

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

Friday, December 7<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), 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:** Alec Willis (AS Elections Coordinator); Nate Jo;

**Motions:**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>ASB-18-F-47</b> | Approval to confirm all student senators. <i>Passed.</i>             |
| <b>ASB-18-F-48</b> | Approval of the Student Senator Position Description. <i>Passed.</i> |
| <b>ASB-18-F-49</b> | Approval of the SEJ Fund Charge & Charter. <i>Passed.</i>            |
| <b>ASB-18-F-50</b> | Approval of all committee appointments. <i>Passed.</i>               |

*Millka Solomon, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

Nate Jo stated that in the meeting minutes, on a motion it does not state who voted which way. They were wondering whether it would be possible to include the names of who voted which way. They thought that it would be useful for students since the Board are elected officials representing the student body. Leti Romo stated that she would look into the legality of making that change.

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests\***

**A. Shred the Contract**

Millka Solomon stated that there are folks from Shred the Contract to present. The students stated that they are a club campaign run by WWU students. They want to get rid of the contract with Aramark and have a self-operating dining system. Western currently has a contract with Aramark for all their dining services until 2021. They have until 2021 to determine what it would take to have a self-operating dining system. It would be run entirely by the university, instead of by a corporation. The reason they want to get rid of the contract is that they do not like Aramark and how it runs. Aramark works in 500 prisons and jails around the country. The prisons incarcerate people of color, queer folks, folks with disabilities, poor people and many other marginalized groups. Part of WWU's mission is a commitment to protect the well-being of communities. It goes against Western's values to employ Aramark and give Western's money to a corporation which profits off prisons. Aramark and the way it works is also very environmentally unsustainable. They get much of their food

products from environmentally unsustainable companies, like Tyson Foods. In regards to labor rights, Aramark management has a history of mistreating student workers and pushes back against unionizing, which is important for any work place. As students, they would like transparency and accountability within their universities dining system, which supported by Aramark. Aramark is one of the three largest food producers in the United States. Aramark relies on a system called kickbacks, which are essentially bribes between food service programs and food corporations. They have almost total control over the catering options on campus. Why would they want to support a dining system that goes against Western's values? Food is a very important aspect of student's lives. Those who live on campus go there almost every day. They want an AS resolution endorsing Shred the Contract. They stated that they would like to learn about Melynda Huskey's involvement and the administrative procedures. They are trying to get the word out and answer any questions about the campaign. They hope to get help and support from the Board through an AS Board Resolution. They are currently a small club but they believe many more students would be in support of their ideas. Once more students become involved, they can move forward in shredding the Aramark contract. Genaro Meza-Roa clarified that Aramark is the intermediary between the food supply and the university. Shred the Contract wants the university to directly get food from food suppliers. Shred the Contract stated that they do not support many of the food suppliers Aramark uses. If they had a self-op system, they could pick the best food suppliers; it could be local, organic, and sustainable. A self-op system would be a lot of work but they want it to be student controlled. Meza-Roa asked if they would want it to be part of the AS or part of the university's administration with hefty student influence. They stated that they thought the AS should be involved but it would involve administration as well. Natasha Hessami stated that they could plan smaller meeting in Winter Quarter to determine concrete goals.

## **B. Election Results**

Levi Eckman stated that he is so thankful for all who helped: Brennan Commons, Rachel Walsh, Ally Palmer, Ian Ferrer, all AS Vice Presidents, Annie Byers, Eric Alexander, Leti Romo, Nora Harren, Alec Willis, Henry Pollet, Cora Cole, Wendy Johnson, Cynthia Meeks, Susanna Schronen, Casey Hayden, Jenn Cook, Jeremy McAllister, Justin Revelstoke, Raquel Wilson, Greg McBride, Cindy Monger, Sam Frost, Mia Steben, and all the Board Assistants. Alec Willis stated that the all twenty positions were filled with a smaller than average filing period. With 55 candidates filed, there was no specific group, organization, or club that dominated any of the races. Ten percent of those recommended through the WIN form ended up filing for candidacy, which shows that the form is successful. Willis stated that all but two races were competitive. The election garnered 1,255 votes giving an 8% voter turnout. Candidates in three different colleges organized candidate forums, where a large number of candidates appeared. Only one campaign grievance was filed and enforced. There was no alleged campaigning by AS employees in any capacity showing the effectiveness of the clauses added to the Senate Code. There are some improvements to be made: primarily, the ballot and election system needs to be updated. Willis is talking with the Registrar and McAllister to ensure an accurate, consistently updated data form that the AS Elections Coordinator can use to create separate ballots. The main issue was that Willis did not have the data necessary to

create eligibility lists so that only people from certain colleges could see certain ballots. Another improvement would be the details and publicization of the position description. There was confusion, even among candidates, about the responsibilities of the position. In the future, they can improve the campaign period. They hope to have the senate elections earlier to have a longer filing and campaigning period. They want to edit the AS Elections Coordinator position description to include summer hours. Willis added that in regards to technology and outreach, they would talk to the appropriate administration to discuss advertising WIN more clearly during orientation and Summer Start. Many freshman did not know about WIN as a platform. Eckman stated the results of the senate election:

**At-Large**

Nicole Ballard  
Tatum Buss  
Adah Barenburg  
Courtney Yoshiyama

**College of Business & Economics**

Nick Makrakis  
Jona Akelipa

**College of Fine & Performing Arts**

Paden Koltiska  
Ruth Ewald

**College of Humanities & Social Sciences**

Luke LeClair  
Laura Meerdink

**College of Science & Engineering**

Nina-Tuyen Tran  
Kelly Yokuda

**Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies**

Dayjha McMillan  
Sarah Soulliere

**Graduate School**

Anna Schorr  
Phillip Hensyel

**Huxley College of the Environment**

Riley Embly  
Maya Noesen

**Woodring College of Education**

Nicole Wood  
Hudson Fox

Eckman stated that he would serve as the interim Senate Pro-Tempore.

*MOTION ASB-18-F-47 By Hessami  
To confirm all student senators.*

Second: Solomon    Vote: 7-0-0    Action: Passed  
(Solomon, Hessami, Eckman, Mejia, Lee, Monkah, Meza-Roa-0-0)

### **C. Publicity Center Assessment Recommendations**

Ian Ferrer, the AS Assessment Coordinator, stated that they have completed the first assessment recommendation of the year for the Publicity Center (PC). They were able to develop eight major recommendations. Ferrer explained that the PC handles all advertising for the AS. In the SW/COT analysis, they determined their internal and external strengths and weaknesses. The first recommendation is to coordinate regular training with Club Hub staff for training new clubs on promotions. They would make that addition to the Project Manager Job Description. The second recommendation is to improve communication to the public by combining AS Communications Office, PC, and AS Review. They want to move the AS Communications Office to the fourth floor and move the AS Review out of that space. The AS Review is concerned that they are too close in proximity to the PC; they would like to have a more independent space. The Communications Office and the PC could collaborate more when they are in closer proximity. The third recommendation is to renovate the design area to improve workspace and add workstations. They plan to do this by adding two work stations to accommodate AS Communications Office, moving the Lead Designer into design area, either within, or adjacent to VU 412, drop the east wall of the design space to create a more open office, and add frosted glass to the north wall of the design space. Ferrer stated that he believes the renovations would come out of the VU Maintenance Budget. The fourth recommendation is addressing timeline compressions. Ferrer explained that there are last minute requests too often. They want to revamp the policy so they can address the last minute requests so they are not so rushed. They want to update the job description for the Lead Designer to provide for more empowered participation in branding and promotions discussions. The sixth recommendation is to improve the process for office rebrands. The next recommendation is to reduce waste and increase sustainability by limiting handbill usage by client. The eighth recommendation is to leverage design staff for production of AS/Western branded items for sale in order to better promote the AS. They want permission to design their own clothing items to contract with the AS Bookstore. They have many great designs that they hope to sell at the AS Bookstore. Eckman wondered what the financial impact would be and wondered whether it would be cost effective to have them sell merchandise at the bookstore. Ferrer stated that the primary purpose is to promote the AS. In regards to budgeting, that would be a better question for Jeff Bates but Ferrer expects that the sales would offset some costs. Hessami asked if financial asks would be coming later in the year. Ferrer stated that later in the year, they will ensure there is a thorough investigation to have accurate budgetary asks. Leti Romo asked whether the offices moving would be using the office across the hall from the PC. Ferrer stated that it is still under discussion. Ferrer stated that the move would not take place until after this academic year.

**V. ACTION ITEMS – Guests\***

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

**A. Senate Job Description**

Eckman stated that the Student Senator Job Description needs to be changed because the way they want to pay the senators has changed. The process to pay them is complicated because they are elected officials. Eckman explained that they do not want them to be employees because it would allow undocumented students to run and be paid for their work. They will not be hourly, they changed it to “the number of hours spent fulfilling the role of Senator is dependent on the number of committees and meetings for which the Senator volunteers, or is assigned”. Romo stated that it also allows graduate students to participate. Graduate students cannot receive hourly pay, so this change would allow graduate students to run and be paid for their work. Romo stated they are also trying to figure out the best way to get students paid while still holding them accountable to what the position is. Eckman stated that it needs to be approved so the Personnel Office can get started on the senator’s paperwork.

*MOTION ASB-18-F-48 By Hessami*

*To approve the Student Senator Position Description.*

Second: Eckman    Vote: 4-0-1    Action: Passed  
(Hessami, Eckman, Monkah, Mejia-0-Solomon)

**VII. ACTION ITEMS – Board \***

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

Hessami stated that she is presenting on behalf of Anne Lee. The only change is reducing four students-at-large to three students-at-large and adding one senator to the membership.

*MOTION ASB-18-F-49 By Mejia*

*To approve the SEJ Fund Charge & Charter.*

Second: Eckman    Vote: 5-0-0    Action: Passed  
(Hessami, Eckman, Monkah, Solomon, Mejia-0-0)

**VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS – Board\***

**A. ASWWU Legislative Agenda**

Hessami stated that they would be passing the AS WWU Legislative Agenda as a final Action Item at the first meeting of Winter Quarter so they will be working on language over the break.

**IX. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. Committee Appointments**

Meza-Roa stated that Brandon Lane is majoring in Finance and had a very impressive application. Darcy Allen has been on the Service and Activities Fee Committee before and has an impressive resume with many volunteer activities.

**Service and Activities Fee Committee**

Brandon Lane	CBE	Junior
Darcy Allen	CHSS	Junior

**AS Elections Appeals Panel**

Holly Chavet	Political Science
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*MOTION ASB-18-F-50 By Meza-Roa  
To approve all committee appointments.*

Second: Eckman    Vote: 6-0-0    Action: Passed  
(Hessami, Eckman, Meza-Roa, Mejia, Solomon, Monkah-0-0)

**X. BOARD REPORTS**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Camilla Mejia stated that in regards to the 6-hour sit-in, they were discussing releasing a resolution. Given that it is a time-sensitive issue, Mejia sent out a statement to the entire student body. The statement is as follows

“Dear students,

The following letter is the from the Associated Students Board of Directors to the Administration of WWU. We feel it is important for students to know we are in solidarity with marginalized communities on campus.

To the administration of Western Washington University,

We, the WWU Associated Students Board of Directors who are named below, are in full support of student activists who are putting their education and health on the line to demand change and equity on our campus where the total cost of attendance for Washington residents is \$24,352 and \$39,766 for out-of-state students.

No matter how much administrators of Western Washington University states there is no place for hate on campus, we must recognize that hate is still present and ingrained within our institution. Due to the lack of support, allocated resources, appropriate response, and overall treatment of marginalized students and staff on this campus, we

are releasing a statement in support of those who are experiencing oppression on a self-proclaimed liberal campus. Let us not forget that liberal spaces are not exempt from neo-colonial sentiments and practices.

Students who are in their 4th and 5th years have an oral history of fear and racist incidents, proving that the oppression that happens on this campus is not isolated incidents, but cycles of hate. We turn your attention to the [2015 death threats](#) against former AS President Belina Seare and former ASVP for Diversity Abby Ramos, Black and Latinx womxn respectively, whom WWU and Bellingham Police Department failed to adequately protect. [Anti-semitic vandalism](#) was committed in the spring of 2017. Just months later, the fall of 2017 brought attacks against our Muslim students with [Islamophobic flyers](#) posted around campus that is a clear hate crime charged against a specific group. University Police were told to keep this in mind, but no active steps towards protecting and dismantling this horrific sentiment was taken. If actions were taken, they were not made apparent to students. Now, we come to the present where students have said enough is enough.

We are taking this moment to recognize the work of undoing systems of oppression on this campus is mainly done by students who come from marginalized backgrounds, especially the womxn within those communities. We see student groups emerge to combat the aggressions students of color and marginalized folks such as members of the Undocumented, LGBTQ+, Jewish, Muslim, and disabled communities as well as survivors of sexual assault, face on this campus daily. Students work to create a broader Western community in which they can exist safely, a task that administration failed to take on or accomplish.

We ask you now, what are you going to do to protect these students who attend a university that does not have their best interests centered? As elected students, these are some demands we support from our peers that are attainable in a timely manner. We believe these asks are important to create a better campus that is true to the commitment of diversity and inclusivity your administration claimed in the [Mission Statement](#).

First, we need a reevaluation of the [Student Conduct Code](#) and all policies regarding students and our rights. We recognize that we exist in an ever-evolving society and these policies must be ever-evolving as well. There must be a better system in place for responding to violence and threats of violence, specifically looking at how to keep targeted students safe, while the student responsible goes through the conduct stages.

This will ensure that students who are targeted, including being targeted by racial slurs, are prioritized and their safety is ensured during the discipline process. Students must be the ones who define what violence and danger is on our campus. We are the ones who constantly live in fear because violence against us is not taken seriously.

Recognizing the extra work students, faculty, and staff carry to dismantle this very cycle of hate, we notice there is an excess amount of unpaid labor which includes: students organizing movements like the one we see today, educating administration, looking for models of resources that should already be present, and so on. Increasing budgets, financially compensating the folks doing extra work, and implementing better resources are essential to the well-being and campus-experience of students. This includes allocating more money to programs such as the Education and Social Justice minor, reevaluating and hiring better equipped counseling center staff who are culturally aware and sensitive, and meeting the existing demand for a College of Ethnic Studies. By doing this, your administration will show real support for this labor and uphold the basic values found in the mission statement, specifically a commitment to equity and justice. Because WWU does not have systems in place that directly support unpaid labor, we witness a [low retention rate](#) for students, staff, and faculty of color. This directly contributes to the lack of equity and justice seen on this campus as well as the lack of sustainability.

How are you ensuring that your students and employees are not burnt out and not putting their health at extreme risk to merely survive and help others survive on this campus? How are you upholding the value of sustainability, when we know working marginalized people to the bone is in no way sustainable?

We will be having a community forum where our fellow students will be able to outline more things that must change at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2018 and can be viewed on the [AS Facebook page](#). We urge you to make these issues your top priority and lean into any discomfort you may feel. These are the moments when we learn the most. WWU Administration, we state again that as members of the elected Associated Students Board of Directors, we stand in full support and solidarity with students who are facing these injustices every day on our campus.

What will you do to ensure your students are safely obtaining a degree from Western Washington University?



Millka Solomon, AS President  
Camilla Mejia, ASVP for Diversity  
Anne Lee, ASVP for Student Life  
Levi Eckman, ASVP for Academic Affairs  
Ama Monkah, ASVP for Activities  
Natasha Hessami, ASVP for Governmental Affairs”

Hessami stated that she is very thankful of the labor Mejia put into this statement. Solomon stated that they all read the statement separately and were all in support except for Meza-Roa. For the sake of transparency, Solomon stated that since Meza-Roa was not in support, they could not make it a resolution. Mejia stated that she is working with Sam Frost on making it a resolution, so this may come back as a resolution in Winter Quarter.

***Solomon adjourned the meeting at 4:48pm.***