

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
STUDENT SENATE**

Date: April 09, 2019      Room: VU 567

**Attendees:** *Roster Attached*

**MOTIONS**

- ASWWUSS-19-S-1      *To accept the Student Senate minutes from March 11, 2019 with revisions.*
- ASWWUSS-19-S-2      *To add an Information Item to discuss the Viking Union Gallery.*
- ASWWUSS-19-S-3      *To pass the Committee on Disability Related Discrimination Charge and Charter.*
- ASWWUSS-19-S-4      *To pass the Committee on Student Democratic Participation Charge and Charter.*
- ASWWUSS-19-S-5      *To table the information item on the VU Gallery.*

***Levi Eckman, Interim Senate Pro-Tempore, called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.***

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A.** Anna Schorr requested a revision to the quote, “Schorr claimed that the Resolution was presented by the Dean of the Graduate School to the University Planning and Resources Council (UPRC), and would then be going to the Board of Trustees for funding.” Schorr stated that she was not entirely sure what had been stated, but that the Dean of the Graduate School would not be the one to present that material to those groups. Paden Koltiska made a revision to an incomplete quote in Section VII, Item A, to state that he had asked for clarification on the topic of discussion.

*MOTION ASWWUSS-19-S-1      by Koltiska*

*To accept the Student Senate minutes from March 11, 2019 with revisions.*

*Second: Barenburg      Vote: 21 – 0 – 0      Action: Passed*

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A.** Koltiska requested to add an Information Item to discuss the Viking Union Gallery.

*MOTION ASWWUSS-19-S-2      by Koltiska*

*To add an Information Item to discuss the Viking Union Gallery.*

*Second: Ballard      Vote: 21 – 0 – 0      Action: Passed*

**III. PUBLIC FORUM** *(comments from students and the community)*

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests\***

- A. Food Systems Working Group**

Risa Askertoorth from the Food Systems Working Group (FSWG) shared that she is working on reaching out to students regarding FSWG's work. Askertoorth then shared that Students for Sustainable Food made a commitment with the University in 2016 to incorporate 25% real food in its dining system by 2020. However, Askertoorth shared that WWU is currently reaching about 14% real food, and many changes have been in partnership with local businesses. Askertoorth then claimed that it is important for students to know about FSWG and these changes in the dining system since dining fees are charged with room and board. Askertoorth added that FSWG is also focused on ensuring that the dining system is using culturally appropriate foods and facilitating conversations with ESC clubs. Askertoorth invited Senators to FSWG meetings, and claimed that Shred the Contract is a separate movement from the FSWG, but FSWG is intended to exist no matter the company that WWU contracts. Ballard asked if the group was on track to make the 2020 goal of 25% real food in the dining system from the current 14%. Askertoorth responded that it's a difficult goal, and that the University is behind, but it's important to keep moving toward the goal, and more students knowing about the goal can have a stronger impact on the University. Tatum Buss asked which products FSWG was focusing on bringing into the dining hall. Askertoorth responded that they are looking for seasonal spring foods like vegetables and fruits, and using organic flour for baked goods. Nick Makrakis asked if the FSWG had looked at other colleges with the real food model. Askertoorth responded that she had not looked at other universities, but that she believed the dining services had. Koltiska asked if FSWG had collaborated with Shred the Contract. Askertoorth stated that she and other members on FSWG anticipate the club being on campus long-term, and that FSWG has not collaborated with Shred the Contract, as FSWG is focusing more on product shifts rather than a new contract for the food system. Nina Tran asked what the dining services' response was for retaining foods that have been culturally appropriated. Askertoorth responded that it is a newer conversation and that she and others from the FSWG are hoping to have a conversation with ESC clubs, but that they are also worried that they will put in the request and then Aramark won't accept the input. Adah Barenburg shared that she and Courtney Yoshiyama would be attending the FSWG meetings, and commended Askertoorth for her work. Wood asked if FSWG had looked into the labor of farmworkers. Askertoorth claimed that the Real Food standards have specific qualifications for the real food that restrict foods from companies with labor violations. Yoshiyama stated that much of the concern that she has noticed among students using the dining hall was a lack of fresh fruit, as most of the fruits are canned, and asked if substituting canned fruit with fresh fruit would help reach the 2020 goal. Askertoorth noted that most students likely prefer fresh over canned fruit, and mentioned that having more students come to meetings with requests for fresh fruit would make the requests more impactful. Askertoorth then showed the Senate an online form for submitting ideas or concerns for the dining system.

## **B. AS Elections Board**

Cora Cole stated that they are the Committee Coordinator, and they oversee the AS Elections Board, which is generally made up of 12 students who determine the outcomes of elections grievances. Cole noted that, in the past, the Elections Board has been a difficult body to fill with at-large students who do not closely know people running for office or the Committee Coordinator. Cole claimed that this makes filling the jury a difficult task and that the current system is not sustainable. However, Cole has spoken with Leti Romo, Assistant Director for Student Representation and Governance, and Eric Alexander, Associate Dean for Student Engagement and Viking Union Director, about possible solutions, and has come up with a few potential solutions. One of those solutions would be to have a College-based Elections Board in which one or two students from each College would be randomly generated and then called upon to serve on the Elections Board so that it would not be only students from the same major. Koltiska asked if it was similar to jury duty, but at the Collegiate level. Cole responded that it would be similar. Koltiska then asked what the incentive would be for students to participate. Cole stated that students would be able to opt out of serving if they did not have time, and that there is also a process for the person facing a grievance to request that specific individuals not serve on the Elections Board. Ballard asked if the system would be pulling Senators or students at-large. Cole responded that it would be students at-large. Ewald asked if undeclared students would be involved in the process if they have not declared a major. Cole responded that it would depend on the information provided by the Registrar. Barenburg asked if there would be more students from the at-large constituency since there are more At-Large Senators. Cole replied that they were not entirely sure, but that they had anticipated that all the constituencies on the AS Elections Board would be made up of two students. Cole then proposed another idea that would pull students at random from the general University population, and would not require as much technical influence as the College-based proposal. Cora added that the other option would be to leave the AS Elections Board process as it is, and work to provide incentives to students serving on the Board. Yokuda asked how the proposals were any different from the current process. Cole responded that the second proposal would be more similar to a jury-based system rather than a volunteering system through applications to the AS Elections Board, and that the third proposal would be the same as the current process, except students might be paid. Eckman expressed support for the jury-based proposals. Akelipa stated that he supported the second proposal from Cole, which would provide broader representation and engagement. Maya Noesen asked if this model for the AS Elections Board would be the same for both AS Senate and As Board elections. Cole stated that it would be ideal to use the same model for both elections. LeClair asked if jurors would be called from the College within which a Senator is running. Eckman claimed that the jury would not necessarily be from the same College as the Senator, but that the jury would be called from all Colleges which would be proportionately represented. Makrakis mentioned that it might not be a good idea to randomly generate the AS Elections Board since Senators are only elected by their constituencies and the Executive Board is elected by the at-large student body. Sarah Soulliere clarified that the

AS Elections Board would be making a decision based on a candidate's violation of code and not misrepresentation of their constituency, so College-based versus at-large representation on the AS Elections Board would likely not create issues of at-large influence on candidates only being elected by their constituency. Nicole Ballard clarified the grievances for elections can be filed against candidates who do not win. Courtney Yoshiyama asked how many grievances are usually filed during each election. Cole claimed that it depends on the election, and the number of grievances likely ranges from one to four grievances. Romo added that, in all of the elections this school year, there has been one grievance.

### **C. WWU AS Constitution**

Eckman introduced Natasha Hessami, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, and Nate Jo, AS VP for Business and Operations, to talk about the [current draft of the AS Constitution](#) and the AS restructure that has been ongoing throughout the year. Jo stated that the special election in February 2019 approved the restructuring of the AS Executive Board positions and the renaming of the "Board of Directors" to the Executive Board. Jo then stated that the initial restructure from about three years ago was intended to separate governance and day-to-day operations, and now the AS is tasked with determining how it wants to organize the governance. Hessami claimed that the restructure is currently focusing on the separation of powers and focus between the Executive Board and the Student Senate, and asked for feedback from Senators on how they view the Senate in coordination with the Executive Board. Yoshiyama asked about the difference between "academic governance" and "university governance" within the draft of the Grants and Authorities of the Student Senate as a body within the Associated Students. Hessami replied that the academic classification of the Senate is to provide direction for the body, as Senators are elected from within their Colleges, but that concerns related to dining may better fit under the purview of "university governance structures." Hessami then reiterated that the separation of powers is not intended to be exclusive to either the Board or the Senate, but that both the Board and Senate can work together to determine on which issues they wish to focus in coordination with the direction of the bodies. Jo added that the grants and authorities are not intended to be limiting language for the bodies, but that the College focus of the Senators' positions was included because the Senators have a closer connection to their constituencies. Hessami asked the Senate for feedback on the different focus of the Board on "external government agencies" and the Senate on "academic shared governance." Koltiska asked what the meaning of "external government agencies" was. Hessami clarified that it was the City of Bellingham, the State of Washington, the federal government, Washington Student Association, etc. Eckman asked about the difference between University governance and University administrative governance. Jo responded that university administrative governance would include the Board of Trustees and the bureaucratic layers to the University. However, Jo stated that university governance structures was intended to mean entities such as the President's Cabinet, the Board of Trustees, and other bodies that oversee the whole University, but that university

governance structures have a lot of overlap, so that language has been included in the descriptions of the Senate and the Board. Hessami reiterated that the restructure was intended to lift up the Senate to be equal with the Executive Board, but that the logistics of having one versus two AS representatives on committees/University bodies must be taken into account, as the AS President is representative of all students and they are elected to do that. Jo then stated that the Executive Board would not have control over the Senate, but it would serve as the face of the Associated Students. Eckman asked if the draft of the Constitution had been shared with the President's Cabinet. Hessami stated that she and Jo have a meeting scheduled with Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services. Buss stated that she did not believe that the Senate Pro-Tempore should sit on the Board of Trustees because there is a Student Trustee that serves on that Board. Schorr clarified that the Student Trustee position is volunteer and is not compensated. Koltiska stated that he believed the Senate should focus on academics. Yokuda added that she agreed with Koltiska and that the Senate should focus on internal affairs and those concerns and issues related to each College. Noesen then asked which body would be dealing with the internal affairs of the AS, since it was not clearly laid out within the document. Hessami responded that both the Board and the Senate should govern the internal affairs of the AS with consideration for specific committees and bodies that will fall under one or the other. Jo added that both bodies will look after the internal affairs of the AS, but there will ultimately be a restructuring of the day-to-day operations since employees being capped at 19 hours per week limits the sustainability of efficient functioning. Ewald added that it is important to keep in mind the separation of powers, because if Senators are the ones primarily interacting with students, it may create a disassociation with the Executive Board. Hessami claimed that she did not think that would happen given the day-to-day operations of the Executive Board and the number of students with which they commonly interact. Jo added that the Executive Board is focused on University governance, but it's ultimately serving as a liaison of the students to the University governance. Noesen asked where the Charge and Charter of each committee would be housed. Jo stated that they are working on passing a policy to change the timeline for updating the Charge and Charter of each committee and determining whether it belongs to the Executive or the Senate or both, and added that both the Executive Board and the Senate will have the ability "to sit on and appoint students representatives on standing and ad hoc University, academic, and Associated Student committees, and other bodies upon request." Hensyel clarified that the structure seemed to be creating a macro- versus micro-approach to academic shared governance, and they are both equally as important. Hessami stated that the main difference between the bodies will be the Executive's focus on external government agencies and the Senate's focus on academic shared governance. Barenburg noted that Senators have fewer permitted hours to work than do Executive Board members, and Senators are elected later than are Executive members, and this should be kept in mind for determining each Charge and Charter. Koltiska asked about the process of budget approval for the AS. Jo stated that the budget process will be

changing next year, and the discussion is ongoing, though Jo believed that an S&A Committee model would likely work well in which proposals would be made and brought to a central committee comprised of Executive Board members and Senators. Hessami added that it was still uncertain and asked if any Senators had thoughts on the budget. Hessami then encouraged Senators to stop by office hours if they have questions, and claimed that the Constitution will be voted on in the ballot of the next election. However, Hessami noted that the by-laws of the AS are easier to change with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote within the AS, and the specifics can be included within the by-laws. Embly asked how these changes would be communicated to the student body. Hessami stated that she would be writing a summary of what students are voting on, but that the unfortunate reality is that not many students vote or read the documents. Embly asked if the Constitution would be included within the ballot to make it easier for students to access the information. Hessami stated that a link to the Constitution and a summary of it would be available on the ballot. Eckman reminded the Senate that the Constitution would be coming back as an Action Item at the next Student Senate meeting, and asked Senators to provide as much feedback as possible to the Structural Review Committee.

#### V. ACTION ITEMS – Guests\*

#### VI. PERSONNEL ITEMS *(subject to immediate action)*

#### VII. ACTION ITEMS – Senate\*

##### A. Proposed Subcommittee to Address Disability Discrimination

LeClair shared that they had already brought the idea of a subcommittee to address disability discrimination as an Information Item, and stated that they had spoken with individuals from SAIRC who are also willing to collaborate. LeClair shared the [Committee on Disability Related Discrimination Charge and Charter](#) that they made. LeClair then encouraged Senators to reach out to them if they wished to participate. Noesen asked what the timeline for the committee nominations for membership would be. LeClair stated that they wanted to begin meeting as soon as possible, but that they would need to wait until the next Student Senate meeting to make these nominations.

##### B. Committee for Student Democratic Participation

Akelipa read the [Charge and Charter of the CSDP](#) to the Senate. He added that the Senate had requested that the CBE Senators add the AS Committees Coordinator and nominate a chair and vice-chair. Yoshiyama asked how Cora Cole's position is incorporated within the committee. Makrakis claimed that Cole's position was added to the committee as a member. Yokuda stated that the CSE Senators are trying to determine how more students can become involved in College committees, and asked if the CSDP could help facilitate that. Akelipa responded that the body is primarily intended for information-sharing, and that it could possibly help facilitate involvement at the College level. Yokuda asked if the committee was intended to do the same thing as the Student Senate. Akelipa stated that it was for sharing methods of successful

student representation within College and University committees. Makrakis added that the time constraint of the Student Senate meetings did not permit the same level of dissection of University and College committee structures. Romo then clarified that the CSDP would report back to the Student Senate. Eckman verified that it would according to the Charge and Charter.

*MOTION ASWWUSS-19-W-3* by LeClair

To pass the Committee on Disability Related Discrimination Charge and Charter.

*Second:* Hensyel

*Vote:* 20 – 0 – 1

*Action:* Passed

*MOTION ASWWUSS-19-W-4* by Ballard

To pass the Committee on Student Democratic Participation Charge and Charter.

*Second:* Koltiska

*Vote:* 19 – 0 – 2

*Action:* Passed

## **VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS – Senate\***

### **A. VU Gallery**

Koltiska motioned to table the Information Item on the VU Gallery (MOTION ASWWUSS-19-S-5).

*MOTION ASWWUSS-19-S-5* by Koltiska

To table the information item on the VU Gallery.

*Second:* Wood

*Vote:* 21 – 0 – 0

*Action:* Passed

## **IX. CONSENT ITEMS** (*subject to immediate action*)

## **X. BOARD REPORTS**

### **Levi Eckman, Interim Senate Pro-Tempore**

Eckman stated that the Faculty Senate meeting from April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 discussed the use of racial slurs in the classroom, which Eckman will speak with each Senator about during one-on-ones over the next two weeks. Eckman then added that the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) executive meeting will be taking a proactive approach to student concerns on campus. Eckman highlighted that a Senators' tabling event and a bonding event that will be planned in the near future. Eckman then added that Rich Brown, the UFWW President, will be coming to the Executive Board meeting on Friday, and Eckman invited Senators to come to the meeting to ask questions.

### **At-Large**

Ballard had nothing to report. Yoshiyama claimed that the Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE) has been focusing on modifying the GUR core competencies. Barenburg mentioned that she and Yoshiyama had been meeting with people about dining concerns.

### **College of Business and Economics**

Akelipa reported that the CBE has recently passed a Multicultural Business Scholars Association, which is a club for students of color in CBE. Akelipa noted ACC's discussion of temporary courses and topics classes, and asked Senators for input on how these classes are typically offered in various Colleges.

### **College of Fine and Performing Arts**

Ewald reported that she had a conversation with a constituent and that she and Koltiska had a meeting with some of the Art and Art History faculty and that the faculty said they were excited about the Student Senate and student input. Koltiska added that he sits on the AS Wage Task Force, which is considering how it wants to go about remodeling wages within the AS. Koltiska added that he will be talking about the VU Gallery at the next meeting.

### **College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

LeClair reported that they have a meeting with Dean Paqui Paredes tomorrow morning, and that they will be holding a CHSS forum soon since the two previous forums they had scheduled needed to be canceled due to weather.

### **College of Science and Engineering**

Tran had nothing to report. Yokuda reported that she and Tran sit on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, and they are focusing on concerns of time commitment, which is kind of unique to people in STEM majors.

### **Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies**

Fairhaven had nothing to report.

### **Graduate School**

Schorr reported that registration for Scholars Week closes on April 19, 2019, and added that she and Hensyel are still working on finding DEI training for graduate students and progressing TA compensation.

### **Huxley College of the Environment**

Noesen reported that the Discrimination and Complaint Procedure (DCP) has enough Senators, but Noesen is waiting for students at-large to also sit on the DCP committee before moving forward. Embly brought up Students for Renewable Energy (SRE), and stated that the top two considerations for the commonwealth of the WWU endowment are both ideal for SRE.

### **Woodring College of Education**

Wood reported that Chan has been appointed as Hudson Fox's replacement, but that she and Chan are both Human Services majors, whereas Fox was also an Education major, so she and Chan will be working on finding ways to represent Education students. Wood added that she and Chan will be having office hours in the Miller Hall Collaborative Space every other Monday from 10:00-11:00 AM.

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A.** Noesen stated that she had been speaking with Cole about adding the DCP to the Senate website, and asked if Senators approved of all committees being added to the website. Senators responded positively. Ballard added that it would be helpful for Senators to volunteer to work at elections polling tables on campus. McMillan asked about restrictions on a shared Facebook page to connect with folks online. Eckman responded that social media would be fine, but to go through the AS publicity center. Romo reminded the Senate that the Native American Student Union Pow Wow was this weekend, and the Minority Employee Council is hosting a lunch this Thursday with the Ethnic Student Center from 12:00-1:00 PM in the ESC.



**The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:44 PM.**

VOTING ATTENDEES				Senate Pro-Tempore		
Student Senators				21	Levi Eckman, AS VP for Academic Affairs	P
1	Nicole Ballard	<i>At-Large</i>	P	<b>NON-VOTING ATTENDEES</b>		
2	Adah Barenburg	<i>At-Large</i>	P	<b>Advisory</b>		
3	Tatum Buss	<i>At-Large</i>	P	22	Leti Romo, AS Assistant Director for Student Representation and Governance	
4	Courtney Yoshiyama	<i>At-Large</i>	P	<b>Recorder</b>		
5	Jona Akelipa	<i>College of Business and Economics</i>	P	23	Juliet Knowles, AS Board Assistant for Academic Shared Governance	
6	Nicholas Makrakis	<i>College of Business and Economics</i>	P	<b>Guests</b>		
7	Ruth Ewald	<i>College of Fine and Performing Arts</i>	P	24	Risa Askertooh, Food Systems Working Group	
8	Paden Koltiska	<i>College of Fine and Performing Arts</i>	P	25	Brooklin Pigg, AS Review	
9	Luke LeClair	<i>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	P	26	Nate Jo, AS VP for Business and Operations	
10	Laura Meerdink	<i>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	P	27	Natasha Hessami, AS VP for Governmental Affairs	
11	Nina-Tuyen Tran	<i>College of Science and Engineering</i>	P			
12	Kelly Yokuda	<i>College of Science and Engineering</i>	P			
13	Dayjha McMillan	<i>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	P			
14	Sarah Soulliere	<i>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	P			
15	Phillip Hensyel	<i>Graduate School</i>	P			
16	Anna Schorr	<i>Graduate School</i>	P			
17	Riley Embly	<i>Huxley College of the Environment</i>	P			
18	Maya Noesen	<i>Huxley College of the Environment</i>	P			
19	Natalie Chan	<i>Woodring College of Education</i>	P			<b>Voting attendees</b> 21
20	Nicole Wood	<i>Woodring College of Education</i>	P			<b>Non-voting attendees</b> 6
<b>Voting members in attendance</b>				21		<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b> 27

<b>MOTION ASWWUSS-19-W-3</b>		
Nicole Ballard	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Adah Barenburg	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Tatum Buss	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Courtney Yoshiyama	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Jona Akelipa	<i>College of Business and Economics</i>	Y
Nicholas Makrakis	<i>College of Business and Economics</i>	Y
Ruth Ewald	<i>College of Fine and Performing Arts</i>	Y
Paden Koltiska	<i>College of Fine and Performing Arts</i>	Y
Luke LeClair	<i>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	Y
Laura Meerdink	<i>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	Y
Nina-Tuyen Tran	<i>College of Science and Engineering</i>	Y
Kelly Yokuda	<i>College of Science and Engineering</i>	Y

Dayjha McMillan	<i>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	Y
Sarah Soulliere	<i>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	Y
Phillip Hensyel	<i>Graduate School</i>	Y
Anna Campbell Schorr	<i>Graduate School</i>	Y
Riley Embly	<i>Huxley College of the Environment</i>	Y
Maya Noesen	<i>Huxley College of the Environment</i>	Y
Natalie Chan	<i>Woodring College of Education</i>	Y
Nicole Wood	<i>Woodring College of Education</i>	Y
Levi Eckman	<i>AS Student Senate Interim Senate Pro-Tempore</i>	Abstain

<b>MOTION ASWWUSS-19-W-4</b>		
Nicole Ballard	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Adah Barenburg	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Tatum Buss	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Courtney Yoshiyama	<i>At-Large</i>	Y
Jona Akelipa	<i>College of Business and Economics</i>	Y
Nicholas Makrakis	<i>College of Business and Economics</i>	Y
Ruth Ewald	<i>College of Fine and Performing Arts</i>	Y
Paden Koltiska	<i>College of Fine and Performing Arts</i>	Y
Luke LeClair	<i>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	Y
Laura Meerdink	<i>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	Y
Nina-Tuyen Tran	<i>College of Science and Engineering</i>	Y
Kelly Yokuda	<i>College of Science and Engineering</i>	Abstain
Dayjha McMillan	<i>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	Y
Sarah Soulliere	<i>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	Y
Phillip Hensyel	<i>Graduate School</i>	Y
Anna Campbell Schorr	<i>Graduate School</i>	Y
Riley Embly	<i>Huxley College of the Environment</i>	Y
Maya Noesen	<i>Huxley College of the Environment</i>	Y
Natalie Chan	<i>Woodring College of Education</i>	Y
Nicole Wood	<i>Woodring College of Education</i>	Y
Levi Eckman	<i>AS Student Senate Interim Senate Pro-Tempore</i>	Abstain