



**Western Washington University Associated Students**

**AS Board of Directors**

February 28th, 2020

VU 567

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

*Absent:* Yesugen Battsengel  
(VP for Diversity)

**Advisor:** Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator) and Leti Romo (Program Advisor)

**Secretary:** Elaine Morado (AS Board Assistant)

**Guest(s):** Hunter Stuehm, Nora Harren, Nicole Ballard, Stella Harvey, transcribers

**Motions:**

**ASB-20-W-13** To approve the minutes from February 21, 2020. ***Passed.***

**ASB-20-W-14** To approve the minutes from February 14, 2020. ***Passed.***

**ASB-20-W-15** To move the AS Spring Election Code from Information Item of the Board to Information Item with Guests. ***Passed.***

**ASB-20-W-16** To approve the Student Trustee Selection Committee Charge & Charter with the following edits: striking the additional Board member and revising "AS Senator" to "AS Student Senator." ***Passed.***

***Grace Drechsel, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.***

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for February 21, 2020 were approved with the following edits: correcting the spelling of Jaclyn Samson.

**MOTION ASB-20-W-13**

*by: Barenburg*

To approve the minutes from February 21, 2020.

*Second: Mullins*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes: 6*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 0*

The minutes from February 14, 2020 were approved with the following edits: Gerhardt requested that in Information Item A – School Trustee Selection Committee (STS) Charge and Charter, in bullet #6, it should say that only UW and WSU have the tuition waived for serving on this committee, the others she is unsure of. Drechsel requested, in the same section, but bullet #3, that "the office" be specified as the "REP office." Zerai requested that in the same section, but bullet #9, Gerhardt's comment be correctly associated to Hunter Stuehm who made the comment.

MOTION ASB-20-W-14

by: Zerai

To approve the minutes from February 14, 2020.

Second: Gerhardt

Vote: 3-0-2

Action: **Passed**

Yes: 3

No: 0

Abstaining: 2

## II. Revisions to the Agenda

Drechsel stated that the AS Spring Election Code 2020 should be an Information Item with Guests, not of the Board.

MOTION ASB-20-W-15

by: Drechsel

To move the AS Spring Election Code from Information Item of the Board to Information Item with Guests.

Second: Mullins

Vote: 5-0-1

Action: **Passed**

Yes: 5

No: 0

Abstaining: 1

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

### A. Bootstraps Fund Action Plan (Document 1 - Sanai Anang)

1. WWU Senior Sanai Anang prepared a presentation for the Board on his project named "By Your Bootstraps", a plan for entrepreneurs and industrious students to, for Fairhaven ISP credit, engage with the community and local businesses on a close level to encourage students to follow their business-oriented passions.
2. Anang is working with various departments at Western, primarily the Fairhaven College and with the Arts, Enterprise, and Cultural Innovation Minor (AECI). Anang has received endorsement from Fairhaven already.
3. Anang is now hoping to obtain an AS endorsement to aid in the efforts of gaining student input on the project via the questionnaire Anang has prepared. The information from the questionnaire would then be used for project formation and determining funding to make sure the program is accessible to groups of students that have historically been disadvantaged at institutional levels, such as racial minorities.
4. Hunter Stuehm, AS Communications Director, informed Anang that any promotional materials with an AS endorsement would need to abide by the AS Branding Guide. Stuehm added that he would be happy to meet with Anang to make sure these requirements are met.
5. Drechsel asked Anang where funding would be sourced from. Anang answered that it would come from donors and Fairhaven College. On this note, DeFiesta asked if the donors would need to go through the Western Foundation and Anang replied that he was unsure but that that would be a conversation to have when it becomes relevant.
6. Barenburg asked for clarification on the AEIC acronym. AEIC stands for Arts, Enterprise, and Cultural Innovation, a minor housed in the College of Fine and Performing Arts. Anang will be meeting with Lucas G. Senger, who is in charge of the AEIC program next week to discuss more details.

7. Mullins asked where the funding would be housed since the program would include different departments. Anang answered that it would be a collaborative effort between Fairhaven and the AECl minor. Since AECl is a minor, students need to have a major elsewhere, meaning the students would be from a variety of colleges. In addition, the program would include non-students who are community entrepreneurs, as well.
8. Romo asked Anang if renaming the program would be a possibility due to the negative connotation in the United States regarding the philosophy of “pulling yourself up by your bootstraps.” Anang answered that this project is focused on reclaiming that saying and giving it a new vitality for people that have historically been unable to do this. Romo followed up by stating that this could possibly be seen as perpetuating the historical notion.
9. Drechsel added to this conversation, noting that the name and words such as “grit” and “perseverance” reflect a different spirit than the project itself. In addition, Drechsel referenced the 3 year entrepreneurial experience requirement to participate in the program, seeing it as an additional barrier. Anang answered that the experience requirement is to ensure the student is able to use this opportunity to their best ability, noting that to participate in this program as a student, they would need to have at least junior status. Regarding the wording, Anang is open to a change in phrasing.
10. Drechsel asked for clarification on the endorsement being asked for from the AS. Anang clarified that the endorsement would only be for promotional materials and help in data gathering to show widespread support within Western for this program.
11. Gerhardt asked the Board whether this should be redirected to the AS Student Senate. Barenburg invited Anang to attend the next senate meeting to have support from both governing bodies, particularly from the body representing all the individual colleges.
12. Byers advised that this would need to go through the formal Board process as an item on the Agenda. Romo added that a Board member would need to sponsor this and create a formal document that abides by the AS branding guidelines before the Board can vote on it.
13. Stuehm will email Anang the branding guidelines. Zerai will be the Board member sponsoring this.
14. Mullins asked what the timeline of this project is expected to be. Anang answered that this quarter is for finalizing the planning, next quarter would be for outreach, data gathering, and meeting with donors, with the intent of launching winter 2021.

#### **IV. Information Items - Guests**

- A. AS Spring Election Code 2020 (Doc 2 – Drechsel)
  1. Nora Harren, REP Director, ran through the changes made: mainly updated dates, an additional day in the grievance process, and edits to the endorsement guidelines for AS employees (*Section IV. Endorsements, parts C and D*).
  2. Harren noted that the edit reflects the ability of AS employees to endorse candidates in their individual capacities. Prior restrictions were placed on AS employees from endorsing as individuals and as AS employees, however, this was an illegal policy that infringed on the First Amendment.
  3. Drechsel asked for clarification on page 8 regarding physical campaign material. Harren clarified that this prohibited AS employees from wearing physical campaign materials (such as buttons or t-shirts) while acting in their official capacity. Drechsel asked for “in

your official capacity” to be defined because it could be thought of as only during office hours or while you’re in a physical workspace. Zerai added that this would present a grey area for enforcement because an AS employee may be in their individual capacity endorsing a candidate but still be perceived by other students as serving under their official capacity.

4. Barenburg asked if it would be possible for Board members to waive their endorsement rights through a voluntary agreement. Zerai asked if this would apply to all AS employees or only elected officials. Barenburg answered that it could be for any AS employee that is voluntarily able to sign it. Drechsel recommended having a code of conduct that would explain the expectations for elected officials during election time. Romo asked how this would be enforced since the grievance board does not have jurisdiction over employee matters, only between candidates. Drechsel stated that having someone sign a document would hold more weight than just having guidelines. Zerai asked whether the Personnel Office would be a possible source of accountability. Harren answered that the Personnel Office does not have the jurisdiction to do so.
5. The Board discussed the difficulty with the difference in timelines between elections and the end of the school year being in the spring; consequences would be difficult to enact.
6. Harren recommended adding a spot for students who vote to provide feedback, potentially on the ballot.
7. Romo and Byers will be looking into the structural guidelines.

**V. Action Items - Guests**

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

**VII. Action Items - Board**

- A. Student Trustee Selection Committee Charge and Charter (Doc 3 – DeFiesta)
  1. There was confusion over which decision the Board had voted for regarding the membership of the committee. One option was to add an AS Student Senator and the other was to get rid of the Chair’s appointment of a Board member and instead having the Senate Pro-Tempore sit on the committee. Stuehm expressed support for having an AS Student Senator in the spirit of shared governance.
  2. The document will have the “AS Senator” clarified to “AS Student Senator.”
  3. Third option: removing the additional Board member and adding a Student Senator.
  4. Stuehm informed the committee that applications opened on Wednesday (2/26).

*MOTION ASB-20-W-16 by: Drechsel*

To approve the Student Trustee Selection Committee Charge & Charter with the following edits: striking the additional Board member and revising “AS Senator” to “AS Student Senator.”

*Second: Mullins*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: **Passed***

*Yes: 6*

*No: 0*

*Abstaining: 0*

## VIII. Information Items - Board

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

### X. Board Reports

**Lani Defiesta, AS President** stated that she met and discussed with Romo, and has also heard this from students, about working to make the Recreation Center (Wade King) more accessible to LGBTQ+ individuals. Conversations would look into why that space is not as welcoming as it could be. Defiesta also mentioned a meeting with Melynda Huskey, Sabah Randhawa, and the Disability Access Center (DAC) Director, Jon McGough, to discuss the snow policy and a progress check on updated policies regarding ADA compliance and going above just being ADA compliant.

**Selome Zerai, VP for Activities** stated that on the day of spring training, there will be a working group for about 3 hours to have a more hands-on approach to the restructure discussions that need to take place. Zerai encouraged the Board members to attend a Restructure Committee meeting which take place at 9am on Thursdays. Currently, they are looking into how the AS handles religious clubs since it was discovered that there needs to be a policy change in Activities Council.

**Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated on Wednesday, the House hearing took place for the undocumented student loan program which would be loans for undocumented students to access for both undergraduate and graduate programs. This had previously passed through the senate. In Legislative Affairs Council, they have begun to discuss the Local Lobby Day agenda. This does not have a date yet, but it will take place downtown with county and city officials. If anyone has any suggestions for issues to bring up for this lobby day, they can be brought to Drechsel or Phoebe Demeerleer (AS Local Issues Coordinator).

**Emily Gerhardt, VP for Student Services** stated that today someone came to talk to her about running for her position. She stated that they discussed dining on campus with there being some confusion with Leonard Jones, Director of University Residence, having mentioned something about a student dining committee forming but only if there is a potential for not continuing with Aramark. Gerhardt is unsure where this idea came from so she will be meeting with Jones to clarify this issue. Gerhardt added that the two RA's that she has been working with on the URise feedback survey let her know that the spring in-service for RA'ing is now making it so RA's present at their own training and train each other. In response, Gerhardt is hoping to be approved to present the URise training to expose them to the feedback on the program. Gerhardt also stated that yesterday she had met with Melynda Huskey at the ESS Student Advisory Board where they went over university structure and how the university goes through their decision making. Next time they meet they will go over mental health resources, the problem that students face in needing to get into classes that are full but required for their major, summer quarter affordability, and an update on water testing.

**Trever Mullins, VP for Sustainability** stated on Monday he had the first work group meeting for Senate Bill 5800 concerning homeless college students and a pilot program that is taking

place at 6 institutions across the state. WWU is the institution taking on this pilot program on the Western side of the Cascades. The meeting was with a variety of higher administration personnel from the university and the meeting was to get the process started for where they see these efforts going. Their next meeting will take place next Thursday. Mullins also stated that the University Planning and Resources Council (UPRC) met on Wednesday where they were given a presentation on space cap modeling and looked at general abstract proposals for the 2021-2031 budget. There will be a meeting next week from 4-7 pm that will be livestreamed with the presentation of all the decision packages that various groups have brought to the budget office to be in the capital budget. Additionally, there are two meetings next week to select a new Space Administration Director. The meetings will take place in Old Main 413 from 3:15-4:00pm on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Mullins is also sitting in on a Students for Renewable Energy meeting next Tuesday.

**Adah Barenburg, Senate Pro-Tempore** stated she met with the Dean of the Graduate School to discuss the disability minor. Currently WWU offers around 3 or 4 courses related to this field. The Dean is also interested in expanding the ambassador program in the graduate school. Additionally, the Dean expressed the concerns of graduate students who are worried about paying fees since they are already not paid enough. Barenburg expressed being disappointed with the Faculty Senate's decision on the credit hour policy and she is meeting with the Student Senate to document their concerns for going forward. Barenburg elaborated that as it stands Washington Administrative Code (WAC) specifies that 1 credit hour equals about 50 minutes of instruction. WWU's policy places it at approximately 48 minutes for 1 credit hour and this is what Faculty Senate voted down. Barenburg believes they will want to reduce this down to 40 minutes of instruction, so that anything between 40 to 48 minutes counts as 1 credit hour. As it stands, there is great variation in how long faculty members teach and for what counts as 1 credit hour. Barenburg expressed concern with the explanations being given with one faculty member stating that enrollment ought to be decreased, going against the goal of increasing accessibility to higher education. Barenburg also brought up the Library Subscription Taskforce that is dealing with the cuts taking place to journal access. In the Student Senate, no edits were passed to the Constitution. Barenburg will not be at the meeting next Friday.

**XI. Other Business**

Mullins stated that student representation within the AS should be put into their next Agenda as an important discussion to have.

Nicole Ballard stated that considering the Board's engagement with the Student Senate should also be an item to consider, especially regarding where that relationship should be in the future.

Drechsel stated that she would be attending the next Student Senate meeting, taking place on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in VU 567.

***Grace Drechsel, AS VP for Governmental Affairs, adjourned this meeting at 4:14 p.m.***