



Western Washington University Associated Students

AS Board of Directors

May 27th, 2020

MS Teams

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

Absent: Grace Drechsel (VP for Governmental Affairs)

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

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Sargun Handa, Hunter Stuehm, Nate Jo

Motions:

ASB-20-W-23 To approve the meeting minutes from the date of May 20th, 2020. ***Rejected.***

ASB-20-W-24 To table the meeting minutes from the date of May 20th, 2020, until the following meeting. ***Passed.***

ASB-20-W-25 To approve column N of the Fiscal Year 2021 Adjusted Request AS Budget. ***Passed.***

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

I. Approval of Minutes

A. May 20th, 2020.

MOTION ASB-20-W-23 By Zerai

To approve the meeting minutes from the date of May 20th, 2020.

Second: Mullins

Vote: 3-0-3

Action: Rejected

Yes: Zerai, Mullins

No:

*Abstaining: Barenburg, Defiesta,
Battsengel, Gerhardt*

MOTION ASB-20-W-24 by Battsengel

To table the meeting minutes from the date of May 20th, 2020, until the following meeting.

Second: Gerhardt

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

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

None

IV. Information Items – Guests

A. AS Official Guidance Document

1. Stuehm stated that this is guidance to the AS Executive Board and Senate on how to draft resolutions, a recommendation to guide future members that would increase accessibility.
2. Defiesta thanked Stuehm and stated that it is good to have this publicly documented.

V. Action Items - Guests

A. AS Fiscal Year 2021 Budget- Defiesta

1. Jo stated that yesterday the senate passed the budget with recommendations to reclaim any funding allocated to AS events that are canceled due to COVID-19 to the AS Budget to offset the deficit, to freeze non-mandatory increases if necessary, and to use a portion of AS operating reserves to fund core operations. Column N is the normal operating budget if normal revenue is received, and other columns based on enrollment.
2. Mullins stated that his recommendations from last week are fluid and Jo has covered a lot of his concerns.
3. Jo clarified to state that the money budgeted for the events does not exist, it just means that instead of the budgeted money going toward to event, it is set aside to later any money will go towards the deficit.
4. Zerai asked if the funds are specifically assigned for one thing, can they be reallocated to something else.
5. Jo responded that once money is taken from a student for a specific purpose, it is expected to be spent in a specific manner. However, once the money is inside the AS, it is under the purview of the AS to spend it in the manner that is needed. If the AS budgets for 3 million and only receive 2.6 million, unless there's a plan to cut the budget in certain places, there won't be enough money in reserves to cover it.
6. Battsengel asked for a clarification to the ask of freezing non-mandatory increases.
7. Jo responded that if there's not enough money to cover core operations, any increase will be frozen. No one will make less than their current/starting pay, they just won't make more than the WWU's requirements state.

MOTION ASB-20-W-25 by Mullins

To approve column N of the Fiscal Year 2021 Adjusted Request AS Budget.

Second: Battsengel

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

VI. Personnel Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

VII. Action Items - Board

A. None

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 is continuing with the onboarding process and reached out to the Foundation regarding their relationship to leadership for next year. She and Adah and Hunter are preparing for the State of the AS meeting and is hoping executive summaries are sent out as soon as Thursday or Friday of this week. Sabah and Brent are working on the Q&A for students regarding Fall Quarter, and the AS Board inauguration is coming up soon.

Selome Zerai, VP for Activities stated that she finished committee selections this day and attended the club awards. She is getting ready for the club hub as well. She stated that there was a lynching of a black man on Monday and she asks that no one shares the video of this.

Yesugen Battengel, VP for Diversity stated that they were just in the Social Justice and Equity committee, which is faculty led, on trying to find ways to support underrepresented students in the pandemic. They want to know what students need and how to support them, but there's a roadblock in contacting admin. She, personally, has not been able to contact Melynda Huskey about support for undocumented students when they have emailed her three times. With the quarter about to finish, there's no communication or closure. She asked the board if they have heard from other students on ways to best support them during the pandemic.

1. Gerhardt stated that she will bring this up with Huskey in her meeting the following week.
2. Defiesta stated that she already mentioned it to Huskey but will mention it again.
3. Barenburg stated that one of the other Washington college's admin called every student individually to ask what they needed to be supported. The idea of creating an online chat function that replies automatically using AI to give resources has been thrown around as well.
4. Mullins stated that he had a conversation with Huskey surrounding basic needs before the pandemic, Karen Deysher is trying to start a community of care on-campus. Currently there's no one place that houses all resources. Collaboration is the most important tool in order to make sure student's basic needs are met so they are able to complete their education.
5. Barenburg stated that Rae Lynn is teaching a large GUR class in which she emailed every student who didn't turn in the first assignment to understand why they weren't able to complete the work. This kind of connection to students rather than mass emails is important.
6. Defiesta stated that faculty in ESJ are considering places to check in with students and open a dialogue of open communication.

7. Zerai responded that this conversation may be uncomfortable and non-beneficial to students that aren't already close to their professors. Time is a privilege right now and this may put more stress on students right now.
8. Mullins commented that this may work well for ESJ courses, but other courses may not have this culture. This kind of support does need to start from the top down in admin, it should be their job to talk to faculty on how to engage and support students.
9. Defiesta stated that this support should've been in place, but in this time it's exposing the lack of support. Should there be training on how to support students?
10. Gerhardt stated that one professor she has decided not to do lecture, and just have online assignments with time allotted for check-ins. Maybe professors can be encouraged to allot time in their classes for check-ins, or include a feedback survey.
11. Defiesta stated that it's great that faculty are asking what they can do, and she hears that it may be uncomfortable, but at least having a space where this is provided is good.

Emily Gerhardt, VP for Student Services stated that on Friday she met with the STC over their relationship going forward as a unit and with admin. It may be beneficial to have the VPs of Student Services and Sustainability come to STC meeting. If a self-operated dining system isn't available, what are other possible routes? Nora Harren had the idea of lobbying to admin in the same way of Western Lobby Day. She met with Melynda and Carson about goals for the summer, while Carson is working on Title IX reforms.

Trever Mullins, VP for Sustainability stated that the SEJF conversation this morning went really well, looking at a travel grant, and they met on Monday as well to make sure they are not taking away money from students in this regard.

Adah Barenburg, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she has been taking a little bit of a break but she attended a WSA meeting that was planning to be centered around challenges for Fall academics, but ended up focusing on how higher ed can better assist undocumented students, and the importance of recognizing underfunded and underrepresented students in Washington State. Lani has been emailing her student concerns so she can redirect them and asked the rest of the board to do the same. The Senate meeting the other day passed the AS FY 2021 budget and should be receiving the election code from Ina soon. She would like to do a report next meeting on the STF and their main priorities moving on into Fall Quarter.

XI. Senate Reports

- A. Handa stated that the State of the AS is coming up, the senate approved the AS FY 2021 budget, and senators are wrapping up for the end of the year.
- B. Barenburg stated that Huxley senators will hold a forum-type event, and the College of Fine and Performing Arts will have one as well.

XII. Other Business

- A. Defiesta acknowledges Zerai's message and asked the board to continue to share her information and asked to specifically support black students at Western.

Lani Defiesta, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 6:39 p.m.

DRAFT