



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Executive Board
January 22nd, 2021
MS Teams

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

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

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): Hunter Stuehm

Motions:

ASB-21-W-4 To approve the new language for the AS Constitutional Amendment that will be voted upon in the special election. **Passed.**

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. December 4th, 2020

1. The board decided to table the minutes until the following week.

II. Revisions to the Agenda

1. Handa requested the item AS Constitution Amendment from Action Items- Guests to Action Items- Board.

III. BSO Demands

1. Handa stated that two senators need to be approved for the legacy taskforce.
2. Molina stated that the hiring process for the Black Student Coalition Specialist has started and he has been receiving updates on the Black student space.
3. Alexander stated that he has been working with Facilities Development and Capital Budget to look at square footage in the Viking Union to look for space, and how it would affect the current offices. He will be sending an email to BSO student representatives to see when they are able to meet concerning this.

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

None

V. Action Items - Guests

A. None

VI. Information Items - Guests

A. None

VII. Personnel Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

VIII. Action Items - Board

A. AS Constitution Amendment- Handa

1. Handa presented the language for the Constitutional Amendment and original language of the election articles which can be found in the document for the January 22nd meeting minutes. The proposed amendment received 88% yes and 12% no from the student body vote.
2. Handa addressed the increase in cost, stating this would not mean an increase of cost for students.
3. Handa presented Mario Alem's testimony which stated that Alem supported AS Senate elections occurring in the Spring citing increased student representation and efficiency. Alem stated that as he was hired in his position in the Fall, Spring elections would give future Elections Coordinators more time to prepare and learn. He added that there is a good support system to be able to run both the Executive Board and Student Senate elections at the same time.
4. Handa stated that an amendment represents the whole AS of WWU whereas a referendum would only represent her opinion, which is why she chose to bring the proposal to the students with the information provided.
5. Alexander stated that when larger changes are made to the constitutions, a factor to consider is keeping or removing the exact dates as deadlines.

MOTION ASB-21-W-4 by Handa

To approve the new language for the AS Constitutional Amendment that will be voted upon in the special election.

Second: Ford

Vote: 5-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

IX. Information Items - Board

A. None

X. Consent Items (subject to immediate action)

A. None

XI. Discussion Items

A. Summer Quarter Fees

1. Alexander stated that he has been discussing how to budget based on the reduction of fees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Alexander stated that during the Summer quarter the fees are structured differently through the Office of Continuing Education. The office would like input from the Executive Board on Summer fees in a future Board and Senate meeting.
2. Alexander stated that moving towards the Spring, he will continue to look into reducing AS fees.

B. Revising the AS Constitutions

1. Ford stated that he believed the Executive Board and Student Senate should look into revising functions of each agency in the governing documents, to differentiate the two bodies.
2. Brock stated that himself and Molina both met with Melynda Huskey on this topic, and he agrees as well.
3. Handa stated that her taskforce is to focus on this topic. Handa added that the AS Constitution Amendments only have to be approved by the AS Executive Board, but Handa brought it to the Senate for courtesy.
4. Alexander stated that as the Executive Board moves to amend the Constitution, his role is to connect the board with resources and offer advisement. He stated that currently there are no values to hold the organization to in the Constitution, no component that holds accountability. He asked what other documents hold power within the organization; what are the things the entire student body needs to weigh in on, and what are the documents that can be more internal.
5. Molina stated that a task at this magnitude could be daunting or draining on the student employees who are working on it. He stated that collaborating with Huskey and Alexander may lessen the burden.
6. Ford asked if the organization is trying to model the bodies off of traditional governance, or if the organization is trying to create its own form of governance.
7. Handa stated that she will ask Casey Hayden and Raquel Vigil to be present in the taskforce. She stated that there is no direct line from the AS and the Faculty Senate to President Sabah Randhawa, they must go through Huskey and Carbajal to get their voices heard. Handa stated that the only person on the taskforce who wouldn't be connected to the AS would be Huskey, which she is uncomfortable with.
8. Brock stated that he believes the most people outside the AS that are on the taskforce, the better. They have good knowledge of the systems that the AS doesn't focus on, and they may not know how the AS works. It could give good perspective and knowledge.
9. Handa stated that educating outside administrators and having their opinions inform changing the constitution was not part of the taskforce originally. Some administrators have excluded student governance and sent unamiable emails in the past. Handa stated that she would like to find non-AS people who respect the students' decision-making.
10. Ford stated his agreement with Handa's statement.

11. Molina stated that he would like to invite students who are not part of the AS to bring new input.
12. Handa stated that the projected membership list of the taskforce would be: herself, Ford, Molina, KAemingk, Althea Frye and Laura Wagner (from the Student Senate), and OCE representative, another internal office representative, and two At-Large students. This would make quorum six.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President stated that he met with Huskey this week, who informed him that because of the executive order concerning DACA, the university may be able to open up institutional opportunities to provide support and resources to DACA students. The university is working on putting together an RFP (request for proposal) for dining contract decision-making. He stated that over 700 people turned out to the MLK event.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities stated that he is working with Joanne DeMark on making leadership positions more accessible to students. Concerning clubs, he has been adjusting the budget for the Activities Council, not holding a Spring Info Fair, but maybe a Transfer Info Fair closer to the Summer.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that he has been drafting up a letter to administrators concerning hiring a Chief Diversity Officer, and he would like to bring it to the board soon for their input. Molina stated that he talked to Huskey about creating a fund for DACA students to apply to for assistance, and perhaps a scholarship as well. Molina stated that the search committee for the Multicultural Student Director is moving forward. The Finance Council is working on drafting a value statement.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs was not present to make a report.

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services stated that he has been working on SEJF during the past week. He stated that he is also working with Melynda to hire the outside consultant on the dining system, he added that the Fairhaven dining hall was closed but is now open. The Committee Council has started up, and Brock invited board members to attend meetings to give perspective on the committees they sit on.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that during the Faculty Senate, a member of the public commented that the university did not have a Chief Diversity Officer, and this is something that Handa is planning to work on. Handa stated that she is trying to get the AS Constitution on the Board of Trustees agenda.

XIII. Senate Reports

1. Handa stated that the College of the Environment senators were interviewed for an op-ed in The Planet concerning the name change of the Huxley College. Handa stated that the DOC wrote a letter to the Senate concerning academic accommodations. Handa stated that one of the senators resigned, leaving two spots on the senate open; Handa will appoint senators to take their places, and the job postings will be up soon.

XIV. Other Business

A. Job Descriptions

1. Alexander reminded the board members to begin working on job description updates before the start of Spring elections. Alexander stated that budget requests will need to be confirmed by the end of the month. He stated that there still may be a few Charge and Charters that need to be updated as well.

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 1:40 p.m..