



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

[October 4, 2019]

[VU 567]

Board Members: *Present:* Lani DeFiesta (President), Adah Barenburg (Senate Pro-Tempore), Yesugen Battsengel (VP for Diversity), Grace Drechsel (VP for Governmental Affairs), Emily Gerhardt (VP for Student Services), Trever Mullins (VP for Sustainability), and Selome Zerai (VP for Activities)

Absent:

Advisor: Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator)

Secretary: Jude Ahmed, Elaine Morado

Guest(s):

Motions:

- ASB-19-F-8** To table the minutes from September 27, 2019 until the next Board meeting. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-9** To table Consent Items B and C until the next Board meeting. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-10** To move Information Item B to A, due to time constrains. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-11** To extend the discussion 10 minutes. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-12** To extend the discussion 5 minutes. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-13** To move the AS Senate Election code to an e-vote on October 11th between 3PM and 5 PM by Executive Board Members. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-14** To approve the AS WWU Executive Board By-Laws with changes. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-15** To approve the Sustainability Equity and Justice Fund Committee C&C with edits. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-16** To approve the Food and Housing Insecurity Committee C&C with edits. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-17** To acknowledge consent item A. *Passed.*

Lani DeFiesta, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION ASB-19-F-8 *By: Barenburg*
To table the minutes from September 27, 2019 until the next Board meeting.

Second: Gerhardt *Vote: 7-0-0* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

MOTION ASB-19-F-9 *By: Drechsel*
To table Consent Items B and C until the next Board meeting.

Second: Zerai *Vote: 7-0-0* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining:

MOTION ASB-19-F-10 *by: Mullins*
To move Information Item B to A, due to time constraints.

Second: DeFiesta *Vote: 7-0-0* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining:

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

V. Action Items - Guests

IV. Information Items - Guests

A. AS Senate Election Code 2019 – Drechsel

Drechsel will relay information/points of confusion back to the REP Office.

DeFiesta asked if the exception of AS Board members from supporting candidates or measures in their individual capacity also includes Student Senators. Barenburg stated that technically, senators hold their title until the next election since the end of their terms are not explicit. Mullins recommends changing the language from just AS Board members to AS elected officials to include everyone that is an exception, due to the current Election Code technically allowing the current senators to endorse candidates. Barenburg and Mullins also saw this as a conflict of interest, recommending that for this Election Code the clarification of senators not being allowed to endorse be added and in the future, the terms of office for senators conclude at the end of the school year in the Spring, to prevent current senators from endorsing candidates for the Student Senate.

Zerai brought up a point of confusion with the Endorsements section of the code specifying that AS employees may, as individuals, work on a campaign for or against a candidate or a measure and Board members may, as individuals, also work against a

measure. She expressed concern with having AS employees working against possibly being perceived as non-inclusive. Drechsel stated that limiting AS employees from working against a campaign as individuals is a first amendment violation, but since Board Members work in elected and not hired positions they are an exception. DeFiesta and Battsengel suggested that the language could potentially move away from using “for or against”. Battsengel also wants to see clarification on whether minor or majors can run for senate for their college, and if students must be a declared major or pre-major. Drechsel suggests in adding to the glossary a note that belonging to a college means being a declared major.

Barenburg is concerned about making substantive changes to the election code during the filing period of the Senate elections and is okay with passing it right away with the necessary date changes and making changes after the election. The mandatory candidate meeting is Monday, October 14th from 5-8PM. Drechsel suggests passing it today so that it is ready by the mandatory meeting. Mullins notes that he does not feel comfortable revising the election code during the filing period since it directly undermines Section 3 Subsection 14b, and wants to know if the previous code can be used. Battsengel wants to ensure that the Executive Board By-Laws should include when they go over and approve by-laws during the summer or early fall. Zerai and Mullins agree with exploring approval timelines in the future; Drechsel will speak with the Rep Office on potential timeline changes.

MOTION ASB-19-F-11 *By: Mullins*
To extend the discussion 10 minutes.

Second: Barenburg

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

Zerai suggests that clarifying points within the revised Senate by-laws would be worth making the change for since they do not change the structure or process but allow students to be more familiar with dates and definitions. Battsengel wants to see an official ending term date instead of relying on interpretation and precedence. Drechsel suggests doing an e-vote next Friday since this is an urgent need for Senators to have before beginning their campaigns. This way they can submit their feedback to the AS Election Board and stay in contact with the board members to ensure that they see the revised election code and can submit an e-vote.

MOTION ASB-19-F-12 *By: Battsengel*
To extend the discussion by 5 minutes.

Second: Zerai

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

Barenburg includes that Ina LaGranduer, AS REP Elections Coordinator, is available for running students to ask clarification questions within the next few weeks. Drechsel states she is comfortable with submitting revisions and approving it via e-vote with an understanding that this will not happen again.

MOTION ASB-19-F-13 *By: DeFiesta*

To move the AS Senate Election code to an E-vote on October 11th between 3PM and 5 PM by Executive Board Members.

Second: Drechsel

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

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

VII. Action Items - Board

A. AS Executive Board Bylaws – DeFiesta

Drechsel stated that they rephrased the first few phrases of the board objectives to focus on their commitment to represent the rights and needs of students. The language describing the Executive Board as a “legislative” body was changed to a “representational” body to further highlight their coordination with the AS Senate. Section B was reworked under leadership qualifications to reduce redundancy and refer candidate to abide by the procedures as described in the election code. Section C now includes that the term of office of the Senate Pro-Tempore will be instructed by the AS Student Senate by-laws. Article 4b now clarifies that the VP for Governmental Affairs is the Vice-Chair of the Executive Board. Under Membership Responsibility the 19 hours a week load refers to both Vice Presidents and Senate Pro-Tempore. Under Vacancy and Recall they added a provision for to say that a petition for recall may be passed with no less than 6% of the number of eligible student voters.

MOTION ASB-19-W-14 *by Mullins*

To approve the AS WWU Executive Board By-Laws with changes.

Second: Drechsel

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

B. Sustainability Equity and Justice fund Committee C&C – Mullins

Mullins reviewed change made to the student representation provisions for the SEJF Committee which is to have one student-at-large appointed by the AS Executive Board and two students with interest in equity and justice. Battsengel wants clarification for the ESC Representative and wants to know if it can be an ESC student staff so that they can be paid for work on this committee. Zerai seconds this and DeFiesta suggests making the same clarification for the SAIRC staff member. Drechsel also suggests adding clarification that the hiring process for the students with interest in equity and justice will be the same but the selection process would be different. DeFiesta wants to know if there is a potential to compensate the student-at-large but unfortunately because the standard is not applied across all committee and the funding for the position would come for the fund, it is not possible at this point.

MOTION ASB-19-W-15 by Mullins

To approve the Sustainability Equity and Justice Fund Committee C&C with edits.

Second: Drechsel

Vote: 7-0-0

*Action: **Passed***

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

C. Food and Housing Insecurity Committee C&C – Mullins

Mullins noted a change to ensure that the AMERICORPS and Vista members are listed as non-voting committee members to avoid conflict of interest. SAIRC Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator are pro-staff and not voting members and that is a change that needs to be clarified as well. DeFiesta also wants to clarify that the ESC and SAIRC representative will be student staff. Mullins agrees that is something they continue across future charge and charters. Battsengel suggests talking to the ESC Advocacy and Program Coordinator about potentially naming that position in the future as a specific member of the committee. This committee will helpfully be able to acquire consistent funding for food and housing security measures rather than relying on community donations.

MOTION ASB-19-W-16 by Battsengel

To approve the Food and Housing Insecurity Committee C&C with edits.

*Action: **Passed***

Second: Mullins

Vote: 7-0-0

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VIII. Information Items – Board

A. Communications Committee C&C – Zerai

Zerai noted changes in the charter meant to make it more succinct and added a provision to make sure marketing is inclusive to people with disability since the inclusivity handbook did not include things such as alternative text as one example of inclusive practice which they would like to see delved deeper into. AS Video Editor and Publicity Center Project Manager as student staff and changed the Publicity Center Coordinator to Pro-Staff. An AS Review Representative, ESC Marketing and Outreach Coordinator the AS Lead Graphic Designer were added as members with updated titles and the AS Communications Committee Coordinator was added and will function as secretary. If quorum is not present the committee will meet and minutes will be taken but decisions will not be voted on to ensure the meeting happens. Section 4 was modified to have the committee meet twice a quarter.

B. Alternative Transportation Fee C&C – Mullins

Mullins states that the only change in the charge and charter is to change the chair from the VP for Student Life to the VP for Sustainability. Battsengel suggests adding an AS Senator to the committee. Gerhardt suggests adding a quorum section to have them meet

and go over the agenda even if they do not meet quorum. Mullins wants to confirm that since the committee manages a fee if it is legal for the committee to meet without quorum and will look into that.

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

- A. Susan Rasband – AS University Housing Representation, Student Academic Grievance Board

Barenburg is excited to have this student on the board and feels the skills and previous experience in a similar position will be mutually beneficial in this position.

MOTION ASB-19-W-17 by Drechsel
To acknowledge consent item A.

<i>Second: Mullins</i>	<i>Vote: 6-0-0</i>	<i>Action: Passed</i>
	<i>Yes:</i>	
	<i>No:</i>	
	<i>Abstaining:</i>	

X. **Board Reports**

Lani Defiesta, AS President stated that Sabah Randhawa (*President of Western Washington University*) and Melynda Huskey (*Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services*) will attend the next board meeting on October 18th to present their agenda for the year. She also spoke with Earl Overstreet, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, to invite him to the meeting as well but unfortunately he will be out of town this weekend. Current trustees Maureen West, Sue Sharpe and hopefully Hunter Stuehm will be able to attend that meeting. She is asking the board of trustees to attend out of a spirit of shared governance, so that both boards can experience how the other responds to and collaborates with their constituencies. DeFiesta, Barenburg, and Battsengel met with Sabah and Melynda to discuss the response to last year's forum and sit-in. They want to discuss what they want to do for this fall and how they might structure forums this year. In a one-on-one Leti Romo suggested that a monthly "Donuts with the Deans" could potentially allow students to directly discuss issues within the college with the dean based on a set agenda. There will be a Board of Trustees meeting at Friday, October 18th at 8AM Old Main 340; The whole board is invited to be there. Paul Dunn (*Chief for Staff and Secretary to Board of Trustees*) has expressed that the board of trustees look forward to getting to know the Executive Board. There will also be a more informal meeting Thursday, October 17th with the Board of Trustees, the Administration, and Senator Emily Randall and they will have an open discussion which the board is invited to as well. There will not be a board meeting October 11th out of respect for the Grand Opening of the Multicultural Center and the first day of the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) Conference.

Yesugen Battsengel, VP for Diversity the Multicultural Center Grand Opening Committee is looking forward to the big event on Thursday and are working on finalizing the last details. Student facilitator training for the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) Conference is today. The ESC Charge and Charter will be presented to the ESC board today and will be brought to the next board meeting for comments. The ESC Leadership and Advocacy

Force meeting time and dates have been finalized for Tuesdays from 4-5pm. Battsengel has been working with the ESC Cultural Education Coordinator to discuss plans to implement Caucus Lunches. They would be a different discussion and lunch every day of the week.

Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she is preparing for Western to host the Washington General Assembly. The University will be hosting seventy students from higher education institutions to meet and discuss legislative priorities for this coming session. Western will be presenting a few suggestions for the larger assembly agenda. They will be presenting something on support for survivors of sexual assault and another on increasing funding for students with children and/or dependents for childcare. Drechsel is also working on a resolution with Students for Ethnic Studies in support of ethnic studies at Western Washington University to bring to the board two weeks from today. Senator Emily Randall, the Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee, is coming to campus and will have about twenty-five minutes to meet with students to get feedback on some of the legislative actions they are thinking of. The general assembly is open for all students to attend. It will from October 12th to October 14th.

Adah Barenburg- Senate Pro- Tempore stated that she has planned meetings with the Deans of the College of Business and Economics, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Woodring College of Education, College of Fine and Performing Arts and the Graduate School over the next two weeks. Barenburg wants to address that the email about the student Senate which was sent out to all students was a draft of the actual announcement and was not clear to students. She hopes that in the future the university will work with her and Hunter Stuehm (AS Communications Director) to quickly send out accurate announcements. She wants to thank Hunter for working so hard to get the email sent out and getting the word out about student senate. There is still plenty of opportunity and room for more students to run for senate. Barenburg has also sent out the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on Monday, October 7th at 4:00PM in Old Main 340. According to the agenda, at 4:45 PM the Faculty Senate will discuss action item "Faculty Code of Ethics follow-up" specifically regarding the use of the n-word in classrooms. 30 minutes of the agenda has been allocated to this item Barenburg feels it is appropriate for Board Members to attend as students if they are comfortable in that space. She will be giving up part of her into time for Selome Zerai to speak; Zerai has spoken with students about what they want to see out of this. They want to go in with set demands of Faculty Senate. Barenburg wants to motion for a roll call vote so that the information of who voted for and against the measure, as Zerai mentioned that students should know how the faculty members responded. Faculty senate wants to audiocast Faculty Senate meetings in the future so that they can be more accessible for students and also write down all motions and revisions to help students engage and follow meetings.

Trever Mullins- VP for Sustainability states that he is trying to set up regular meetings with the student staff in the Office of Sustainability because they are shifting their theme to issues surrounding climate justice so they are trying to see how to best put together programming around climate justice that does not burden people of color or of marginalized identities. He went to the Shred the Contract meeting as an individual and partly in this role as VP as well to see what their timeline and plans for the year are since the contract will be expiring in 2021. He invited them to attend the next board meeting and present. Furthermore, he is working on identifying nonstudent staff for committee positions so that they can begin scheduling for various committees under his office.

Mulling and Ahmed are exploring potential avenues to survey the entire student body, one of which is through a program Western is subscribed to called Qualtrics.

Emily Gerhardt- VP for Student Services met with Leonard Jones and Vicki Vanderwerf from University Residences and talked about the relationship they want to build. They are planning to meet weekly or bi-weekly depending on student staff needs. She sees her role as an outlet for Resident Advisors to provide feedback about their work and living environment out of an understanding that Resident Advisors (RAs) need a space to contribute feedback outside of their direct workplace since their work stability directly reflects their housing and food stability as well. She met with twenty to thirty RAs to discuss training and how the new and returning RAs are feeling. The feedback was mostly that training for returning RAs did not have much new information. Since RAs connect with so many students on a daily basis, Gerhardt feels that these feedback sessions are a great way to keep up to date about what is going around campus. She will also be joining the Residence Hall Association executive board meeting will be from 4:30-5:30pm on Tuesday, October 8th. They want to build relationships with Western affiliates. Gerhardt has also been updating charters under her jurisdiction that have not been updated since 2011.

Selome Zerai- VP for Activities

XI. Other Business

Lani DeFiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:49pm.