



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

April 26th, 2019

VU 567

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

Absent: Millka Solomon (President), Nate Jo (VP for Business and Operations), Natasha Hessami (VP for Governmental Affairs)

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

Secretary: Astrid Dueñas (Board Assistant for Internal Committees)

Guest(s): Alberto Rodriguez-Escobedo

Motions:

ASB-19-W-15 Approval of the minutes from April 19th. *Passed.*

ASB-19-W-16 Move Board Reports before Information Items - Guest. *Passed.*

Camilla Mejía, VP for Diversity, called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION ASB-19-W-15 By Eckman
Approval of the minutes from April 19th.

Second: Monkah

Vote: 4-0-0

Action: Passed

II. Revisions to the Agenda

MOTION ASB-19-W-16 by Eckman
Move Board Reports before Information Items - Guest.

Second: Lee

Vote: 4-0-0

Action: Passed

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

IV. Information Items - Guests

A. Blue Resource Center Proposal and JDs

Alberto Rodriguez-Escobedo attended in order to present the Blue Resource Proposal and Job Descriptions. A student also added their experience in advocating for space, working with Western's administration, making sure that labor does not go unpaid and that they, undocumented students, have the resources they need.

Ama Monkah expressed positive sentiments about this proposal. She asked if hiring would begin immediately. Rodriguez-Escobedo responded that yes that is the goal. The hiring selection would more than likely start with DACA recipients, but the hope is to make sure that those positions are expanded to undocumented people.

Monkah also asked what amount of labor Blue Group would have. One of the students responded that these positions would allow for Blue Group to be separate from political activity. Currently, there is no choice in the matter, and are the ones to always respond to taskforces created by administration, which is a lot of pressure and work. Rodriguez-Escobedo noted that the position does not mean that it will take away from Blue Group, it'll simply give the club a choice on what they wish to talk about. Leti Romo added that there would be an educational position that would focus on teaching the campus and another person that could be there to respond to the administrations questions or tasks.

Anne Lee asked whether there would be a pro staff position that would help structurally and give support. One of the students responded that someone did have to fill Emmanuel Camarillo's advising role for undocumented students. Making sure that the job description includes working with undocumented students. Melinda Huskey told the student that she would set apart money to create a position that would work 50% with undocumented students. The students are envisioning this position as being able to help, give support, and be connected to administration. While students may talk to Huskey about their needs, she is not creative enough to figure out solutions and possible options for them. Huskey's proposed position could be someone that is there to provide ideas and advocate for undocumented students in those spaces.

V. Action Items - Guests

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

VII. Action Items - Board

VIII. Information Items - Board

- A. AS Food & Housing Insecurity Advisory Committee C&C
Rodriquez-Escobedo presented the AS Food & Housing Insecurity Advisory Committee Charge and Charter document.

Monkah asked if this committee would have a budget. Rodriguez-Escobedo responded that no. Leti Romo added that there is money and an operational budget for the pantry and would inform committee.

Levi Eckman commented that it is difficult for graduate students to attend committees, so suggested having a senator and a grad student.

Lee commented that the VP for Student Services could also attend this committee, so that there could be more collaboration from the Board. Could also be there if the VP for that committee is not available to attend.

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

X. Board Reports

Ama Monkah, VP for Activities stated that she had nothing to report.

Anne Lee, VP for Student Life stated that after going to conferences in Portland and Yakima, they have been relearning terms, concepts and connecting to more people at Western. Lee has also been meeting and giving information to Leonard Jones and Vicki Vanderwerf from Housing, plus has planned a check in meeting in two weeks. Natasha Hessami and Lee have been co-sponsoring the Coffee Cup Initiative. They have also been working with Mejía, Monkah, and Alberto on a workshop about how to interact with communities which they have been talking to the Western Front about.

Camilla Mejía, VP for Diversity stated that she went to a new committee, Social Justice & Equity Committee, which has equal faculty and students. The meeting was mostly about setting goals. She sits on the Diversity achievement award committee for this quarter. Her and other members of the Board toured the Multicultural Center.

Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs stated that Faculty Senate passed two resolutions impacting students. One which included race as a protected class in the Faculty Code of Ethics. This allows faculty to be punished when they commit racist acts. Faculty Senate also endorsed the Board of Director's resolution on divesting. Due to miscommunication, Eckman did not receive that week's ACC meeting time, and missed it. A resolution that could cut racism in the classroom was passed, thanks to students. However, in the meeting that Eckman did not attend, ACC decided to rescind that motion, apparently because they believed that the language was like a policy, rather than a resolution. Also, the Student Technology Fee, secured funding for 120 graphing calculators for students. The committee, which Eckman, as chair, focuses on non-traditional colleges for technology funding. Senators will be doing tabling events. Eckman will work with next year's Senate Pro Tempore on matters for next year. There was also a racist incident in CBE which Eckman offered support for the Senators who will be dealing with the issue.

XI. Other Business

Eckman reminded everyone that Elections are happening the following week and to sign up for Local Lobby Day.

Lee gave notice of the Women & Empowerment Dinner on May 16, which SOS can provide tickets if needed. The Board expressed thoughts on maybe sponsoring a table. Lee also told everyone about Dr. Castañeda's faculty interview for the Comparative Ethnic Studies position on the following Monday. Dayjha McMillan is on the hiring committee for this position and can receive questions.

Camilla Mejía, VP for Diversity, adjourned this meeting at 5:06 pm.