



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

4/22/20

MS Teams

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

Absent: None

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

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Sargun Handa, Hunter Stuehm, Spencer?

Motions:

ASB-20-S-11 To approve the town hall meeting minutes from the date of April 8th, 2020. *Passed.*

ASB-20-S-12 To approve the meeting minutes from the date of April 15th, 2020. *Passed.*

ASB-20-S-13 To pass the ATF 20-21 Fee Increase Proposal. *Passed.*

Lani Defiesta, AS President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. April 8th, 2020 Town Hall

MOTION ASB-20-S-11 By Zerai

To approve the town hall meeting minutes from the date of April 8th, 2020.

Second: Drechsel

Vote: 5-0-2

Action: Passed

*Yes: Defiesta, Zerai, Drechsel,
Gerhardt, Mullins*

No:

Abstaining: Barenburg, Battsengel

B. April 15th, 2020

MOTION ASB-20-S-12 By Gerhardt

To approve the meeting minutes from the date of April 15th, 2020.

Second: Mullins

Vote: 4-0-3

Action: Passed

*Yes: Defiesta, Gerhardt, Mullins,
Battsengel*

No:

*Abstaining: Barenburg, Drechsel,
Zerai*

II. Revisions to the Agenda

A. Other Business

1. Barenburg noted that under other business, office hours and OurWestern should be discussed, the board was in agreement.

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

A. Pass/No Pass Senate Discussion

1. Handa summarized the senate's decision concerning next fall's grading system, saying that the senate voted for an A through F system in which students must opt-in to receive pass/no pass grades. Two senators voted no on this decision. They noted that this didn't seem to be under the purview of the executive board as it concerned academic affairs rather than student life.
2. The board agreed that this topic was appropriate for the senate, but it's still valuable to have conversation about it in the executive board.
3. Drechsel asked why some senators voted no, Handa responded that when the proposal was brought to the senate, it used the same system as is currently being used; a pass/no pass system in which students can opt-in for A-F grades.
4. Battsengel asked whether this switch mattered, and Handa responded that pass/no pass grades don't look good on grad school or internship applications. This quarter some professors are adding extra work such as essays if a student wants an A-F grade, and if this were to be switched it would be less likely for professors to add extra assignments. They also noted that the University of Washington is going back to letter grades this summer and usually other state colleges follow this, this seems like a good compromise.
5. Mullins asked if anyone knew the general timeline for the AS/S&A fee for summer activities. Romo answered that at the last Finance Council meeting the discussion was whether or not to increase the S&A fee for next year, not knowing if enrollment will decrease (therefore less money in the budget from the S&A fee.)
6. Battsengel noted that she was discouraged when the senate commented that they felt the executive board has more leverage. They are important and shouldn't have to questions their rulings. Barenburg agreed.
7. Defiesta asked if there's something the board can do to help empower the senate, perhaps adding a section on the agenda for review over their rulings. Dreschel agreed and added that this sharing of information would be beneficial. Sargun noted that an executive board report at the senate meeting would be helpful as well.
8. Byers stated that this would not need to be voted on, the board would just have to decide where this fits in the agenda.

IV. Information Items - Guests

A. AS Logo Redesign (30 Minutes) Doc 1 Defiesta

1. Stuehm presented the new branding guide on behalf of the AS Communications Committee, stating that in the communications office, it's helpful to have a guide/framework for organizational messaging. Most large companies have a "personality". The old guide was a 52-page document that was not intuitive and was not cohesive with WWU's image. Students in the past have been confused as to what the AS is in relation to Western as a whole, and the new design is drawn to work with Western's image. The new material's goal is to be accessible, including an inclusive language statement. It was created drawing information from various other colleges in Washington state as well as nationwide.

2. Drechsel thanked Stuehm for his work and asked if there's a committee working on the guidelines for this or if there's a permanent working group to make sure Western messages align with the inclusivity statement.
3. Stuehm responded that because of the amount of people involved, it was hard to meet with the entire Communications Committee to get enough work done on this project, so a sub-committee was drawn up to work on this branding project. The inclusivity statement isn't a "law" so to say, but it draws out the AS values, voice, and expectations.
4. The board commended Stuehm for the great job in as little time as was given. The item will be back on next week's agenda as an action item.

V. Action Items - Guests

A. None

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

A. None

VII. Action Items - Board

A. ATF 20-21 Fee Increase Proposal (30 Minutes) Doc 2 Mullins

1. Mullins stated that last week this was an information item, and there have been no changes since. As Western is the one of the number one users of the WTA in Whatcom county, if students aren't riding on campus it's hard to justify the use of buses, so there's no reason for them to stop providing these services.
2. Drechsel stated that if the proposal passes, this fee will increase Fall quarter, but may not need to be charged if classes are off-campus. Members of the ATF have been very adaptable in terms of student needs and the use of student dollars.

MOTION ASB-20-S-13 by Mullins

To pass the ATF 20-21 Fee Increase Proposal.

Second: Drechsel

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VIII. Information Items - Board

A. None

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

A. None

X. Board Reports

Lani Defiesta, AS President stated that she's been having a lot of conversations on how to advocate for students and she and Drechsel are in agreement that in the future it would be beneficial for all board members to be more involved in legislative work. She's been in the loop with Sabah Randhawa, Melynda Huskey, and Hunter Stuehm about

communications to students. With OurWestern there are a lot more opportunities for the AS in this realm. Now that we are in the midst of AS elections, it's important to start thinking about legacy documents, especially thinking about how more legislative work can be added to support students at a state level.

Selome Zerai, VP for Activities stated that she's been catching up from last week when she was preoccupied with family things. She has been with a little golden retriever puppy although she hasn't seen the pug puppies because they're too far away.

Yesugen Battsengel, VP for Diversity stated that they met with Eric to work with him on job descriptions. They're also working on a legacy document, organized quarter by quarter. It's been pretty quiet but they're working on what to do with the EOC executive board, as they need to meet to endorse Sanai Anang.

Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that in consideration of student needs, it makes sense to take on a subcommittee for LAC to work on what the committee wants to advocate at a state level at this time. Also working on local lobby day, and collaborating with the REP. She attended UPRC in which there were no changes to state funding for fiscal year 2020, but 2021 is unknown at this time, and there will probably be state budget cuts. She also learned that the federal stimulus has to have half go to student support and emergency funding.

Emily Gerhardt, VP for Student Services stated that she's looking into the future of her position as VP and what it will look like next year, and how to support food and housing options for students.

Trever Mullins, VP for Sustainability stated that he had the first SEJF meeting this morning, and it seems that for the rest of this year, they'll be doing a lot of feedback, working to be more accessible to students. He met with Leti Romo as well on how and what it means to continue basic needs after COVID-19 ends.

Adah Barenburg, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that the senate passed a letter for colleges to send to their deans about classes after a parent reached out in concern that WWU classes have become more of a teach-yourself model, especially in the math department. She plans to bring this up in faculty senate. She also discussed doing a "State of the AS" town hall/meeting as a collaborative work between the executive board and the senate, perhaps as a mass Teams meeting.

1. Stuehm volunteered himself as a metaphorical Nancy Pelosi, Defiesta stated that it would be good to hold yearly, and Mullins stated that Barenburg stole his job by wishing everyone a happy earth day in the chat before him.

XI. Other Business

A. OurWestern

1. Defiesta and Barenburg stated that they have the account for the next two week and brainstormed some ideas of images to post with the rest of the board members. Defiesta stated that the board should also get up on the TikTok game, Drechsel added that they should do yearbook superlatives. Defiesta will have the account for the next two days and it will be passed off as it goes along. She also noted that

it would be fun to do a Western Live “retreat” dinner over Zoom with the rest of the board.

B. Office Hours

1. Defiesta asked Annie Byers if there is a protocol on how office hours, Byers responded that it is up to the board whether they hold them through Zoom, social media, or just a time frame in which appointments can be made.

Lani Defiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 6:48 p.m].