

**Western Washington University Associated Students
STUDENT SENATE**

Date: February 3, 2021

Attendees: *Olivia Chatters, Althea Frye, Ankur Handa, Kara Henry, Kendrick Jackson, Connor Johnson, Jasleen Kaur, Marissa McGinnis, Francis Neff, Samia Quidwai, Liz Rosales, Sameer Shorab, Kharma Stambaugh, Aidyn Stevens, Selam Swier, Laura Wagner, A.P. Wang, Sargun Handa, Nicole Ballard, Daniela Reyes, Raquel Vigil, Charlotta Abernathy, Mariam Wolters, Casey Hayden, Annie Byers, Ruth Flint-Blanchard*

MOTIONS

ASWWU-21-W-23	To pass the minutes.
ASWWU-21-W-24	To extend the action item.
ASWWU-21-W-25	To pass the WILD items.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore, called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a.

ASWWU-21-W-23

Motion by Samia Quidwai

To Approve all Minutes on Agenda

Seconded by Francis Neff

Motion passed 14-0-0.

II. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. BSO DEMANDS

- a.** S. Handa (she/her) reported that she proposed the BSO Demand #2 to the Executive Board to abolish the \$4,200 Federal Lobbying Trip Fund for the Executive Board as an information item with the hope to vote on it in coming weeks.
- b.** Wagner (she/her) updated on the Huxley College of the Environment Name Change process. She was appointed to the Legacy Review task force. She met with Kaylan Rocamora to discuss the issue. She got in contact with Paul Dunn on the issue as well. She has spoken with reporters on the name change as well. Wagner created a survey on the issue to get a better understanding of student's thoughts on it, and most responses were in favor of the college's name being changed, though there was some disagreement as to what it should be instead.

- c. McGinnis (she/her) reported that she and her co-senator went to the Fairhaven College Curriculum meeting and felt that they are on the right track for where Fairhaven's CORE meetings the BSO demands.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. INFORMATION ITEMS – Guests*

VI. ACTION ITEMS- Guests *

- a. Daniela Reyes presented the ESC Agenda for WILD. Mariam Wolters (she/her) presented the SAIRC Agenda for WILD. On the topic of Ensuring Equity in Healthcare, Stevens (she/her) asked Wolters to further explain what Health Literacy Programs for 9-12 are. Wolters replied that House Bill 1149 is an opportunity for groups within the Department of Health and Governor's Commission Group to include someone who focuses on minority group's health outcomes to create health literacy programs. On the topic of DEI training and Senate Bill 5227 which would provide DEI and anti-racism training to students and staff at higher education institutions, Wolters added that she would like for it to include administration more. Johnson (he/him) asked about what the exact training being advocated for was, as when he looked at the bill it includes students as well as staff, and he feels that the current DEI training has questions of its effectiveness, so he is concerned about whether the advocated for training will be effective. Wolters responded that Senate Bill 5227 would also include a campus wide survey of DEI and anti-racism training to find the goals for each university it impacts to see where they are lacking and what can be changed. From there they will target DEI and anti-racism training in staff and faculty, as well as how students fit into campus and other various aspects of student life. Johnson asked how effective training is to solve this issue, and if there are better ways to deal with these issues, since even with trainings there are still problems at Universities with racism and DEI issues. Wolters responded that Ballard had previously made the point that some Universities are further ahead with DEI and anti-racism trainings, so this bill is to assess different needs and goals from College and Universities that participate. Ballard (she/her) added that Senate Bill 5227 would also require faculty training, and that she feels that the comments about DEI training being ineffective is not accurate because WWU had not previously had required DEI training beyond the Sexual Assault training at the beginning of the year. She hopes that through this bill they can get a base idea of what is needed in training and can advocate for more specific training with that information. Johnson (he/him) said that he thought it was important to look at how other institutions' DEI training worked and how effective it is, as he feels that is not addressed in the bill. Quidwai (she/her) commented that how DEI is implemented, and its effectiveness has to do with what is taught, and the DEI training at WWU teaches skills which is effective. She then spoke from her perspective as a woman of color in a primarily white program and white institution who has made it to the doctoral level of study, saying that she

genuinely believes that DEI training is needed, and while it is not effective in some situations the information is important and can change behavior. Wolters added that there are student testimonies on the subject of the bill. Ballard added that Senate Bill 5227 was an original ask that stemmed from the BSO demands and they wanted to make sure that the training was mandated on a state level. Vigil commented that her understanding of what Johnson was saying was not that he was against supporting the bill, but that more than just training is done as well to improve. Johnson agreed, saying his concern was that he worried it was vague about how the training would actually impact DEI and if there are better solutions. Quidwai responded that she felt the bill covers those issues and is a good starting point. Vigil agreed that it is a good starting point, especially since DEI has not been a focus in higher education as of late. Johnson commented that there is not criteria for the assessments in the bill and asked about if there would be a way to include in the bill how improvement is measured. Ballard responded that the bill includes the Washington Student Achievement Council, who will be included in providing outlines and guidelines for the trainings and measurements of success. Charlotta Abernathy (they/them) added that basic understanding is important, and many students do not have that. Quidwai added that since the bill is close to being passed it would be obtuse not to support it, and while she understands Johnson's critique, working with that is there is how improvements will be made. S. Handa asked if the Senators were wanting a sentence added that clarified that the bill is a steppingstone to DEI and anti-racism training. The Senators generally commented that another sentence was not needed. On the topic of House Bill 1090 which relates to banning for-profit prisons in Washington State, Johnson asked whether Washington State is able to close Immigration Detention Centers and if that is something that can be achieved through the bill. Wolters responded that there has been news from the Biden Administration that they are trying to ban federal private for-profit prisons as well, but that that does not include the immigration detention centers, so the reason it is important that that is included on this ask is that if there is a federal push to do that, there may be ways that Washington State can support those wider efforts. Ballard added that the State can revoke the business license of the detention center. Quidwai added that 1090 would provide healthcare to those in the detention centers. Wolters then presented the DOC insert for WILD.

ASWWU-21-W-24

Motion to extend the time for the item.

By Marissa McGinnis

Seconded by Connor Johnson

Motion passed 15-0-0

ASWWU-21-W-25

Motion to approve WILD documents.

By Kara Henry

Seconded by Ankur Handa

Motion passed 15-0-0

VII. PERSONELL ITEMS

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – Senate*

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS – Senate *

X. CONSENT ITEMS

XI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

XII. SENATE REPORTS

- a. McGinnis (she/her) reported that the Fairhaven senators have a presentation about narrative evaluations and have set up a town hall with Ebon.
- b. Chatters (she/her) reported that she and A. Handa have been working to get more information about first year math failure rates.

XIII. BOARD REPORTS

- a. S. Handa reported that Z won as ASVP for Sustainability and the amendment to move elections passed.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:30 P.M.