



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Board of Directors

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

VU 567

**Board Members:** *Present:* Selome Zerai (VP for Activities), Yesugen Battsengel (VP for Diversity), Grace Drechsel (VP for Governmental Affairs), and Emily Gerhardt (VP for Student Services).

*Absent:*

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

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** Sargun Handa

### Motions:

**ASB-20-W-9** To approve the meeting minutes from the date of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
*Passed.*

*Grace Drechsel, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.*

### I. Approval of Minutes

A. February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*MOTION ASB-20-W-9 By Zerai*

To approve the meeting minutes from the date of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

*Second: Gerhardt*

*Vote: 7-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

### II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

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

A. Sargun Handa questioned the status of board members, Drechsel stated that only 4 board members are needed to vote.

### IV. Information Items - Guests

A. None

### V. Action Items - Guests

A. None

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

A. None

**VII. Action Items - Board**

A. None

**VIII. Information Items - Board**

A. School Trustee Selection Committee Charge and Charter- (Defiesta)

1. Drechsel mentioned that Defiesta wasn't able to make it to the meeting but when she spoke with her Defiesta stated that she didn't see any changes to be made, but she asked for advertising ideas for the student trustee position.
2. Gerhardt questioned if the student trustee position used to be filled by a board member, Byers clarified that this was a formatting issue, and they are different positions. Gerhardt mentioned advertising the role as Spring elections start as an additional position students can apply to as there have been issues in the past about the number of applicants.
3. Drechsel noted that she would have to check if someone in the office would be able to make posters and organize the advertising of the position.
4. Zerai asked whether it would be possible to give committee members some sort of educational credit for all the work they put in, if monetary compensation isn't possible. She mentioned perhaps being a humanities credit or a G.U.R.
5. Gerhardt stated that the student trustee position is uncompensated with an exception to the per diem but at other universities their tuition is completely waved and paid for. This would be a high-selling point to students as how important their insight, hard work, and dedication are very important.
6. Drechsel asked what schools compensate in this way, Gerhardt clarified that she believes almost all of them do; Evergreen, UW, WSU, Central.
7. Handa asked what amount of time the person holding the position spends, Gerhardt responded that currently she would give the rough estimate of 10+ hours per week.
8. Romo brought that someone had commented to her that there are no senators assigned to the committee on the C&C. Battsengel stated that they saw this as making the committee very AS based, which has positives and negatives.
9. Zerai stated that she feels hesitant to keep adding senators to committees with the limited amount of hours they have. Gerhardt commented that it would be useful to speak to Gerhardt about this. Drechsel mentioned switching one of the student at-large positions to a student senator position.
10. Drechsel stated that she would bring this up to Defiesta.

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

A. None

**X. Board Reports**

Selome Zerai, VP for Activities stated that the first restructure committee meeting was held this week, and she would like to add it as a discussion item for the next meeting as she's unsure about the meaning of it and asked for opinions from the board members present. Drechsel responded that there's a lot of different areas of the AS that have been

changed overtime and she'd love to talk about it with the rest of the board members. Gerhart agreed with this, and stated she was unsure about the end goal of it. Battsengel mentioned that a lot of the parts of the AS are under constant construction, and the committee may benefit from discovering what students think want from the restructuring of the AS. Romo stated that students were notified, but are probably not as invested in the outcome and that this process has taken a long time. Zerai commented that she would like to see more reassessment of the committee.

**Yesugen Battsengel, VP for Diversity** stated that the ESC letter will be coming out the following week. They've been meeting with the undocumented committee, working on deadlines, but it's been overall a pretty quiet week.

**Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that she's in the group for renegotiating the contract with WTA, and she went to the WTA offices to talk about how the two organizations can uphold their relationship and can improve services together. She mentioned finalizing things for WILD which is happening the following weekend.

**Emily Gerhardt, VP for Student Services** stated that she went to the emergency management committee this week, where they talked a lot about replacing the blue lights on campus, maybe piloting a safety app on campus with tracked location and possible reporting as a resource if a student may feel unsafe rather than a police situation. She talked with Leonard and Vicki from Res Life about housing affordability and how it can be improved without increasing cost. She stated that Senator Kobe wanted to have a conversation about comfortability of living in a dorm. She met with Greg about the necessity of the Transportation Advisory committee as they haven't met in the last 5 years.

## **XI. Other Business**

- A. Romo stated that there will be a 100 years celebration of the women's right to vote on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Dreschsel stated that she'd love to get the information to be able to forward it to the REP office.

*Grace Drechsel, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 3:11 p.m.*