



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Executive Board

5-31-19

VU 567

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

Absent: Anne Lee (VP for Student Life)

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

Secretary: Travis Felver

Guest(s): Darcy Allen (CHW Committee), Janet McLeod (CHW Committee), Cindy Monger (DOS), Tyler Andrews (Business Office/SEF), Alicia Prokopenko (OCTL), Jonathan Cooper (WMTC), Stephen Magnuson (Outdoor Center)

Motions:

- ASB-19-S-42** Approval of the meeting minutes from May 10th 2019, and May 17th 2019 with edits. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-43** Approval of revisions to the agenda **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-44** Approval of the AS Reserves Policy & SEF document. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-45** Approval of the grant for the Outdoor Center Trip Leader Training. **Failed**
- ASB-19-S-46** Approval of a five-minute recess. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-47** Approval of \$9000 for OC Trip Leader training in addition to carrying forward any funds remaining in the current grant. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-48** Approval of the AS Student Senate Pro-Tempore job description with edits. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-49** Approval of the AS Wage Policy and all AS Position Wage Levels. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-50** Approval of AS Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-51** Approval of the increase in the Health Services Fee. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-52** Approval of the change in clause b of the Elections Code. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-53** Approval the SAIRC Library and Archival Coordinator job description and funding needed. **Passed**
- ASB-19-S-54** Approval the allocations of the Student Technology Fee. **Passed**

Nate Jo, ASVP for Business and Operations, called the meeting to order at 4:35.

I. Approval of Minutes

Nate Jo noted that no minutes were passed during the May 17th meeting.

MOTION ASB-19-S-42 By Nate Jo

To approve the meeting minutes from May 10th 2019, and May 17th 2019 with edits.

Second: Hessami

Vote: 4-0-1

Action: Passed

Yes: Eckman, Mejía, Hessami, Jo

No:

Abstaining: Monkah:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

Eckman adds Student and Technology Fee to Action Items (Board) and removes AS Resolutions from Action Items – Board

Mejía adds SAIRC Coordinator Grant Proposal

Hessami adds AS Election Code to Action Items (Board)

MOTION ASB-19-S-43 by Hessami

To approve revisions to the agenda

Second: Monkah

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

III. Information Items – Guests

A. Mental Health Committee

A representative presented their proposal to create a Mental Health council to address disparities in support for students with mental health concerns.

Hessami recommended removing names from the positions in order to allow the document to carry over through year and to change all occurrences of “Board of Directors” to “Executive Board”

The representative said they would rather this be part of the AS.

Monkah asked if the chair has to be AS affiliated

Jo said that if it is AS affiliated the chair needs to be an AS employee. The idea of this is great to promote mental health but the AS might not be the right place for it due to the bureaucracy and specific intent of AS committees

Mejía suggested adding a member from Disability Outreach Center and having a student as the chair

Barenburg said that they should speak to Jasmine and potentially add a grad student to the council.

Hessami asked what benefits they see with the group being an official AS committee

The representative said this would institutionalize the committee, and they are amenable to moving to other places.

Jo said that AS committees serve a specific function in the AS (such as budget committee) and that by being

Eckman encouraged them to speak to others to tie in to other departments, and that by being a committee they would be able to receive funding.

Jo asked if they would be using or allocating funding in the future

The representative said that they would definitely be using funding to put on campus events.

Monkah said that since they only have one meeting next week and there are a lot of changes that need to be made, if they want to get this approved this year or wait.

The representative said they would rather get it approved now so it can be solidified this year.

Hessami said that this would work better as a Task Force and would sit better in Peer and Wellness Services.

Jo said that these programs should be funded by the Health and Wellness services.

Eckman said this could be a shared operation because Health and Wellness Services is not as well funded as they'd like.

Monkah asked if they have gone through Peer Health Services yet.

The representative said they have not, since the program does not look like a viable way to go.

Romo said they need to be very careful thinking about what they are asking for, and they could go through SEJ as a pilot program to be more certain about what they need, as the committee structure might not be the best route.

B. Elections Code Grievances

Bennet discussed the grievances put out against Board members concerning the Election Code. They have decided that the Election Board only has jurisdiction

Eckman asked if they could read off what grievances were filed and which ones were found guilty. Eckman asked if the meetings were finished and verdicts being delivered.

Bennet said yes, there were over twenty grievances filed, and four against board members. The meetings are finished and they are primarily about section 3.4.c. The verdicts are sent out and recommendations are out. The Executive Board have to decide among themselves how to hold the Executive Board accountable

Mejía asked if they are able to contribute to the decision of how they are affected

Bennet said that is up to the Executive Board, as the Elections Committee decided they only have jurisdiction over candidates

Solomon said they did make a decision about a Board member, Anne Lee and asked why that was separate from the rest.

Bennet said they decided that Anne Lee violated the code because in the hearings against the candidates the sentencing was contingent on finding Anne Lee in violation.

Eckman said he disagrees that the Board should be the ones to take punitive actions, and the Elections Board should be able to decide in an objective manner.

Bennet said he will have the conversation with his advisor.

Jo advises that no action be taken at this time because it would be unjust for the board to decide their own punishments and this situation highlights a need for the process to be evaluated.

Romo said it is the Elections Board's responsibility to see their jurisdiction, so they cannot be held up to deciding the punitive actions taken against Board members.

Eckman said that the three people should not have been able to be punished since their violations was contingent on Anne Lee's violation.

Romo said that Lee's violation is agreed on, so they could take punitive action against the candidates since that is separate from taking punitive action on Board members.

Jo said any punishment taken at this point would be negligible since there is only one meeting left and it is a structural flaw for the Board to be able to decide the punishments that the Board could receive and suggested that no action be taken at this time. Solomon agreed.

Romo clarified that all grievances are public knowledge and that some filed grievances against themselves.

Mejía said that they could have the Senate decide as the other leadership body for the Student Government

Eckman said that they could move this into next Tuesday's meeting.

Solomon said that if this moves to the senate they should ensure that this is covered in a bit more detail for the future to ensure

IV. Action Items – Guests

A. AS Reserves Policy & SEF

Jo stated that there were no revisions to the presented policy.

MOTION ASB-19-S-44 by Jo

To approve the AS Reserves Policy & SEF document.

Second: Solomon

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

B. OC Trip Leader Training Grant

Emily, a current trip leader, shared her story of participation in the trainings offered by the outdoor center. These trainings developed technical skills and promoted unity through the team, allowing people who did not have outdoor opportunities to work with and in the Outdoor Center.

Magnuson shared how he has been researching how other colleges approach these problems and found that all suffer from the problems that this program addresses. They are working on ways to adjust the program to account for racial and ethnic diversity as well.

Hessami asked how this knowledge is going to be passed on to new Excursion Coordinator

Magnuson that this is being built into the structure of the Outdoor Center. Emily added they are building it into the legacy documents and there will be shared meetings during the internship period of the new hires.

Solomon asked if they have applied for grants outside the university.

Magnuson they have, though there has been significant obstacles in the process.

Jo recommended that they rollover the remaining and award seventy-nine thousand dollars for 3 years. This was operational this year because of the minimum wage increase presenting budget concerns which will stabilize over the next three years.

MOTION ASB-19-S-45 by Jo

To approve the grant for the Outdoor Center Trip Leader Training.

Second: Hessami

Vote: 3-0-3

Action: Failed

*Yes: Jo, Monkah,
Hessami*

No:

*Abstaining: Eckman,
Mejía, Solomon*

MOTION ASB-19-S-46 by Solomon

To approve a five-minute recess.

Second: Hessami

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Mejía said that this does not feel like it's serving all students at Western.

Eckman said that they did not fill the entire Senate Grant to cause them to be more incentivized to find sustainable funding and that by cutting down the Outdoor Center's funding it would have the same effect.

Jo said they can only recruit the students that are in Western which is primarily white, so it would be a mistake not to fund the program because it would be a step back in terms of diversity and equity.

Solomon said that it does not seem like the plan to increase diversity is formed enough to ensure continuation throughout the years.

Mejía said that the trainings that they had were not enough and they need a multiple trainings throughout the year including gender diversity, racial diversity, and disability awareness to show that they are putting a priority on diversity.

Hessami said their outreach has been really minimal, and they need more targeted advertisements for recruitment of diverse excursion leaders. She has faith that efforts will be made, but more pressure should be applied.

Eckman said he would be comfortable making it a 4 year grant (funding it for one more year than currently) and letting next year's executive board to be more engaged in the process to ensure these diversity efforts happen well.

Monkah said that they were amenable to one more year to ensure the process goes well.

Jo said this would also give them a chance to slowly operationalize OC trip leader trainings

Magnuson asked what the benchmark is that they need to hit to prove the emphasis on diversity with workshops and hiring practices.

Eckman said that by collecting data from each quarter would allow them to compartmentalize the data.

Solomon said that next year it will be the new Executive Board's opinion and likely they will be willing to work with them to set what a better outcome would be.

Jo said they should not put a benchmark on staff diversity as that would likely lead to tokenization.

Eckman said that there doesn't need to be benchmarks here, but there needs to be informational and tangible data points to show for next year.

MOTION ASB-19-S-47 by Jo

To approve \$9000 for OC Trip Leader training in addition to carrying forward any funds remaining in the current grant.

Second: Monkah

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

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

A. AS Student Senate Pro-Tempore Job Description

Eckman presented the document, to make next year's Pro Tempore more in line with other Executive Board decision by having them start two weeks after commencement and working in Summer Quarter while removing their summer planning hours.

Monkah asked how they are picking appointments for committees.

Eckman said it is an in-depth process

Jo said that the wage needs to be changes to hourly and Board of Directors needs to be changed to Executive Board.

MOTION ASB-19-S-48 by Eckman

To approve the AS Student Senate Pro-Tempore job description with edits.

Second: Mejia

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

VI. Action Items – Board

A. AS Wage Policy

Jo presented the final version of the wage policy that was passed last meeting with some minor mistakes amended.

Eckman brought up the issue with Pro Tempore having less hours available than the Executive Board President which would represent a disparity of pay.

Jo said that it should be possible to extend the exemption, though they may have old information so they will look into ways to extend Senate Pro Tempore's hours to 25 hours per week.

MOTION ASB-19-S-49 by Jo

To approve the AS Wage Policy and all AS Position Wage Levels.

Second: Eckman Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

B. AS FY20 Budget Recommendations

Jo explained that an additional \$35,000 had been added to the deficit due to paying employees more under the new Wage Policy. While an actual deficit at the end of the fiscal year 202 is unlikely, the reserves are healthy enough to handle any deficit.

MOTION ASB-19-S-50 by Jo

To approve AS Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget

Second: Hessami Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

C. Health Services Fee Proposal

There were no outstanding questions or comments from the Board

MOTION ASB-19-S-51 by Hessami

To approve the increase in the Health Services Fee.

Second: Eckman Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

D. Elections Code

Hessami presented the change to the Elections Code concerning AS employees not being able to endorse candidates, changing the language to state that they can endorse candidates though they may not identify themselves as AS employees. Board members may not endorse candidates.

Mejía asked why Board members were be prevented from endorsing candidates.

Romo said that due to Washington State Ethics Code elected officials should not endorse candidates.

Hessami said that they the new AS VP of Governmental Affairs will be rewriting the elections code for clarity.

Solomon asked if the REP office will be prevented from endorsements.

Hessami said there will be no language banning employees from endorsing candidates though it will likely be decided internally by their office. There will be edits changing it from Executive Board to Elected Officials.

Solomon asked if they could change the language to all AS employees

Jo said they would abstain due to the fact they did not have two weeks to see it and that the whole code should be rewritten

Hessami said it would be easier to work from a point with something, and this will be a large project for next year's position holder.

MOTION ASB-19-S-52 by Hessami

To approve the change in clause b of the Elections Code

Second: Solomon Vote: 3-0-2 Action: Passed
Yes: Hessami, Solomon, Mejia
No:
Abstaining: Jo, Eckman

D. SAIRC Job Description

Alberto presented the SAIRC Library and Archival Coordinator job description with funding needed

MOTION ASB-19-S-53 by Mejia

To approve the SAIRC Library and Archival Coordinator job description and funding needed.

Second: Eckman Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed

D. Student Technology Fee

Eckman presented the guidelines with no changes.

MOTION ASB-19-S-54 by Eckman

To approve the allocations of the Student Technology Fee.

Second: Mejia Vote: 5-0-1 Action: Passed
Yes: Eckman, Solomon, Jo, Hessami, Mejia
No:
Abstain: Monkah

VII. Board Reports

Millka Solomon, AS President stated that there was discussion with Lee about Sabah's forum proposal and since it is late in the year they recommended they not go through with it.

Levi Eckman, VP for Academic Affairs stated that ACC passed his motion with a minor revision and the Student Senate luncheon is next week.

Nate Jo, VP for Business and Operations stated that the new AS Wage policy was being rolled out. They also stated that they were working on legacy packages instead of a single document since their VP position will not exist next year. Jo is also working on the budget process for next year, the Student Union Board, and a single legacy system for the AS.

Ama Monkah, VP for Activities stated that Club Awards ceremony went well.

Natasha Hessami, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that they are going to WSA tomorrow

Camilla Meija, VP for Diversity stated that the MCC soft opening is next week at 5 pm,

VIII. Other Business

Jo led the Board in recognizing Leti Romo's work this year and expressed immense appreciation. Romo said that she will miss them terribly

Millka Solomon, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 6:26. PM