



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Board of Directors

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

MS Teams

**Board Members:** *Present:* Abdul Malik Ford (President), Keenan Kaemingk (VP for Activities), Nicole Ballard (VP for Governmental Affairs), Carson Brock (VP for Student Services), Ranulfo Molina (VP for Diversity), and Sargun Handa (Senate Pro-Tempore)

*Absent:*

**Advisor:** Annie Byers (AS Board Program Coordinator), Eric Alexander (Director of the Viking Union)

**Secretary:** Sierra Templeton

**Guest(s):** Greg McBride

### Motions:

ASB-20-F-                None

*Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.*

#### I.      **Approval of Minutes**

None

#### II.     **Revisions to the Agenda**

None

#### III.    **BSO Demands**

- A.
1. Ford stated that the job description for the BSO officers has been finalized.
  2. Handa stated that she has been working on cementing religious accommodations with Black Student Organizations (BSO) on-campus to make sure their demands are heard without leaving the burden of work on their shoulders.
  3. Alexander stated that a consultant from the development team should hold a meeting soon to move forward on defining a space for BSO.

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

None

#### V.     **Information Items - Guests**

- A. Western Lobby Day Agenda- Ballard
1. Ballard stated that she has been working with the Legislative Affairs Council to draft the legislative agenda. There will be a statement about centering equity in the agenda at the beginning, and the rest of the survey was built off of priorities from the student survey (which received close to 300 responses).
  2. College Affordability and Student Loan Forgiveness
    - a. Ahmed stated that the item asks to expand student loan forgiveness programs, to fill in the gaps that the Washington College Grant does not cover. Ahmed is working with Washington State University Vancouver to look at lobbying for Native American tuition assistance.
  3. Environmental Justice
    - a. Ahmed stated that the item supports a new version of SB 5849 which didn't pass in the previous year, and SB 5322 which would ensure compliance of the Federal Clean Water Act.
  4. Mental Health and Wellness
    - a. Ahmed stated that the item asks to fully fund the 15-million-dollar minor works ask to expand the counseling center at Western. This was on the agenda last year. More specific information about the inclusive success ask will be added.
  5. Facilitating Comprehensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Training
    - a. One item on the asks focuses on training for students, and the other focuses on training for faculty and staff. Students have given feedback that some policies in place create environments that aren't inclusive, hopefully this training would empower staff to look at policies in place that could be revised. Legislators are currently working on bills that would require staff DEI training.
  6. Support for Survivors
    - a. Ahmed stated that Betsy DeVos stripped support for survivors, this would ensure that Washington state Title IX regulations are not negatively affected, and instead added upon. The item asks to integrate interpersonal comprehensive support for students even if they are not on-campus due to COVID-19.
  7. Coast Salish Longhouse
    - a. Ahmed stated that this ask has been on the agenda for years, and hopefully will go to the state agenda this year.
  8. Equity Funding Ask
    - a. Ballard stated that multiple public schools in Washington realized that they all had equity asks and were lobbying on the same day, this strategy would strengthen the ask for funding. The colleges are WWU, CWU, EWU, and Evergreen.
  9. Support for Undocumented Students DACA Recipients
    - a. Ahmed stated that this was created three years ago and was just passed, this ask would make sure students could access the program and lower the residency requirement from three years in state to one year.
  10. Molina asked if Ballard had reached out to the tribal liaison concerning the CoSalish Longhouse. Ballard responded that they the Native American Student Union started lobbying for the ask over the summer and she reached out to American Indian/Alaska Native and First Relations Executive Director Laurel Ballew but had not received a response.

11. Molina stated that he came across a chronological account for the College of Ethnic Studies and how students have been advocating for this. He stated that he would love to share this when rounding up students to advocate for it.
12. Ballard clarified that the ten-million-dollar equity collaborative ask is something each school included will advocate for. The document clearly separated what amount of funding would go to each school. Western would receive 3.1 million dollars. Ahmed added that it is easier to ask for ten million once than having universities compete for the funding money.

B. Associated Students Vice President for Sustainability- Brock

1. Ford stated that he met with Handa, Alexander and a few other concerning how to handle the vacancy of the Sustainability program. According to the Bylaws, if the vacancy takes place in Fall quarter, a special election should be held. It also states that if there is a vacancy during Winter quarter, it is up to the board to decide how to handle the situation. During the meeting, they were leaning towards holding a special election since the election coordinator has more time.
2. Handa asked if students know about the vacancy, Alexander responded that they most likely did not, and this may be something worth contacting Hunter Stuehm, AS Communications Director, about to send out an email to the student body.
3. Handa stated that she advocated for a special election as the appointment of another V.P. may not be the best use of their power. This would be a great opportunity to pass the AS constitution with a few edits so that the Board of Trustees can ratify it per their duties in RCW 23B. The constitution should be more BIPOC centered. Handa stated that she would like to set up a taskforce to look at the constitution.
4. McBride stated that he has been the advisor for the V.P. for Sustainability. He stated that one of the responsibilities of the position that need to be filled is the chair of the SEJF committee, as the current Vice President of the committee, Ebon Oluchi, does not have the same access to resources, and they must have their first meeting before the first week of February.
5. Ballard asked if it would be possible to do the committee work as the election is happening so that when the V.P. is elected the board will be able to support them when they are elected. McBride stated that this would need to happen.
6. Alexander stated that the main route of communication to the V.P. is through email, and perhaps the board could reach out to I.T. for a reply all that explains that there is no one in the position currently. McBride would be able to provide information about the duties that need to be covered during the election and the transition, with a board member potentially as a mentor to the new V.P.
7. Handa stated that the website needs to be changed to reflect the vacancy of the position.
8. Ballard asked if Brock would be able to mentor. Brock stated that this would make sense as the positions are intertwined, and that he has the capacity to do this. Ford stated that the Board could make a document of the responsibilities that need to be filled so that the Board can collectively take on some of these.
9. Alexander commended Adah Barenburg and Mario Alem for input on the meeting and willingness to help with the election.
10. Byers stated that there is not yet a board assistant assigned to the committee, and there is not yet group office hours scheduled yet.

**VI. Action Items - Guests**

- A. None

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

- A. None

**VIII. Action Items - Board**

- A. None

**IX. Information Items - Board**

A. Academic Affairs Council- Handa

1. Handa stated that all of the documents she brought to the board are Charge and Charters. Handa stated that right now may be an apt time to start working on legacy documents, updating Charge and Charters, and being proactive about work since there is usually more extra time in Winter quarter.
2. Handa stated that the Academic Affairs Council is basically the old version of the Student Senate. Since this is the case, Handa is thinking of dissolving the committee.
3. Ford asked if Board members should be adding a dissolution section in the committee Charge and Charter. Alexander stated that there is a policy on the committee Charge and Charters, in which if they are not renewed, the committee is technically dissolved. Alexander suggested placing a date at the top of the Charge and Charter as to when the committee would dissolve if not renewed.
4. Ford asked if there should be a procedure for dissolving a committee otherwise. Alexander stated that this would be possible if the board did not want to wait until when the committee document expires.

B. Academically Technology Fee Committee- Handa

1. Handa stated that this committee is actually a faculty committee not an AS committee, however it still has a place on the board's list of committees. This should then be taken off the AS website, and instead adding that this is a committee under faculty senate in the new PRC or uploading the Faculty Senate Charge and Charter for the Academic Technology Committee.
2. Alexander stated that the faculty committee is still looking for student representation. The AS is allowed to offer the service of selecting student representation for committees. Brock's item that he brought the past week about the revamping of the committee system is an important step forward.

C. Student Technology Fee Committee- Handa

1. Handa stated that the only change was to switch the AS Vice President for Academic Affairs to the Senate Pro-Tempore. Now more than ever the Student Technology Fee is needed because of COVID-19. There are student advocates as well who are asking for more laptops to be available during this time.

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

A. Social Equity and Justice Funds Committee

- Ebon Oluchi
  - PJ Heusted
1. Molina stated that he currently sits on the Social Justice and Equity university committee and the reviewed the applications on the committee, but he does not spearhead the committee. How is he able to acknowledge this review?
  2. Alexander responded that there is not a committee coordinator this year, but this is why student names go on consent items. The students appointed or not appointed, as well as the chair of the relevant committee should then be reached out to by a board assistant.
  3. Brock stated that the Committee Council will be reviewing this process.

**XI. Discussion Items**

A.

**XII. Board Reports**

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President did not have anything to report.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities did not have anything to report.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity did not have anything to report.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs did not have anything to report.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services did not have anything to report.

Nora Harren, VP for Sustainability did not have anything to report.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that at the previous Student Senate meeting, there was a vote for Vice Chair which tied three times. Handa talked to advisors and reviewed the bylaws, and decided to make the two senators, Laura Wagner from the College of Environment and Althea Frye from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Co-Vice Chairs.

**XIII. Senate Reports**

A. None

**XIV. Other Business**

- A. 1. Alexander stated that the board needs to review Charge and Charters, as well as updated position descriptions. Alexander reminded the board that next Friday is the Board of Trustees meeting, and calendars need to be updated for scheduling purposes going into Winter quarter.

*Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 4:33 p.m.*