



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Board of Directors

[October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019]

[VU 567]

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

*Absent:*

**Advisor:** Leti Romo (Assistant Director for Student Representation & Governance)  
Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator)

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):**

#### Motions:

- ASB-19-F-18** To approve the meeting minutes for September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-19** To approve the meeting minutes for October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the change of AS Election board to Ina the AS election Coordinator. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-20** To add a consent item within the Legislative Affairs Council appointments to add Colin Thrower as a consent item with the LAC. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-21** To move info item B to info item A. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-22** To approve the ATF Charge and Charter. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-23** To table the Communications Committee Charge and Charter until Hunter arrives for more information. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-24** To approve the edits of the Communications Committee Charge and Charter. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-25** To move the LAC C&C info item to an action item. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-26** To move the LAC Charge and Charter information item to an action item. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-27** To approve the members of the committees. *Passed.*

*Lani Defiesta, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.*

## **I. Approval of Minutes**

*MOTION ASB-19-F-18 by Barenburg*  
To approve the meeting minutes for September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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

*MOTION ASB-19-F-19 by Barenburg*  
To approve the meeting minutes for October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with the change of AS Election board to Ina the AS election Coordinator.

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

## **II. Revisions to the Agenda**

*MOTION ASB-19-F-20 By Drechsel*  
To add a consent item within the Legislative Affairs Council appointments to add Colin Thrower as a consent item with the LAC.

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

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

- Michael from the STC expressed his thanks for the public presence in the election cycle
- Bella from the STC informs members of the forum the STC will host on November 20<sup>th</sup>, concerning the new dining system and concerns with Armark.
- President Sabah Randhawa shares his plans for the next 9 months
  - a. External plans will focus on student success and working on campus issues
    - i. Fundraising: \$20 million for a building, \$40 million from the state, \$10 million from student success initiative.
    - ii. Legislature: Programs on the peninsula are more expensive than state programs, goal to transition these programs from self-sustaining to state-sustained.
  - b. Internal plans

- i. Student Success: increase graduation rate and reduce achievement gaps, for equal probability of success
  - ii. Campus climate/culture: progress on the initiatives from last year as well as creating inclusive space on campus. Currently in the process of remapping the EO office to focus on civil rights as well as Title IX. Looking for someone to head the office as well as representation from the AS and other students.
  - iii. Expand graduate programs: collaborate with faculty to see where we need to expand, talk to graduate students.
  - iv. Space: what do we need, where do we have room and how to adapt current areas to fit our needs. There is a 5-year renovation plan in the works to set aside money every year from the maintenance budget.
- Melynda Huskey- VP for Enrollment & Student Services
  - a. Trustees: deciding where to put energy to impact the student experience, for example the recent change of the Fall A&O. Focus on student integration into academics, and culture. Western is looking at other institutions to make pilot changes for next year's orientation.
  - b. Hire of WWU Success, which will provide services for unaccompanied and foster youth. Looking at implementation of pilot plans to provide the basic needs of these students who have these structural barriers.
  - c. Goal to appoint a broad-base advisory council made up of self-nominated students, who are then selected by the council to give feedback on campus issues and bring to light their concerns.
  - d. In November, a search committee will search for a Director of the Multicultural Student Services, looking at other institutions for a base of the position description. Eventually the goal is to create a long-term program of individuals mentor programs, internships, and scholarships.
  - e. Looking for an officer of civil rights, someone with experience in Title IX
  - f. The President's council on equity and social justice is looking for a LGBTQ+ director, and also looking at the way the institution responds to incidents on campus, education of these incidents, to make recommendations to the president at the end of the term.
- Yesugen mentions encouraging new students to be a part of campus life
  - a. Providing ESJ, SOS, inclusive spaces more funding because they provide so much support to students, and are understaffed and underfunded for how many students rely on these groups and how integral they are for students to stay at Western.
- Grace asks for clarification of the building name project, if there's a time commitment for students on the advisory council, could they be compensated with non-monetary items (food, for example)
- Yesugen asks about maybe a credit designation for these students
- Malynda states this could be possible, or volunteer hours

#### **IV. Action Items - Guests**

None

#### **V. Info Items - Guests**

*MOTION ASB-19-F-21 by Drechsel*

To move info item B to info item A.

*Second: Gerhardt*

*Vote: 7-0-0*

*Action: **Passed***

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

- A. Students for Ethnic Studies Resolution- Drechsel, whereas read by Mikayla
- a. Edits for the document
    - i. On the second page, in the middle- “WWU’s education programs cannot commit to their principals without a plan of study for ethnic studies in their curriculum” changed to “of plan for ethnic studies in their curriculum, for educators, especially white educators”
  - b. Yesugen notes that white students at Woodring may have implicit bias and ethnic studies needs to be emphasized when the education program is so highly praised. There is one class on diversity, but it is surface level, this program is needed to enrich the campus and the college. Question about who implemented the Holocaust & Genocide minor.
  - c. President states that he is unaware, but Professor Sandra Alfors led the process, which was passed by the faculty senate and the ACC.
  - d. Melynda notes that it was a three year process to go through academic affairs, faculty senate, ACC, the college curriculum committee, etc.
  - e. President says that he appreciates the resolution, and he thinks there is no reason why there shouldn’t be a program in ethic as well as gender studies in most institutions. He thinks we can move the program relatively fast through the process.
  - f. Yesugen notes that if we can fundraise for a STEM building, we can also raise money for a program such as this, it shouldn’t be a problem. CBE and STEM have external support, should be more focus on programs without as much support.
  - g. Selome wants to acknowledge the history of the ethnic studies program, orginated in the 60s, created by black students. Before we build a college, there should be attention on the people who don’t feel as represented.
  - h. Mikayla notes that she agrees, will add in the document that the Black Student Union founded the College of Ethnic Studies in 1968 and then was dissolved within 8 years.
- B. AS Leadership Council Charter, Defiesta, brought by Nate Jo who is not present
- a. This is a combined document of the Management and Leadership Council.
  - b. Drechsel notes that this council is a completely new restructured committee, written from scratch.
  - c. Defiesta says that the ESC and SAIRC representatives should be changed to staff, so all people are acknowledged for their work. There will be a committee of folks reevaluating the restructure.
  - d. Mullins asks about sharing recommendations for best practices, more specific so there is a person who implements the ideas they suggest.
  - e. Zerai comments that voting versus non-voting membership should be specified.

- f. Battsengal wonders how one committee who has voting powers and one that does not will combine, question for Nate Jo.
- g. Drechsel notes that the simplicity of the C&C is helpful for the amount of members in the committee.
- h. Romo states that prior to this, the leadership council voted on a small fund distribution, with this council there's not the same funding, and this committee will be more of a staff meeting. This used to be under the old SA bylaws, now it is about separating and defining duties.

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

- A. None

**VII. Action Items - Board**

- A. Alternative Transportation Fee Committee Charge & Charter- Mullins
  - o Edits: Change AS VP of Sustainability to AS VP of Student Life, the Director of Public Safety and Financial Manager added to be able to propose a designee instead of themselves since their positions cover so much ground.

*MOTION ASB-F-22*      *By Drechsel*  
 To approve the ATF Charge and Charter.  
*Second: Battsengal*      *Vote: 7-0-0*      *Action: Passed*  
    *Yes:*  
    *No:*  
    *Abstaining:*

- B. Communications Committee Charge and Charter, Zerai

*MOTION ASB-F-23*      *By Zerai*  
 To table the Communications Committee Charge and Chrter until Hunter arrives for more information.  
*Second: Defiesta*      *Vote: 7-0-0*      *Action: Passed*  
    *Yes:*  
    *No:*  
    *Abstaining:*

Communications Committee Charge & Charter is reopened after the discussion of Board Info Item A.

- o Edits: keep language consistent, change updated position names, updated amount of time per quarter to be able to achieve effective work, charging the committee with the task of revamping the AS Inclusive Practice Guide as well as the Branding Guide, so that it is a group effort in representation. SAIRC marketing and assessment coordinator is the director to designate committee members, as well as to change the expiration date.
- o Defiesta notes that SAIRC should be changed to staff member to ensure compensation.

- Another amendment is to add the Publicity center coordinator to the advisor position (mistake in deletion previously), and to change KUGS local marketing to KUGS local music liaison.
- Romo asks to specify what communications and marketing director.
- Barenburg asks for a clarification on non-voting versus voting members.
- Mullins notes that if the committee is not a voting committee, the voting and quorum section should be removed from the document.
- Hunter feels that without quorum there is lack of initiative to meet, which is why it was included, as well as continued framework for if in the future this changes.

*MOTION ASB-F-24*

*By Zerai*

To approve the edits of the Communications Committee Charge and Charter.

*Second: Mullins*

*Vote: 7-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

## **VIII. Information Items - Board**

- A. University Housing Representation and Advocacy Charge and Charter- Gerhardt
- Document was reviewed for consistency. Edits: expiration date, university residents to residency, changed the AS VP of Student life to AS VP of Student Service, changed four resident advisors to three resident advisors and added a community assistant. This position is added to make communities more consistent, but the understanding of the position I still developing. Representatives of the AS was changed to student employee, resident director or supervisor added to the non-voting members. Remove legal representative from the list of members.
  - Battsengal notes that the legal representative makes sense due to off-campus housing.
  - Romo notes that the legal action center will morph and will focus more on legislation and civic engagement after this spring.
  - Gerhardt will connect with the LAC and local issues coordinator to see the scope of jurisdiction and thoughts on the matter.
  - Yesugen notes that perhaps a woman's identity resource center should be included.
  - Emily: in the resident halls, there's more sexual assault and harassment, so may be more helpful to add a CASAS representative.

- B. Legislative Affairs Council Charge and Charter- Drechsel
- Edits: the expiration date to October 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, removed “regarding the”, removed the word liaison, Legislative liaison to the Director of Legislative Affairs, Local Liaison to Local Issues Coordinator, changed insert secretary to Board Assistant appointed by the AS Board Program Coordinator, changed to student staff.
  - Yesugen asks to clarify whether the Advocacy and Program Coordinator may be more appropriate for the committee since they coordinate the ESC Lobby Day.
  - Grace asks for the info item to be moved to an action item so that the committee can operate without an expired C&C.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-25 by Mullins*

To move the LAC C&C info item to an action item.

*Second: Battsengal*

*Vote: 7-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

- C. Activities Council Charge and Charter- Zerai
- Zerai asks to table the document until the next meeting because the documents were not posted by the deadline.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-26 by Zerai*

To move the LAC Charge and Charter information item to an action item.

*Second: Mullins*

*Vote: 7-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

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

- A.
1. Areya Kugler, Sophomore- AS Elections Board, Social Justice and Equity Committee
    - a. Yesugen: application was adequate to show they could be a contributing member of the committee
  2. Mia Hutter, Junior- Campus Public Safety Advisory Council
    - a. Gerhardt: as an RA Mia prioritized safety, insightful about how safety affects students
  3. Calvin Bilhimer, Senior- AS Activities Council
    - a. Selome: no experience so new perspective, but experience with clubs, provide everyone with equal opportunities
  4. Anna Fritschen, Sophomore- Counseling, Health and Wellness Committee
    - a. Gerhardt: community health major helpful for committee, , passion and want to learn about health and discuss mental and physical health
  5. Olivia Moore, Sophomore- Academic Honesty Board
    - a. Adah: experience with academic honesty with friends and colleagues

6. Leigh Chaffey, Senior- AS Sustainable Action Fund
  - a. Trever: previously served, wants to ensure students have control, and equity and justice is served, ingrained practices are uprooted
7. Allissa Empert, Sophomore- AS Student Disability Advocacy Committee
  - a. Yesugen
8. Joseph Kisbye, Senior- Academic Honesty Board
  - a. Adah: they were a good fit
9. Kevin Harris, Senior- Faculty Senate Library Committee
  - a. Adah: talked about wanting to be involved with the library and feeling that the library was a safe space, approved for student tech fee as well
10. Andres Ochoa-Garcia, Freshman- Counseling, Health, and Wellness Committee
  - a. Gerhardt: new perspective of a freshman, wrote about personal experience with counseling in their culture
11. Corey Griffis, Senior- AS Budget Committee, Student Academic Grievance Board, AS Transportation Advisory Committee
  - a. Gerhardt: passionate and cares a lot about diversity and what it looks like, understanding when to step back for other's voices, senior perspective, commuter student, how travel on campus is harder for students with disabilities
12. Erin Kelly, Sophomore- LAC
  - a. Grace: experience in the legislature, working with representative, wrote a bill, and aware of privilege.
13. Audrey Jordan, Freshman- Campus Dining Committee
  - a. Gerhardt: on-campus freshman perspective, talked about personal relationship with food, talk about food insecurity
14. Kaitlyn Davidson, Sophomore- LAC
  - a. Grace: experience with legislative things, voter registration and canvassing, using privilege
15. Jade Hedeem, Freshman- AS Academic Affairs Council, Education Abroad Advisory Committee
  - a. Adah: wanting to study abroad and to have that experience, in high school helped the transition, a part of fine arts college
16. Heather Bergeson, Junior- AS Activities Council AS Senate Election Code E-vote Results
  - a. Selome: experience working with clubs as outreach coordinator, provide access for all clubs to all people
17. Grace: clarification that abstaining from consent will not take members off the committee, the process is for transparency.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-27 by Mullins*

To approve the members of the committees.

*Second: Defiesta*

*Vote: 7-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes:*

*No:*



*Abstaining:*

**X. Board Reports**

**Lani Defiesta, AS President** stated that she will continue to be in contact with employees, and there will be a meeting to discuss the community forum response from last year.

**Selome Zerai, VP for Activities** stated that student ambassadors have been chosen, and she's working with Adah on follow through.

**Trever Mullins, VP for Sustainability** stated that he attended the Town Hall meeting and that he is working on creating a portal for all sustainability information, and is working with the SEJ to do this.

**Emily Gerhardt, VP for Student Services** stated that she was finally able to set up the Student Life email and caught up with the various messages that were sent to the email over the summer. She updated the University Housing and Representation Charge and Charter, and had a meeting with Lani and the bookstore employees about plans to improve efficiency, and had a meeting with Trever about the Forum.

**Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that she had a meeting with Senator Emily Randall, the WSA Support for Survivors ask was passed, as well as other asks including tribal scholarships for those interested in higher education, the changing of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day, and clarifying the transparency in SNA fee waivers through the administration process.

**Adah Barenburg, Senate Pro-Tempore** stated that the Student Senate election committee process is fully underway, with four open positions at the present time. She held a meeting with Leti Romo and Ina LaGrandeur to make sure that these positions are filled. She also noted that the University is considering moving away from the blue light system as the system is outdated and it is hard to repair the stations. The snow route plan will be released soon in the case that it is needed.

**XI. Other Business**

- A. Hunter states that he is open to more of a connection between the AS and the communications department for better community.

*Lani Defiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 5:03 p.m.*