



# Western Washington University Associated Students

## AS Executive Board

November 8, 2019

VU 567

**Board Members:** *Present:* 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:* Lani DeFiesta (President)

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

**Secretary:** Jude Ahmed

**Guest(s):** Nate Jo (AS Business Director), Raquel Vigil (Business Manager), Alberto Rodriguez-Escobedo (AS SAIRC Coordinator), Karen Deysher (AS SAIRC Coordinator), and Fatuma Musa.

### Motions:

ASB-19-F-42	To approve the restructure committee charge and charter. <i>Passed.</i>
ASB-19-F-43	To approve the transportation advisory committee charge and charter. <i>Passed.</i>
ASB-19-F-44	To acknowledge the senate election results. <i>Passed.</i>
ASB-19-F-45	To acknowledge consent items B and C. <i>Passed.</i>

*Grace Drechsel, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.*

#### I. Approval of Minutes

#### II. Revisions to the Agenda

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

Nate Jo is speaking in regards to last week's agenda item for the AS Finance Council. There were changes to the financial processes and Jo provides some updates. Since Jo will be attending a conference next week, it will be brought as an action item in two weeks. In that time frame they highly encourage the board to meet with Jo for comments and feedback to see if there is any outreach and research that needs to be done further. On

Tuesday they will send out the processes for feedback to all staff, and Raquel Vigil will be checking in with budget authorities.

## V. Action Items – Guests

### A. Restructure Committee C&C - Zerai

This action item was discussed at the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as an information item. Barenburg asks if they figured out if they want any of the positions that they discussed last week to be in the restructure. They talked about including SAIRC and ESC Staff members in order to make sure they were included in the restructure conversation since they have not been before. Barenburg wants to confirm that were informed of this change as well Drechsel confirms that change has been made.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-42 By: Zerai*

To approve the restructure committee charge and charter.

*Second: Mullins*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes: No:*

*Abstaining:*

## IV. Information Items – Guests

### A. Queer Guild Council - Battsengel

Battsengel and Rodriguez-Escobedo met up over the summer to speak on the different councils and figure out how they want councils to world. Battsengel will have bi-weekly meetings with Nicole Vargas, the AS SAIRC Outreach Coordinator but the VP for Diversity will not sit on the committee. Rodriguez-Escobedo wants the SAIRC coordinator and Langley, the LGBTQ coordinator to be co-advisors. Zerai wants to clarify what the membership of “one representative from each AS Queer or Trans focused club” means and if that means there are 8 membership positions or if there can be more. Jo says that last year they just had that line because it allows them to quickly indoctrinate clubs into the council as they are formed. Romo states that it does read as though it wants 8 members total and the language could potentially be clearer.

Raquel Vigil asks if a club hub representative should be included since the council includes largely clubs. Rodriguez-Escobedo says they had conversations with Jenn Cook about how they would want to structure this group. Vigil is concerned that if resource allocation is being discussed by this group it would be useful to include a representative to be able to communicate any requests for funds. Rodriguez-Escobedo asks if they want to be a voting or non-voting member and what positions they should be in. Vigil suggests adding Jenn Cook as a non-voting member in the spirit of shared governance with staff and that including a club representative resource manager would be valuable. Rodriguez-Escobedo would be interested in developing a liaison that does not have direct management of the club or involvement but can communicate with club hub resources. Rodriguez-Escobedo goes back to how Battsengel in their capacity as VP for Diversity has been extremely supportive of the queer community, and that may not always be the case with future VPs for Diversity so they structured the council to report to the VP for Diversity. In communicating with the Club Hub that thought process may apply as well.

Jo talks about the intention of the club as being a safe space and queer space, so having reportage/funding liaison and not a non-queer member added to the membership roster is important.

#### B. AS Student Disability Advocacy Committee Charter – Battsengel

Battsengel states that similarly, this committee will not be chaired by the VP for Diversity but the chair will meet weekly with the VP for Diversity to update them on what is going on in the meetings and how they can support the committee. Rodriguez-Escobedo mentioned that the voting membership is not up to date on this document and track changes didn't come up. Barenburg would like to alter the membership of an at-large Senator because she is unsure if an at-large Senator will be available to sit on this council. Barenburg suggests that since there is a plan to develop a disabilities minor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), the at-large senator could be listed as a CHSS Senator. Gerhardt suggests specifying the 2 Residence Life at-large to two Residents Life Community Coordinators from different parts of campus in order to be able to address different accessibility concerns and needs in different parts of campus. Mullins asks why there is a subcommittee specifically listed and if it could just say that subcommittees can be formed like most charters say. Rodriguez-Escobedo said their thought process in doing it this way was so that the subcommittee would be chaired by someone else. Mullins suggests that they could add one more member and still meet quorum if they think of anyone that might be a good addition to the membership.

#### C. Undocumented and Mixed Status Student Council C&C – Battsengel

Battsengel states that this council will begin meeting next quarter. This is a space to talk about the issues that undocumented students face and things that they could do in response and to support undocumented students. Battsengel will communicate this charter to Melynda Huskey to see if she has any comments or input to make this council equal in terms of policies and procedures. Rodriguez-Escobedo states that this council began its development with the previous VP for Diversity and its intention was to be an advisory council and propose suggested changes to policies. Vigil suggests changing the language in the charge to say that charge is to develop suggested policies.

Drechsel asks if there would be any room for the council's charge to collaborate with the AS VP for Governmental Affairs and lobby day. The charge could have the council give advice as to the legislative agenda. Mullins also suggests including the various levels of the legislature to include local legislative involvement. Battsengel would be interested in seeing if someone from the Representation & Engagement Programs (REP) Office can have membership on that council. Drechsel mentioned that in the restructure of the REP there could be a role that fits really well into this situation, but wants to be mindful of the space of the meetings and the sensitivity of the council. Zerai suggests that a liaison could meet with a REP office representative. Battsengel asks about having someone from the blue resource center have that role. Drechsel suggests that maybe it could be another liaison system in which the blue resource advocacy coordinator communicates to the AS VP for Governmental Affairs. Vigil asks if there should be a senator on the membership in order to give the AS Senate and the Executive Board shared governance. Battsengel would be interested, although he VP for Diversity is non-voting and just chairs the committee. They would be interested in including a senator at the potential discretion of the members of the council who are undocumented. Zerai asks how the student at-large position is chosen, and if that could be used for the Senator as well. Barenburg suggests that the student at large is selected through an application. Battsengel suggests potentially having a

senator chosen by the Pro-Tempore. Other clarifications include making the Blue Group Advisor non-voting, specifying there are two co-chairs of Blue Group with two votes. The ESC Representative could be specified as the ESC Advocacy and Programming Coordinator so that it is a consistent position. Since they sit on LAC they can help with legislative action as well.

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

**VII. Action Items – Board**

A. Transportation Advisory Committee – Gerhardt

Gerhardt states that the charter was updated from last week’s discussion to change the Local Issue Liaison to Local Issues Coordinator and to update the expiration date. Zerai suggests subtracting from the membership another student at-large in order to meet quorum. Musa brings Zerai a latte and a treat at 3:55. This is so on brand. Gerhardt makes that change.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-43 By: Gerhardt*

To approve the transportation advisory committee charge and charter.

*Second: Mullins*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes: No:*

*Abstaining:*

**VIII. Information Items – Board**

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

A. Senate Election Results

You can find the senate election results at [as.wvu.edu/elections](http://as.wvu.edu/elections). For more information on the Student Senate check out [as.wvu.edu/studentssenate](http://as.wvu.edu/studentssenate). The first meeting will be November 22nd. They will all be there. Next week on Friday applications close for the remaining student senate positions. The Senate Pro-Tempore, Leti and one more student will be reviewing applications to select a student. Once the applicants are selected the Senate can ratify the selection.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-44 by Mullins*

To acknowledge the Senate election results.

*Second: Drechsel*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

B. Terence Hardy, Sophomore- Queer Guild Council

Battsengel appreciated their resume and looks forward to having them on the council.

C. Jennifer LeVeque, Sophomore-SJEC

Barenburg says Jennifer was a member last year for SJEC and nominated her again because she has last year's institutional knowledge which would be valuable for this up and coming year.

*MOTION ASB-19-F-45 by Drechsel*  
To acknowledge consent items B and C.

*Second: Gerhardt*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passe*

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

X. **Board Reports**

**Yesugen Battsengel, VP for Diversity** is going to a conference next week and will be preparing to give the keynote speech. Battsengel been talking to Zerai, ESC club leaders and more on guidelines for the ESC and the MCC. Battsengel is moving student caucus lunches to next quarter in order to spend this quarter collecting more information and doing more research so that spaces can be held with more intention and transparency.

**Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that around 200 students responded to the legislative priorities survey. There is a final push to get students to respond so they can build an agenda with student's interests in mind. The survey will be open for another week at [bit.ly/wwulobbysurvey](http://bit.ly/wwulobbysurvey). Western Lobby Day is January 19th to the 20th on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Started outreach for that and wants to put it on everyone's minds to save the date.

Drechsel met with some folks from the Office of Sustainability about the transportation survey they are sending out. This survey is regarding what students want to see out of negotiations with Whatcom Transportation Authority that are happening in the Spring. They want to know where students are at with those services and what they want to see change or grow. University Planning and Resources Council (UPRC) was Wednesday and they voted on guidelines for how they decide on decision packages for new programs. Drechsel felt that the guidelines were vague and wants to think about ways decision packages would be evaluated with them. A lot of it has to do with aligning with the Western Strategic Plan. It could be a good opportunity for students on that council to really incorporate the strategic plan rather and go beyond the buzzwords in the guidelines.

Becca Kenna-Schenk is the liaison between the administration and the legislature. There is another liaison between the faculty and legislature. The administrative agenda includes making tuition more equitable for Western students on the peninsula, which was also an issue presented to LAC that are looking to support. Council faculty wants to push academic journal funding and work study and education doctorate funding in the legislative agenda.

**Adah Barenburg- Senate Pro- Tempore** has been meeting with Senators this week to ask what their goals are for the year. Barenburg is discussing with senators on how to go about strategically entering meetings with administration and faculty. Barenburg hopes to get them on committees starting next week after they turn in their HR paperwork.

Barenburg also had a meeting with students about late-work policy and what is in the syllabus. A student came in with late work problems because they felt as though the professor did not have a late work policy and was making up policies throughout the quarter and felt their identity was being targeted. Barenburg wants to talk with ACC about whether they can require a late-work policy in the syllabus. Students in Woodring are doing a class project about adding a Sexual Harassment/Assault policy in the syllabus in order to offer resources and change campus climate. They have been working for multiple quarters on this and have spoken to the deans.

Faculty Senate is putting to a vote on whether a blurb should be added on supporting students within the faculty senate guidebook. They should learn next week what happens. Since so many faculty have been involved and this discussion has been long and ongoing, Barenburg hopes that people are thinking about how big of a problem lack of student support is on this and other campuses. Barenburg also spoke on the student effort that has gone towards bringing this conversation to the attention of the campus community.

Met with ACC to talk about the block schedule potentially being utilized. They did a study and found this campus does not have enough classroom space and 45 classes were not able to be taught because there were no classroom options. They did find that space was not being utilized well because many professors don't request to teach classes on Fridays or in the evenings. She feels like the conversation has been around what works best for faculty rather than for students. Mullins wants to note that evening classes should still take into consideration that classrooms are often used by extracurricular activities.

**Trever Mullins- VP for Sustainability** spoke of Lorrie Bortuzzo, who is under Multicultural Services, who works specifically to support unaccompanied homeless and foster youth to make sure they have a support system on campus. They are starting an advisory council next quarter and Melynda was open to collaborating with stakeholders and having a full room discussing how to meet basic needs. He also brought up issues of safety and how to incorporate that into new plans. Mullins finalized the publicity for Redefining Sustainability which is on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00pm- 5:30pm in VU 565. Mullins is working on the programming. Mullins spoke with Greg McBride and Kelsey Leppeck on potentially creating a website or team site for student sustainability resources to help students access more information and stay connected to one another. The Environmental and Sustainability Programs (ESP) office is finalizing their job descriptions for the outback and have been meeting with personnel committee to determine how that process will go. They are changing the typical AS hiring system and incorporating that into the restructure because they want to make sure that positions work on a farm calendar rather than an academic calendar. SEJF meets Tuesday at 8:00am every Tuesday. The Dean of Huxley, Steve Hollenhorst sent out a note to faculty about signing on to the UN Climate Emergency Declaration. He also included potential initiatives Huxley and Western could potentially take on. The declaration has a December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, and it will be interesting to see what conversations or action will arise.

**Emily Gerhardt- VP for Student Services** stated that the bookstore is eager to meet with Melynda but they are unsure what else there is to do from her perspective. They met to look at what resources were available to them, and their situation has not gotten much better. Gerhardt wants to explore with HR what policies there are for student employees

to fall back on. Gerhardt had a meeting with Mullins and Melinda to talk about basic needs campaign that she has previously mentioned. It looks like a great way to integrate administration and the associated students. There is a grant from the student achievement council to help students meet basic human needs. One of the lagging zones is medical care and so she is looking to see how to keep the Student Health Center running all year round for students that live here year round as well as see how to create a better and sustainability space for trans or students with chronic illness.

**Selome Zerai- VP for Activities** states that WWU Parking is willing to participate in Food for Fines. WWU Libraries will also be participating. Food for Fines is a developing program where students can pay off their parking citations or library fines by donations to a food pantry. They will be looking at how donations will convert into fines. Western's Outdoor Center wants to do free events for anyone mostly during Spring Quarter when the weather is good and people want to be outside. The Students Publication committee will be meeting next Friday at 3pm. They are looking for an editor for the committee.

## **XI. Other Business**

Leti Romo gave a shout out that it is National First Generation College Student Day!

*Grace Drechsel, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 4:27pm.*