

Western Washington University Associated Students AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday, November 30th, 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: Henry Pollet (AS Legislative Liaison); Nora Harren (AS REP Director); Sam Frost (AS Communications Director); Rachel Walsh (AS Personnel Director); Tyler Andrews (AS Student Enhancement Fund Facilitator)

Motions:

ASB-18-F-46 Approval of the Personnel Committee Charge & Charter. *Passed.*

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

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Camilla Mejia stated that she would like to add a discussion about the recent racist vandalism that has been happening on campus. Millka Solomon stated that they could discuss that in Other Business. Natasha Hessami stated that she would like to add an Information Item – Guest for Sam Frost to talk about Bullseye emails. Mejia stated that the Personnel Committee Charge & Charter should be an Action Item – Board.

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

A student-at-large came to the meeting to discuss the recent racist vandalism on campus. The student who was found guilty was let go from jail because he did not have a prior record and is still allowed on campus. It is unsafe for faculty and students of color to have the perpetrator on campus. Also in regards to the email from Sabah Randhawa, he said there is no space for hate on Western's campus but they are allowing the student on campus. It is hypocritical and shows that students of color on WWU's campus are not a priority for administration. Rachel Walsh asked what the AS could do about this issue. Mejia stated that as an elected board, they have a huge responsibility to students and especially to marginalized students, who were the folks being targeted. In addition to racial slurs being graffitied around campus, the student was charged with burglary and sexual violence terms were written in the dorms. It is clearly a threat against marginalized peoples. Mejia stated that this should be taken very seriously and it would be good to release of statement of support for marginalized peoples on this campus. The student-at-large stated that as students, they have a lot of power in their numbers and they put in a lot of money to the institution but they do not have enough power in the decision-making processes. In those statements put out from the Board, as a student, they would want to see statements to those not affected and list what they can do to

help. Mejia stated that she thinks that is a good idea; she knows that many people on campus are allies, and they could list ways allies could help. She does not want to put on that work on marginalized peoples because they already have to deal with being scared to come to campus. Mejia stated that when she heard about what happened, she did not want to come to campus, she did not feel safe. Hessami stated that she is not sure who allowed the student to come back to campus but is in support of writing a resolution. They could include some calls to action within the resolution. Mejia stated that as an elected board and since the AS is seen as a more progressive entity on campus, they should look into who allowed the student to come back to campus to keep the administration accountable. The students deserve to feel safe on campus because they are paying to be there. Their actions are contradicting what administration is saying. Anne Lee stated that she met with Melynda Huskey and asked about this situation. She stated that administration is focusing on community building and community engagement but administration is expecting students to come to their spaces. An option would be having administration come to student spaces and hold a campus forum to promote dialogue between students and administration. It would be a good opportunity for the AS to collaborate with administration to have campus-wide dialogue. Lee talked with the SAIRC about collaborating with them as well. It would be good to have this collaboration before the quarter ends and into Winter Quarter to continue that conversation. Lee stated that there is a new student group, WWU Students for Justice, who are organizing a sit-in in the President's Office. Another tangible action the AS could take is having the AS show up to the sit-in to show support of students. The students should come together as a community to ask for better treatment. Hessami asked what the purpose of the sit-in is. Lee stated that she is still learning the details but people are angry and they want to express to administration that they will not let this be forgotten. Frost wondered if WWU Students for Justice is an official AS club. Lee stated that it is brand new so they are not an official AS club. Frost stated that there are claims on social media that the AS is removing WWU Students for Justice posters. Frost stated that she thinks there was a mix up between Western and the AS but she would like to clarify that the AS is not removing the posters. The student-at-large stated that there have been instances of the posters being taken down but when the posters were being put up in the library, they were chased out by the librarian and were told to take the posters down. Frost stated that because of poster hanging policy they were not allowed to post them in certain areas. Mejia stated that they should write a statement and a resolution. Genaro Meza-Roa stated that he would caution the Board to take a stance with a student group before they fully evaluate their intent but he agreed that writing a statement or resolution would be good. Hessami asked whether they would want to be another group that releases a statement but does not take any action. Mejia stated that they would all have to keep each other accountable but they could look into the administrative processes to have a white supremacist student on campus and why administration thinks that is more important than the safety of the students affected. The student-at-large stated that they are not sure whether reiterating would make the students understand more but it is important to acknowledge that administration is perpetuating the system that white, cis men can get away with anything and marginalized people are having to deal with that trauma. There are many spaces that want to discuss what happened but this should not happen as often as it does. Western does not take any action. Meza-Roa stated that no one could predict the future, so to blame Western for events that no one could foresee is difficult. Meza-Roa stated that he is not justifying

what happened but they need to remember that unfortunately these things occur. The student-at-large stated that the issue is that Western does not take any action after the incidences. Tyler Andrews stated that if people saw that action was taken, it could help with future incidences. Levi Eckman stated that he met with Huskey and she showed him a flow chart of how Western wants to start responding to crises on campus. Huskey explained that they only respond to large crises, not daily crises like macroaggressions. The developed flow chart accounted for the daily crises that occur and Eckman wondered why it was not available to students. He stated that they should make that transparent to students because students do not think there are any policies in place. Mejia stated that they should also look at the patterns. In 2015 something similar to this happened, two women on the Board received death threats from a student. There has been a pattern in the past and it will likely happen in the future, but action needs to be taken. Lee stated that Huskey seemed on board with the forum but Lee would caution letting administration take control. In the statement, they can mention that there is conversation between the AS Board and administration about holding a campus wide forum. Once it is publicized, it will promote accountability with administration. Hessami stated that according to Western's Student Conduct Code, "discrimination or discriminatory harassment is prohibited on the basis of race; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity/expression' religion' age' color' creed' national or ethnic origin' physical, mental or sensory disability' marital status' genetic information' and/or veteran status". Hessami continued to the Student Conduct System section where it states, "the vice president for enrollment and student services is responsible for administration of the code" and how the appeals board works. There is then levels of sanctions which include warning, conditional status, loss of privileges, restriction from contacting other, education activities, treatment programs, restitution, parental notification, campus residence hall relocation, termination of university residences agreement, suspension, and expulsion. Hessami stated that it could be worth them speaking with those involved in the highest level, which would be Michael Sledge, Ted Pratt, and Melynda Huskey to see where they are in the process. Hessami added that the code explicitly says that students can be expelled and that discrimination on the basis of race is prohibited. Leti Romo stated that the Equal Opportunity Office (EOO) should be involved as well. Hessami added that the student does have rights, so they need to respect that. Lee stated that she knows he is going through many processes currently including the housing process, EOO, student life, and criminal justice. Henry Pollet stated that usually a resolution would be drafted by one board member then reviewed by the entire Board. Pollet met with Sue Guenter-Schlesinger and she mentioned how insulated the punishment process is. The idea that they follow a restorative model, where they believe all students have the ability to become better people, means that they use expulsion as little as possible. It is important that students understand where the decision-making happens and how the students could influence that. Solomon stated that they should state that suspension and expulsion are options and let students know how they can be involved. Frost stated that since it is dead week and finals week, folks might not be able to attend the forum, they should make letter writing an option. Walsh agreed with Frost, the more that is in physical writing the better. Mejia agreed that a paper trail would be good to have. In the resolution, they should have a list of steps they want administration to take as well as a deadline. Mejia would be willing to sponsor and write this resolution. Solomon stated that they could outline more standards to give administration. Walsh stated that the offences could escalate quickly if no action is

taken. Hessami stated that she agreed with Solomon about the severity of punishment but based on the First Amendment and freedom of speech, people can say whatever they want. She agreed that more punishment needs to happen but as the Board they need to make sure the asks in the resolution are legal. Meza-Roa stated that he would like to mention the Fourth Amendment of due process; he would be reluctant to support a resolution that automatically prescribes punishment without due process. Lee stated that even if they cannot ask for a change in the conduct process, it would be good to make the process more transparent. Romo stated that they could not guarantee that the law is equitable, so that is where the value of due process comes in. Even if someone is arrested, it does not mean they are guilty. Pollet stated that his understanding is that it would be theoretically possible to have a blanket suspension on someone who is found guilty by the university until the final determination of punishment is set. It would be a potential proposition but they should be careful. Solomon stated that if someone goes against student conduct, there should be immediate consequences. The student-at-large stated that they are not familiar of the student conduct but wondered if there is a section on student safety. Romo stated that the harassment policy does cover safety and it comes down to the fact of whether or not people feel as though they could continue studying and being on campus. They should bring up the fact that students do not feel safe coming to campus. Lee wondered if there is a way to document the legacy of racism on Western's campus. Since there is such quick turnover, people cannot follow the pattern and many of the new students do not know of past incidents.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests*

A. Bullseye Emails

Frost stated that there has been a lot of confusion about Bullseye emails. The Communications Office has set strategy for sending emails and they are booked out until February. Frost explained that the Communications Office sends out a newsletter every Thursday. It would be good to space out emails from the AS so it would be good for the Board to send out emails on Mondays or Tuesdays. Frost stated that people cannot unsubscribe from AS emails and folks have been getting frustrated with all the emails. Solomon suggested limiting the number of emails each Board Member can send out and strategize the emails that are sent. Frost stated that many announcements could be included in the newsletter if it is early in the week. The statement the Board wants to send out in regards to the racist vandalism will be its own email since it is so important. Mejia asked what the best way to reach students is. Frost suggested PSAs through KUGS, social media, press releases, videos, tabling, or publicity through the Publicity Center. In order to be a good Board, it is imperative that they think ahead and plan.

V. ACTION ITEMS – Guests*

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

VII. ACTION ITEMS – Board *

A. Personnel Committee Charge & Charter

Mejia stated that they increased the FXXSDV to \$500 to reflect inflation. Walsh stated that they changed how to determine the Vice Chairperson. They thought it would be best to have the Vice Chairperson appointed by the committee instead of the VP for

Business & Operations. Eckman is in support of the changes. He added that he would like to add a senator to the membership. Walsh would like to discuss this change with the committee, so she would rather not vote on that change today.

MOTION ASB-18-F-46 By Hessami

To approve the Personnel Committee Charge & Charter.

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

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS – Board*

A. Sustainability, Equity, and Justice Fund Charge & Charter

Lee stated that for the membership portion, she was thinking about the number of people they would need for quorum. Since they increased the student membership by adding a representative from SAIRC, she proposed to reduce the students-at-large to three people. Eckman would like the addition of a student senator to the membership.

B. ASWWU Legislative Agenda

Hessami stated that some edits were made to the document. They added Support for Undocumented Students and Environmental Protections. The language used for Support for Undocumented Students is very similar to last year's agenda. Hessami is going to move the approval by the Board to January 7th. There is a lot of important information coming out so they can better align WWU's asks with the rest of the state. The asks for Environmental Protections include support for carbon free utility, tribal rights in WA State, the plastic bag ban, and taking some of their achievable tasks from the orca task force, which was developed by Governor Inslee. Hessami stated that the results from the survey determined that the priority topics are Support for Undocumented Students, Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault, Environmental Protections, State Need Grant, Expanded Mental Health Funding, Pre-Healthcare Decision Package, K-12 Sexual Education, and K-12 Expanded Education. In regards to K-12 education, Legislative Affairs Council discussed having a portion of K-12 education focused on incorporating civic education and ethnic students in addition to sexual education. Hessami added that it seemed as though there was not much interest in replacing one of these topics with the College of Science & Engineering expansion. Hessami stated that they could have an insert to discuss the CSE expansion, so it does not have to be one of their six pamphlet items. The six items in the pamphlet would be general student needs. Pollet added that it would make it easier for them and strengthen their entire lobbying ask. It would also show consistency across the board. Lee wondered about the statewide plastic ban because she heard that the change could have an impact on people with disabilities. She has not done a lot of research but she wondered if there has been any analysis on the impact it could have. Pollet stated that this was brought up at LAC but when Seattle and other cities passed their bag bans, they did not hear that as much as they did with straws. He thought that it was less of an issue with plastic bags as with plastic straws. Hessami stated that they would look into that more. Frost stated that she worked with Jeremy MacAllister to develop a page for Western Lobby Day and she wondered whether she could post this draft on the AS website. Hessami stated that it could be posted but they should be clear that it is a draft. The registration for Western Lobby Day is open and she would recommend

everyone to sign up. Lee wondered if it is required for Board Members to attend. Pollet stated that it is not required for the Board Members to go but it is helpful to have student leadership involved.

IX. CONSENT ITEMS

X. BOARD REPORTS

Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that in regards to CSE, she presented to the Engineering Department about what has been going on and there was no vocal opposition. She met with Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee on Wednesday and they were generally supportive of serving as an accountability group for some of the larger resource requests. Hessami stated that she sits on the President's Committee for Resource Modelling. They are looking at how to allocate resources to improve the retention rates at Western.

Genaro Meza-Roa, VP for Business & Operations stated that he received a draft of the assessment recommendations for the Publicity Center. They are almost finished with developing a directive for Budget Authorities. They are allowing for minimum wage increases and asking folks to remain with the same budgets as last year. Meza-Roa will be announcing that once it is finalized.

Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs stated that he met with Brad Johnson about the students and pre-majors in the IT-VD program. Eckman is confident that they will help everyone finish their degree in time. Student Senate Elections close at 8:00pm. Frost asked how the results would be released. Nora Harren stated that tomorrow afternoon the results would be released on the Elections page after calling all the candidates. Walsh wondered how paperwork would work. Romo stated that they are not sure whether it will be a stipend or hourly, so they are going to determine that based on which would be easier. The senators will not work until January 7th for staff training. Pollet clarified that the tentative results will be what is posted because the Board of Directors have to confirm the results at the next meeting of the Board. Romo stated that it would be best not to post the results until the Board votes on it. Harren stated that she has been receiving a lot of inquiries about when folks will find out. Harren would suggest that they write a definitive note that it is not official yet. Hessami suggested that they post the results with a clear note that the results are not official until the Board confirms them. The candidates would be called prior to the posting of the results. Eckman stated that he talked with deans about a faculty governance councils having students on the council as non-voting members. Many deans were in support and said they would advocate for having students representatives and even wanted the students to be voting members. Eckman stated that if there are student-at-large positions open on committees, student senators should fill those positions but everyone will talk to Cora Cole prior to taking action.

Millka Solomon, AS President stated that she has been thinking about student safety on campus. Solomon noted that for next year they are moving the AS Not-for-Profit into the Foundation's account. Solomon explained that the Foundation is part of the university that raises money. They want to move the AS into the Foundation's account from a bank so it can be included in all the Foundation's work. The AS overall will hopefully have

more money and be able to give out more scholarships. Pollet stated that his only concern is having administration take over student roles.

Camilla Mejia, VP for Diversity stated that this week she has been working with the Blue Group on developing a charge & charter for a concrete support group for undocumented students. She is also looking into how to pay students who do not have DACA or work permits who work in the AS. This week, she was able to go with the ESC Executive Committee to tour the Multicultural Center (MCC) construction. They will be choosing furniture, decorations, and setting policies soon. She would recommend all folks who will be in the space becoming involved in the committee. Mejia stated that the ESC, SAIRC, Multicultural Student Services, a library, and student spaces would be in the Multicultural Center. Mejia is very grateful for everyone who has been fighting for students of color and have made the MCC possible.

Anne Lee, VP for Student Life stated that in the Public Safety Advisory Committee, they discussed how the Police Department on our campus is going through an accreditation process. They will be doing a lot more standardization of their work and having more access to resources from other University Police Departments. They will be improving accountability and many of their resources are outdated, so they will be updating their information to present-day issues. In regards to the Initiative 940, the Police Department plans to have de-escalation training to find other ways to engage with the student body and the community without using excessive force. There is discussion on body cameras for officers on campus. They also want to develop a campus wide security plan. She is not sure how much say the students have in that development since it is mostly within the University Police Department. Lee added that they talked about the racist incidents on campus and Lee asked them why the student found guilty was allowed on campus. Michael Sledge told Lee that unless the student was an eminent and clear threat to campus, they are still allowed to be in campus spaces.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board decided that they do not want to have a meeting during finals week. Pollet stated that he would want to make sure there is a letter from the Board to include with the Legislative Agenda.

Solomon adjourned the meeting at 5:34pm.