

**Western Washington University Associated Students  
STUDENT SENATE**

Date: November 19, 2020

**Attendees:** *Jasmine Fast, Ankur Handa, Kara Henry, Kendrick Jackson, Connor Johnson, Jasleen Kaur, Marissa McGinnis, Francis Neff, Alex Park, Samia Quidwai, Liz Rosales, Sameer Shorab, Kharma Stambaugh, Aidyn Stevens, Selam Swier, Laura Wagner, AP Wang, Sargun Handa, Nicole Ballard, Casey Hayden, Raquel Vigil, Ruth Flint-Blanchard*

**MOTIONS**

*Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM*

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**III. PUBLIC FORUM**

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests\***

- A. Nicole Ballard (she/her), AS Executive Board Vice President for Governmental Affairs, presented on the WWU Lobby Days. Every year WWU has three Lobby Days: Western Lobby Day (WLD) in January, Western Intersectional Lobby Day (WILD) in February, and Local Lobby Day (LLD) in April or May. Usually, these Lobby Days are held in person, but in 2021 they will be held online. Additional Lobby Days being considered were an Administration Lobby Day after the other events to lobby on the implementation of the issues talked about in previous lobby days, and a collaborative Graduate Student Lobby Day with Washington State University and University of Washington. Ballard presented a timeline for the Lobby Days with WLD on January 18<sup>th</sup>, WILD on February 11<sup>th</sup>, and Graduate Student Lobby Day scheduled in a close vicinity with the previous Lobby Days. An Admin WWU Lobby Day would be March or April, and LLD would be April or May. Ballard then moved on to explain the source of the Lobby Days agendas. The Agendas are by WWU students for WWU students, and advocate for WWU student needs. In November, a survey was sent out to students to find what issues are important to the WWU student body. The responses are used to develop the agenda. Once the agenda is drafted, it will go through the Student Senate and Executive Board for approval. WLD is being planned in the current time, mainly by Ballard and the OCE. WILD is planned through the ESC and ESP, and SAIRC representatives on the LAC. Ballard went over the possible priorities for the agenda from the survey. Ballard went over who the liaisons for the WLD agenda are: Jude Ahmed (Director of Legislative Affairs (DOLA) in the OCE), Natale Szbado (AS OC Local Issues Coordinator), and Stephen Cooper (AS OCE Civic Involvement Coordinator). Ballard reiterated that the 2021 Lobby Days would be online and accessible. Ballard asked for any questions. S. Handa (she/her) asked if WILD or WLD would be first. Ballard responded that WLD would be first. S. Handa asked

Ballard to elaborate on the role of the Student Senate in Local Lobby Day. Ballard responded that Natale Szbadzo might be able to elaborate better on the topic. Johnson (he/him) asked if there were ways to get input from students not associated with clubs or specific majors. Ballard responded that the survey was sent out to all students to get feedback from the entire WWU student body and tried to be as accessible as possible. The ESC and SAIRC also had meetings that were accessible to the general student body to get input on the agenda. Stevens (she/her) asked if Ballard had any hopes for what the Student Senators could communicate to constituents for getting larger involvement and more student voices for the Lobby Days, and how the Senators could help. Ballard responded that Senators being able to look at the priorities on the agenda and think of possible barriers that might come up for students would be helpful or propose additions to the agenda. S. Handa (she/her) asked what the next steps are. Ballard replied that they are still meeting with stakeholders, and over Thanksgiving break she would like to complete the agenda draft to present to the LAC, Student Senate, and Executive Board as an information item. After Winter break, she would like it to return and be voted on as an action item and have it finalized. The second week after break will be the training for the Lobby Days, and the 18<sup>th</sup> of January will be the WLD. WILD and LLD are being planned. For Graduate Student Lobby Day, the goal is to build the agenda over break and in the beginning of January.

#### **V. ACTION ITEMS- Guests \***

#### **VI. PERSONELL ITEMS**

#### **VII. ACTION ITEMS – Senate\***

#### **VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS – Senate \***

- A. **Future of Dining at WWU** – Huxley College Senators Francis Neff (he/him) and Laura Wagner (she/her). S. Handa (she/her) opened by explaining that Shred the Contract (STC) has been working for years to get WWU to drop the contract with the Aramark corporation. This year, administration extended the contract through 2023 as it was set to expire in 2021. The 2019-2020 Student Senate and Executive Board passed a joint resolution endorsing the STC. Aramark provides food to over 500 prisons, pushed back against dining workers unionizing, and there are reports of mistreatment faced by student employees under Aramark. Aramark also supports large corporations and is not affordable to students. S. Handa has worked with Neff and Wagner to create a new resolution showing the current Senate's support of STC. Neff began presenting the resolution, which acknowledged the situation of WWU renewing their contract with Aramark, and the issues with this situation. S. Handa explained that the STC Organization plans to go to the Board of Trustees meeting because the BOT is approving the 2021 financial year on December 11<sup>th</sup>, and dining is likely part of that. STC will be going to the BOT public forum and try to use the resolution as the document to get on the BOT agenda. Johnson (he/him) asked if the new system would be more affordable. S. Handa responded that social and economic

impact is a part of issue, and that the current Aramark meal plans are already not affordable to students. Quidwai (she/her) added that if the current program does not fulfill the need of feeding students then the program is failing and needs to be changed. Stevens (she/her) stated that WWU is one of the few schools in Washington not on a self-operated dining system, so the layout for that system is already in effect in some places. A. Handa (he/him) stated that approximately 30% of American Universities are moving towards a self-operating dining system, which shows that it is possible. S. Handa (she/her) asked A. Handa to discuss his experience working with meal plans at Washington State University. A. Handa (he/him) explained that WSU is working towards a self-operating dining system, and through growing their own crops, was able to cut costs in dining expenses and lower the cost of overall dining at WSU. Wagner (she/her) added that she has the Sustainability Action Plan from 2017 on her screen, and that there are more goals and objectives in the plan that WWU promised that are unclear if they have been fulfilled, and that the promises made by WWU in the dining portion of the Sustainability Action Plan align with ending the contract with Aramark. S. Handa paused the discussion because time had been met.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-1:**

*Motion by Ankur Handa*

*To extend the time by 10 minutes.*

*Second: Connor Johnson*

*Motion passed 16-0-0.*

Wagner (she/her) continued explaining the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan goals which included a plan to research new technology and practices to increase sustainable performance in dining systems, create a more efficient model for food service, increase local and regional food purchasing to 25% by 2020, develop a mutually enhancing relationship between Outback and WWU dining services, and engage with local producers to link to larger consumers. Neff (he/him) asked if an explicit statement could be added to the resolution that asked the Board of Trustees to make an agenda item pertaining to the extension of the contract with Aramark and invites representatives from STC and other parties with direct ties to the issue to speak. Specifically stating that they have time to discuss this might be helpful. S. Handa asked Hayden and Vigil if they knew if the BOT would be discussing dining services in their upcoming meeting. Hayden (he/him) did not know, as housing and dining are auxiliary, and they may be redirected to a different level than the BOT. Vigil (she/her) stated that she could not give a certain response either, and that the BOT likely would not pass every transaction in the budget, and the issue is with the contract rather than the overall expense. S. Handa responded that the proposed edit could be added to give the STC organization visibility. McGinnis (she/her) agreed that the proposed edit was a good idea that should be added. S. Handa added

proposed edit. Johnson (he/him) stated that it may be a good idea to advocate for more local producers since that part of the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan is not being fulfilled. S. Handa added that to the resolution. Wagner (she/her) brought it to attention that time had run out.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-2:**

*Motion by Laura Wagner*

*To extend the time by 10 minutes*

*Second: Connor Johnson*

*Motion passed 16-0-0.*

Henry (she/her) proposed more specificity in how the Student Senate is going to uphold what STC is working towards. S. Handa asked about specificity. Henry responded that she did not have specific ideas, although she is concerned about the sustainability of it. Wagner explained that she, Neff, S. Handa, and A. Handa had all been attending STC meetings and the best that the Senators can do is attend meetings and follow what the STC is doing and get behind the movements they have in place. S. Handa (she/her) brought up that resolutions are part of respectability politics to be on the same page as the WWU administration, but not where the Senate's support ends. A. Handa (he/him) reiterated that the resolution states that the Senate and Executive Board are some of the few official voices for the WWU student body, but the meetings are primarily Student Senators, not Executive Board members. S. Handa (she/her) agreed and expressed that she would ask Executive Board members to come to STC meetings, although they are discussing it at their meetings. Neff (he/him) brought up editing the second that to include "endorses and stands in solidarity" with the STC. S. Handa (she/her) disagreed because solidarity is often used performatively, while endorsement shows action. S. Handa called for motions. Hayden (he/him) brought to attention that it would have to be moved to an action item, rather than an information item.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-3:**

*Motion by Connor Johnson*

*To move item from information item to an action item*

*Second: Ankur Handa*

*Motion passed 16-0-0.*

**ASWWUSS-20-F-4:**

*Motion by Alex Park*

*To hold an electronic vote for approval of this item*

*Second: Ankur Handa*

*Motion passed 16-0-0.*

S. Handa explained that the vote will open at noon on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and closed at 4 P.M. the same day.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-13:**

*Electronic Vote Results from November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020*

*Approval passed 18-0-0*

- B. **Student Senator Job Descriptions** – S. Handa (she/her) showed the documents with the Student Senator Job Descriptions and explained the changes to 7-10 hours a week, and that 3 quarters of college must be completed during their term, allowing first year senators. S. Handa explained other changes, including that senators should communicate weekly with their co-senator and biweekly with the Senate Pro-Tempore, the term “Board of Directors” is changed to “Executive Board”, and the senators should meet with their deans once a month. The pay rate has been changed to 16.50 an hour rather than a salary. Stevens (she/her) asked about what a meeting was specified as. S. Handa (she/her) replied that no meeting was needed, just communication, which could even be in the form of a text or a board report during a Student Senate meeting. Hayden (he/him) brought up the point about meeting with the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs once per quarter, which might lead to a lot of meetings for Brent Carbajal. S. Handa (she/her) agreed and suggested only At-Large senators meet with him. Hayden suggested making it optional. S. Handa edited the description to remove that point.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-5:**

*Motion by Connor Johnson*

*To move item from information item to action item*

*Second: Alex Park*

*Motion passed 17-0-0.*

**ASWWUSS-20-F-6:**

*Motion by Ankur Handa*

*To approve Job Descriptions with edits*

*Second: Aidyn Stevens*

*Motion passed 16-0-1.*

- C. **Student Senate Bylaws** – S. Handa (she/her) presented the changes made to the bylaws which included that instances of “Board of Directors” have been changed to “Executive Board”, removing that the Senate Pro-Tempore is an ex officio member of the BOT, “REP” was changed to Office of Civic Engagement, the deadline for expressing absence was changed to any written notice with a courtesy notice of 24-48 hours, submission deadlines for documents for the senate meeting was updated to 25-49 hours prior to the meeting, the typo “mohon” was changed to “motion”, the senate meeting dates were changed to bi-weekly rather than the first and third Tuesdays of the month. A. Handa (he/him) stated that Kaur brought up that bi-weekly may be misinterpreted. S. Handa (she/her) added clarification that it means every other week. Hayden (he/him) inquired if the amendment section had been addressed. S. Handa (she/her) explained that it was not a current issue, but a future one. Quidwai (she/her) asked what amendment was being discussed. S. Handa (she/her) explained that it was a part that may have been cut off from the PDF that was not being edited. Hayden explained that it was not cut off, it just was not being edited in the moment.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-7:**

*Motion by Marissa McGinnis*

*To move item to action item*

*Second: Ankur Handa*

*Motion passed 17-0-0.*

**ASWWUSS-20-F-8:**

*Motion by Connor Johnson*

*To approve the Bylaws with edits*

*Second: Jasleen Kaur*

*Motion passed 17-0-0.*

- D. **Student Senate Charge and Charter** – S. Handa (she/her) reviewed proposed changes to the Charge and Charter which included changing instances of “Board of Directors” to “Executive Board”, removing that the Senate Pro-Tempore is an ex

officio member of the BOT, adding that it is 24-48 hour notice for absence for senators, adding that meetings should be biweekly (every other week), “bylaws” replaced “rules of operation”, the Student Senate no longer needs to draft a resolution to the Executive Board to amend the bylaws and instead will explain the amendments in a report.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-9:**

*Motion by Samia Quidwai*

*To move item from information item to an action item*

*Second: Francis Neff*

*Motion passed 17-0-0*

**ASWWUSS-20-F-10:**

*Motion by Alex Park*

*To approve the Charge and Charter with edits*

*Second: Marissa McGinnis*

*Motion passed 17-0-0*

- E. **Board of Trustees Resolution** – S. Handa (she/her) presented the resolution to be presented to the Board of Trustees on the equality of the Executive Board and Student Senate. The resolution outlined steps that needed to be taken to create equality between these two branches of student government at WWU. Johnson (he/him) commented that it was a good step in the right direction but there is further to go with the issue. Stambaugh (she/her) inquired as to when the wording should be changed from request to demand. S. Handa (she/her) responded that a new plan would be put in place after the BOT meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-11:**

*Motion by Marissa McGinnis*

*To move item to action item*

*Second: Kharma Stambaugh*

*Motion passed 16-0-0*

**ASWWUSS-20-F-12:**

*Motion by Kharma Stambaugh*

*To hold an electronic vote for approval of this item*

*Second: Connor Johnson*

*Motion passed 16-0-0*

S. Handa explained that the vote will open at noon on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and closed at 4 P.M. the same day.

**ASWWUSS-20-F-14:**

*Electronic Vote Results from November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020*

*Approval passed 18-0-0*

**IX. CONSENT ITEMS**

**X. BOARD REPORTS**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*The meeting was adjourned @ 8:50 P.M.*