



**Western Washington University Associated Students  
AS Executive Board**

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Microsoft Teams

- Board Members:** Lani Defiesta (President), Adah Barenburg (Senate Pro-Tempore), Grace Drechsel (Vice President for Governmental Affairs), Emily Gerhardt (Vice President for Student Services), Trevor Mullins (Vice President for Sustainability), and Selome Zerai (Vice President for Activities), Yesugen Battsengel (Vice President for Diversity)
- Advisor:** Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator), Leti Romo (Program Advisor)
- Secretary:** Jude Ahmed
- Guest(s):** Nate Jo (AS Business Director); Sargun Handa (AS Senate Vice-Chair); Hunter Stuehm (AS Communication Director);

**Motions:**

- ASB-20-S-20** Motion to approve the minutes from 5/13/2020 with edits. **Passed**
- ASB-20-S-21** Motion to move the AS Fiscal Year 2021 Draft Budget to an Information item. **Passed.**
- ASB-20-S-22** Motion to approve the STC Resolution with the edits of changing the name of the Board of Directors to the Executive Board. **Passed.**

*Lani Defiesta, AS President, called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.*

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION ASB-20-S-20** By: Mullins

Motion to approve the minutes from 5/13/20 with edits. **Passed.**

Second: Zerai Vote: 4-0-3

Yes: 4

No:

Abstaining: 3

**II. Revisions to the Agenda**

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

Stuehm, AS Communication Director, wants to let the AS board and public know that the new AS email signature tool is available with the new AS WWU logo and brand.

**V. Action Items – Guests**

**A. AS Fiscal Year 2021 Budget – Defiesta**

**MOTION ASB-20-S-21** By: Drechsel

Motion to move the AS Fiscal Year 2021 Draft Budget to an Information item.

**Passed.**

Second: Defiesta

Vote: 6-1-0

Yes: 6

No: 1

Abstaining: 0

**B. Shred the Contract Resolution – Gerhardt**

Gerhardt shares that Protska added a new whereas statement to recognize the work that dining services has put in to support students at his time. A source was updated and a small edit was added to the third page. A statement was also added that the next Board of Directors commits to collaborating alongside student workers, clubs, RHA, and Western administration for the entire duration of the self-operated dining systems.

Defiesta asks if the acknowledgement that Western’s dining services efforts to combat food insecurity has been vital. Gerhardt says the first whereas statement acknowledged the work of the Western dining services but that the Associated Students does not support the valued of the Aramark Corporation. Zerai asks if there was any follow up on potentially implementing a two-year contract as a transition period. Gerhardt says their conversation did not include adding a statement like that but more what students can do in the future to utilize grant funding to implement a pilot program. Mullins says they didn’t include anything so timely so that this could be an exploration of what could occur in the future since administration is starting to take more consideration to including students in their decision making. Drechsel asks if they can change the language of Board of Directors to Executive Board.

Gerhardt says that this is going to be an ongoing conversation and is planning to meet with Shred the Contract and the future VP for Sustainability and VP for Student Services in order to develop those relationships from the start. Mullins asks if any board members have any input or ideas as to which direction this transition to self-op dining would work. Defiesta wonders if it would be possible to undertake another

financial assessment of the transition to a self-operated dining system given the revenue hit that Western is taking as a result of COVID. Mullins will bring that feedback to the discussion.

**MOTION ASB-20-S-22** By: Gerhardt

Motion to approve the STC Resolution with the edits of changing the name of the Board of Directors to the Executive Board. **Passed.**

Second: Battsengel Vote: 7-0-0

Yes: 7

No: 0

Abstaining: 0

#### IV. Information Items – Guests

##### A. AS Fiscal Year 2021 Budget – Defiesta

Jo wants to provide some S&A updates since the last meeting. The Services and Activities Fee Committee met and voted to recommend there to be no change in the fee language or the percentage distribution. If the Board of Trustees accept this recommendation the percent that the AS receives will be the same. They are still in the dark about the projected enrollment for next year, since the deadline for enrollment has been pushed back.

Jo asks how they feel about a temporary suspension of the wage policy to mitigate loss of revenue. This would mean that January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, all positions would be raised to the mandatory minimum wage but already established wages would not increase. Jo also wants to ask how they feel about accessing reserve funds to mitigate loss of revenue. Finally, Jo wants to ask how AS unused funds should be used, whether they be returned to the office to spend on later events or return those funds to reserve. Drechsel asks Jo to speak more about the temporary freeze of the wage policy and if that means that certain positions would not be on track to increase their wages beyond their current amount but no one would take a pay cut. Western gives the AS guidelines to determine pay for students based on the current minimum wage in Washington State using three categories depending on the nature of the work. Western specifies a minimum that they must be paid. The AS specifies these levels further. Depending on the category a position falls under, the AS may or may not add a certain additional rate to the WWU minimum guideline. For example, an employee at the 1A level received the WWU minimum wage for category 1 employees while an employee at the 1B level receives the WWU minimum wage for category 1 employees plus an additional 15 cents. Jo says a temporary freeze would mean the as of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to the end of the fiscal year, all positions under categories 1, 2, and 3 would

receive their respective WWU minimum guideline pay without the additional minimum.

Defiesta states that part of the budget goes towards allowing the AS President and AS VP for Governmental Affairs to lobby on behalf of western and is unsure if that funding should come from the AS when the purpose is not to necessarily to Lobby on behalf of students. It is Drechsel's understanding that the AS President and the AS VP for Governmental Affairs are given funding to go lobby in D.C. on behalf of WWU administration and can develop their own agenda, but they do usually align their agenda with Western administration's agenda.

Jo agrees that there are many things in the business that the university should be fully supporting and not the AS fee and this is part of the larger conversation about what the AS should pay for that will continue. Mullins is framing this budget on the large scale but agrees that there need to be continuing discussions regarding which budget items are appropriate for the AS.

Zerai asks if an office budget for an event that is canceled and does not need that budget, is it possible to make a policy to put it directly into reserves. Jo says that unspent money in the budget would go to offset the total costs of the AS first before it goes into reserves.

Mullins says the things that things that don't get spent in the fall could possibly go towards maintaining the Wage Policy because Mullins wants to make sure that students get paid the amount that were told when they were applied for. Mullins also wants to ask if there are other specific big ideas the Finance Council has had with changes in the budget. Jo clarifies that no one would receive a decrease in pay or less than what they agreed to in their paperwork when they are hired.

Defiesta asks for more detail on what the options are for unspent money. Jo says they could go through the budget line item and determine how money should be spent otherwise and distribute it prior to this year. They could also say that the money they have allocated is the money they have for the rest of the year and they will not touch it. A third option is that unused money would return to the AS to offset other operating costs. Defiesta asks if the collective leadership next year can go through the budget to reallocate funding. Jo says yes, it would be like how they redid the budget this quarter in order to respond to COVID.

The next step is that Jo will be back next Wednesday with this item as an action item.

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

**VII. Action Items – Board**

**VIII. Information Items – Board**

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

**X. Board Reports**

**Lani DeFiesta, AS President** went to the foundation board meeting on Friday and reconsidering creating a new structure between the Western Foundation and the AS to increase student engagement with the Western Foundation and those meetings have been historically inaccessible to students. Defiesta and Barenburg has charged Jo and Handa with developing that over the summer and next year. Meeting with Huskey and Stuehm and Barenburg to create some joint communication to the University. Zerai recommended including a specific item in the Executive Board agenda for discussion campus climate and student issues the way there are Board Reports and Senate Reports.

**Yesugen Battsengel, VP for Diversity** has been working with people from the MCC to get information out to students. Battsengel has been working with Ranulfo Molina on internship hours and has attended several meetings for the VP for Diversity with and on behalf of Battsengel. Battsengel is waiting to hear back from Melynda on needs for undocumented students.

**Adah Barenburg, Senate Pro-Tempore** has been added to a committee regarding guidelines for Course Criteria for fall quarter, particularly for labs, experience courses, and graduate courses and delegated Kris Aguayo to help with that. The first-year experience committee has also met and Barenburg delegated Sargun Handa to work with that committee. Barenburg also wants to thank Defiesta and Stuehm for helping her set up a joint discussion between the Executive Board and the Student Senate and hopes those happen more frequently in some capacity next year. Barenburg also shares that there are two candidate forums for the new Vice President for Undergraduate Education who works with improving the GUR program and works directly with Brent Carbajal. One is tomorrow 10:30-11:15 am for Sheila Webb and Friday from 10:30-11:15am for Jack Herring and those are open meetings and students can submit comments to the hiring committee.

**Grace Drechsel, VP for Governmental Affairs** has been working on preparing her legacy document and planning internship hours for the next VP for Governmental Affairs

**Selome Zerai- VP for Activities** Zerai felt this was important because a lot of what ends of up agenda are documents and issues happening around campus get swept under the rug because there is not anything to physically present as an information or action item The idea is to have a ten to fifteen minutes roundtable discussion where we encourage others to join in conversations about issues on campus and could be something the new board tries to implement. Zerai connected with the Assistant Director of the EOO to wrap up the year with a solid institutional plan for Ramadan Accommodations. Has been working with the future ASVP for Activities on changes in the Activities Budget. Next year as part of the restructure they want to start a subcommittee of the restructure committee around activities council.

**Emily Gerhardt- VP for Student Services** Gerhardt appreciated feedback for STC throughout this week is happy to continue the conversations moving forward. Gerhardt will be meeting with Shred the Contract and the next VP for Student Services. Gerhardt met with Melynda to talk about the EOO and is going to be the interim director of the EOO right now. It sounds like this position is going to be at a higher level and report to the President. There are rumors from the state about Western receiving a 10 to 15% decrease in funding. It is suspected there will not be a lot of residents on campus next year and some dorms may be offline temporarily.

**Trever Mullins – VP for Sustainability** Mullins is meeting with Gerhardt and STC on Friday to talk about the future of the resolution. He has been working with Nora Harren on internship hours for the position and she has joined him in meetings regarding values of the SEJF committee and the future of sustainability at western with the Office of Sustainability and it may be restructured and renamed to the Center of Sustainability. HIA received productive feedback as to how to support students in the summer around basic needs. There is not defined answer from administration about whether there will be a position specifically around handling student Basic Needs. Mullins feels his group in the joint discussion was productive and it would be great to see more collaboration between the bodies.

#### **XI. Senate Reports**

The CSE Senators held a forum last week and had about 75 attendees and was very successful and the at-large Senators are seeking to do a forum as well before the end of the year. The joint discussions went well and Handa hopes to see these continue next year. Barenburg says that Huxley is holding a town hall on June 3<sup>rd</sup> on teams as well.

#### **Other Business**

Romo, Langely, and Sledge have been charged to create a structural equity and bias response team and have it up and running by fall quarter and hopes to have a presentation on the committee proposal before the end of the year and hopes to announce this in several other bodies such as faculty senate and the Student Senate. Inauguration for the new Executive Board is June 5<sup>th</sup> 1 -3pm and the VU is holding an end of the year celebration and senior acknowledgement and club awards at 3pm and hopes that the board members will be able to attend. Romo also wants to acknowledge the work that each of the board members have held each other accountable this year and thing about things in a very strategic and official manner and they have all served as a great role model for the incoming board.

***Lani DeFiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 6:58pm.***