



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

February 1, 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: Nate Jo (AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees)

Guest(s):

Motions:

- ASB-19-W-22** Approval of the meeting minutes from January 25, 2019 with grammatical edits. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-W-23** Approval of revisions to the agenda: WILD Funding Request moved to Action Items-Guests and additional committee appointments added to Consent Items. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-W-24** Approval of the Recall Election Code with the following amendments: clarification of the ballot structure and to allow board members to post concerning the recall election on their personal social media accounts. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-W-25** Approval of the WILD Legislative Agenda. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-W-26** Approval of the membership change to the AS Structural Review Charge and Charter. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-W-27** Approval of Personnel Committee Charge and Charter as an action item. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-W-28** Approval of the addition of a non-voting student senator to the Personnel Committee Charge and Charter membership. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-W-29** Approval of all committee appointments. *Passed.*

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

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION ASB-19-W-22 By Eckman

To approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2019 with grammatical edits.

Second: Monkah

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Natasha Hessami requested that the WILD Funding Request be moved to Action Items-Guests and requested to add committee appointments to Consent Items.

MOTION ASB-19-W-23 by Eckman

To move the WILD Funding Request to Action Items-Guests and add committee appointments to Consent Items.

Second: Solomon

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: 7-0-0

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

IV. Information Items - Guests

V. Action Items - Guests

A. WILD Funding Request - Hessami

Hessami asked James Pai (ESC Advocacy Director) to speak on a request for additional WILD funding. Pai stated that the original request did not account for taxes or gratuity and asked for an addition 15% in funding or about \$1764. Solomon asked why the budget had increased from the previous year. Pai stated that approximately 60 students attended Western Intersectional Lobby Day last year and that they anticipated 90 students attending this year. Pai said that they wanted to cover their bases and account for 90 students.

Levi Eckman asked how the WILD budget compared for the Western Lobby Day that occurred in February. Hessami stated that approximately \$14,000 was spent on the past Lobby Day, which over 90 people attended. Hessami noted that the Legislative Affairs Council had already awarded a \$2,500 increase for the WILD budget.

Pai stated that the increased cost was also due to lodging expenses since the Governor's Hotel was not able to accommodate all the WILD attendees this year. Solomon asked for more information on cost increases before a vote would be held. Hessami stated that a full document with a comparison with past lobby days could be presented at the next board meeting.

VI. Personnel Items (*subject to immediate action*)

VII. Action Items - Board

A. Recall Election Code – Doc 1 – Eckman/Solomon

Solomon said that the board did not have enough time to think about the changes that were passed in the Election Code the previous week. Solomon stated that board members had brought up important points concerning board members ability to post on personal social media in meetings during the prior week. Solomon suggested an amendment that would allow Alec Willis (AS Elections Coordinator) to clarify the meaning of votes on the recall election ballot to explain what a yes vote means and what a no vote means. Mejía said that many people expressed confusion over the ballot and agreed with adding more information for clarification.

Sam Frost (AS Communications Director) stated that she had sent an email to the student body describing how to vote and what each vote meant: a yes vote means to remove from office and a no vote means to keep on the Board of Directors. Solomon said adding language like this, that was clear and simple, would help inform students.

Genaro Meza-Roa asked why there would be an amendment if students already received the information via email. Nora Harren (AS Representation & Engagement Programs Director) said that an amendment would allow the Elections Coordinator to add clarifying

statements to the ballot in case students don't check their emails. Frost said that fewer than 30% of people actually open informational emails.

Solomon stated that since so many students had expressed confusion over the recall ballot to Board members, there should be a page on WIN before voting for explanation of what the vote meant.

Solomon said that over the last week, consistency was an issue brought up concerning the policy to prevent board members from posting on their social media pages. Solomon stated that in a regular board election, current board members publicly supporting candidates creates a power imbalance since board members already have social power. However, in the case of a recall election, since all parties are already board members, there is no such power imbalance. Solomon further stated that board members should be allowed to share their experiences concerning the board member facing recall.

Levi Eckman stated that it is important for board members to be able to defend themselves and express their views as the people working closest with the board member in question. Eckman also said that since he was not able to attend the previous meeting due to an academic conference, it was essential that the Elections Code be brought back for further discussion. Solomon added that the change passed in the previous meeting was not part of the document and so board members did not have enough time to deliberate.

Mejía clarified that if a recall was initiated by petition of students, the petitioners would also be allowed to make statements on social media.

Meza-Roa said that the lines were being blurred between not being able to post on personal social media accounts and not being able to post at all. Meza-Roa said that the reason for the policy was to address a power imbalance that could arise when some board members had social media accounts already and others did not. Meza-Roa suggested that there are many other ways to campaign online and that recall elections shouldn't be affected by popularity. Meza-Roa said that it was a very nuanced policy since it only affected board members in recall elections and that it was strange that the policy was back on the agenda since it was already discussed. Mejía reminded Meza-Roa that the policy would also affect students if they were the ones that initiated a recall petition.

Eckman stated that the Recall Election Code was back on the agenda because he was not able to attend the board meeting and had much to add to the conversation. Eckman further stated that no power imbalance existed since any board member had the power to create social media pages. Eckman said that there were no barriers to social media campaigning except those one chooses to place on themselves.

Frost questioned why the board would be discussing social media pages that were linked to their personal life and not to their job. Hessami stated that she originally supported the amendment because board members hold social power over general students in regular elections. However, after further discussion with Solomon, Hessami said that, since no general student was being discussed in recall elections, no power imbalance existed.

Meza-Roa said that it was beside the point that anyone could create a social media since the effectiveness of a social media account was linked to how many friends or followers it had. Meza-Roa stated that it would be implausible to have a successful social media page with only a week to campaign.

Eckman said that there was nothing stopping an individual from friending 50 to 200 people on Facebook and that these people need only accept the friend request.

Frost said that an individual could reach out on social media through groups and that personal connections were not necessary. Frost stated that social media algorithms are constantly changing and that having a successful page is determined more by one's knowledge of how these algorithms work than the number of followers they have.

Solomon stated the importance of considering the longevity of the policy and urged the board to think outside of this moment. Solomon said that she saw no reason to censor board member's social media accounts.

Meza-Roa said that this presupposed that every board member would have social media in the future. Anne Lee questioned whether this conversation would be happening if Solomon was the person being recalled.

Frost stated that this policy would allow board members to go on social media whereas the previous policy barred all access to social media. Ama Monkah said that the board kept going back and forth to Meza-Roa's situation and should keep the longevity of the policy in mind.

Solomon said that it was important for board members to be able to state their reasoning for their vote and explain their feelings to their constituents on Facebook who may have voted for them. Meza-Roa stated that another reason for the amendment was to maintain professionalism during the recall election. Solomon stated that there was already a clause in the Election Code to address this separately. Eckman stated that, hypothetically, decorum would be giving someone a heads up before giving an interview to a third party. Eckman said that he agreed that decorum was important but also believed that the amendment should not be in the Election Code.

Frost stated that many businesses use social media and that it was possible to be professional on social media. Eckman pointed out that the AS, Western, and Microsoft all have social media pages. Solomon maintained that it was possible to be professional on social media and stated that there was a mechanism in the Elections Code to ensure that future boards were professional as well.

Mejía stated that future boards could amend the Election Code as they saw fit.

Meza-Roa stated that the discussion seemed underhanded since so much time was spent discussing the election code at the previous meeting. Meza-Roa said that all the reasons considered at the prior meeting were being thrown out and that the only reason for further discussion was because one board member was not able to give his input at the last meeting. Meza-Roa stated that this was nefarious since it was the day that voting opened for the recall election. Solomon stated that the discussion was not underhanded since board meetings are always scheduled for Friday at 4pm and this meeting was the next available time to have a discussion. Solomon said that it was important for board members to express their views and since Eckman was at an academic conference during the past board meeting, only had access to the Elections Code without the amendment. Solomon added that many board members were confused about the change since it was only proposed at the meeting and they did not have a whole week to discuss the amendment.

MOTION ASB-19-W-24 by Lee

To pass the recall election code with the following amendments: clarification of the ballot structure and to allow board members to post concerning the recall election on their personal social media accounts.

Second: Eckman

Vote: 4-1-2

Action: Passed

Yes: Eckman, Solomon,

Mejía, Lee

No: Meza-Roa

Abstaining: Monkah,

Hessami

B. WILD Legislative Agenda – Doc 2 – Hessami

Hessami stated that the structure of the agenda had changed but that the content was mostly the same. Hessami said that the Legislative Affairs Council had spent an hour on the WILD Legislative Agenda mostly to add bill numbers and edit syntax. Hessami stated that the Disability Outreach Center agenda had been restructured.

Hessami presented the legislative agenda for the following offices: Disability Outreach Center, Ethnic Student Center, Environmental Sustainability Programs, the Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Center.

Concerning the SAIRC Legislative agenda, Hessami said that the acronym LGBQ was used in reference to a CDC study and did not include transgender people (T) since they had a much higher suicide rate than the general community.

Hessami explained that each office had their own legislative agenda tailored to their passions and needs and that all offices would lobby on the shared legislative agenda.

Hessami presented the shared legislative agenda items.

Lee suggested adding footnotes to reference the studies in the legislative agendas.

MOTION ASB-19-W-25 by Hessami

To pass the WILD Legislative Agenda.

Second: Monkah

Vote: 6-0-1

Action: Passed

*Yes: Mejia, Lee, Eckman,
Solomon, Monkah, Hessami*

No:

Abstaining: Meza-Roa

C. AS Structural Review C&C – Doc 3 – Hessami

Hessami said that the only change to the charge and charter was switching the advisor for the Assistant Director for Student Activities and Associate Dean for Student Engagement to the Assistant Director for Student Representation and Academic Shared Governance. Hessami explained that the charge and charter had been amended prior to the hiring of Leti Romo (Assistant Director for Student Representation and Academic Shared Governance). Hessami said that this change was discussed with Eric Alexander, Casey Hayden, and Romo. Hessami said that the charge and charter was previously amended by the board on October 5th, 2018.

Solomon asked why there were RHA and athletic representatives on the committee membership list. Cora Cole (AS Committee Coordinator) stated that one of the goals of the restructure was to increase communication between the AS and other departments on campus but that these positions were generally not filled.

Solomon asked if meeting quorum would be an issue. Hessami said that it would be okay since many of the members are AS employees.

MOTION ASB-19-W-26 by Eckman

To approve the membership change to the AS Structural Review Charge and Charter.

Second: Monkah

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

VIII. Information Items - Board

A. Job Description – AS VP for Student Life – Doc 5 – Lee

Lee stated that past Vice Presidents for Student life typically focused on either sustainability or student services. Alternatively, they would invest less time in both. Lee said that sustainability, equity, and justice issues demand a lot of time from the VP for Student Life and said that it was best for the position to be split.

Lee said that committee responsibilities dealing with sustainability would be shifted to the VP for sustainability in addition to new responsibilities. Lee said that more work with student services on programs such as services from homeless students' essential needs could be completed. Lee also mentioned looking at space and infrastructure for supporting non-traditional students and commuting students. Splitting the VP for Student Life position would also allow closer work with the ESP and sustainability issues. Eckman said that the job descriptions looked good and asked if Lee would be willing to have meetings the following week to discuss further changes. Lee said that they welcomed meetings to have more opinions on the job descriptions. Lee stated that the VP for Student Services was mostly the same with the sustainability responsibilities removed and an added emphasis on institutional work. Lee also said that the split would address the overlap between the VP for Student Life and the VP for Diversity. Lee mentioned that the VP for Student Services could help to bridge the communication gap between students and the administration by facilitating forums. Lee said that the job descriptions would be discussed further in the Structural Review Committee and Eckman asked for the student senate to be included in these conversations.

B. Personnel Committee C & C – Doc 6 – Mejía

Mejía stated that the addition of a non-voting student senator was the only change to the committee charge and charter. Solomon asked why the senator was non-voting Nate Jo (AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees) stated that the committee recommended the addition of a non-voting member to keep an odd number of voting members. The senator would replace the VP for Business and Operations the following year as a voting member. Mejía suggested moving the Personnel Committee Charter to an action item to allow the senator to begin work immediately.

MOTION ASB-19-W-27 by Hessami

To move Personnel Committee Charge and Charter to an action item.

Second: Solomon

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

MOTION ASB-19-W-28 by Mejía

To approve the addition of a non-voting student senator to the Personnel Committee Charge and Charter membership.

Second: Eckman

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

IX. Consent Items (subject to immediate action)

Meza-Roa stated that Brandon Lane was an excellent student who was enthusiastic about the AS budgeting process. Mejía stated that Jennifer LeVeque had background knowledge on the Social Justice and Equity Committee. Hessami stated that Nobel Solana-Walkinshaw had past experience with the Board of Directors and seemed like a good addition to the Structural Review Committee.

Cole stated that Solana-Walkinshaw completed a formal application as an AS Employee but that directors of departments could appoint representatives to committees.

Hessami stated the Campus Recreation Director had recommended Makeen Degoilier and Makena Degolier to sit on the Structural Review Committee and the RHA President, Joshua Gaylord, was excited to serve on this committee.

MOTION ASB-19-W-29 by Hessami

To pass all committee appointments.

Second: Meza-Roa

Vote: 5-0-1

Action: Passed

X. Board Reports

Anne Lee, VP for Student Life, reported that they had been discussing campus wide reporting posters with the Equal Opportunity Office. The smoke free campus survey results would come out on Monday and planning for the next student forum was going well.

Camilla Mejía, VP for Diversity, stated that she had been working with MCC stakeholders to discuss the mission and values of the multicultural services. Mejía stated that the multicultural services would not be a part of the ESC or SAIRC and could potentially be an office of support for undocumented students. Mejía also reported that her work with blue group was going well.

Millka Solomon, AS President, reported that work had begun on the Services and Activities Fee committee. Solomon said that she attended the Alumni Association reception to promote Western and had strategy meetings for the next forum. Solomon mentioned that Jewish Voices for Peace had released a statement as to why Hillel should not be part of the ESC and that McNeel Jantzen, Faculty Senate President, wanted to talk to the board about this issue.

Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs, reported that Adah Barenburg was elected as the Student Senate Vice-Chair. Eckman mentioned that the Faculty Senate was looking to reinstate a committee focused on student recruitment and that he was concerned about the other side of supporting students. Eckman stated that the ASA Heritage Dinner and the Annual Drag show were both happening that evening.

Ama Monkah, VP for Activities, had been discussing the club publicity allocation package. She stated that this funding may transition to seed money that would allow clubs to apply for funds for their first meetings or events, since the club publicity package had not been very successful.

Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs, stated that she was discussing Federal Lobby Day with Solomon, President Randhawa, and the legislative liaison for Western. The Federal Lobby day would likely be the last week of April and include Title IX protections, Federal Financial Aid, and research funding. Hessami stated that the Structural Review committee would begin meeting next week.

Genaro Meza-Roa, VP for Business and Operations, reported that the Outdoor Center Director wanted to create a new full-time position for the ViQueen Lodge. This position would maintain the lodge and the proposal included upgrades to infrastructure so that the professional staff member could live there.

XI. Other Business

Mejía mentioned the “take a love note, leave a love note” event and suggested that the board participate, since board meetings are inaccessible to many students. Mejía said that it was important to find different ways to engage students. Other board members also expressed interest.

Hessami noted that the “Housing and Hashbrowns” event would be the following day in the Wilson library.

Mejía mentioned that Jantzen had emailed her in concern over the statement from Jewish Voices for Peace. Mejía said that Hillel and JVP were having conversations about the

MCC multicultural services along with Tamara Spira, the JVP advisor. Monkah stated that she invited Jantzen to the board meeting but that Jantzen was unable to attend.

Meza-Roa stated that he was disappointed in the email that was sent to the student body because it linked school publications. Meza-Roa stated that Alec Willis, the AS Elections Coordinator, had admitted that it was outside of his purview. Meza-Roa also accused the board members of being underhanded with private emails concerning the statement that was sent out. Meza-Roa said that he would be filing a grievance and suggested that another email be sent out with an alternative news source.

Solomon stated that the emails were not secretive since the draft of the statement was sent to all board members.

Hessami stated she was involved with the statement, as the advisor to the REP office, and that specific articles were not linked in the email, only campus publications. Solomon stated that no other board member was involved and that Meza-Roa was welcome to file a public records request.

Harren stated that there was no intent to be secretive. The elections coordinator sent an email to all board members and the board minutes were also linked in addition to student publications.

Eckman pointed out that Meza-Roa was also included in the email and suggested that the Election Coordinator not be discussed without being present.

Solomon suggested that Meza-Roa file a grievance if he had any more complaints.

Millka Solomon, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 5:34pm.