



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Executive Board

[November 15, 2019]

[VU 567]

- Board Members:** *Present:* Lani DeFiesta (President), Adah Barenburg (Senate Pro-Tempore), , Grace Drechsel (Vice President for Governmental Affairs), Emily Gerhardt (Vice President for Student Services), Trever Mullins (Vice President for Sustainability), and Selome Zerai (Vice President for Activities)
Absent: Yesugen Battsengel (Vice President for Diversity)
- Advisor:** Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator), Leti Romo (Program Advisor)
- Secretary:** Jude Ahmed
- Guest(s):** Sargun Handa (AS Senator at-Large)

Motions:

- ASB-19-F-46** To approve the minutes from November 11th with edits. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-47** To table the minutes from October 25th. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-48** To extend the discussion of the finance council charter by 10 minutes. *Passed.*
- ASB-19-F-49** To acknowledge consent item A. *Passed.*

Lani DeFiesta, AS President, called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION ASB-19-F-46 By: Barenburg

To approve the minutes from November 11th with edits.

Second: Drechsel

Vote: 5-0-1

Action: Passed

Yes: No:

Abstaining:

MOTION ASB-19-F-47 By: Drechsel

To table the minutes from October 25th.

Second: Zerai

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes: No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

To change consent item A from Alternative Transportation Committee to the AS Transportation Advisory Committee.

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

Sargun Handa is a senator at-large and wants to introduce themselves and share their goals for the year with the committee. They had a meeting with senators at large yesterday to make their collective goals for the year before training. Handa's co-Senator is Connor Farrand. Together they want to work on the general mental health resources on campus. There should be a ratio of 1 professional counselor for every 1000 students on a campus and Western only has 6 white counselors. They want to increase access to counselors as well as increase representation for students of marginalized identities in mental health resources. They also want to work on bringing back the ethnic studies college. They also want to participate in Lobby Day, since a college and increased mental health resources are require financial input, and hope to get the stage set for next year. Katelyn and Koby wants to work on shred the contract, housing insecurity, and on getting meals in the dining hall plans to roll over to the next quarter and working to compromise with Aramark. Emily wants to connect on mental health resources as well as housing and dining. DeFiesta wants to also encourage Handa to attend LAC and connect with Drechsel about Lobby Day. Handa also mentions that the honors program is having a managing stress event from 5:00 -7:00 pm with the director of the counseling center.

Barenburg adds that Handa and Kaitlyn Davidson will be attending the weekly board meetings and rotating on and off. Kaitlyn is attending a meeting on the publications committee, choosing the editors-of chief on behalf of Zerai. Barenburg adds that in Carver 104 from 4:00-5:30pm Professor Melina Juarez organized a forum about missing and murdered indigenous women and #noDAPL. Candice Brings Plenty, the founder of the Standing Rock Two Spirit Nation encampment will be speaking. Barenburg highly recommends going to watch her speech after this meeting.

IV. Action Items - Guests

V. Information Items – Guests

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

VII Action Items – Board

VIII Information Items – Board

A. Finance Council Charge – Mullins

DeFiesta explained that Jo and Vigil are not able to attend this meeting but will be available next weekend for when this is an action item and will be receiving questions and feedback on the charter over the next few weeks.

Zerai was looking at the policy changes and notices that they have both the food and beverage policy is included and how that might be a policy that changes hands with the restructure. Changing how the money moves as presented does a lot with the restructure and those conversations have not started so it's concerning to start working on the budget beforehand. Mullins discusses that the restructure is focused this year a lot on the student activities board and where the budget lays between the three governing bodies then there are currently only two governing bodies. They could have that model of last year they restructured governance and this year will be activities council (which is the third governing body) and then next year the budget. DeFiesta agrees that the budget does not make sense with the current state of the restructure, and it might be useful to ask Eric Alexander to come in at the next meeting to go over the current budget processes just to be able to compare them. They might want to charge the restructure committee with looking at how they might restructure the budget. Drechsel asks if they want to charge the restructuring committee if they should work on restructure of the budget from scratch or use the finance council charter first. Zerai doesn't want to start the year off with a council that does not have the background knowledge on the restructure and where the AS is, especially while in the middle of restructure. Mullins notices that the largest change in the budget restructure they preserved is that the Executive Board no longer has final approval of finances. Mullins does not see what the impacts the final changes will have. There was a line about referring significant matters of the budget to the Executive Board and Senate for student advising.

DeFiesta has conversations with Jo about the purposes and the new ideas in the new budget process restructure. This is a great opportunity to radicalize the way money moves through the AS and it's accessibility so rather than viewing it as efficiency and Jo suggested that efficiency in this context means simplicity and transparency so any student can come through and understand how money is moving without having to sit in on tons of different councils. DeFiesta, Zerai and Battsengel all sat in a meeting together discussing representation and that it could be better centered in this council as well. It is crucial to center marginalized and underrepresented students in the discussions of how money moves and the processes in which it does.

Mullins is going over what the purpose of the budget restructure is. The first is to make it easier for money to move. The second is that it is not in the constitution and should be added. Mullins wants to see what the pros and cons are of both systems to be compared. Barenburg mentions that they want there to be financial training literacy for everyone. As a Senator, Barenburg had to pass the last budget with a lot of trust in the two senators that sat on the committees and had that financial literacy training. Several senators at the table did not feel comfortable voting with their background of financial literacy at the time.

Gerhardt is thinking that they do not want to consider passing this council before seeing how the trainings will look like and wants clarity for the council and everyone involved in these decisions.

Barenburg adds that the by-laws of the constitution need the finance council to talk to the executive board on a weekly basis. Mullins wants to know who decides whether budget decisions go to either governing bodies. Mullins feels that if they do pass this, they have a few stipulations to hybridize the old and the new. The added line is that it can be referred to the student senate and executive board at any time.

DeFiesta said that Jo said that the Senate Pro-Tempore and the AS President sit on the finance council and have the final decision to send decisions made in the council over to the Senate and or the Executive Board for review.

Drechsel jumps back to the trainings for financial literacy. They could have half financial literacy about what 3 million dollars looks like and the other half could be about how we decolonize the ways we give money at this PWI and talk about power structures in finances and prioritize giving tangible amounts of money to marginalized communities to ensure access. Mullins agrees having a “trustee of the fee” and the decolonization discussion was a crucial change made to SEJF because there were so many grants not passing because of the ways the committee defined sustainability and the priorities. Ideas of that grants need to be perfect and presented a certain way and be cost-effective made it far more inaccessible.

Romo wants to know what the role of the Senate and the Executive Board is when they hire for the Business Director. Romo also wants to know whether this should be an acknowledgement piece at the end of meetings in terms of who sits on committees or if it should move to the beginning of the meeting. Gerhardt wants to know in the authority a more specific description of what is a significant matter to be referred to the board.

DeFiesta wants to recognize that Nate Jo put a lot of work and thought into reimagining how the budget process should work and wants to appreciate his commitment. DeFiesta also wants to put it out that we should all try to meet with Jo throughout the week to talk with him about whether they want to make some more clarifying pieces or continue reimagining the process and that there is totally time for this to be further discussed and minds can change over the week.

MOTION ASB-19-F-48

By: Mullins

To extend the discussion by 10 minutes.

Second: DeFiesta

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes: No:

Abstaining:

DeFiesta goes back to a more specific description of what is a significant matter to be referred to the board. Mullins thinks maybe it was left vague because of an expected level of trust between the finance council and other offices. Gerhardt wants to know what the value judgement will be for what is significant matter. Zerai also feels that a significant matter seems like an end-all be-all decision or a smaller matter and that makes it difficult to know what that line means as the budget council and the executive board changes throughout the years. Zerai thinks it would be useful to add a section on the channel between the board and the finance council if this is passed and how that works and how the executive board and senate will make those decisions whether by majority or quorum.

DeFiesta says the restructure committee could be charged with continuing the reimagining of this process.

Romo says the charter may be amended by a majority vote but does not say how this majority vote is taken by the committee or the students or the executive board. Romo believes it should clarify who is going to say when it is time to revisit this charter.

Drechsel wants to know why there is an urge to change the budget before the restructure committee. Mullins says that the only urgency he has heard is that it doesn't go through the S&A committee on time and this should fix that. DeFiesta adds that in the constitution the board is not a part of approving the budget anymore, and that could contribute to urgency.

IX Consent Items *(subject to immediate action)*

A. James Detke, Freshman – AS Transportation Advisory Committee

Gerhardt is thrilled because they seem so passionate about transportation. Mullins said he would have loved to see them on every committee they expressed interest in.

MOTION ASB-19-F-49

By: Mullins

To acknowledge consent item A.

Second: Gerhardt

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes: No:

Abstaining:

X. Board Reports

Lani Defiesta, AS President moved T/TH Office Hours to the Multicultural Center with the same office hours but the location has been moved to be within the ESC student offices. Met with Melynda to talk about the MCC director. Melynda will be emailing the job description of the director by Monday and work with Battsengel to create the hiring committee for that position and ensured that will happen this year. DeFiesta has been emailed by students with a lot of interest in the advisory council committee which Melynda is starting up this year. Melynda is also planning to follow up with

Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs states that Western Lobby Day Registration is open at bit.ly/wld2020! Registration closes January 10th! Get on it!

Adah Barenburg- Senate Pro-Tempore met with a student that had a lot of concerns with the First Year Experience program and that was something Melynda really wanted to work on. ACC is putting off discussing the block schedule until the next meeting. It gets faculty really mad because there is so much difficulty in fitting classes in and there's so much difficulty with space on campus. In UPRC they are planning out what issues they want to discuss in the coming year. Ethnic studies, the writing proposal, and the 2021 budget plan was brought up. They did a whole discussion on how programs can be looked over if they aren't coming from a specific college. It is a super long-winded plan to approve a process. If you aren't coming from a college because you can circumvent all of that and its efficient but there is no stakeholder input. With ethnic studies and the writing proposal they do not know who they want to go through. There are 30 minutes left to apply for the vacant senate seats. They are doing interviews today and tomorrow and will hopefully have the senate filled Monday.

Trever Mullins- VP for Sustainability had the first SEJF Meeting on Tuesday. All the seated members showed up even though it was early meeting and the first day of a three-day weekend is appreciative that everyone attended. He is also finalizing programming for redefining sustainability and publicity for that as well tabling Tuesday in Red Square and Thursday in the Viking Union to advertise for that. The next food and housing insecurity meeting will be next Friday at 2 pm in VU 566.

Emily Gerhardt- VP for Student Services had a meeting with Leonard. They talked about ways in which residence life administration can talk directly to students on campus. He mentioned that admin talks once a week about residence life with students to talk about how they prioritize funding and where the money is going and what the administration of residence life looks like. Dessert with Directors is a similar program that Gerhardt will be going to all of them. Hey are in the same time frame as hall council so they can get more student input and encourage more people to attend. Gerhardt was looking at what point do they do these things for residence life and prioritize.

Selome Zerai- VP for Activities reports that as said at the last meeting Zerai has been working with the outdoor center to increase accessibility to different communities on program and also to promote their wellness program. The outdoor center will be sponsoring large events will be in Spring, but Zerai is also working with Battsengel to develop small events throughout winter quarter to promote mental health, even as simple as jump roping in a park and to motivate students to go outside and interact with groups. Zerai also met with the College of Science and Engineering Senators about the CSE ambassador program the college launched this year and how they will work with the Senate.

XI. Other Business

Drechsel asks the board to please talk to their weekly committees about getting involved in Western Lobby Day.

Lani DeFiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:13pm.