



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

February 21st, 2020

VU 567

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

Absent:

Advisor: Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator)

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Sargun Handa, Stella Harvey, Jaquelin Sampson, transcriptors

Motions:

ASB-20-W-10 To change the appointed board member position on the Student Trustee Selection Committee to Senate Pro-Tempore. *Passed.*

ASB-20-W-11 To table the Student Trustee Selection Committee to the following week's meeting. *Passed.*

ASB-20-W-12 To support the addition of Drew Kunnellis and Jordan King to the Academic Honesty Board. *Passed.*

Lani Defiesta, AS President, called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. None

II. Revisions to the Agenda

A. Addition of the architecture design of the board office in the "other" items.

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

A. Admissions Instagram Takeover- (Sampson)

1. Sampson asked as the admissions social media manager if the AS Board would be interested in doing a takeover of the Instagram page and stories. She offered two options; either two or five main feed posts over the course of two weeks to talk about what the AS does and to give a narrative about their lives as students at Western. The admissions office would plan on filming a promotional video the first week of April and then hold the takeover from April 12th to 19th. Sampson stated that she is able to help brain content and is always available as a resource.
2. The Executive Board agreed as a whole that five posts would be optimal.

B. Huxley Name Change- (Handa)

1. Handa spoke to Huxley senators and the student taskforce as she recently found out the T.H. Huxley committed racist actions and supported movements such as eugenics and scientific racism. It didn't sit right to them that this department was named after a man who was vehemently against such a high percentage of the student population and she would like to ask for a departmental name change.

2. Handa stated that they spoke to the departmental president who said he was alright with the proposal, but Huxley senators mentioned that this would likely be controversial with alumni who secure funding for the department which may throw a wrench in the process.
3. Barenburg stated that as she's seen other smaller institutions on campus go through the process of changing names, and it has taken years to accomplish, so this would definitely be a long-term goal.
4. Drechsel stated that she was unsure of having six total senators devoting a lot of their time to this, and so moving forward they should be mindful of the hours spent on this project and where energy is going. Handa responded that this project would mostly be worked on by themselves and Huxley Senator Maya Noesen.
5. Barenburg commented that she'd like to have a more private conversation on how to get this project moving, and she noted that using the angle of having the name better reflect the purpose of the college may be a more effective tactic.
6. Zerai noted that from her experience on campus, she believes this will be an uphill battle especially considering how this may upset alumni.

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. Student Trustee Selection Committee- (Defiesta)

1. Defiesta stated that there was discourse in the previous week's meeting about having a senator on the committee and she'd like to talk more about this. She doesn't see the student trustee working much with the senate and believes it would be valuable to keep the student at-large as she doesn't want the committee to be just employees of the AS. She finds the AS VP for Diversity would be valuable as the appointed board member.
2. Barenburg stated that she believes that the student trustee selection committee does a lot of academic support and that she'd want to add either a senator or the Senate Pro-Tempore position to the committee.
3. Zerai noted that she is against having senators on this committee as she feels it may be unproductive because of the hour limit senators have, nothing specific to one college, and maxed out requirements of the senate positions. She would like to see more non-AS people on committees, especially non-trustees to improve transparency and public involvement. Zerai stated that as the capacity and responsibilities of the board position on the committee is unsure, she doesn't believe the Senate Pro-Tempore position would be a good fit for the committee
4. Drechsel commented that not having senate representation feels a little exclusionary to them when the AS is trying to make the senate more like the

board. Some senators have extra time, and she doesn't want them to feel ostracized from the process.

5. Mullins noted that adding another member wouldn't change quorum, and it would be good to have a student trustee relationship as currently there's not a lot of communication between the trustees and the board.
6. Zerai stated that personally she doesn't see the impact of adding a senator to the committee and that they are already adding to the conversation within their own departments/colleges. Regardless of quorum she's concerned that when adding another person, it would be possible for the two students at-large to be unable to make it to a meeting and quorum would still be met, and this may change the dynamic of the students participating in that space.
7. Drechsel stated that this dynamic should be something to be mindful of but it could be worked around and addressed in order to solve the issue.
8. Defiesta mentioned that in her experience it can feel very separate and inaccessible to be a part of these conversations as a student not working in the AS, and she wants to bring more students to the table.
9. Byers commented that she is glad the board is talking about the possible power dynamic but it should be noted that whoever applies to the committee cannot apply to be on the board of student trustees. The position will be advertised to students through outreach from her, Hunter in communications, and WWU communications as well as possibly the REP office.
10. Zerai stated that she'd like to keep the members as is or if needed, to change the appointed board member position to Senate Pro-Tempore as she's iffy about putting senators on almost all committees. She feels as if adding senators in these places may just feel as the right thing to do, and that their presence may be intimidating to the students at-large. One could argue that the lack of students applying to committees could be based on the committee structure rather than the students. There's no compensation other than a resume builder, and they sign up to volunteer for something they don't know if they'll enjoy. Zaerai stated that students shouldn't be barred from the position just because there is a scarcity in applications for the role, and she feels as if the board should revise other C&Cs to follow this.
11. Barenburg said that she believes the senators are more in line with the students than with the board and are more inviting than other members. At the least she'd like her position to be on the committee.
12. Handa commented that they don't see how including one student population by excluding another student population whose whole mission is to represent that student group makes sense. The senators are still learning and are more approachable in her eyes.
13. Defiesta stated that if no student senate members are added, she'd like to have the Senate Pro-Tempore as the designated board position because the person sitting in the position would not just be external but internal as well. She doesn't want to bar any students from participating in this, and to keep it accessible.

MOTION ASB-20-W-10 by Barenburg

To change the appointed board member position on the Student Trustee Selection Committee to Senate Pro-Tempore.

Second: Zerai

Vote: 3-3-1

Action: Rejected

Yes: Zerai, Gerhardt,

Barenburg

No: Mullins, Drechsel,

Defiesta

Abstaining: Battsengel

14. Byers encouraged the board to have conversation on this topic before the next week's meeting.
15. Zerai noted that she'd rather have the Associate Dean from Student Engagement be non-voting so that the quorum would be the same if a senator was added to the committee and the current student trustee would be non-voting to eliminate bias.
16. Defiesta responded that she appreciates this but the student trustee doesn't work for students, they work for WWU within the admin and deans, so they would be effective because of the role they play. She'd really appreciate hearing more about this especially with Hunter Stuehm's input and discussing how the AS may play a role in the student trustee position, but she won't be here for the next week's meeting.
17. Byers suggested Defiesta to Skype in for next week's meeting if she is able to and Defiesta stated that this would be possible.

MOTION ASB-20-W-11 by Defiesta

To table the Student Trustee Selection Committee to the following week's meeting.

Second: Mullins

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VIII. Information Items - Board

A. Transportation Advisory Committee Master Plan 2015- (Gerhardt)

1. Gerhardt stated that she met with Greg McBride to get some more information on the committee, and he told her that it's been five years since the committee has met, a lot of what the goals were have since been met or are being addressed elsewhere and it doesn't seem that there's a particular need for the committee. She asked the board whether they think it's time to retire the committee.
2. Zerai asked the purpose of the committee now if it hasn't met for the last five years.
3. Mullins stated that the transportation committees that exist currently are the ATF, this one, and the PTAC which isn't connected to the AS and focuses on parking primarily. This committee could be treated like a capital budget plan, have them meet once every ten years maybe, as there's not much that happens on a yearly basis.
4. Barenburg stated that she's seen interest in students about this committee and that because of this there should perhaps have this be an opportunity for a yearly presentation to look at what transportation is like on campus, to address concerns, and to see if previous concerns have been met.

5. Drechsel stated that she'd like to talk to Kenzi Garner concerning her thoughts on this as a student transportation representative.

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

A. Drew Kunnellis- Academic Honesty Board

B. Jordan King- Academic Honesty Board

1. Barenburg stated both people had great applications, and King is the president for Model U.N. so Barenburg knew them previously and she trusts them both in this position.

MOTION ASB-20-W-12 by Drechsel

To support the addition of Drew Kunnellis and Jordan King to the Academic Honesty Board.

Second: Defiesta

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed.

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

X. Board Reports

Lani Defiesta, AS President stated that she and Adah had a meeting with several people about the design for the new student government space that would integrate the Board and the Senate areas. She also met with the S&A fee committee, Nate Jo presented it to the AS last week and this fee may be something to discuss at finance council.

Selome Zerai, VP for Activities stated that she heard from a student who is interested in creating a bootstraps project to be able to be enrolled on campus and get credits from working on campus projects. They are trying to get donors to come do an endowment, and they will come to the next board meeting to look for the board's support. This support would achieve stronger donor confidence and help fund the project.

Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that Western Intersectional Lobby Day was on Monday and that she really appreciates all the help from the other organizers. The Undocumented Student Loan Program that they lobbied for passed in the senate and there will be a hearing soon in the house. She is working with the WTA on the contract negotiation, and with the REP to prepare for the census and getting students to understand the importance of their participation.

Emily Gerhardt, VP for Student Services stated that she has been working with two RAs on the U-RISE model, and has been trying to have herself and the two RAs be able to attend an RD staff meeting which has been difficult. Currently there is a U-RISE committee, but no students sit on it. She is hoping to meeting with the chair of the U-RISE committee. She just received a message from Kurt Wilson to work on the housing rate proposal to be sponsor in March.

Trever Mullins, VP for Sustainability stated that in the last couple weeks he has been working on the basic needs grant with Karen Deysher and Kayl Gillihan. He made note that Deysher is amazing and that they have been strategizing on how to change campus culture to be founded on care based on their experience working on different campuses where this is the case. The first workforce meeting will be on Monday, Sarah Wilson will

be present, and the goal is to reach higher-ups so that the grant is able to last more than just the two years of allocated funding.

Adah Barenburg, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she was gone most of last week at an academic conference but that the senators are having conversations about the senate bylaws this week and are planning on changing them this year although they wouldn't go into effect until the following year. They may change the election date of senator to the Spring Quarter, for example. Finance Council has been meeting and she noted that Nate Jo has been doing a very good job on the training.

XI. Other Business

A. Architecture Design of the Board Office- (Defiesta)

1. Defiesta and Barenburg met with various people on the design of the new board offices, and were given beautiful mappings of the proposed designs.
2. Barenburg commented that mostly they need to make a decision on how the space is allocated accounting for the fact that the student senate and the REP will be moving into the space and that a bathroom will also be added. She added that the board should discuss how they want to arrange the sharing of offices. She also noted that having a senate space would constrain a communal area.
3. Defiesta stated that she believes the President should move in with the VP for Governmental Affairs, the President's room should become a meeting space, and Barenburg would then move in with the senate. This would make the space more collaborative and communal and would integrate senators with the board. She stated that if anyone thought of suggestions, she would love to hear them!

Lani Defiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:23 p.m.