

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
STUDENT SENATE**

Date: April 23, 2019      Room: VU 567

**Attendees:** *Roster Attached*

**MOTIONS**

- ASWWUSS-19-S-6      *To approve the minutes from the April 09, 2019 meeting.*  
ASWWUSS-19-S-7      *To accept the draft of the ASWWU Constitution and send it to the student body for a vote.*

*Levi Eckman, Interim Senate Pro-Tempore, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A.** Nicole Ballard motioned to approve the minutes from the April 09, 2019 Student Senate meeting. Paden Koltiska seconded the motion.

*MOTION ASWWUSS-19-S-6      by Ballard  
To approve the minutes from the April 09, 2019 meeting.  
Second: Koltiska      Vote: 17 – 0 – 0      Action: Passed*

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests\***

**V. ACTION ITEMS – Guests\***

**A. ASWWU Constitution**

Natasha Hessami, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, shared the [draft of the AS Constitution](#) that was passed by the Executive Board on Friday, April 19, 2019. Hessami noted a revision that highlighted the importance of informing students on the proceedings of the AS. Nate Jo, AS VP for Business and Operations, stated that the AS Student Senate was given the power to issue a referendum, and language was added to prevent revisions of the election code during an election. Hessami then discussed the different powers and granted authorities of the AS Student Senate and the AS Executive Board within the document. Jo claimed that the language of the purview of each branch was assigned according to the [University's administrative organizational chart](#), and the Senate has been tasked with University governance structures related to academic affairs, falling under Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Brent Carbajal, as well as other university governance structures, as appropriate. Hessami then reiterated that neither body is limited in the issues it can discuss, but their focus will be as indicated within the draft. Yoshiyama asked if the Senate only has the right to sit on committees of an academic nature within the mandate of Article VI, Section C, subsection 3. Jo responded that the powers and granted authorities of the Student Senate is primarily focused on academic affairs, but that it would still be

very possible for Senators to sit on committees within other University governance structures. Hessami added that it will be up to both bodies to coordinate with the other to determine which body will oversee which concerns. Yoshiyama then asked if the Vice-Chair of the Senate should be included in the Constitution. Hessami and Eckman responded that the Vice-Chair is included in the By-Laws, which do not need to be approved by the entire student body. Hessami added that if the Constitution was passed by the Senate, it would be going on the ballot for the upcoming spring election. Koltiska motioned to accept the draft of the ASWWU Constitution. Buss seconded.

*MOTION ASWWUSS-19-W-7* by Koltiska

To accept the draft of the ASWWU Constitution and send it to the student body for a vote.

*Second:* Buss

*Vote:* 16 – 0 – 1

*Action:* Passed

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

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS – Senate\***

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

### **A. Legacy Documents**

Eckman explained what information the Senators would need to include their legacy documents for next year's Senators. Dayjha McMillan asked if the documents that Senators would be attaching needed to be electronic. Eckman responded that they would need to be so that the documents are available on the network for years to come.

### **B. Title IX Resolution**

Barenburg shared that the Senators received an email from someone at the University of Florida who is trying to get support from students at other Universities for a [resolution](#) in opposition to the recent actions taken by the US Department of Education in regards to the Title IX policy. Wood added that the changes will affect how Universities will handle cases of sexual harassment and noted the re-traumatizing aspects of a cross examination with both the survivor and the perpetrator in the same room, and the push for Universities to investigate fewer cases. Barenburg claimed that it was requested that the sender had requested Senators include data from WWU related to Title IX data. Embly asked what kind of information the sender was requesting. Wood stated that the document is a general template, and that the Senators would need to fill in data that focuses on WWU and the region. Embly asked if there was a concern of any data possibly being misconstrued. Wood said that was something the Senate would need to be cognizant of, and would need to seek out the most accurate data. McMillan asked if it would be possible to note that the information included was only what was reported, and that many cases are not reported. Wood stated that it would be a very good idea to include that. Nina-Tuyen Tran added that all public Universities are required to report all Title IX cases, and that the numbers reported are very small. Wood responded that the document is mainly intended to critique the changed that were

proposed within the Department of Education, but there is no restriction on adding more information that would be reflective of WWU. Yoshiyama asked if the sender shared where this information would go. Wood responded that she received the email from someone at WWU, but that there is an online forum that reflects this information from many Universities. Wood reiterated that she was not sure where the information would go. Barenburg stated that she received the email from the Title IX Coordinator at the University of Florida, and that she believed that the information would be compiled with data from other Universities or all of the reports would be put together and presented to someone to show opposition. Tran asked if the document was sent to the Executive Board. Barenburg responded that the email was sent to all Senators. Wood claimed that she did not notice the email from the person from the University of Florida, but received it from an official at WWU. Embly claimed that taking action on the Resolution would likely be a good course of action for having a backdrop on further action should the Education Department's proposal go into action. Yokuda claimed that it came from an interesting email address. McMillan claimed that they have worked for organizations and campaigns that make a separate email for communicating with others. Wood responded that the Slack page also reflects that many Universities have joined on this campaign. Barenburg stated that Joel Pratt is the real Title IX Coordinator at the University of Florida. Tran reiterated McMillan's statement that it would be important to note that WWU does not support or advance our Title IX policy, because it is important that the public understands that WWU struggles with effectively enforcing these policies. Koltiska asked if it would be possible to add a clause that claims that the Senate believes that the Title IX policy at WWU should also be enhanced. Wood said that it would be up to the Senate.

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

#### **X. BOARD REPORTS**

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

Eckman reported that the resolution passed at the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) read, "The Academic Coordinating Commission, whose purview comprises all aspects related the academic enterprise of the University, resolves and affirms that it is unacceptable for Western Washington University faculty to say the N-word racial slur in the classroom." Eckman added that the resolution would not have passed if all three voting students had not been present at the meeting, as the vote was 4-3-2, for-against-abstaining and all students for. Eckman stated that the wording of the resolution was of concern for some faculty members because it would indicate a policy change in the University, which would change the collective-bargaining agreement and would likely lead to the Faculty Senate rejecting the minutes from the ACC meeting because of this policy change. Eckman added that the Faculty Senate endorsed the Students for Renewable Energy resolution that the Senate and Executive Board passed, and that Craig Dunn, a CBE professor, commended all AS officials for their work. Eckman stated that the Faculty Senate made a few revisions to its

Resolutions, which is not as direct as the ACC resolution, but it will add the word 'racism' to the faculty's Code of Ethics. Eckman reiterated that the AS Elections are going on, and encouraged Senators to attend the candidate forums and promote students to vote.

### **At-Large**

Ballard reported that the ACC passed a statement regarding the commission's disapproval of the use of racial slurs in the classroom. Buss added that the AS Budget Committee was finalizing recommendations for the Executive Board and the Senate. Yoshiyama claimed that the Academic Technology Committee met last week and reviewed 11 proposals regarding technology requests by each College and students. Barenburg stated that she and Yoshiyama toured the Ridge Dining Hall with Aramark and talked about how Aramark addresses extreme allergies. Barenburg added that CUE has continued looking over diagrams for changing the core competencies, and that she attended the IT Advisory Committee is looking at a new program to replace MyWestern because it is outdated.

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

Akelipa reported that a Professor Emeritus sent out a very problematic email attacking undocumented students to many people in the College, and that their conversations with Dean Young were not entirely inspiring in how things may be addressed in the future. Akelipa talked about how he and Makrakis discussed the use of racial slurs in the classroom at the CBE Policy Council, but they received some pushback from professors. Makrakis talked about how a collective of womxn of color from the CBE will be attending the Wonder Women Tech Conference in Washington, D.C., for a technology conference, but they still need to raise money to attend, and Makrakis and Akelipa encouraged Senators to talk about it in their committees if possible.

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

Koltiska reported that Ruth Ewald is studying abroad for Spring Quarter, and he and Ewald had a Meet Your Senator event and were able to talk to students about their concerns with moving to the WIN website. Koltiska stated that they also talked about the VU Gallery, which was an important space for CFPA students before it went out of commission during the construction of the MCC. Koltiska was told, though, that the VU Gallery will be coming back when the MCC opens. Koltiska then added that Senators should be cognizant of the information they are including as an Information Items vs. Board Report, since Board Reports are more conducive to discussion and input from each Senator.

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

Laura Meerdink reported that the CHSS Senators have their Student Forum coming up next week on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Meerdink added that she and LeClair are continuing to work with Dean Paredes Méndez, who has a lot of ideas about committees that the Senators might be able to sit on within the College.

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

Tran reported that she and Yokuda are working on trying to finalize their Dean's Student Advisory Group, which Tran and Yokuda will write their positions into, and they are looking at ways to compensate students who sit on this advisory group. Yokuda added that the Student Advisory Group came up before the Senate was established, and it arose as a response the students' frustration with the College's

responsiveness to DEI concerns and they will begin writing a Charge and Charter soon. Yokuda added that she has been speaking with the Chair of the Chemistry Department about student evaluations and how those go into evaluations for TT/NTT promotions, and the frustration students have had with lacking feedback from professors.

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

McMillan reported that they sat on the Senate Extended Education Committee (SEEC), and they want to bring an extension student to sit on the Student Senate, and McMillan added that they invited members of the committee to a Student Senate meeting to present this idea and offer how it would be funded. Fairhaven Senators asked the Senate what they thought about this. Eckman mentioned that an Extended Education subcommittee may be a more conducive model due to the time commitment. McMillan added that they and Soulliere asked Fairhaven faculty and staff why the Student Senators have no voting powers on any of the committees they sit on within the College, and they are now working on rewriting the Fairhaven by-laws. McMillan added that they are also working on updating the budgets and the mission statement of the College. McMillan added that the Senators created a Fairhaven Instagram page, called @yourfavhavensensors, and that they and Soulliere go Live on Instagram every Wednesday during their office hours. McMillan also talked to Dean Herring about establishing a student emergency fund for Fairhaven students to access when they are in financial trouble (paying rent, buying food, etc.) McMillan stated that Soulliere has been working on gender-neutral bathrooms, and plans to look into how the Viking Union established its gender-neutral bathrooms. Makrakis asked McMillan about the SEEC request to add an Extended Education student to the Senate. McMillan said that SEEC had a student in mind from the Everett campus. Eckman added that Everett is not the only extended campus that WWU has, and although it would be great to have that representation, this would bring up a funding issue, as the current Senators do not have secured funding for their positions. McMillan shared that there are a lot of Colleges on campus that finish off the year in the red, and that Senators should keep an eye on programs that may be cut within Colleges. Noesen added this may get the University more money from the state.

### **Graduate School**

Hensyel reported that he and Anna Schorr are finishing up their work with asking for more money for graduate students and DEI training for GAs and TAs.

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

Noesen reported that there has been concern about what the Interdisciplinary Science Building would be used for, and that nobody seems certain about what will be going on in the new building. Yokuda stated that she didn't believe that funding had been secured for that building, so a lot was up in the air, even according to Dean Johnson of the CSE. Ballard added that there was a strong pull toward getting the funding from the building according to Henry Pollet, AS Legislative Liaison. Eckman claimed that nothing has been finalized, and that if people are looking for this information, they should email Brent Carbajal.

### **Woodring College of Education**

Wood reported that the Woodring Senators made a Facebook page.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

*The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 7:20.*

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

MOTION ASWWUSS-19-S-7		
Nicole Ballard	At-Large	Y
Adah Barenburg	At-Large	Y
Tatum Buss	At-Large	Y
Courtney Yoshiyama	At-Large	Y
Jona Akelipa	College of Business and Economics	Y
Nicholas Makrakis	College of Business and Economics	Y
Ruth Ewald	College of Fine and Performing Arts	--
Paden Koltiska	College of Fine and Performing Arts	Y
Luke LeClair	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	--
Laura Meerdink	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Y
Nina-Tuyen Tran	College of Science and Engineering	Y
Kelly Yokuda	College of Science and Engineering	Y
Dayjha McMillan	Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies	Y

Sarah Soulliere	<i>Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies</i>	--
Phillip Hensyel	<i>Graduate School</i>	Y
Anna Campbell Schorr	<i>Graduate School</i>	--
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