



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Board of Directors

January 18, 2019

VU 567

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

*Absent:*

**Advisor:** Leti Romo (Assistant Director for Student Representation & Governance)

**Secretary:** Grace Drechsel

**Guest(s):**

#### Motions:

**ASB-19-W-9** Approval of the minutes. *Passed*

**ASB-19-W-10** To move the recall of Genaro Meza-Roa to an Action Item. *Passed*

**ASB-19-W-11** To, by roll-call vote, impeach Genaro and initiate a recall vote for his position as VP for Business and Operations.

**ASB-19-W-12** Table Board Reports and Other Business for this meeting.

*Millka Solomon, AS President, called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.*

#### I. Approval of Minutes

*MOTION ASB-19-W-9 by Eckman*

To approve the minutes.

*Second: Meza-Roa*

*Vote: 6-0-1*

*Action: Passed*

#### II. Revisions to the Agenda

#### III. Public Forum (*comments from students and the community*)

#### IV. Information Items - Guests

##### A. AS BOD Minutes Policy – Nate Jo

Nate Jo explained that this item came out of a conversation with some board members who believe that the minutes should be done in a more transparent and effective way. He gave background and context that the ASWWU BOD exists to represent and serve the student body. According to Washington State law, all meetings are open to the public and accurate meeting minutes need to be posted. Meeting minutes are intended to increase transparency and make sure that board members are held accountable. However, the current BOD meeting minutes do not detail which board members voted for or against motions. Therefore, if a student wished to know how a certain board member voted, that

information would not be easily accessible. To summarize this proposal, all meeting minutes would be required to detail which board members voted for or against motions. This information would be listed in the meeting minutes under the vote count. The vote breakdown need not be listed in the Board votes unanimously for or against a motion. The proposal has no fiscal impacts. As an alternative solution, video recordings could be posted for all board meetings to allow students to see how board members voted, however, very few students would have the time or desire to watch the full recordings.

The rationale for this proposal is that the BOD meeting minutes serve as a record for accountability and transparency within the Board. Up to this point, the meeting minutes do not show which board members voted for which motions. Although many motions are voted for unanimously, those that don't do not detail the vote breakdown. Recording vote breakdowns for non-unanimous votes would give students another tool for holding board members accountable, as well as providing a more clear and accurate record of voting breakdowns.

Lee asked if the vote breakdown would include rationale for why a board member voted the way that they did. Jo responded that any rationale or explanation for why a board member voted a certain way should be documented in the conversation as per usual.

B. AS Outback Farm – Ian Ferrer, Assessments Coordinator

Ferrer explained that him and Monkah have been working together to create summer programming for student on campus. Historically, the only summer programming has been concert series. Ferrer stated that he is currently developing surveys to gauge student interest in summer programming, and they will take the results of the surveys into consideration to decide how to move forward. Monkah added that summer concerts are usually successful, because a lot of members of the community also attend, and that is why they would like to figure out if students want additional similar summertime events.

Ferrer explained that the Outback functions as a community garden on campus, and it is historically an underutilized resource. As Assessment Coordinator, he is looking to make it more accessible to the public. The recommendations are not totally finalized, but about 90% of the way there. Ferrer presented the recommendations.

Hessami clarified #5, which deals with moving the new-hire position to mid-May. She pointed out that there is no financial allocation for that, and was wondering if Ferrer is seeing that position as an unpaid internship. Ferrer answered that they are currently looking for ways to mitigate the cost, but they don't know the details right now. In the final proposal, that information will be available. Hessami also asked if there are any diversity initiatives. Wes, who is the Outback Assistant Coordinator, came to the Board office late last quarter, expressing concern about the lack of diversity that the Outback sees. Ferrer answered that that has been on their radar, and towards the top of their list in terms of priority.

Mejía added that she would love to be in the conversation about fostering diversity at the Outback.

Anne pointed out that we need to look at the lack of accessibility of the Outback for folks with disabilities and mobility issues. She asked if there have been conversations with the

DOC or the DAC about that. Ferrer answered that he will be working with them on accessibility soon.

**V. Information Items - Board**

**A. Funding for AS WILD**

Hessami said that last year, the Lobby Day that was dedicated to the ESC, DOC, and ESP cost LACF around \$9,000. This year, they have expanded to include the SAIRC. They brought a budget proposal to LAC which was around \$14,000, a \$5,000 increase from last year. In order to balance that increase, LAC just passed a budget approval giving WILD \$13,000. Hessami wants to let Board members know that if they end up needing additional funds, then they might be bringing that request to the BOD. The Board Discretionary Funds and the Reserves are places that Hessami encouraged the organizers to seek additional funds if needed.

**B. ASWWU Student Senate Recommendation to Recall**

Eckman read aloud the statement written by the ASWWU Student Senate concerning the recommended impeachment of Genaro Meza-Roa, as follows.

“After thorough review of the bylaws and structures of the Associated Students as well as the patterns of behavior of Genaro Meza-Roa, AS VP for Business and Operations, we, the Associated Students Student Senate, voted on January 14, 2019, to recommend the impeachment of Meza-Roa to the Board of Directors. Meza-Roa failed to fulfill key components of his job description, despite generous opportunities for growth and improvement extended towards him.

We are disappointed Meza-Roa did not attend our meeting and share his perspective, even though Levi Eckman, ASVP for Academic Affairs and Interim Senate Pro-Tempore, extended an invitation to him. As elected Senators of this student body, we see the importance of setting precedent and holding our Board of Directors accountable for their actions. We recognize that our representatives, including the Senate, should be held to the highest standard. Until the formation of the AS Student Senate, impeachment of ASBOD members was not easily accessible. Delaying our impeachment recommendation would be a waste of student dollars in the form of his salary.

It was brought to our attention the unacceptable behavior of Meza-Roa by Western students raising concerns to their Senators as well as the documentation in the [AS Review article](#). We found this issue so critical to discuss, multiple Senators from two colleges, College of Science and Engineering and Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as the At-Large Constituencies, added a discussion item to the first Student Senate Agenda to review his conduct. While we recognize and believe the long history of serious accusations and allegations of misconduct against Meza-Roa, the foundation of our recommendation of impeachment is based on his repeated violations and failure to reach all job requirements.

Meza-Roa is confirmed to have missed the summer, fall and winter trainings that all AS employees and AS Board Members are required to attend. We recognize other ASBOD members, Camilla Mejía, Ama Monkah, and Anne Lee missed summer training, but he

was the only one to skip all three without making them up in some capacity, illustrating a lack of job commitment.

Meza-Roa was absent or late to many of his office hours. Each AS Board Member is required to hold and be present for office hours to help address student questions and concerns. The VP of Academic Affairs and Interim Senate Pro-Tempore, Levi Eckman, shared an office with Meza-Roa during the fall quarter and has seen him consistently not present during his posted office hours. Other AS employees confirmed this and have prepared statements for the ASBOD meeting on January 18, 2019.

On December 7, 2018, Meza-Roa left an ASBOD meeting, where they are paid to discuss important student issues and work together to move our student body forward. He was found drinking alcohol in an adjacent room where there was an event hosted by the College of Science and Engineering. The VP for Governmental Affairs, Natasha Hessami, then told him to return to the meeting so they could all vote on an agenda item.

These alone are completely egregious actions that call for immediate dismissal. It is our opinion this individual has been given more than enough opportunities to change his behavior over the past seven months and impeachment should be carried out by the ASBOD, given the severity of Meza-Roa's actions and lack of respect for the position.

We would like to point out that this type of behavior is unacceptable in any profession and we believe the AS Board of Directors and the AS Student Senate should be held to the highest standard as we are the elected representatives of the student body. No one should fail the students we represent. When they do, they should be removed from office and the students should have an opportunity to elect someone who has the commitment to fulfill their job requirements and serve the students well.

Sincerely,

Nicole Ballard, AS Senator At-Large  
Adah Barenburg, AS Senator At-Large  
Tatum Buss, AS Senator At-Large  
Courtney Yoshiyama, AS Senator At-Large  
Jona Akelipa, AS Senator for College of Business and Economics  
Ruth Ewald, AS Senator for the College of Fine and Performing Arts  
Paden Koltiska, AS Senator for the College of Fine and Performing Arts  
Luke LeClair, AS Senator for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Laura Meerdink, AS Senator for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Nina-Tuyen Tran, AS Senator for College of Science and Engineering  
Kelly Yokuda, AS Senator for College of Science and Engineering  
Dayjha McMillan, AS Senator for Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Sarah Soulliere, AS AS Senator for Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Phillip Hensyel, AS Senator for Graduate School  
Riley Embly, AS Senator for Huxley College of the Environment  
Maya Noesen, AS Senator for Huxley College of the Environment  
Hudson Fox, AS Senator for Woodring College of Education  
Nicole Wood, AS Senator for Woodring College of Education”

Levi Eckman, in his capacity as the ASVP for Academic Affairs, asked for Meza-Roa's resignation. Eckman demanded that Meza-Roa not put the student body through any more labor-intensive work on Meza-Roa's behalf.

Solomon thanked the ASWWU Senators for their time and energy.

### C. Discussion of Recall

Solomon read the following statement, as follows.

"To All Students Impacted By the Proceedings Today;

It is the belief of the Associated Students Board of Directors that the AS Vice President for Business and Operations, Genaro Meza-Roa, be impeached for reasons further outlined in this statement. The following statement is drafted with careful consideration, and with the concern for all members of the AS WWU.

Conversations with Mr. Meza-Roa regarding his position began in May immediately following his election when he met with former AS President Simrun Chhabra, and AS VP for Governmental Affairs-Elect, Natasha Hessami. According to Vice President Hessami, both elected representatives discussed how to better engage with students, regarding Mr. Meza-Roa's comments from the AS-sponsored debate, relating to the elections, where he ran unopposed. This conversation began the first of many conversations, with Mr. Meza-Roa, regarding his actions as an elected official.

This past summer, three AS Board Members were not present for the staff training session. The AS Vice President for Activities, AS Vice President for Diversity, and AS Vice President for Business & Operations were of those absent. However, despite their absences, both Vice President Monkah and Vice President Mejia maintained regular communication with both AS President Solomon, and then-Advisor Assistant Dean Alexander. In contrast, Mr. Meza-Roa failed to maintain regular communication with AS President Solomon, and did not outline his intention to miss mandatory Fall Training to any member of his Board of Directors. Mr. Meza-Roa, when he failed to attend this essential and important training, missed several key workshops that will be discussed later, by Vice President Eckman, as Vice President Eckman recounts several personal testimonies from Mr. Meza-Roa's professional life in the Associated Students.

Mr. Meza-Roa failed to attend the first official meeting of the AS Board of Directors, despite understanding the importance of this landmark. On the 28th of September, 2018, the AS Board of Directors attended a work-related retreat in Anacortes, where all elected leaders were present. At this retreat, the intention was of goal setting, vision building, and team building as a united Board of Directors. However, the results differed from the intentions greatly. Mr. Meza-Roa failed to participate in goal-setting, and also chose to not even be physically in the same area, as goal-setting was occurring. Later that morning on the 29th of September 2018, Mr. Meza-Roa made several comments that in coordination with his Personnel-related failures, contributed to the hostile environment he cultivated during his time in office. The AS Board of Directors would like to make this conversation public, in order to maintain transparency during this very serious time. One of the troublesome comments made by Mr. Meza-Roa was saying that he believed trans and non-binary folks

are weak for wanting individuals to use their *required* pronouns. This comment was very harmful and does not represent the values of the AS WWU.

It is important to now acknowledge the reason why the AS Board of Directors chose to not pursue impeachment last Quarter, following these aforementioned actions. The 2018-2019 Associated Students Board of Directors believes in treating all individuals with worth and value; we did not want to treat an individual as though they were disposable. Rather, the AS Board of Directors wanted to work with Mr. Meza-Roa to learn from the harm done by these comments and grow into his position. AS President Solomon developed goals for Mr. Meza-Roa to achieve, following his poor performance in the early part of Fall 2018. One goal that Mr. Meza-Roa failed to achieve immediately, was posting the required office hours for Fall Quarter, despite consistent reminders from other elected-leadership, as well as support staff. Again, Vice President Eckman will outline these personal accounts later, in detailed statements from employees working under Mr. Meza-Roa. Adequate office hours were posted, but only following the discussion of an Office Hours policy supported by the Board of Directors, with the exception of Mr. Meza-Roa. In addition to these failures related to his job description, Mr. Meza-Roa was often late to the office hours he did post, or simply did not attend at all. This is unacceptable behavior for any elected-official.

On the 7th of December, 2018, Mr. Meza-Roa departed in the middle of an active Board of Directors meeting, during a voting item. When Vice President Monkah went to the restroom, she found Mr. Meza-Roa at a College of Science & Engineering Holiday Party, of which he was not a guest, drinking alcohol. Upon learning of this, Vice President Hessami left the room, and told Mr. Meza-Roa that his behavior was unacceptable, and to return to the AS Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Meza-Roa has made the accusation that all AS Board of Directors members have been intoxicated while working in their respective positions. This is a false claim and one that cannot be compared to this egregious presentation of leadership by Mr. Meza-Roa. The entirety of the AS Board of Directors is over the age of 21, and has, in fact, drank at University events where alcohol was provided by the University; and at bonding times of a retreat where we were not actively working in our professional capacities. During these events, we are not paid to be there, and therefore we have never drank, while in this position. Mr. Meza-Roa however, is paid to be present at Board of Director meetings. This is where the overt concern from the Board of Directors arises. This action is not only disrespectful to elected-leadership of the Board of Directors, but incredibly disrespectful to the students he was elected to serve.

Before concluding this statement, the AS Board of Directors would like to directly reference Mr. Meza-Roa's Job Description, and the ways in which he has failed his constituents. Mr. Meza-Roa is expected to communicate with diverse groups of students on a regular basis. However, because of his inadequate, and often inconsistent office hours during Fall Quarter, as well as his lack of presence in the AS in general, other AS Board Members have failed to observe this type of regular communication. Mr. Meza-Roa is also expected to uphold the interests of the student body above any personal interests. Mr. Meza-Roa has chosen to work on eliminating the fee attached to graduation applications at Western Washington University. While an admirable goal indeed, this goal does not fall directly under the purview of his position. Due to the lack of communication consistent with Mr. Meza-Roa, the remainder of the AS Board of Directors are unsure about the direction in which he wishes to take his position, if any. Mr. Meza-Roa is expected to work with members of the Board of Directors in a cooperative and timely manner. Without further detail needed, Mr. Meza-Roa has not demonstrated any level other than fundamental, of cooperation with the AS Board of Directors. Mr. Meza-Roa was also expected to review and make any necessary changes

to Committee & Council Charge & Charters, as well as any Rules of Operation under his position purview. As Mr. Meza-Roa was not present either during the Summer, or during Fall Training, or during the first AS Board of Directors meeting, other AS Board Members were asked to undertake this task to ensure work could begin in a timely manner. Mr. Meza-Roa is also asked to foster teamwork and communication among all AS Departments through Management Council. However, this is not the case according to an additional detailed personal testimony, soon to be shared publicly, arising from one of Mr. Meza-Roa's direct employees.

The AS Board of Directors would like to apologize for allowing this behavior to go on for several months. Collectively, we wanted to learn and work on how to resolve conflict and work together and improve as a Board of Directors. While we believe that growth and change are important it is not our belief that Mr. Meza-Roa should continue to take this salaried position where his ability to serve students should be already present, as a time to develop those skills. We hope he learns these skills and grows in a different capacity.

We continue to recognize that people are not disposable, and we desperately desired to give Mr. Meza-Roa the opportunity to change and grow as an individual. However, we acknowledge that we gave too many chances, and for this, we would like to apologize to our fellow-students. You each deserve the best we have to offer. Thank you to the AS WWU Student Senate for bringing the recommendation of impeachment to the Board of Directors, we understand the crucial deliberative work you put into this recommendation. We also want to recognize the important and labor-intensive work Soleil de Zwart has put in for the AS Review in covering these developments.

Finally, we would like to thank those present and listening today for your continued engagement with the Associated Students of Western Washington University.

With High Respect,

Millka Solomon, *AS President*  
Levi Eckman, *AS VP For Academic Affairs*  
Ama Monkah, *AS VP For Activities*  
Camilla Mejía, *AS VP For Diversity*  
Natasha Hessami, *AS VP For Governmental Affairs*  
Anne Lee, *AS VP For Student Life*

Eckman read aloud professional testimonies by those who worked with Meza-Roa, as follows.

**“From Raquel Vigil**

**Business Manager**

Historically the ASVP for Business and Operations interfaces with my position as a secondary advisor. The primary advisor is Eric Alexander.

In the past the minimum interface that I would expect with the position (In large part initiated by the position holder) is as follows:

Summer Quarter:           Getting acquainted with my position, the AS Business Director and AS finances (Current year Budgets, Past Year Spending, New

initiatives, Policy and Forms development, Training for AS Board on financial structure).

Fall Quarter: Collaborating with AS Business Director on establishing Business Committee Agenda, with advisement from my position and consultation with Eric Alexander. Begin process of review, revision and proceeding with AS Budget Committee collaborating with AS Business Director, with advisement from my position and consultation with Eric Alexander. Provide leadership in Budgeting philosophy for upcoming budget process.

Winter Quarter: Continue AS Business Committee and AS Budget Committee leadership in collaboration with AS Business Director, with advisement from my position and consultation with Eric Alexander. Begin participation and provide leadership to the S&A fee committee. Collaborate with my position and the AS Business Director for financial reports, with advisement from Eric Alexander.

Spring: Continue AS Business Committee and conclude AS Budget Committee. Continue to provide leadership to the S&A fee committee with collaboration (financial reports, forecasting, impact) from my position and advisement from Eric. Move forward strategies or policy revisions as a result of information obtained throughout the year via hand-on experience.

Raquel Vigil

Business Manager

**From Ian Ferrer – AS Assessment Coordinator**

Good evening, Levi,

Below is the summary of my professional relationship as the AS Assessment Coordinator in relation to the AS Vice President of Business & Operations, Genaro, regarding my job responsibilities as the AS Assessment Coordinator.

I found that the Genaro, in his capacity as the AS Vice President of Business & Operations, did not fulfill his job responsibilities regarding AS Assessment. In fact, he had almost no presence in the process.

When I started my position as AS Assessment Coordinator last summer, I tried to find a way to meet with him, as is required under the job description for both of us. He never responded, and I only found out later that he was actually out of the country and would not return until Fall classes started. As a result, I had to build the assessment process and meet with various offices (Such as the AS Publicity Center), independently and with only minuscule guidance. the AS President and the AS VP of Academic Affairs were available and did give some guidance to me on navigating the AS and to setting up the assessment process.

When Genaro returned, after missing both Summer and Fall trainings, I attempted to schedule a meeting with him. He did not respond to my email message on Outlook, or any



of the subsequent ones. I decided to try and meet him in person by stopping by in his publicly listed office hours. He was not in office during the times that I stopped by. Eventually, I stopped trying to communicate with him as he never seemed to be responsive, and I met instead with the other AS Board members regarding the assessment process (AS President & AS VP of Academic Affairs mostly). This is abnormal because traditionally, and per his job description, he is supposed to be the primary link of communication to the AS Board from the AS Assessment Coordinator (me).

Several weeks later, I did manage to find him randomly in his office and I had a short 10 minute chat informing him of my role, and what he can do in his position to help the assessment process. To his credit, he was friendly and well mannered. But he didn't seem to be interested in taking a larger role.

Because he was not chairing Management Council, which is stipulated in his job description, I found it very difficult to keep Management Council updated on the latest exploits regarding assessment. None of the meeting times worked for me due to scheduling conflicts, and because Genaro was not chairing it, I found it difficult to keep them informed. I worked with the AS Business Director to create a sub-committee, to report on assessment progress. The AS Business Director did a fine job; i found her to always be friendly and helpful. The committee's first meeting was at the same time as the protest in the President's Office and received poor attendance. To his credit, Genaro was present (and Nate as well), and he did provide some insight. Nothing more came of the committee after that.

Since then, I have invited Genaro to group discussions regarding assessment. For instance, I invited him to both the AS Outback Farm and the AS Publicity Center, when they were going through their respective recommendations. He did not take me up on that, but perhaps I should have been more persistent with ensuring his attendance and perspective. Despite the disconnect, I believe that the AS Board of Directors, and the AS itself, have been incredible to work with, and we have made incredible progress in both the assessment process and beyond.

Thank you.

Ian Ferrer

AS Assessment Coordinator

#### **From Ally Palmer – AS Business Director**

Working with Genaro over that last few months or rather, working without him for the last few months, has been frustrating on many levels. He has regularly cancelled on meetings, left commitments early, and did not follow up or complete assigned projects. One example is the budgeting statement that was released to the budget authorities—this was meant to be a collaborative effort between myself and him but I ended up completing it individually after receiving zero response or input on Genaro's behalf. There have been multiple situations that are a replica of this one. Genaro has displayed a lack of commitment, engagement, and respect for myself and others by continually choosing to disregard his responsibilities and not follow through on communications. It is my opinion that he does not have enough time to dedicate to being the VP for Business and Operations as shown by his lack of attendance to his required duties.

Ally Palmer

AS Business Director

**From Nate Jo – AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees**

As the board assistant working most closely with Genaro Meza-Roa, I have noticed that he has failed to perform the basic requirements of the AS Vice President for Business and Operations position on many accounts.

1) Term of Position: This is a four quarter position beginning the Saturday of Spring Commencement and ending the Friday of finals week. Meza-Roa did not work at all in the summer, even immediately before the start of the quarter. Furthermore, Meza-Roa failed to attend AS Fall Staff Development (as well as AS Winter Staff Development) and all of the trainings specifically for the board of directors. This left me in charge of coordinating and pulling together the committees that Meza-Roa is in charge of.

2) Committee Responsibilities: Meza-Roa is responsible for chairing or serving as a voting member multiple AS committees. Meza-Roa failed to attend Personnel Committee Meetings on August 1st, 2018, September 23rd 2018, and September 25th and failed to attend the Management Council Meeting on November 16th, 2018. Furthermore Meza-Roa was frequently late to important committee meetings, such as Management Council on November 2nd, 2018. Additionally, it is Meza-Roa's responsibility to review and update the charters of the Budget Committee, Facilities & Services Council, Management Council, Business Committee, Personnel Committee, and others. Committees are not legally allowed to meet until their yearly charter is approved. Other board members such as Levi Eckman, Vice President for Academic Affairs frequently updated the charters to allow committees to meet.

The Facilities and Services Committee is a standing committee to the AS that was inactive over the past year. Meza-Roa took no steps to bring it back and preferred to let it remain inoperable.

3) Office Hours: AS Vice Presidents are required to post five office hours per week. Meza-Roa failed to post five office hours for the majority of fall quarter or even attend the office hours that he posted. Meza-Roa only updated his office hours after the board passed a policy that would reduce pay for failing to post the required number of office hours. This basic disregard for his duties made it extremely difficult for committees to begin their work and for directors, board assistants, and board members to communicate with him to complete their duties.

I fully support and recognize the ability and necessity for board members to be politically autonomous. This is not the issue. The issue is that Meza-Roa continually shows a lack of effort to contribute to the Associated Students or perform the responsibilities outlined in the job description for the ASVP for Business and Operations.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Nate Jo

AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees

**From AS Personnel Director – Rachel Walsh**

Hello Levi,

I have included a short statement below on Genaro and the behaviors I have witnessed as the AS Personnel Director.

The Associated Students Personnel Office plans and facilitates mandatory staff trainings throughout the year, including Summer, Fall Staff Development, Pre-Winter Quarter, and Pre-Spring Quarter Trainings. Out of the first three trainings\* that have occurred, Genaro Meza-Roa has not attended any of them.

Some of the sessions that were offered at these trainings include:

- Pronouns & Inclusive Language
- Micro Aggressions
- Ethical Decision-Making
- Sexual Harassment
- Student Professionalism
- Sexism in the Workplace

The AS Personnel Office works toward equipping our employees with applicable knowledge to increase job performance and enable student leadership. These sessions are a catalyst toward that goal.

\*Board Member Attendance:

Summer Training: Levi Eckman, Millka Solomon, & Natasha Hessami

Fall Staff Development: Levi Eckman, Camilla Mejía, Millka Solomon, Ama Monkah, Natasha Hessami, & Anne Lee

Pre-Winter Training: Levi Eckman, Camilla Mejía, Millka Solomon, Ama Monkah, Natasha Hessami, & Anne Lee

Rachel Walsh

AS Personnel director

#### **From AS Board Assistant for Representation Committees – Grace Drechsel**

The ASVP for Business and Operations is a voting member on the Sustainability, Equity and Justice Committee. Genaro has been included on the email list for all correspondence concerning SEJ, and I have never received any sort of response for him or even an acknowledgment that he is a part of the committee.

Grace Drechsel

AS Board Assistant for Representation Committees”

Meza-Roa responded as follows. “In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, B.C., Aristotle delineated the different political systems that could arise. His preferred rule was polity, or constitutional democracy, and that is what we pretend to have in this country, and pretend to have in this organization. The corruption of a polity would become a simple democracy, or an anarchic mob rule. This is what we have here. When I first visited Board meetings last school year, I was appalled at how the Board continuously passed unanimous motions. In the history of the US House of Representatives, less than 2% of motions are ever passed unanimously, and that is only of members that are present. All 435 has never happened in this history of this country. I highlight this because this was one of the motivations that led me to join this organization. I wanted to bring a new perspective and a new voice. A lot of these accusations that have been raised today are baseless, false, or taken out of context. For example, that the Board did not drink alcohol at the Anacortes retreat is false – they all did. That I posted my office hours after the policy was passed is false, I posted them before and rectified them before the motion was put on the agenda. Many other such accusations are taken out of context or simply false, and I won’t take the time to go through them now, the point is clear. There is a political and personal vendetta going on right now. I stand for the

silenced minority, the students who I work with on a day-to-day basis who say to me: “Why would you ever work for the AS? It is full of people who have no reason. It is a terrible place.” I don’t share these sentiments, and I say to them, “It’s not as bad as you think. At least I hope so.” But these are students who are afraid to speak their mind – afraid to go against the dominant ideology that runs this organization, because of exactly what is happening here – blaming, shaming, and false accusations. That I may have not completed my responsibilities to the best of their ability, I will grant. That I improved my capacities throughout the year, I did. Towards the end of the fall quarter, I had a meeting with President Millka, and she said that she was very glad and happy of my improvement, and that I was doing a great job – and that is almost verbatim. That I would come back after break and be faced with this kind of motion from a newly-formed senate is appalling and surprising. The fact that the Senate would think that it is informed enough to make a near-unanimous decision to impeach me is a cause of great concern over the validity of this organization. For these reasons, I do not resign. That would be a sign of defeat. I want to stay in this position because I believe that it is important to have a different perspective. I look forward to improving my skills. I care about this university and I care about the students. I don’t think that going away in shame is the way to support this school. Thank you.”

*MOTION ASB-19-W-10 by Solomon*

To move the recall of Genaro Meza-Roa to an Action Item.

*Second: Hessami*

*Vote: 6-1-0*

*Action: Passed*

Hessami explained that a vote will go out to the student body and there must be at least 40% to initiate the recall in the special election. Solomon said that 2 weeks but now, there will be a recall vote. Romo clarified, no earlier than 2 weeks from today, and no later than 3 weeks from now. It will go out to the student body and the decision will be made on this.

Solomon motions to table board reports and other business.

Hessami seconds.

## **VI. Action Items - Board**

### **A. Recalling Genaro Meza-Roa.**

*MOTION ASB-19-W-11 by Solomon*

To, by roll-call vote, impeach Genaro and initiate a recall vote for his position as VP for Business and Operations.

*Second: Eckman*

*Vote: 6-1-0*

*Action: Passed.*

(Anne Lee – In favor. Camilla Mejía – In favor. Levi Eckman – In favor. Millka Solomon – In favor. Ama Monkah – In favor. Natasha Hessami – In favor. Genaro Meza-Roa – Opposed.)

Hessami explained that the process will go through the Elections Coordinator in the REP office. Romo clarified that 40% of the student vote needs to be in favor of recalling the election. Solomon said that two weeks from now, there will be a student election.

Raquel Vigil pointed out that they heard the word “impeach” during discussion, but in the final motion, there was a vote to move forward with the recall. They asked the difference between recalling and impeaching in this context. Romo said that when the Board speaks of impeachment, they are referring to what the bylaws states as recalling. The recall process is what is being initiated by the  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the BOD. The recall vote is required to occur no earlier than 2 weeks and no later than 3 weeks from today.

*MOTION ASB-19-W-12 by Solomon*

Table Board Reports and Other Business for this meeting.

*Second: Hessami*

*Vote: 7-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

***Millka Solomon, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:55pm.***