

**Western Washington University**  
**AS Food and Housing Insecurity Advisory Committee**

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

MS Teams

**Board Members:** *Present:* Trever Mullins (VP for Sustainability), Patrick Czichas (AS Student Senator), Daniela Tierra (ESC Representative), Kayl Gillihan (SAIRC Outreach and Representative Coordinator), Ethan Chrisope (Off-Campus Living Representative), Britta Eschete (Career Services Representative), Alyssa Tsukada (Office of Sustainability Representative), Karen Deysher (SAIRC Coordinator), and Lorrie Bortuzzo (Multicultural Services).

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** Nora Harren

**Motions:**

**HIA-20-W-** None

**I. Call to Order**

*Trever Mullins, AS VP of Sustainability, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.*

**II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda**

None

**III. Approval of Minutes**

None

**IV. Discussion Items**

**A. Future of HIA**

1. Tierra asked if there was a way for students in Bellingham to access food over the summer
2. Bortuzzo responded that with a new grant, pop-ups could possibly be organized.
3. Deysher stated that the idea with this is to have a free farmers market, connecting to local farms, and the outback farm. The issue is finding a location that works for accessibility (driving, public transportation, etc.). Once there are more details, they will send the information out into Teams. The goal would be to create a WHOLE website to put all resources in one area.
4. Bortuzzo stated that the SB5800 budget was revised to focus on short term emergency housing and rental assistance. She will work with university resident

life to secure rooms in the summer quarter, which should hopefully continue in the fall. It's most important for students to have housing, and the budget for this has just been approved by the state.

5. Mullins asked what the next steps for Harren would be over the summer.
6. Bortuzzo stated that it's important to communicate the information to students, with SB 5800 funding, there is a graphic designer available who can assist on a social media campaign.
7. Deysher stated that providing information and links in a easily-accessible, easily-consumable way is important in communication to students.
8. Tierra and Deysher offered to help with this project. Bringing in someone from publicity (Jeff Bates perhaps), would be helpful as well.
9. Deysher stated that their most important goal at the moment is providing digestible resources to students in a centralized space. Having more faculty and staff on this committee takes the burden off students and may incite more action because they have access to more resources. However, HIA could also be focused on informing students, having Zoom call speakers, connect to other universities, work with clubs on campus etc., in order to build momentum.
10. Mullins noted that senators may be interested in meeting about basic needs.
11. Bortuzzo stated that there was a basic needs proposal submitted, would be nice to organize a meeting over it.
12. Deysher asked how students are feeling in this space and how staff and faculty can support them.
13. Tsukada stated that she's hesitant to offer up ideas because there is so much up in the air with administration. It's hard to plan confidently and contribute when admin might change things in a week.
14. Tierra stated that she's unsure of what the following year will look like because of the pandemic, and her best bet is to be flexible for the year to come.
15. Mullins stated that there's never a bad idea, the HIA is a completely open space where everything is up in the air. Staff members are here for you and just want to figure out what works best.
16. Czichas stated that he has been unfamiliar with this work and he doesn't feel as if he is equipped to respond as an informed individual, even though Mullins tried to introduce him to the best of his abilities at the beginning of the year, he was simply dealt an unfortunate hand. More training and introduction beforehand may fix the existing issue in the future for student senators.
17. Deysher stated that providing information that outlines common ideas is very achievable and because this is a brand-new committee, and there's new staff on the committee, everyone's still working things out and learning. Student concerns help guide staff to train and educate for the future.
18. Tsukada stated that it was hard for her to stay engaged this quarter because of how much upheaval her own office has been going through and isn't sure how she can be helping the committee more in the future.
19. Deysher responded that there's uncertainty in the future but having an outline for each role in the committee may help and give everyone autonomy.
20. Harren stated that she was excited and inspired by the conversations happening about these really valuable ideas.

*Trever Mullins, AS VP of Sustainability, adjourned this meeting at 12:58 p.m.*