



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

4/5/19

VU 567

Board Members: *Present:* Millka Solomon (President), Ama Monkah (VP for Activities), Camilla Mejía (VP for Diversity), Natasha Hessami (VP for Governmental Affairs), and Anne Lee (VP for Student Life) Nate Jo (VP for Business and Operations)

Absent: Levi Eckman (VP for Academic Affairs)

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

Secretary: Travis Felver

Guest(s):

Motions:

ASB-19-S-1 Approval of minutes from 3-15-19 Board Minutes

ASB-19-S-2 Approval of changes to the agenda

ASB-19-S-3 Approval of changes to membership of the Student Enhancement Fund Committee charter

ASB-19-S-4 Approval of extension of discussion time

ASB-19-S-5 Approval of extension of discussion time

ASB-19-S-6 Approval of committee appointments

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

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION ASB-19-S-1 By Hessami

To approve the minutes from the 3-15-19 Board meeting.

Second: Jo

Vote: 4-0-2

Action: Passed

Yes: Mejía, Jo, Lee, Hessami

No:

Abstaining: Monkah, Solomon

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Jo adds Colton Redfeld's appointment to consent items

Hessami adds Bennet Massey-Haelber's appointment to consent items

Jo will be presenting on behalf of Tyler Andrews for SEF Temporary C&C Review

MOTION ASB-19-S-2 by Monkah

To approve revisions to the agenda

Second: Solomon

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

III. Action Items – Guests

A. SEF Temporary C&C Review –Tyler Andrews

Jo explained that the Student Enhancement Fund committee is having a difficult time meeting quorum, therefore the proposed change is for it to be 1 senator (from 2) and 1 student-at-large (from 2), historically there has been one student senator on the committee and currently there are no students-at-large.

Monkah asked if any students-at-large have signed up to be on the committee. Jo said yes, but they are losing them due to their graduation.

Jo said that this will be a temporary change which will need to be revisited next year

Meijia said that the ESC President's Council is now the Leadership and Advocacy force. The document will be updated to reflect this.

MOTION ASB-19-S-3 by Jo

To approve the membership changes to the Student Enhancement Fund committee charter

Second: Hessami

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

IV. Information Items – Board

A. AS Committee Charter Policy

Jo explained that currently charter documents are locked in master documents, therefore the Board has difficulty editing them, thus preventing elected officials from taking ownership of their documents. This extended the process needed to update charters causing committees to either start working late or to start working without a charter. These changes will ensure all AS Committees conform to the AS Committee Charter and will be completely editable by elected officials with appropriate access. The second change will be an update to the Sunset policy allowing charters to be active for two years alongside placing the review process in Spring Quarter. This allows the members of the review process to better familiarize themselves with the committee and find changes that need to be made.

Hessami asked if they should stagger the charter renewal process. Jo said that it will be a window to change, making the process still a yearly renewal, but they will be able to begin work effectively as their charter will still be valid at the beginning of the year.

Solomon expressed that this will make committee's lives significantly easier.

Hessami asked that if they should be reviewed every year, could the requirement still be staggered to ensure it will be made a lighter workload. Jo responded that it will organically stagger, and they can ensure that some staggering is enforced. The spreadsheet will track when charters must be updated, allowing the process of staggering to be much easier.

B. AS WWU Constitution

Hessami explained that elections are starting on the 29th of April, so this needs to be an item to add to the ticket during elections. This discussion should be an action item on the

19th of April. The Senate has been added as a branch of government, which started the conversation for granted powers and authorities.

Jo explained that the changes made were: under Student Senate, adding “to administer monies allocated by the Services and Activities Fees Committee, to ensure continuous safe and efficient operations in conjunction with the Student Services Council and Executive Board”, under the Student Services Council “in conjunction with the Executive Board and Student Senate”

Hessami explained that the Board needs to discuss what the differences between the Executive Board and the Student Senate’s rights and responsibilities.

In a phone conversation, Eckman said that the Restructure Committee should look at writing new language as far as granted authorities as dividing them up as is would inevitably result in an imbalance. The Senate should be purely academic in focus due to the nature of its college representation.

Jo said that it would be a good idea to not recycle old language, in order to be clearer and reflect the new structure of the student government. The Executive Board and the Student Senate have equal power in the AS and structure will ensure that the Student Services Council takes some of the day-to-day powers allowing the Executive Board and Student Senate to focus on Academic Shared Governance and University Governance.

Hessami explained that the Student Senate will have more of a hold in academic shared governance and the Executive Board will have more of a hold on External Government agencies.

Eckman said he wants to draw the distinction of this being an active document next year, and ensure the Student Services Committee has power next year.

Jo said that since there will be no Vice President of Business and Operations next year the Student Services Council needs to happen now in order to familiarize with their responsibilities and better function better next year

Eckman said that the amount of work that is needed to construction of this committee may be more than is possible to finish by the end of this academic year.

Jo said that they plan on working with multiple people in order to make this work, and the committee needs to happen this year to ensure that the committee is prepared to function without a VP of Business and Operations.

Hessami said they did discuss not going forward with a Student Services Council, and decided having the Student Services Council would serve as the primary operating authority on student services and programs, which would allow the Executive Board and Student Senate to focus more on governance, representation, and advocacy

Solomon asked if Student Services Council would be an elected position.

Jo said that the positions already exist, this would be a restructure which allows these positions to work more closely together in these responsibilities. This would allow

recommendations and requests to go to a council that has more direct experience and qualitative feedback.

Lee asked if this council would be replacing AS VP of Business and Operations.

Jo said it would replace VP of Business and Operations and Management Council.

Lee said that this is not building a new Council from the ground up, rather moving positions that already exist into a new council. The language makes sense as is on the constitution, and the Board can have a discussion concerning structure and membership of the Student Services Council at a later date.

Hessami said that the details can go into council by-laws.

Romo said that the students of WWU recently voted to remove the Student Services from the constitution and to clarify, the Board is talking about adding it back in and adding another vote could be confusing to the students.

Solomon said that the previous vote was concerning positions, and this new vote is about responsibilities.

Jo said that this is not a 3rd branch of student government that the students will be voting on, and should be in the constitution as it is not a sub committee of the Board or the Senate and will be following most of the same policies as Management Council.

Hessami said that they were rushing to get the constitution ready for the Vice President of Business and Operations election, and now that Nate Jo has been elected they have had more time to go over the needs of the Constitution. There is an option to not include Student Services Council in the agenda, though this would decrease its power and create a need to distribute budget authorities.

Jo said that the Student Services Council will not be a voted position, and will not change any of the divisions of power so far as students are concerned. This council needs to be in the constitution in order to ensure that it remains independent of reporting directly to the Executive Board or Student Senate which would ensure those branches of government would remain equal.

Romo asked who would chair the Student Services Council

Hessami said this is still up for discussion.

Jo said that likely the Business Director or be elected from within the council. This council needs to happen in order to ensure there is equal distribution in powers from the Student Senate and Executive Board.

Leti said the membership of this committee would be all positions who were hired by a Hiring Committee which is chaired by Professional Staff which takes out a lot of the student voice from the committee

Jo said that there is still more need for discussion, adding Student Senators to the council. Though some form of this committee needs to happen due to the AS VP of Business and Operations position is no longer happening

Solomon asked if this purpose of this council is to take a lot of the day to day functioning, freeing the Executive Board and Student Senate to focus on governance and advocacy and that Romo's point is that students who are not elected would be making these decisions.

Romo said this would put people in vulnerable positions, prone to fear of retaliation.

Solomon asked if this fear is concerning the chair of the council or the entirety of the council

Leti said that the balance of power difference between a supervisor and an advisor needs to be further examined.

Hessami said that it sounds like everyone has their own vision at this time. Jo is correct that some sort operational committee needs to happen due to the ending of the AS VP of Business and Operations Position.

MOTION ASB-19-S-4 by Jo

To extend time for discussion by 15 minutes

Second: Hessami

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Eckman asked how much power they want the Student Services Council, which isn't elected, to have. The chair of the council should be an elected position to ensure that there will be reports to the Executive Board. The Business Director should be on the committee but not the chair.

Jo said the Student Service Council will not be serving as a third branch of government. This council should be in the constitution to ensure that it doesn't report solely to the Executive Board or the Senate in order to

Eckman said that including it in the constitution when it doesn't have the same power is not the norm and would result in a lack of clarity.

Hessami said that they need to include it in the constitution in order to have clear language as to where the powers, granted authorities, and budget authorities are residing.

Eckman asked why this couldn't be in the by-laws.

Jo said that this would cause them to need another standing committee in either the Executive Board or the Student Senate, and that this is the constitution or the Associated Students, not just the Student Government.

Solomon said that they should resume this discussion later to ensure more clarity.

Hessami said that concerning the changes to the responsibility of the Senate and the Executive Board so far as university governance, the Senate would have an emphasis on academic shared governance and the Executive Board would have an emphasis on external government agencies.

Monkah said that it makes sense in the language

Jo gave an example of Shred the Contract coming to the Associated Students, which would come to the VP of Student Life, and therefore the Executive Board. They would also go to the Student Senate to ensure that they had support there. In example two, a student is concerned with a professor using racial slurs in an academic setting, they would go to the Student Senate first. These changes would ensure that students would have more clear routes for where they need to access.

Eckman said that the term academic shared governance is already divisive due to how vague it is and how it can be used.

Hessami said that is why they added university shared governances which encompasses everything not faculty related. And since Student Senate sits on Faculty Senate and it's subcommittees academic shared governance would serve better in the realm of Student Senate

Jo said that term academic shared governance may be a problem, and they should revisit the language used to ensure more clarity.

Hessami said the big question at this time is concerning the division of Executive Board and Student Senate powers, and they have further Restructure Committees where they could discuss this in

MOTION ASB-19-S-5 by Hessami

To add ten minutes to discussion time.

Second: Jo

Vote: 5-0-1

Action: Passed

Yes: Hessami, Jo,

Monkah, Mejia, Lee

No:

Abstaining: Solomon

Lee said that the language concerning the Student Senate should represent how the Student Senate works more closely with specific college and academic student needs so this division between granted powers and authorities would be helpful.

Solomon said that the Student Senate does not just represent their colleges, the college division of Senators helps ensure that each college is being represented by the larger student voice.

Hessami said they could add Associated Students into the language.

Jo said the Associated Students is already in the language. There will be efforts to expand the language to make it clearer to convey that this is meant to expand.

Hessami said they are going to keep committee positions in the by-laws in order to ensure the constitution does not become too robust, therefore where committees sit should be kept in the by-laws. Hessami then asked for senator input on the changes.

The senator said that since the Senate meets less frequently and has less hours, and have more direct input with students, the Board is able to make decisions more quickly.

Hessami said this is why the Senate Pro Tempore is sitting on the Executive Board.

V. Consent Items (*subject to immediate action*)

- A. Bennet Massey-Haelber appointed to AS Structure Review Committee and AS Elections Board, Junior, History Major

Colton Redfeild appointed to AS Structural Review, Senior, Journalism/Political Science Major

MOTION ASB-19-W-6 by Hessami

To approve committee appointments listed above

Second: Monkah

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

VI. Board Reports

Millka Solomon, AS President stated that S&A Fee Committee is working well, the Board of Trustees has a new Tribal Liaison. The conversation concerning racial slurs in the classroom is continuing in Faculty Senate.

Ama Monkah, VP for Activities stated that she has been working with Ian on the assessment of the Outback and about Summer Concert program. They will be voting on the budget for next year and the fee will be going up in order to compensate for minimum wage increase and facility upkeep.

Nate Jo, VP for Business and Operations stated that they are discussing adding Gender Neutral restrooms to the Viking Union building. The AS wage model task force is meeting in order to discuss the philosophy of why the AS wage model needs to be redone. They will be holding office hours in red square to inform students on how their money is being spent.

Camilla Mejía, VP for Diversity stated that she is planning for the Students of Color Conference, there are currently 8 students attending and they are working on more. There may be a request for funds for the soft opening of the Multicultural Center in June. On the 18th there will be a tour of the new MCC building at 3 or 3:30 PM.

Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that Dr. Stout and Dr. Johnson's revisit has been funded by the LAC. She met with Brian Sullivan concerning the transportation fee increase and that he recommended that it not be a substantial fee increase unless student services are increased. They are working on the Local Lobby Day agenda and it will be coming as an information item next week.

Anne Lee, VP for Student Life stated that they set up a meeting concerning how to get more student voices on the food systems committee. They are working with housing concerning gender-inclusive housing changes and RA concerns. Western Pride is beginning to be organized.

VII. Other Business

- A. Shred the Contract, Divest Resolutions
Lee gathered signatures from a previous discussion.

Millka Solomon, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 5:20.