



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Executive Board
February 19th, 2021
MS Teams

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

Absent: None

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

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): None

Motions:

ASB-21-W-10 To approve the revisions to the agenda, as well as acknowledging the consent item from the Disability Advocacy Committee. **Passed.**

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

None

II. Revisions to the Agenda

1. Handa requested the item Honor College Pros & Cons to be moved from Information Items with Guests to Information Items with Board.
2. Ballard requested adding the AS Executive Board Constitution and the Meeting Structure as Discussion Items.
3. Brock requested adding Anna Stewart to the Disability Advocacy Committee as a Consent Item.

MOTION ASB-21-W- by Ballard

To approve the revisions to the agenda, as well as acknowledging the consent item from the Disability Advocacy Committee.

Second: Brock

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

III. BSO Demands

1. Molina stated that the BSO Coalition hired three new students, Black History Month events are happening throughout the month, and he has been

working on creating a survey to ask BIPOC students at Western about the Huxley name change.

2. Handa stated that there will be a forum on the projected PLEJ GUR system in the upcoming week, and she asked Student Senators to send her updates on the BSO Demands to add to the website.
3. Stuehm stated that he has been updating the VU and AS social media pages for events happening for Black History Month, and he received more information concerning to BSO space in the VU.
4. Ballard stated that SB 5227 concerning the DEI training for staff and students in higher education has been moving in the state legislature. WWU and the Washington Student Association have been working with Senator Randall and other organizations to see what the training would look like and how costs and amendments would affect it. A new bill, HB 1517, which would expand the Washington College Grant and the Workforce Investment Program to cover the cost of tuition for more students in higher education has dropped although it's unlikely to receive full funding.
5. Lavalais stated that she discussed BSO demand number six, the Huxley college name change, with College of the Environment senators about reaching out to BIPOC students for input on the name change. The legacy review taskforce meeting brought up holding public forums for input as well.

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. None

IX. Information Items - Board

- A. Senate Pro-Tempore Job Description Updates- Handa
1. Handa stated that she updated the committees that are active or inactive on the job description and will bring the item back in the following week with more edits.
 2. Alexander stated that under AS Employment Qualifications, a section that matches the elections code stating that the applicant must be eligible for employment in the U.S and on Western's campus must be added.

- B. Student Technology Fee Committee Charge & Charter- Handa
1. Handa stated that she would like Brock to take over as chair for the committee, as she did not believe it focused on academic technology. Brock added that he would attend the committee meeting in the following week.
 2. Alexander stated that the most current Charge and Charter is not located on the AS website, but in an office, so the edits should be made off of the newer document.
- C. Honors College Pros & Cons- Handa
1. Handa presented the Honors College Proposal document which can be located on the AS website under the February 19th meeting minutes documents.
 2. Handa presented the Honors College Pros & Cons Document.
 3. Handa stated that the cons with the proposed Honors College are fixable, however as of yet there has been no BIPOC community or student input on the college and curriculum. Handa stated that the administration would be sending a clear message to the student body if they create an Honors College before an Ethnic Studies College.
 4. Handa stated that the document will be refined and then presented to the Honors Board. Handa asked who would benefit from the proposed college, how would it not be merit based, and what the retention rates of students of color are in the honors program. Handa stated that the Honors Board is all white and that there are only two BIPOC members sitting on the curriculum board. Handa stated that she is not against the honors program, she would just like these issues addressed. The prioritization of BIPOC issues would benefit the whole university.
 5. Alexander stated that if a meeting is held to write a formal resolution, it may be beneficial to invite people who are able to answer these questions.
 6. Molina stated that the College of Ethic Studies was founded in 1962 and then disbanded in 1972.
 7. Ballard asked what would happen if the funding for Ethnic Studies request was passed by the state; would both colleges be created at the same time?
 8. Handa stated that it is unclear at the moment what the Honors College would look like, but it would probably be created before the Ethnic Studies College.

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

- A. None

XI. Discussion Items

- A. AS Executive Board Constitution Conversation
1. Ballard stated that she is concerned about the current timeline of the constitution and would feel more comfortable if the board would be able to solidify the goal of the constitution, shooting for something more long-term rather than trying to finish revisions within the school year.
 2. Handa stated her agreement with this method and added that the next board could finish and approve the amendments to the constitution. Handa

stated that she is in favor of having stakeholders from other offices weigh in on the conversation as well.

3. Molina stated that he believed that students not involved with the AS would be willing to voice their opinions and concerns when revising the constitution.
4. Kaemingk suggested having smaller groups of board members work on the constitution in smaller parts.
5. Ballard stated that she is looking at the role of the Senate Pro-Tempore as imbalanced to other board members, as well as how senate committee appointees are all decided by the singular board member.
6. Handa stated that with all senate members being elected at the same time as the board, there will be more time to prepare the Pro-Tempore and Senators for training. Handa stated that perhaps the extra hours the Pro-Tempore is allotted is not a privilege but an added difficulty. Handa stated that the Senate Pro-Tempore only appoints senators to committees they agree to, just as the president appoints board members to committees.

B. AS Executive Board Meeting Structure

1. Brock stated that he talked with other board members about having meetings with all board members that would be open to the public to set expectations and discuss and work through items rather than to have to discuss and pass items in one meeting.
2. Molina stated that they discussed biweekly meeting for this. With these more informal meetings, there would be less pressure to use Robert's Rules which is inaccessible to the general public; addressing number nine of the BSO demands.
3. The board members upon the creation of these meetings.
4. Byers stated that there are state laws that need to be followed with publicly elected officials. Byers stated that the board could think about doing a working session, a retreat meeting, perhaps in smaller groups.

XII. Board Reports

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

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities stated that he is working on a first-generation initiative with Student Outreach Services to make a WWU logo and working on legacy documents and helping clubs transition with renewal.

Zarea Lavalais, VP for Sustainability stated that she is looking at the BSO demand of hiring another Black counselor. She reached out to Ledbetter who informed her of the position of the Multicultural Resiliency Specialist. Lavalais stated her concern about the lack of diversity in counseling in Bellingham as the job description cannot specify that the goal is to hire a Black counselor.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that the Undocumented and Mixed-Status Student, Staff and Faculty Council will be holding an introductory meeting to present a presentation from the BRC the SAIRC Coordinator and himself. There will

be more developments on the Chief Diversity Officer letter. The hiring committee for the Assistant Director of Multicultural Engagement has had discussed options for interview topics. Molina stated that most board members have a board of advisory (the senate for the Senate Pro-Tempore, the LAC for the VP for Legislative Affairs, etc.), so he is working on a student advisory diversity council for support and input in his position.

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

Carson Brock, VP for Student Services stated that he has been working with advising services on how to navigate advising to students in the fall who are first-generation and BIPOC students who perhaps have never been on campus due to COVID-19. He has also been working on the hiring committee for someone who will be focusing on the first-year experience; for example the FIG groups and Viking lounge. He has been working on the ESP director to access more funding to increase childcare options and working with Residence Life on the budget for Food and Housing.

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore stated that she would report in the following week.

XIII. Senate Reports

None

XIV. Other Business

A. None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 2:47 p.m.