to set a norm of representing the entire student body and being respectful since the beginning of the year. Hessami stated that she thinks this discussion would be

better served in Other Business or Executive Session to keep these meetings running professionally.

**Activities Council**

Celia Major                      Senior                      Communications Studies

**Student Publication Council**

Colton Redtfeldt              Junior                      Journalism

**X. BOARD REPORTS**

**Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs** stated that since AS Student Senate Elections are starting, he wanted to remind all the Board Members that they could not like candidate's social media posts. It is important to keep this as non-partisan as possible. Eckman will also let the candidates know that Board Members cannot be involved in a candidate's campaign. In regards to moratorium of the IT-VD program, they voted to put the program into moratorium. There were nine votes in favor, six abstentions, and three in opposition. Eckman stated that it would go back to Academic Coordinating Commission; Eckman will be lobbying to put it in late moratorium next fall. He met with Brent Carbajal who was very informative and helpful in finding individual plans for all the IT-VD students so they do not have to worry about not graduating in time. For Student Senate, every college has enough people running. The candidate meeting is Monday in VU 565 from 5pm-8pm. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. Campaigning will open Tuesday at 8am.

**Ama Monkah, VP for Activities** stated that she met with Casey Hayden and they looked at the charge & charter for the committee that will be figuring out what the VU Gallery space would be used for after construction. She has been working with Sammy Baxter about hosting a basketball event during Winter Quarter. They will be hosting some pep rallies and block parties.

**Camilla Mejia, VP for Diversity** stated that they met with the architects for the Multicultural Center (MCC) with folks from the SAIRC, ESC, staff, and students-at-large. There is one area of the MCC that they are not sure how it will be used yet. They were discussing color schemes and statements they want around the building. She will be meeting with the ESC Executive Committee to approve the identity statements that will be in the MCC. Mejia will be collecting each of the ESC club logos. They will be having all the club logos and their mission statements displayed around the building.

**Anne Lee, VP for Student Life** stated that there would be some interesting conversations coming up from student groups about Western's response to sexual assault. Lee met with SASHA and Melynda Huskey about getting students more involved in committees. Lee will be in the Title IX officer search committee, which is exciting. She will be coming to the members of the Board asking what they would like Lee to bring to the committee. Lee met with Students for Zero Waste and Dr. Huskey about implementing the policy for the water bottle ban. Currently there is not process for students to be involved in institutional policymaking. Lee and Huskey will be working on developing a structure for students to utilize. Lee is setting up a meeting with the Assistant Attorney General to discuss the

implementation of the policy. Pollet added that Post Title IX is now open to public comment. Romo stated that the WIRC would be hosting an information session on the proposed rulemaking. Romo will invite the REP and the Board to learn about the proposed changes and how college campuses will be impacted.

**Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that WSA was on Saturday. There were 19 legislative proposals. All 4-year public WA institutions will be lobbying in favor of veteran tuition support, prepaid postage, K-12 education reform, loan refinancing, Native American tuition support, homeless student support, Title IX and APA reform, food and housing support, expansion of mental health services, menstrual products, campus voter registration reform, grad bill of rights, and inter-professional education. Hessami added that civilian oversight, work-study, ability to work for graduate students, and tuition decrease did not pass. In regards to the College of Science and Engineering, Hessami has been talking with the Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee. Hessami stated that she and eight other club leaders have met with Brad Johnson to go over his progress. It is still a top priority and is moving in the right direction. As of now, they will probably lobby for the STEM expansion but the student leaders and the Board need to be sure CSE follows through. Pollet stated that he would be talking with some of the clubs to determine if folks feel comfortable supporting the initiative.

**Genaro Meza-Roa, VP for Business & Operations** stated that he met with Ian Ferrer and discussed the Outback Farm assessment. The Legal Information Center is hoping to hire a work-study to handle public relations and marketing. They also want to hire an attorney to host office hours on campus.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Free Student Ticket Donation**

Monkah stated that this came up very last minute but Courtney Stringer, the Associate Athletics Director for Community Engagement, wanted to see if the Board would be willing to donate \$500 towards providing free tickets for students. Monkah did not realize that the games were this weekend, so one is currently underway now. Eckman stated that he loves student involvement but wondered about logistics. Solomon stated that two of the games were tonight and one tomorrow, so it is probably too late. Baxter stated that they are already offering 200 free tickets. Solomon stated that this is very last minute. Monkah clarified that the Board is saying no. The Board thought they should come to a meeting and present their request. Pollet stated that since the Athletic Department already receives a portion of the S&A fee, it seems as though they are asking for a change in the allocations of the S&A funds. Romo noted that Monkah is trying to create more student engagement in sports and campus pride. Monkah will tell Stringer that the Board would appreciate notice farther ahead of time in the future.

### **B. Students for Zero Waste Policy Proposal**

Lee wondered how the Board is feeling about Students for Zero Waste and their policy proposal. They will be approaching the Assistant Attorney General to ask about the legality of implementing the policy and then possibly having the Board write a resolution. All the Board members were in support of writing a resolution for Students for Zero Waste.

### **C. Students for Ethnic Studies**

In regards to Students for Ethnic Studies, Lee stated that Activities Council and fundraising would be the best way for them to receive funds. They received \$200 from Activities Council. The social will take place on November 27 at 6:30pm.

### **D. Language**

Mejia reiterated that as the AS Board, they need to be mindful of the language used when having conversations and the impact their words could have. Hessami asked if they would like to go into Executive Session. Eckman noted that they would have to re-invite the public back in following the Executive Session. Frost added that the Communications Office is working on an inclusive language campaign. It is supposed to launch the first week of Winter Quarter. Pollet stated that they should also be mindful of how they talk about elected officials in Olympia. It makes Pollet's job more difficult if it becomes well known that they are speaking ill of folks who might need to sponsor a bill.

### **E. Collaboration with Alumni Association**

Baxter stated that if they are the AS is having events and alumni are being invited, the Alumni Association could provide funding. As long as the Alumni Association is included from the beginning, there is financial incentive. If 1-50 alumni attend, the Alumni Association would contribute \$250; for 50-100, they would contribute \$500, and so on.

### **F. Committee Appointment Discussion**

Baxter stated that she agrees that there should be more gender representation on committees but she understands how Meza-Roa felt. It seemed as though the person's qualifications were an afterthought compared to the fact that she is a woman. Monkah stated because of the situation Monkah described earlier that it was the main reason that drew her to talk about that primarily. Mejia stated that she agrees with Baxter but is in support of the committee appointment because it promotes gender diversity in a male dominated committee. Mejia stated that if Major was not qualified, Monkah would not have chosen her. Hessami asked how the Board felt about going into Executive Session.

*MOTION ASB-18-F-45 By Solomon*

*To approve to go into Executive Session for 20 minutes at 5:37pm to discuss personnel issues.*

Second: Hessami    Vote: 7-0-0    Action: Passed

*The Board exited Executive Session at 5:57pm and discussed personnel issues.*

*Solomon adjourned the meeting at 6:01pm.*