



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Board of Directors

February 7th, 2020
VU 567

Board Members: *Present:* Lani Defiesta (President), Selome Zerai (VP for Activities), Yesugen Battengel (VP for Diversity), 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: Leti Romo (Assistant Director for Student Representation & Governance)
Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator)

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Kayl Gillihan, Hunter Stuehm, Sargun Handa, Stella Harvey, Transcribers.

Motions:

ASB-20-W-3 To approve the meeting minutes from the date of January 31st, 2020 with the decided changes. *Passed.*

ASB-20-W-4 To approve the updated SAIRC Agenda. *Passed.*

ASB-20-W-5 To approve the ESP Agenda with the changes of removing the Farmworkers Protections ask as well as adding the items Guidelines for Gas Emissions and Tribal Water Rights. *Passed.*

ASB-20-W-6 To approve the updated ESC Agenda. *Passed.*

ASB-20-W-7 To approve the WILD Agenda with the changes of adding “black and indigenous communities” in addition to the “communities of color,” and to remove the phrases “as many” and “as possible” from allocating tenure track faculty in the Ethnic Studies ask. *Passed.*

ASB-20-W-8 To approve consent items A-G. *Passed.*

Lani Defiesta, AS President, called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. January 31st, 2020.

1. Changes made; strike out the OS from the section about the work plan in Trevor’s board report, change Hunter to Adah under the Other Business section, change Hunter Pederson to Hunter Stuehm.

MOTION ASB-20-W-3 By Drechsel

To approve the meeting minutes from the date of January 31st, 2020 with the decided changes.

Second: Zerai

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

A. N/A

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

A. N/A

IV. Information Items - Guests

A. N/A

V. Action Items - Guests

A. WILD Legislative Agenda (Gillihan)

1. General and SAIRC Agenda changes

- a. The support for minor works was taken off the agenda because Gillihan was unsure about the meaning of it. Now that she is informed it is included.
- b. Second insulin bill added.
 - i. Barenburg asked whether Gillihan reached out to the Diabetes network on campus concerning the insulin bill, Gillihan replied that she did and that they were interested in lobbying for it and she gave them the information about WILD and how to sign up.
- c. One ask from Reproductive Justice was moved to Support for Survivors of Sexual Assault.
- d. Under Support for Undocumented Students, the first sentence was changed from disturbed, to something more positive.
- e. Under Funding for Ethnic Studied, black and indigenous communities was added in addition to communities of color, and the amount of money asked for was changed from \$500,000 to \$350,000.
 - i. Drechsel asked for this ask to be more vague about the staff portion so it isn't misconstrued as asking for faculty to be paid less.

MOTION ASB-20-W-4 by *Battsengel*
To approve the updated SAIRC Agenda.

Second: Drechsel

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

2. ESP Agenda

- a. Gillihan noted that there were difficulties with the agenda, the LAC wanted to get it to the standard of the other agendas, but there wasn't as much input from the ESP, and were unable to get in contact with a representative.
- b. Drechsel stated that she wanted to be sure that this is what they want on the agenda, and that it is intentional. She asked whether the board would like to bring back the two items that were removed, or to pass it the way it is and wait until the next week to add the Guidelines for Gas Emissions and Tribal Water Rights.

- c. Zerai asked whether the one-pagers would be more in depth, because when she lobbied in the past it was hard for her to understand and Gillihan responded that she would do her best to make it easy to read.

MOTION ASB-20-W-5 by Zerai

To approve the ESP Agenda with the changes of removing the Farmworkers Protections ask as well as adding the items Guidelines for Gas Emissions and Tribal Water Rights.

Second: Drechsel *Vote: 7-0-0* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining:

- 1. ESC Agenda
 - a. Rights for Incarcerated People was elaborated more from last year and was updated with current bills from the House and Senate
 - b. Support for Native Students was taken directly off of a legislative priority, but was changed slightly.

MOTION ASB-20-W-6 by Mullins
 To approve the updated ESC Agenda.

Second: Drechsel *Vote: 7-0-0* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining:

- 1. General WILD Agenda

MOTION ASB-20-W-7 by Zerai

To approve the WILD Agenda with the changes of adding “black and indigenous communities” in addition to the “communities of color,” and to remove the phrases “as many” and “as possible” from allocating tenure track faculty in the Ethnic Studies ask.

Second: Mullins *Vote: 7-0-0* *Action: Passed*
Yes:
No:
Abstaining:

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

- A. N/A

VII. Action Items – Board

- A. N/A

VIII. Information Items - Board

- A. N/A

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

- A. Academic Honesty Board members
 - 1. Barenburg stated that all members are from the philosophy department, and she could state the reasons for each but for these purposes she will just state that she

talked to all of them and they all seemed to have a variety of backgrounds and would be a good fit for the committee.

MOTION ASB-20-W- 8 by Zerai

To approve consent items A-G.

Second: Barenburg

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

X. **Board Reports**

Lani Defiesta, AS President stated that she contacted other students from the DOC and is in the midst of scheduling time for a meeting with Sabah and Melyanda. There will also be a preliminary meeting to discuss policies and focus of the meeting to come up with concrete steps to make sure action is taken. She's in conversation with Annie about having a CASAS training, as well as doing a similar training for the student senate. In the upcoming week, she has a meeting on Tuesday with Grace and Yesugen. Yesugen and Lani have been going to the Student Equity and Justice committee with Leti, and there has been a lot of stuff going on there, with students innovating and collaborating with issues happening on campus and nationally which is exciting.

Selome Zerai, VP for Activities stated that she had a very interesting discussion on the Student Publications Committee about whether someone could apply for both Western Front and Klipsun because it is considered a moral and ethical issue to be on more than one publication at the same time. The black history month series came out looking great and Zerai recognized the people who put the series together and got it up. Zerai stated that the AS should have an office dog.

Yesugen Battengel, VP for Diversity stated that she had a meeting with the Undocumented Student and Mixed Status Family committee, and has plans to meet with Melynda Huskey to come up with a list on how to better support undocumented students, especially with everything happening in the Supreme Court. For example how would Western react if DACA came to campus for student employees? She is also trying to secure funding to take 10 Women of Color student employees to a conference soon, and has been in contact with students at CWU on planning for their board to come visit Western to tour the MCC and learn about the process of its creation as well as information about Ethnic Studies.

Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she has been working with the REP office, specifically Nicole Ballard, to get students involved in the issues from the AS Legislative Agenda. There was a successful event with the Blue Resource Center to advocate for undocumented student loan program, for example. She has been working with WILD organizers to develop their event and support them. She is also in the midst of negotiation for the WTA contract, and met with three people Thursday morning to kick it off.

Emily Gerhardt, VP for Student Services stated that this week has been a catch-up week since being sick, rescheduling meetings from when she was gone. She is planning on meeting with the transportation advisory committee, and housing about U-Rise, as well as

RAs on the same thing. Hunter Stuehm brought to her attention that Evergreen RAs have presented a list of demands to their University, and CWU has a similar situation, so it will be interesting to see what happens next with this in concerns to Western RAs.

Trever Mullins, VP for Sustainability stated that the current Director of Sustainability is leaving Western, which means potential big changes happening, and using this as an opportunity to reassess the office and institution. He will be meeting with Brian Burton on February 27th. This last Wednesday was an HIA meeting where the plan was to discuss the new work plan, but since Lorrie Bortuzzo had just returned from a conference, she decided to switch tracks to focus on how to best help the programs already present on campus such as Feeding Western, WHOLE, Birnham Wood pantry, and Off-Campus Living services. Funding for this grant expires in 2023 and will be reassessed by the senate to see what the next best steps are.

Adah Barenburg, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she approved a class for English on Disability Culture, and she would like to see more classes on the topic. She met with the DOC this week and has a small working group, going on. With the amount of disabled students on campus, there should be more classes about this. She had an extra student senate meeting on Wednesday to talk about elections and bylaws, and they have another meeting this week about changing senate bylaws. She also mentioned the possibility of adding a student fee in order to make all arts related events free on campus, as some departments require students to attend these events which can be pretty expensive. Of course, keeping in mind that this would increase the S&A fee which can only increase up to 4% per year unless students vote otherwise.

XI. Other Business

A. Newspaper Subscriptions

1. Romo asked the board whether they thought a New York Times or Wall Street Journal subscription available to students would be valuable in the following year.
 - a. Drechsel stated that currently Western has a good deal with the subscriptions, and payment for it comes from the AS, not as a fee. She asked what the process would be of continuing to have this service.
 - b. Romo answered that it is a grant that expires this year and would need a finance council proposal to continue.
 - c. Mullins stated that he believes it to be a valuable tool for students and that departments may step up to help pay for it, but the S&A fee could help as well. Maybe get student senators to talk to their colleges about this.
 - d. Barenburg mentioned that she didn't think academic departments would step up to do this because they're under pressure from the administration to cut more, and as a result have a lot of self-sustaining classes this year.
 - e. Defiesta stated that she believes staying informed in today's political climate is crucial and it's important to have this resource.
 - f. Drechsel suggested contacting Nicole Ballard or someone from the REP office to see what they can do.

Lani Defiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 3:33 p.m.