



## Western Washington University Associated Students

### AS Executive Board

Date

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):** Mario Alem

### Motions:

#### ASB-21-W-3

To approve the AS Executive Board Elections Code 2020-2021 special elections for the AS VP for Sustainability, giving the Elections Coordinator the authority to make small grammatical changes, and the changes discussed. **Passed.**

**Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at ~12:00 p.m.**

#### I. Approval of Minutes

None

#### II. Revisions to the Agenda

None

#### III. BSO Demands

1. Ford stated that applications for the BSO Development Specialist closed on Sunday, and the following Monday will be the MLK Day event.
2. Handa stated that ACC emailed the BSO concerning BSO demands. Once they hear back the ACC and Student Senate will collaborate before they vote on anything on the syllabus.

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

None

#### V. Action Items - Guests

- A. AS Executive Board Election Code- Alem

1. Alem stated that the day before was the last day to apply to the VP for Sustainability, the candidates will meet today with Alem to discuss the changes to the election code.
2. Alem stated that when he was making the changes to the code, he was trying to adopt changes the Election Advisory Committee already voted on in regard to changes to the Senate Elections Code. He stated that the changes were reformatting, removing the dates to the election, removing the signature requirement for running, adding the policy of eligibility to be hired in the U.S. More changes were to reflect the endorsement policy from the Senate Elections Code, and to reduce the campaign spending to match the Senate campaign spending to \$50 per candidate.
3. Alexander stated that the grievance board responsibilities should be more detailed to ensure that timelines for the election can be met.
4. Alem stated that these changes are for this special election, but more in-depth changes should be made after the election to improve the code. Alem stated that changes were to reword so that elections can be held digitally during the pandemic, and to add language for if a position does not get enough candidates.
5. Handa stated that in the old elections code, wording was both initiative and referenda, an initiative being filed by a student who meets a petition requirement and a referendum being filed by either a student or the Executive Board. Alem stated that this change could be reflected.

*MOTION ASB-21-W-3 by Handa*

To approve the AS Executive Board Elections Code 2020-2021 special elections for the AS VP for Sustainability, giving the Elections Coordinator the authority to make small grammatical changes, and the changes discussed.

*Second: Molina*

*Vote: 6-0-0*

*Action: Passed*

*Yes:*

*No:*

*Abstaining:*

**VI. Information Items - Guests**

A. None

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

A. None

**VIII. Action Items - Board**

A. None

**IX. Information Items - Board**

A. AS Constitution- Handa

1. Handa stated that with the quick turnaround for the document, it is not ethical to make any big changes other than those tasked to the board during Fall elections. In the Fall election, 88% of voters voted yes to a referendum to

change Senate elections to the Spring. In the Winter will be a constitutional amendment to solidify this decision. Handa noted that there is no guidelines in the AS Elections Code on constitutional amendments.

2. Handa proposed two wordings for the change. Either elections being completely in the Spring, or partially in the Spring and partially in the Fall.
3. Ford stated that he believes it would be more cohesive to have the election happen all at once.
4. Handa stated that she had a conversation with Kaemingk about developing the Student Union Board to include graduate students, transfer students, and freshman students to have a year to build experience in the first year.
5. Alexander stated that it's important to remember that first-year students may be transfers with prior college experience. Handa responded that she had conversations about having
6. Ballard stated that previously she was against this, but it is important to ensure equal training and opportunities.
7. Kaemingk stated that onboarding should be around the same time for elected individuals. He stated that he was in support of Spring elections for training purposes.
8. Molina stated that he is unsure of elections in the Spring as it may gatekeep students who are underrepresented that may start at Western in the Fall. This would also burden the OCE with managing both the Senate and Board elections at the same time. Handa responded that Alem previously stated that he would be able to do this.
9. Handa stated that there is a break in which there is no year-round representation for the Senate, which is unequal to the Board.
10. Byers stated her concern with workflow in the Spring and asked if there was an ability to stagger the elections. Handa responded that she believed it would be valuable if the Executive Board elections were held before the Student Senate elections in the Spring so if a student was not elected to the board, they would be able to run for a senate position.
11. Alexander stated that the board may consider having Spring elections for the senate and have a separate election in the Fall for first-year student senators. Alexander stated his concern for voter turnout with two elections next to each other, if there is double Spring elections, perhaps there could be temporary support staff.
12. Handa stated that voter turnout is always about outreach rather than the time allotted for voting, based on the last couple elections. Handa proposed electing 18 senators in the Spring, and 2 senators in the Fall (one freshman and one transfer student). These senators would be able to learn from others who were earlier elected.
13. Molina asked how long these elections have been at different quarters. Handa responded that since the senate was created it has been this way, in 2018.
14. Handa stated that she is planning to amend the Senate Constitution to add a section on amendments, as well as renaming the Senate Pro-Tempore position. Molina stated his interest in joining the taskforce for the Senate Constitution amendments.

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

A. None

**XI. Discussion Items**

A. None

**XII. Board Reports**

**Abdul Malik Ford, AS President** stated that he received an email on the legacy review taskforce, if anyone is interested, they should reach out. He is sitting on the job search committee and will update as the taskforce continues.

**Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities** stated that the Winter info fair occurred in the past week. Kaemingk stated that he is working on advertising the volunteer opportunities for MLK day, and when there is a VP for Sustainability elected, he would be willing to set up a time for the VP to meet with the rest of the board.

**Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity** stated that he met with Ijeoma Olou on the MLK day event, attended an ESC conference planning committee, and met with the AS ESC Advocacy & Programming Coordinator on sending out meeting invites to club leaders. He also attended a structure equity meeting on the budget processes, which are not accessible to students.

**Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs** stated that she has been preparing for Western Lobby Day, which will be held the following Monday.

**Carson Brock, VP for Student Services** stated that he has been working on starting up the Sustainability Equity and Justice Fund committee, as well as looking at plans for Fall orientation.

**Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore** stated that she has been talking to Sabah Randhawa on getting the AS Constitution on the Board of Trustees meeting agenda, as well as adding the Senate Pro-Tempore as a meeting attendee. Handa has also been working on ACC accommodations and Spring Election planning.

**XIII. Senate Reports**

1. Handa asked if the Vice Chairs of the Senate could be added as presenters so they were able to report under Senate Reports. Handa stated that the senate will have an emergency meeting to look at the Western Intersectional Lobby Day agenda, and that the College of Environmental Studies Senators wrote an op-ed on changing the Huxley name.

**XIV. Other Business**

A. None

***Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 1:41 p.m.***

DRAFT