



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Board of Directors

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

VU 567

**Board Members:** *Present:* Millka Solomon (President), Levi Eckman (VP for Academic Affairs), Ama Monkah (VP for Activities), 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):** Brandon Lane

### Motions:

**ASB-19-W-30** Add Election Results as an Info Item, and add WILD Funding as an Action Item with Guests. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-31** To pass the WILD budget request of \$1,710.91 from AS Reserves to LACF. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-32** To extend discussion by 5 minutes. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-33** To extend discussion by 5 minutes. *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-34** To break for 5 minutes in order for Romo, Hessami, and Willis to come up with a working definition of "Work". *Passed.*

**ASB-18-W-35** To pass committee appointments with the addition of Elections Advisory Committee. *Passed.*

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

### I. Approval of Minutes

### II. Revisions to the Agenda

*MOTION ASB-19-W-30 by Eckman*

Add Election Results as an Info Item, add WILD Funding as an Action Item with Guests.

*Second: Monkah*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed.*

Move job description to Action Item with Guest.

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

Cora Cole reported that heir found a way to make Committee Approval Forms work on WIN.

### IV. Information Items - Guests

A. 2020 Fee Increase

Lee and Hessami reported that we are getting close to running out of money in our reserves for the Transportation Fee. Due to this and the increased cost of the WTA service, a fee increase is necessary.

Kay McMurren reported that the payment to WTA is 75% of the total program budget – a major expense. The cost of WTA goes up with each contract. The program is starting to experience a deficit the revenue, which comes from the fee, is not enough to meet. There is a healthy cash balance of \$500,000 at the end of this year – including money that we set aside for vehicle replacement. \$300,000 is the minimum balance that the program likes to keep in cash balance, although a bit more is preferred. The program is looking at options for how to deal with diminishing balance. The fee language allows the program to raise the fee up to 5% without a vote of the students. This doesn't cover the deficit, but takes care of some of it. If we don't put a larger increase out to vote, then we are continuing to reduce our cash balance, which means that eventually, we will have to put it out to a vote. The contract with WTA expires in 2020, and then we will be negotiating with WTA for an amount we don't know yet. We won't have those contract numbers in time to put the fee up for a vote. Eckman asked what the ideal percentage increase would be for the fee this year. McMurren said putting it out for a student vote above 5% would be ideal – and making sure that it is sufficient to provide for the program for a few years. Solomon asked if we could leave the amount of fee increase up to a student vote. Hessami responded that it would make more sense to have ATF decide and then have the Board endorse that amount. Eckman asked if the amount that we raise the fee would have any bearing on renegotiating our contract with WTA? Lee pointed out that if the Board voted to increase the fee 5% to hold us back for a year, and then we do it again next year and then the next, then that will be two years in a row that there has been no student input on where their money is going in terms of fees – and that is problematic.

## **V. Action Items - Guests**

### **A. WILD Funding**

Pai reminded everyone that the Board requested more information concerning increased WILD funding. LAC allocated \$11,975.00 and the total cost of WILD will be \$13,685.91. That leads to a 14.29% deficit. (Cost per attendee is \$152.07). The cost for WILD 2019 is not unprecedented, because the cost per attendee is very similar from last year. Hessami clarified that WILD was planned and projected for 110 people, and about 86 people got on the bus. She reminded everyone to be mindful that there are projected costs, and there will be a drop rate of people who don't show up. These numbers for WILD are only projected attendance. Winkelman responded that it would be difficult to plan around people dropping at the last minute. Solomon asked Hessami if she took into account people dropping from Western Lobby Day. Hessami said that she assumed about 20 would drop, and 27 dropped. Pai said that they did account for shrinkage, and that they are planning on 16-20 people not showing up. Historically, about 15-20% of those who sign up drop before the bus leaves. Pai said that from the conversations he has had, it seems like more people are committed to showing up than in previous years.

Monkah asked if they calculated for shrinkage. Pai said yes, they only anticipated bringing 90 people out of the 106 who signed up. Monkah asked what happens to the money in the reserves if its pulled out and not used. Eckman said it goes back into the reserves at the end of the year. Romo said that she believes that the money being transferred from the

reserves to LACF would be the best solution. Eckman questioned if they would be able access the funds on short notice, because Cynthia from the Finance Office said that it takes about a month for money to become available when it moves around between accounts. Hessami said that it will be okay.

Solomon said she feels slightly uncomfortable about the budget since this is the first time she has seen it, due to a miscommunication and a lack of the document being uploaded beforehand. At the same time, she also thinks it looks acceptable as far as she can tell. Mejía agreed, and added that she doesn't see an issue approving the funding. She urged Pai and Winkelman and anyone else bringing documents send the documents to Annie Byers or a Board member by the deadline on Wednesday.

*MOTION ASB-19-W-31 by Hessami*

To pass the WILD budget request of \$1,710.91 from AS Reserves to LACF.

*Second: Mejía*

*Vote: 5-0-1*

*Action: Passed.*

Solomon: *Abstain*

Mejía: *Pass*

Hessami: *Pass*

Eckman: *Pass*

Monkah: *Pass*

Lee: *Pass*

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

### **A. ASVP for Sustainability / ASVP for Student Services**

Katie Winkelman, the ESP Director for two years, spoke on how having a VP for Sustainability would help her position immensely. At times, it can be uncomfortable for her to work with stakeholders when people come to her with administrative issues, since these are not things that are technically in her job description. Thus, A VP position dealing with sustainability issues may fit better to serve the administrative issues. Since Winkelman currently juggles working with admin and running a program, splitting the position into two positions would be more effective.

Hessami asked if anything would change in Winkelman's job description with a new VP for Sustainability. Winkelman said not much would change in her job description, although maybe committee assignments would be shifted around (with the VP taking over some of the ESP Director's assignments). Eckman clarified what the WHOLE Program is. Winkelman answered that it's the Western Hub of Living Essentials – AKA the food pantry. Eckman asked if the VP for Sustainability would this alleviate the stress, or the need of Winkelman's position? Winkelman answered mostly just stress. The VP for Sustainability would let her position focus more on the office and programmatic stuff.

Solomon is concerned about there being both positions in existence. VP for BusOps and Business Director overlap a lot, which is why the BusOp position is getting dissolved. Winkelman added, for the sake of full transparency, it's relatively likely that her office won't exist 3-5 years from now. Eckman asked if it would be possible to remove Winkelman's current position and have the ESP be overseen by the VP for Sustainability. Winkelman said yes. Lee added that a VP should serve as the liaison between student issues and departments and admin. The restructure of Student Life and ESP in the future

is something to consider, especially while we are restructuring BusOps. She added that the BOD should talk to the Office of Sustainability to make sure everyone is on the same page.

Hessami challenged the idea that there wouldn't be a reason to have an ESP Director – as the VP for Governmental Affairs, she coexists with the REP. Winkelman pointed out that the ESP has evolved a lot over time in terms of the role that it plays on campus.

Shifting the conversation to talking about ASVP for Student Services – Lee requested more advice concerning language and all that. Eckman asked that the documents have the accurate salary. Hessami said – we don't need these job descriptions finalized by February 20<sup>th</sup>, the previous deadline – the BOD actually has a lot more time to develop these job descriptions. Eckman asked that the Student Senators get a say in this. The BOD agreed it would be something to consider. Solomon asked if Lee would like to vote today on the restructure. Lee said yes. Hessami disagreed and said that this had already been voted on in the 2017 AS General election. The Board last year was supposed to do it, but they did not. A vote is unnecessary, because it has already been voted on by the student body 2 years ago.

## **VII. Action Items - Board**

### **A. Special Elections Code and Finance Request – Hessami**

Hessami reported that no drastic changes have been made to the Special Election Code since the Board has last seen it. Guest Brandon Lane argued that there *has* been a large change, since there has been a clause added specifying that AS employees can no longer work on campaigns or endorse candidates. Lane said that this is a bad solution – if you are an AS employee running for office, you get the advantages that come with that, but if you are not, then you no longer have access to it. For example, working in the Business Office and running for BusOps, then you would know everything that is happening in terms of what's going on in the AS. Otherwise, no AS employees can talk to you. Eckman said that information that AS employees have is public knowledge.

Lane said that he would like 4b and 4c to be deleted. Hessami highlighted that in the Senate Election Code passed in the Nov 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the exact same language was passed. Willis added that this has been debated and ultimately approved by the Elections Advisory Board. The reason is that AS employees who are currently within the systems have greater access to campaign workers and resources because they already exist within the structure of the Associated Students. Hessami said the clause is set up to protect students outside of the AS – avoiding a situation where someone is running, and then the entire REP office is running their campaign. She wondered how Lane believes it would disadvantage at-large students? It is a measure to level the playing field.

Lane said that would work in a vacuum. However, the only way to get information about the AS is through AS employees. Nate Jo, AS Board Assistant for Internal Committees, disagreed - as an AS employee and as a candidate from the position, he has a structural advantage, and this clause levels the playing field by prohibiting him from utilizing AS resources. Sam Frost, AS Communication Director, said that she is conflicted because

campaign work is something that she wants to do. As an individual not being able to work on a campaign, she's not getting the opportunity to build her resume.

Eckman reiterated that if his senators' election set this standard, then it should be upheld. Nicole Ballard, AS Student Senator At-Large, said she liked the clause because it leveled the playing field. Campaigning was a good way for her to engage with students – and if you don't have a whole AS team behind you, you're more likely to talk personally with students and make connections.

Mejia pointed out that clubs within the AS can endorse candidates. Also, candidates can come in and ask any questions that they want of any information.

Willis said that he would support a clarification of the term "work", such as distribution of campaign materials, verbal campaigning, managing of online social media pages.

*MOTION ASB-19-W-32 by Hessami*

To extend discussion by 5 minutes.

*Second: Eckman*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed.*

*MOTION ASB-19-W-33 by Hessami*

To extend discussion by 5 minutes.

*Second: Eckman*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed.*

*MOTION ASB-19-W-34 by Eckman*

To break for 5 minutes in order for Romo, Hessami, and Willis to come up with a working definition of "Work".

*Second: Hessami*

*Vote: 5-0-1*

*Action: Passed.*

Solomon: *Pass*

Mejía: *Abstain*

Hessami: *Pass*

Eckman: *Pass*

Monkah: *Pass*

Lee: *Pass*

The definition of "work" was decided on as follows.

g. By "Work on a campaign", as used in Section2, Cl. IV (d), for the purpose of this code, is defined as, but it not limited to, distribution of physical campaign materials, verbal campaigning, and management or active participation in a social media pages, or use of personal resources.

a. "Work" is not defined as advice and conversation about the position, or campaigning in general.

*MOTION ASB-19-W-35 by Hessami*

Pass the Recall Election Code with the added definition of "work".

*Second: Mejia*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed.*

### **VIII. Information Items - Board**

#### **A. Election Results – Hessami**

There were 1,582 votes cast in the election to recall Genaro Meza-Roa, the VP for Business and Operations. 1,337 voted yes to the recall. 112 students voted no. Meza-Roa was removed as of Monday night.

### **IX. Consent Items (subject to immediate action)**

#### **A. CHSS Ad Hoc Writing Committee – Ruby Sachs, Freshman. Jasmine Balasa – Graduate Student Elections Advisory Committee – Bennett Massey-Helber, Grace LaMonte**

*MOTION ASB-19-W- by Hessami*

To pass committee appointments with the addition of Elections Advisory Committee.

*Second: Eckman*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed.*

### **X. Board Reports**

**Natasha Hessami, ASVP for Governmental Affairs**, stated that

In 2017, there was an election to pass a constitution that outlined the structure of the AS and Viking Union. Restructure Committee is thinking that they might not go forward with Student Union board and VP for Activities with all the restructuring that is already happening this year. Solomon asked why we have to vote on the restructuring of Activities in the spring if we already voted on it. Romo responded that is the case only if Monkah wants to change it. In general: a lot of work has already been done in terms of restructuring the AS.

### **XI. Other Business**

*Millka Solomon, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 5:58pm.*