



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

5-10-19

Viking Union 567

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

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

Secretary: Travis Felver

Guest(s): Cora Cole (Committee Coordinator), Henry Pellet (Legislative Liason), Hunter Stuehm (Student), Emily Gerhardt (Student), Brandon Lane (Student), Chrissy Hoefgen (WCC Student), Paden Koltisha (Student Senator), Alexis Goss (Queer Guild Councilmember), Eli Kiesel (Queer Guild Councilmember), Tristanne Droege (Queer Guild Councilmember), Casey Hayden (VU Admin)

Motions:

- ASB-19-S-17 **Approval of minutes from 4-26-19**
ASB-19-S-18 **Approval of revisions to the agenda**
ASB-19-S-19 **Approval of the AS Food & Housing Insecurity Advisory Committee C&C**
ASB-19-S-20 **Approval of 19,550 dollars per year for three years for the Blue Resource Center**
ASB-19-S-21 **Approval of 8,000 dollars from FFXRES Discretionary reserves for the Queer Guild Council**
ASB-19-S-22 **Ratification the Queer Guild Council Charter**
ASB-19-S-23 **Approval of the STF funding recommendations**
ASB-19-S-24 **Certification of Consent Items**

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

I. **Approval of Minutes**

Jo brought forward edits concerning attendance.

MOTION ASB-19-S-17 By Mejía

To approve the minutes with edits from 4-26-19

Second: Jo

Vote: 4-0-1

Action: Passed

Yes: Jo, Eckman, Mejía, Lee

No:

Abstaining: Hessami

II. **Revisions to the Agenda**

Jo moves to move Budget recommendations from Action Items Guests, to Information items Board

MOTION ASB-19-S-18 by Jo

To approve revisions to the agenda

Second: Hessami

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

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

Hunter Stuehm, a graduating student and graduate student for next fall brought up a concern about the Students for Life presentation and the speaker at the event (Kristan Hawkins) treating students poorly (citing the example of pointing at a student who identifies as non-binary and saying “you have a womb you are a woman,” and that survivors of sexual assault and violence should not have access to abortion or birth control), spreading a poor message to the campus perpetuating a dangerous narrative. While he supports freedom of speech and expression of students, this line is crossed when it oversteps the safety and autonomy of other students.

Eckman said that it was an awful event, done in poor taste, with poor oversight. The best part of the event was the Q&A in which students asked very insightful questions though Kristan Hawkins chose to answer questions that supported her narrative while ignoring questions that derailed her speech. There will be continued conversations.

Lee said that other students have brought forward similar concerns and there is discussion happening concerning the Associated Student’s policy concerning clubs and the policies and procedures, which will be a priority for next year’s Board. Other clubs have been prevented from coming to campus for issues such as having a curse word in their speech, and this one was allowed.

Hessami said they will look into the intentions of events being put on. For example if a pro-life wanted to have an educational meeting that would be protected under freedom of speech

Eckman said that they would like to look more into how speakers are recruited. As this speaker advertised her title of “least informed speaker” on her own website, and they feel the process is not thorough enough.

Hessami said they will have further discussion with clubs bringing in speakers once Monkah, the VP for Activities, comes back.

Keisel brought forward that the Queer Guild Council is present and active in this issue and said that they are going to be redefining their approach to fundraising and appreciates the board discussing these issues.

Goss said that many of their members had sever emotional distress because of the event and they are happy this is being discussed by the board.

Pollet said that there are budget cuts that he does not feel were taken into full consideration. Budgets for programs such “Get Out the Vote” are being cut, and he asks the Board look again at the budget to make cuts that will not hurt Western’s civic engagement

Jo invited him to speak further on the issue when they get to budget recommendations on the agenda

IV. Action Items – Guests

A. AS Food & Housing Insecurity Advisory Committee C&C

Lee said that this was an information item two weeks ago, and would like to give the floor to Alberto.

Hessami said that as there are several committees, both formal and informal, trying to acknowledge food programs on campus and wanted to clarify that this was not Shred the Contract or a similar program. That this was concerning food insecurity and access, not sustainability or ethical sourcing.

Lee responded this is correct

Eckman asked that if under graduate students, they could make it the graduate senators to make sure students are being paid for their work, and that they could add that to the senator's job descriptions this year to ensure it's in place for next year's elections.

Jo said that they needed to reformat it in the new charter format, in every situation it says Board of Directors it needs to be changed to Executive Board, and asked if where it says 1-2 Resident Life representatives and 1-2 graduate student representatives it could be changed to an exact number so they can know what quorum is.

Eckman asked if they could amend the number of students to 1 graduate student and pass this today.

Lee said yes.

MOTION ASB-19-S-19 by Lee

To approve the AS Food & Housing Insecurity Advisory Committee C&C with the recommended edits and formatting

Second: Eckman

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

B. Blue Resource Center Proposal

Meijia said Alberto, Nate Jo, and her have been working on the budgeting with the wages.

Jo said that the proposal is adding 2 coordinator positions and as the wage determination is subject to change, they worked to rebalance the grant proposal at a rate of 15.50 which will give a buffer for the next three years as minimum wage continues to rise over the next three years. So they recommend approving 19,550 for the creation of the Blue Resource Center and since it is ambiguous fund allocation, the remainder left over after wages can be repurposed to other uses.

A guest asked why it is two employees and not three when other similar programs in the SAIRC all have three.

Alberto said that they are starting with here and if they need more employees later they will discuss adding them, but at this time it feels appropriate to start with two, to have emphasis on community building. In the SAIRC while three positions exist there is often enough overlap between them where responsibilities are shared.

Eckman asked if they can put in the rationale who will be reviewing it and that it should be reviewed every year.

Meijia said that it is already set to go into revision with Ian's office and they can put it into revision every year. They will be putting in their legacy document and reminding the new VP for Diversity that this needs to be reviewed.

Jo said that in meetings with Raquell, the Business Manager they have about 300,000 dollars in reserve and historically about ten percent of the operating budget goes into reserves.

MOTION ASB-19-S-20 by Meijia

To approve 19,550 dollars per year for three years

Second: Eckman

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

C. Queer Guild Council Proposal

Jo said that per recommendations of Eckman they have changed the amount to 8,000 (4,000 per year) and attached the Queer Guild Council Charter making it an official AS Council. Otherwise it is unchanged.

Hessami asked if that each year they will outline the membership of the council as it states one member from each AS Queer/Trans focused club so that people will know how many people will be on the Council

Jo responded that this will be outlined in Rules of Operations so they don't have to go to the Board to change things in the charter

Hessami asked who the direct liaison with student government will be.

Eckman said the Vice President of Diversity

Meijia asked if that means the VP of Diversity will not be a member, just to be answered to.

Jo asked if it would be better to have the VP of Diversity on the council itself.

Meijia said yes, as it would ease the process of reporting and to give the Guild a more direct line of communication for issues.

Eckman asked if she would suggest having the VP of Diversity as a non-voting member

Meijia said yes.

Goss said that it might cause members to feel uncomfortable bringing up issues in the council, instead there could be monthly or weekly meetings with the chair and the VP of Diversity. This line of communication is important in order to approach issues from another direction.

Meijia asked if they could add that to the charter.

Jo said they could add it to the reportage section.

Romano said that reportage already has a clear line due to reporting the SAIRC Coordinator, who has a direct relationship with the VP of Diversity, and that this could be added to the job description of VP of Diversity.

Hessami said they could add a Student Senator in there and potentially make it self-select

Eckman said that Student Senator scheduling is just as much who can make it to the committees as who wants to, and this could cause the same issue as putting the VP of Diversity in the council, though perhaps they could add the Senate Pro-Tempore to the discussion.

Jo said that they are in a place where the AS is consistently growing and they cannot place a Vice President or Senator in every committee and they need to take care to make sure that they put appropriate people in each committee and respect the space. While the Board is a funding board with the approval of this grant, it is also supposed to be fostering community for queer clubs and queer communities

Meijia agreed and said she would feel most comfortable putting it in the job description for VP for Diversity and discussing it as a legacy document subject.

Goss said they would prefer if the VP of Diversity is not on the Council, but was instead reported to, and the VP of Diversity should be well-versed in the subject of diversity regardless.

Meijia said that they could add this into the chair of this council's job description as well.

Eckman said that the AS VP of Diversity makes the most sense for budget and logistics as a contact point.

Goss said there are queer issues that the Student Senate could help with, so maybe as another line of communication they could set up discussions with the Student Senate directly as the issues are varied between the separate colleges. Potentially on a year by year basis they could discuss adding a senator onto the council

MOTION ASB-19-S-21 by Jo

To approve the 8,000 dollars from FFXRES Discretionary reserves for the Queer Guild Council

Second: Hessami Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passed

MOTION ASB-19-S-22 by Jo

To ratify the Queer Guild Council Charter

Second: Hessami Vote: 5-0-0 Action: Passed

V. Action Items – Board

A. STF Fee Recommendations

Eckman said that the Student Technology Fee Committee allocates funding for the printing quota and private computer labs, and he advocated cutting the private computer

lab budget in cases like the Physics students having their own computer lab despite only using it ten percent of the month and there are 32 of this kind of computer lab on campus. For the first time in Western's history there are 123 graphing calculators available for checkout at the ATUS help desk next year. The Tech Initiative was approved on May 10th. One large request was denied because they did not go through their departmental chair, and they will be going through the appropriate process at a later date. The recommended proposals total to about 192,450 dollars and are as follows.

Graphing calculators for Student Checkout for ATUS (\$19,467)

DSLR Camera Upgrades (\$39,448) This includes cameras and lenses available for student checkout

Making and Prototyping Equipment (\$10,500) This is the newer standard equipment and it is really important to use the industry equipment in classes to make students competitive when they leave Western Washington University.

Music Library Listening Station Upgrade (\$5,475)

Mechanical Testing Equipment/Universal Test Stand (\$23,486)

Increasing Student Access to Advanced Molecular Spectroscopy (\$34,708)

Digital Microscopes for Engineering Courses and Applications (\$9,858)

Incorporating High-Resolution Survey-Grade Global Navigation Satellite System and Drone Surveys at WWU (\$37,585). This one was a joint request by CSE and Huxley which takes more effort.

Huxley College Analytical and Precision Balance Upgrade/Replacement (\$8,955) This is also standard equipment in the industry needed to make students competitive and familiar with equipment they will be using.

WWU Racing Data Acquisition (2,968) This is to support the WWU Racing team who have been through the wringer with funding this year and they consistently bring home wins for the college. The fee is specifically for cameras and they will be receiving laptops that are slotted to go to surplus. This was also the lowest request,

While all students are open to use this equipment, it is more understood they will be primarily used by those in the relevant departments. Eckman is most proud of the graphing calculators for students, and just need to figure out how to publicize them.

Hessami suggested the tutoring center

Eckman said they will be advertising there and in the math department, and the libraries.

Hessami asked how WWU Racing is going to be with the vehicle design program closing.

Eckman said that the club is separate from the vehicle design program, though some of the students are in it, and when the program closed the club's membership actually went up. Right now they want to fund WWU Racing Data Acquisition because they do all of the things that Western's strategic mission

Hessami asked if the STF gets funded through a yearly student fee.

Eckman said it's a fee each student pays every year with tuition and the programs have to do purchase orders through the program, not just receive the funds to spend themselves

Hessami asked if that means there will be a fee increase to make up for them going overbudget.

Eckman said that this budget is an estimated amount and does not include Summer Student Fees. The committee is certain that Summer Student Fees will cover the remaining amount. They have not increased the fee since last May, and it is not a voted fee, so likely they would not increase it for another two years at the soonest.

MOTION ASB-19-S-23 by Eckman

To approve the STF funding recommendations

Second: Hessami

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

VI. Information Items – Board

A. AS Wage Policy

Jo thanked all of the people that were part of the project: Paden, Nicole, Rachel, Ally, Nobel, Skyla, Leigh, Eric, Casey, and Raquel. The first meeting was discussing the mission of developing an equitable and accessible wage structure for the Associated Students. Then to reaffirm the values of the AS, Nate Jo made the following points. The As Values student employment as employment is the largest service the AS offers to students.

The AS strives to lower economic barriers and provide financial stability for students. AS employment and titles enhance student's experience and future beyond wages. Such as Jo's title as VP for Business and Operations will help them gain scholarships and considerations in the future.

Finally the AS must carefully balance funding position wages and services provided to students. Paying every student twenty dollars an hour would prevent them from being able to offer any services for example.

Currently wages are mad by taking the minimum wage by 3.5 and multiplying it by a percentage. The current model is unsustainable with upcoming minimum wage increases. The proposal is to add fixed number to WWU category minimums which will hold pay gaps to a constant amount.

Option A is recommended by the Wage Task Force and was passed by the Personnel Committee. The level matches the WWU category with the adjustment of wage. This represents the middle of the road option keeping the amounts similar, the big jumps are due to the jump in wage distinction level

Option B is the most fiscally conservative model and starts at \$13.50 which will be the minimum wage in 2020.

Option C has higher wages and bigger budget impact starts at 14.00 an hour and goes up to 16.75.

The budget implications is based on the average of wages ignore summer planning hours and irregular positions. If they do not change the structure it will cost \$1,163,000. Each option is less impactful, Option A is \$1,133,000, Option B is \$1,128,000 and Option C is \$1,142,000.

They took the month of April to build the Wage Task Force, had it reviewed by the personell committee between May 1st and 9th. They are hoping to approve it now in order to get the system in place in June in order to have all employees start next year with this in place.

Hessami asked if the AS President will continue to have a higher wage, as has been the norm thus far.

Jo said that the task force agreed that all elected officials should be paid the same as they are doing the same type of work, the AS President will make more because they will be working more hours, though it is the same hourly wage.

Meijía said this is amazing, important, and very impressive that it got done this quickly.

Eckman asked if this goes into effect next year.

Jo said yes.

Eckman asked for input from elected officials for next year.

Nichole said that paying the board and the senators the same shows that they are committed to their idea of shared governance and asked what the process looks like to picking an option.

Jo said the board will discuss and vote for one of the options or none of them, then the senate will as well, hopefully it is the same plan.

Barenburg said that she is happy to see that they are considering the type of work when assigning wages and appreciates the wages being more similar than before.

Kolistika said they went into this option with holding the top and lifting the bottom, and that paying students more than minimum wage shows support for the students being professional employees and they suggest Option A.

A member asked if the hourly structure will give some of the power back to the board and senator back and help prevent being overworked.

Jo said that this will help and will work very well in showing that positions are not designed to work less than 20 hours a week.

Eckman said their position was not designed in a way to work less than 19 hours a week. Nate recommended setting up an alarm clock to ensure that they do not go over 19 hours a week, and next year work will need to be redistributed as shown by this hourly cap.

Lee asked if the move to hourly work affects R.A.'s as well, as they currently get a stipend.

Jo said that since being an R.A. includes housing and a meal plan it might but he does know.

Romano said that there will need to be a minimum that you have to make and if they go below that than they will be moving to be hourly

Hessami asked what the minimum was, and if students will ever reach that amount.

Romano said she doesn't know.

Jo said students will never reach the threshold to become salaried employees. Then asked the Executive Board to look carefully at the three options and decide which they think will work best for the AS budget and decide which to move forward with. This will come back as an action item on the 24th of May

B. Budget Recommendations

Jo explained that the advertising budget was not cut, the only budget that was cut was in...

Hessami said that he was talking about the Summer get out the vote program

Henry said that the budget was overspent

Jo said they don't remember discussing this in budget committee and would like to go back and review, asking Raquell why there was a reduction.

Eckman asked who oversees FFXVER

Hessami said Voting and Outreach Coordinator

Eckman asked if they could see an itemized spending list

Hessami said that the individual spent very recklessly and this year should not be a reflection of their budget.

Eckman asked if dropping it by 250.00 will substantially hurt the program since they can come back and ask the board for money if necessary

Hessami said most of the spending happens over summer when the Board is not in session.

Henry said that this budget is supported mostly by a grant they have received, which they will be spending the last of this year, so any budget cut will be harmful.

Hessami said that this is voting outreach for elections in real life and the impact student voter turnout has in legislative affairs is massive.

Jo said that before the continue discussion they would like to go back and research why this cut was recommended.

Eckman asked if Hessami has a discretionary account for her position

Hessami said no, but they have the LACF but that is LAC funds.

Eckman said that if there needs to be funding moved around they could take it out of their position's discretionary account.

Jo then explained the notable changes, the biggest is student salaries, professional staff, and classified staff by 3%, a mandatory fee increase, institutional recharge (what the institution charges back to the AS for printer usage), addition of the AS Outback Summer Apprentice position, and separating the Lawn Stock budget, combined budgets, restructured areas, AS Review cut printing costs by moving to bi-weekly, club-conference fund was reduced by two thousand dollars, and the AS bookstore contribution was reduced to 0. They will not be discussing grants in terms of the operational budget, later they will discuss them separately. Ongoing grants they will discuss with the Student Senate. The recommendation is to pass a deficit of 18,236 dollars which accounts for every student position working every hour available which never happens, this is because S&A fee has a cap of 4%, and they are planning on using some of their reserves. By the end of fiscal year 20, this should not be a deficit.

Eckman asked why they trip leader funding is cut so much

Hessami said because it's a 7 day overnight training and they need to be paid for all of their time.

Eckman asked why it was cut by 26,000

Jo said that this is how much they have left from their grant which ends this year, they are not cutting funding and will discuss their funding at a later meeting. They are not cutting funding.

Romano said that the cut is in promotional items and t-shirts and a fifty dollar cut from coffee services.

Hessami asked if that takes into account the grant running out.

Romano said yes.

Jo said they are cutting t-shirts since they are not environmentally friendly as they included dates and are not able to be re-used in other years.

Henry said this is the first year they have had dates on them and they will not have dates on their shirts ever again for this reason, and Nora did not feel like she had any contribution to the budget.

Romano said she made the budget and then Romano approved it.

Jo said that each budget representative was asked to make cuts where possible and this was not a cut budget committee made, rather it was presented to the committee as is.

Eckman asked what why they are giving 3,050 dollars to employee recognition.

Jo said that at the this funds the You are a Star card, food for events and any awards for employee of the quarter.

Meijia said that this also pays for employee appreciation, like the boat last year.

Jo said that this is more fiscally responsible than when they used to spend on a banquet for employee appreciation.

Eckman said there is spending on personnel they are uncertain about.

Jo said they will look at historic spending on this.

Eckman asked about personnel training as a jump from 4,000 allocated to 13,000 allocated seems a bit high.

Hessami said this is because of combining the budget with FFXDEV. Then asked if FFXPTR was just food.

Jo said yes.

Eckman asked what they give for personnel training.

Jo said this is where some budgets were combined.

Hessami suggested adding some review to training efficacy.

Jo said they will look at fall training efficacy.

Eckman recommended they don't do the boat this year due to frivolous spending.

Meijia said the end of the year celebration helps people feel appreciated and is vital for morale and retaining employees and future recruitment for AS Staff.

Jo said that the boat trip may sound frivolous but it is actually a reduction in what is spent in past years for employee recognition.

Lee asked if the boat will have food.

Jo said yes.

Eckman brought up concerns with the AS Review Budget, as they already did a reduction from last year and since there have been a lot of changes in that office they should also look at how many they are being utilized and operating and how they could help it operate better.

Hessami said that in reserve grants they see the Wall Street Journal allocation as they didn't go through with purchasing it. And since New York Times was recommended to be cut without consultation with the university and there is discussion. This will be discussed by next year's board.

Jo said that fiscal year 19 grant was confirmed by last year's board so they cannot comment on it. This will be an action item on the 24th.

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

A. ASWWU Constitution and Coffee Cup Referendum

Hessami said both issues passed, the Constitution had 1799 yes's and 145 no's and the coffee cup referendum also passed 1636 yes's and 422 no's. This information can be found at as.wwu.edu/elections. This information will be brought up at the Board of Trustees meeting. The coffee cup referendum is an advisory vote for next year's VP of Sustainability. They will be discussing the election of next year's Executive Board.

MOTION ASB-19-S-24 by Hessami

To certify the aforementioned results

Second: Jo

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

VIII. Board Reports

Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she discussed with the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services and will be continuing the discussion concerning higher education institutes being required to purchase 2% of their goods from prisons which supports the prison industrial complex (RCW 28b.10.029). This law has been in effect since 2005. They can bring that up this at WSA. Henry said that this might have enough of a fiscal impact that it cannot be considered this year. Hessami said it would take years to lobby successfully anyway. She spoke to UPRC as to the actions of ACC and none of them knew what was happening there. The Legislature closed on April 28th, then she read from the university update "The capital budget for the new STEM building was awarded in full (16 million dollars), some of the operational budget was partially funded, design for computer design and electrical engineering buildings, and three million awarded to update outdated classrooms and labs on campus. Initiative 1000 was passed, which allows the use of Affirmative Action to remedy discrimination in public employment and education provided that policies do not use a quota system. HB 2158 passed which creates a targeted rate increase for business which depend on college-educated employees, the state need grant has been rebranded as the Washington College Grant and will be a Washington entitlement program to create a more tiered approach to award amounts. There was also some bills increasing state salary, affecting staff and faculty. This has been a very good year for higher education and students made a big difference. Thank you to Henry for living in Olympia and working more than 40 hours a week every week.

Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs stated that Lee's bangs are amazing. STF is officially done for the year, they are meeting next week to discuss the guiding policies. They had the opportunity to speak about ACC and is incredibly disgusted with the actions of the committee's actions and wanted to give a shout-out to Esther, John, Harvey, and Laura Place. There was a motion made during an end-of-meeting report, despite advisement not to do it. Eckman will be drafting language that fits both the parliamentary and legal models of speech and there will be a motion next week during ACC condemning the use of racial slurs in the classroom. Eckman talks there will be discussions about the process of bringing in speakers. Hessami asked what the consensus was concerning the elections code. Eckman said that there is an agreement that a code

cannot be followed one hundred percent of the time. Barenburg said there was wide discussion and students' perceptions and how it is being displayed in the media. Eckman said they are trying to discuss how to codify Google Docs.

Nate Jo, VP for Business and Operations stated that he will be absent next week, as they will be in Seattle for the Greater Seattle Business Association's dinner. Milkah will be bringing forward the VU Budget and Fee Recommendations which needs to go to the Board of Trustees on the 20th and asked the Board to ask about GI bathrooms in the VU budget. Jo was put on as a signatory for the Non-Profit replacing the former VP for Business and Operations. They were not granted Not for Profit Status this year.

Camilla Mejía, VP for Diversity stated that she also had discussions concerning the event "Lies Feminists Tell" with SJEC

Anne Lee, VP for Student Life state that she is working with SEJ committee and they are moving towards discussing program structure itself and they are learning about student experiences and how it effects structure. There are a lot of students unhappy with their experience working with the OS, next year they will be thinking about accessibility to the grant program and the grant program's shift to becoming a conference fund.

IX. Other Business

Meijía gave a shout out to the SAIRC who organized a decompression space for students affected by the event last night.

Lee said that ACC and it's overturning of a motion banning the use of racial slurs, and the board's discussion of writing a statement and asked what the Board felt could be their last step could be concerning this issue as far as actions and supporting the community. Then concerning the Kristen Hawkins issue, this is not the first time speakers have been brought to campus with interesting and potentially harmful politics and asked the board what they could do to take a stance without affecting free speech.

Meijía said that concerning the ACC issue, the system is working the way it is intended to and they need a radical shift in culture. If they release a statement they will just say "cool" and not do anything with it. It is constantly the students that are saying things are going wrong and that faculty is aware of the issues

Jo recognizes that the Board is doing amazing work and accomplished a great number of things, and it is exhausting work so everyone should take care of themselves.

Nate Jo, AS President, adjourned this meeting at [6:18].