



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Board of Directors

[October 25, 2019]

[VU 567]

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

*Absent:* Yesugen Battsengel (VP for Diversity)

**Advisor:** Leti Romo (Program Advisor), Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator)

**Secretary:**

**Guest(s):** Nate Jo (AS Business Director), Michaela Budde (Students for Ethnic Studies Coalition), Rachel Walsh (AS Personnel Director)

#### Motions:

<b>ASB-19-F-28</b>	To move the AS Leadership Council Charter from Information Item A to Action Item B. <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-29</b>	To remove Consent Item B (appointment of Darcy Allen). <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-30</b>	To remove Consent Item C (appointment of Collin Thrower). <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-31</b>	To add 10 minutes for discussion on the Students for Ethnic Studies Resolution. <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-32</b>	To table the Students for Ethnic Studies Resolution. <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-33</b>	To approve the AS Leadership Council Charter. <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-34</b>	To approve the University Housing Representation and Advocacy C & C with edits. <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-35</b>	To move Information Item B, Activities Council C & C, to an Action Item. <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-36</b>	To approve the Activities Council C & C. <i>Passed.</i>
<b>ASB-19-F-37</b>	To acknowledge Consent Item A, appointment of Jennifer LeVeque to the LAC. <i>Passed.</i>

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

#### I. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

#### II. Revisions to the Agenda

*MOTION ASB-19-F-28 by DeFiesta*

To move the AS Leadership Council Charter from Information item A to Action item B.

*Second: Mullins*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

Yes: 6  
No: 0  
Abstaining: 0

*MOTION ASB-19-F-29* by: *Gerhardt*

To remove Consent Item B (appointment of Darcy Allen).

*Second: Zerai*                      *Vote: 6-0-0*                      *Action: Passed*  
Yes: 6  
No: 0  
Abstaining: 0

*MOTION ASB-19-F-30* by: *Drechsel*

To remove Consent Item C (appointment of Collin Thrower).

*Second: DeFiesta*                      *Vote: 6-0-0*                      *Action: Passed*  
Yes: 6  
No: 0  
Abstaining: 0

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

**V. Action Items - Guests**

**A. Students for Ethnic Studies Resolution – Drechsel (Doc. 1)**

Michaela Budde and Grace Drechsel displayed the revisions made based on comments from the Board last week. Gerhardt asked on who specifically the “radical coalition” is. Budde answered that based on their historical research, the name given to the revolutionary groups in the area was the “radical coalition”, but acknowledged that removing that part would be alright since this is not information that is well-known.

Zerai expressed concern with approving this measure due to a historical and continuous lack of including the voices and concerns of black students. These trends have continued on throughout contemporary times as well. She recommended tabling this measure to have the coalition reassess and acknowledge the suppression that has occurred toward black students, as well as to provide the board an opportunity to have a wider discussion. Budde answered that she would be happy to table the item because she would like the full support of the board.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-31* by: *Drechsel*

To add 10 minutes for discussion on the Students for Ethnic Studies Resolution.

*Second: Mullins*                      *Vote: 6-0-0*                      *Action: Passed*  
Yes: 6  
No: 0  
Abstaining: 0

Drechsel provided two possible courses of action: 1) voting on the resolution today, but with the amendment that although the Board is in support of a College of Ethnic Studies, the Board is not a part of this coalition, however they would continue to be in discussion with the groups involved on the progress, or 2) tabling the Action Item until the conversations are had regarding the coalition's history which would allow the Board to join the coalition and then vote on it. Budde was in favor of tabling the item, acknowledging that the resolution process had been rushed and that in order to make it a meaningful document, more conversations had to be had with various communities and groups.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-32 by: Barenburg*

To table the Students for Ethnic Studies Resolution.

*Second: Gerhardt*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes: 6*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 0*

#### **B. AS Leadership Council Charter – DeFiesta (Doc. 2)**

Nate Jo, AS Business Director, spoke on what the changes were based on the Board's feedback last week. The changes included adding a point to the charge regarding developing and improving of the AS Strategic Plan, clarifying that the positions from the following offices, ESC, SAIRC, OC, Publicity Center, and AS Club Activities, must be student staff, and the addition of voting by consensus.

Mullins asked who would be receiving the recommendations from the Leadership Council. Gerhardt and Jo answered that this was left purposefully vague to allow for internal flexibility in providing feedback and adopting best practices within each office.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-33 by: Zerai*

To approve the AS Leadership Council Charter.

*Second: DeFiesta*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes: 6*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 0*

### **IV. Information Items – Guests**

#### **A. AS Students at-Large Service Proposal – Zerai (Doc. 3)**

Nate Jo, AS Business Director, brings this proposal regarding the difficulty in filling certain student at-large positions on committees. The proposal would offer a \$135/month incentive for the student at-large positions on 6 AS committees, deposited to the students' Western accounts. The payment is not for employment, but to incentivize students to serve on the committees. The total fiscal impact would be \$6,480, transferred from discretionary reserves. This academic year, 2019-20, would serve as a trial period. Jo would meet

with the AS Committee Coordinator to assess which seats would be suitable for this proposal.

Barenburg expressed strong support for this proposal. She noted that in the Background section, “instead of just AS employees”, could be changed to “not just AS employees.”

Jo added that this proposal would be applicable to all WWU students, including undocumented students, to allow committees to be a place of comprehensive student input.

Gerhardt asked Jo if any thought had been given to which committees would be piloting this proposal. Jo answered that this would be figured out with the AS Committee Coordinator who will provide information on each committee’s demands and fit for this proposal based on each committee’s workload and difficulty in filling the position.

Mullins noted that because this is the first time for a proposal like this, he was curious on how the distribution of payment would work since the money would not be going through payroll. Jo answered that the first step is to dedicate the money for a specific purpose and the second would be to develop the mechanism. Currently, the Finance Office does have the capability to deposit the money to a student’s account. In their conversations with Raquel Vigil, the Business Manager, they have been assured that this would be possible.

Jo answered Zerai’s question on the timeline for November, stating that the payment does not need to be distributed the first of each month. Jo also answered DeFiesta’s question on whether the payment would impact a student’s FAFSA/WAFSA. Jo answered that this is not financial aid, a scholarship, or employment so it would not. Romo asked how students would be held accountable without a contract to abide by. Jo answered that more discussion would need to be had on this subject, particularly with Vigil and the Business Office.

Zerai asked what Jo envisioned to be the end product of this pilot program and what their goals are for this proposal. Jo answered that the goals would be for all seats on the AS Committees to be filled and for there to be interest within the student body to serve on these committees.

Drechsel asked if the fiscal impact would eventually be operationalized in a different budget for these incentives. Jo answered that if the pilot program is successful it would most likely be operationalized, perhaps into the REP budget, but this would be discussed after an analysis. It would serve as an addition to the REP budget, not taking funds away from anything else.

Mullins asked Jo if there was any rationale behind the incentive amount of \$135 and the amount of students. Jo answered that it was an arbitrary number based on available funds.

Drechsel asked how the committees would be selected in a fair way. Jo answered that a wider discussion would need to be had with the REP office as well as committee chairs to ensure a variety of factors are accounted for.

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

**VII. Action Items – Board**

**A. University Housing Representation and Advocacy C & C – Gerhardt (Doc. 4)**

Gerhardt noted some changes that had been made. For membership, the local liaison has replaced the representative from the Legal Information Center and a representative from CASAS has also been added. In addition, instead of Romo's position, the AS Assistant Director for Student Representation and Governance, the SAIRC Director would be there. Also, the Residence Hall Association President would be the co-chair, not the vice-chair. Mullins noted that the local liaison is now the Local Issues Coordinator.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-34 By: Gergardt*

To approve the University Housing Representation and Advocacy C & C with edits.

*Second: Drechsel*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: passed*

*Yes: 6*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 0*

**VIII. Information Items – Board**

**A. Personnel Committee C & C – Drechsel (Doc. 5)**

Rachel Walsh, AS Personnel Director, presented the changes made to the charge and charter. In the charge, the Board had final approval, but the charge specifies items for which the committee would be the final decision. The membership was also changed, with an addition of the AS Personnel Development Coordinator, the Student Senator will now be a voting member, the addition of the AS Assessment Coordinator, and the AS Program Advisor who will be appointed by the VP of Activities. To ensure the committee is overseen, committee members may refer issues to the Board and/or the Student Senate by majority vote. In addition, the appeal process has been added to be reviewed by the Board.

Mullins asked what would happen if the personnel issues brought to the Board or the Senate directly involved their job positions. Walsh answered that these issues would naturally include the relevant members to discuss their own positions.

Barenburg recommended amending the date to reflect the Board voting on it next week and asked if the committee would have a vice-chair. Walsh answered that the vice-chair would be the first decision made by the committee.

Gerhardt recommended adding the chair's abstention from voting in case of a tie to the charge and charter.

**B. Activities Council C & C – Zerai (Doc. 6)**

Zerai went over the changes to the charge and charter. Underwrites were removed from the charge, subcommittees were removed, name changes in the voting membership, and voting was changed to reflect the new quorum of 4 being enough for a motion to pass. The largest change was in the Quorum section where Large Event Opportunity Fund requests that require approval while council is not in session will be handled by a taskforce of the VP for Activities, the Club Advising Coordinator, and the VP for Student Services.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-35 by: Zerai*

To move Information Item B, Activities Council C & C, to an Action Item.

*Second: Mullins Vote: 5-0-01 Action: Passed*

*Yes: 5*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 1*

*MOTION ASB-19-F-36 by: Mullins*

To approve the Activities council C & C.

*Second: DeFiesta Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed*

*Yes: 6*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 0*

**C. Transportation Advisory Council C & C – Gerhardt (Doc. 7)**

The AS Local Liaison will be changed to Local Issues Coordinator in the membership section.

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

**A. Jennifer LeVeque, Sophomore – LAC**

*MOTION ASB-19-F-37 By: Drechsel*

To acknowledge Consent Item A, appointment of Jennifer LeVeque to the LAC.

*Second: DeFiesta Vote: 6-0-0 Action: Passed*

*Yes: 6*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 0*

**X. Board Reports**

**Lani DeFiesta, AS President** stated that she, Battsengel, and Barenburg had met with President Randhawa and Melynda Huskey to discuss a response to last year's sit-in. They

were in support of “Donuts with the Dean” events to better improve each college’s reception of input and concerns from their respective students. They also let the Board members know about their priority regarding student safety. DeFiesta has also relocated her office hours to the MCC on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 to 2 pm in order to increase her accessibility to students.

**Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that she, DeFiesta, and Barenburg had attended a meeting with Senator Marko Liias where they discussed the WSJ agenda, including support for survivors. The Local Issues Forums are taking place next Tuesday and Wednesday, 6-8 pm, Miller Hall 152. The REP Office won the All In Challenge, a nationwide challenge for having registered the most voters. A Student Legislative Priority survey is going out to the student body next week to get an idea for what students currently care about.

**Adah Barenburg- Senate Pro- Tempore** stated that she’s been attending the University Planning and Resources Committee and Faculty Senate. She and Mullins attended a presentation on Outreach and Continuing Education and will be working toward being able to provide student representation for students on the peninsula. She will be attending the Student Life Panel to speak to incoming students. On Monday she will be attending her first IT meeting. 3 candidates have dropped out of the Student Senate race, only one college will be competitive, CHSS. Four colleges have one position open, Huxley, the Graduate School, the College of Fine and Performing Arts, and Woodring. Their applications are available on WIN and efforts are going out toward reaching out to students in these colleges. She also attended the Student Senate candidate forums and is excited to work with them. Barenburg also attended Sandwiches with Sabah and recommends this event. She also met with SOS regarding concerns with math classes. The AS Review will be publishing the candidate guide tonight.

**Trever Mullins- VP for Sustainability** stated that he is preparing for his sustainability event on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 3 to 5:30 pm. He also met with ESP to discuss their purpose on campus considering the Office of Sustainability has a lot of overlap with their programming. The first Alternative Transportation Fee Committee meeting took place.

**Emily Gerhardt- VP for Student Services** stated that she and Mullins met with Michael from Shred the Contract to discuss the Board’s role in supporting their movement. Michael mentioned they would be reassessing their resolution from last year to determine if it is up to date. Shred the Contract will be having a public forum on November 20 from 6 to 7:30 pm in Frasier Hall 102. She also reached out to Darin Rasmussen, Chief of WWU Police, regarding the Emergency Management Committee’s outdated charge and charter and also about a safety app that could go through a trial run. Gerhardt is still trying to streamline communication with the bookstore staff.

**Selome Zerai- VP for Activities** stated that CSE Student Ambassadors have been selected, only math and geology are vacant, however, the Student Senator is also a math major and can fill in this role and applications will be put up for the geology position. There will be a meeting for club leaders to discuss the progress of clubs and strategies for leading clubs. She will also work with the Club Hub to train on raising funds.

## **XI. Other Business**

Leti Romo mentioned that the VU custodial staff had ordered new menstrual product dispensers to be installed in all VU restrooms to distribute pads and tampons for free, with an ADA compliant button.

Mullins asked how it would work if a committee starts meeting with a certain Board member and afterwards, it is determined that a different Board member would fill the role better. Romo answered that he could send the desired Board member as his proxy, but to change it in the job description, the change would need to take place by the end of this quarter.

Mullins also asked how a resolution would go through the Student Senate if it has been approved by the Board. Romo answered that both bodies would need to approve the resolution in their separate processes.

Mullins informed the Board on a sink in the Environmental Studies building that tested for well above the legal limit for lead in the water.

*Lani DeFiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:44 pm.*