



Western Washington University Associated Students
AS Executive Board
February 12th, 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:

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

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): None

Motions:

ASB-21-W-9 To add fifteen more minutes to the ASWWU Racial Equity Core Committee Information Item. **Passed.**

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

I. Approval of Minutes

None

II. Revisions to the Agenda

1. Handa asked to add a discussion item concerning technology at Western.

III. BSO Demands

1. Ford stated that the hiring process for the Coalition Development Specialist is underway. Ford stated that he has had conversations with Randhawa and Huskey on funding for the Black Student Coalition.
2. Molina stated that there are online events happening online all through the February to celebrate Black History Month.
3. Ballard stated that during WILD, students will be advocating for Juneteenth to be a national holiday, as well as a bill that would implement mandatory DEI training in higher education. The federal lobby day trip will not be requested for the following year, and the money can be allocated elsewhere.
4. Lavalais stated that, to address BSO demand six, she talked with the Legacy Taskforce regarding discussion on the name change of the Huxley College of Environmental Studies.

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. ASWWU Racial Equity Core Committee- Molina

1. Molina presented the Charge and Charter for the Racial Equity Core Committee.
2. Molina stated "Are the ASWWU ready for the profound commitment and investment in work the work of racial equity and social justice? If we as an organization are ready to put in the work of anti-blackness, anti-indigeneity, and the white supremacist practice we hold as an organization, then I urge us to start the ASWWU Racial Equity Core Committee. The ASWWU needs critical infrastructure to move from lofty ideals to concrete actions. Equity needs to be thought of as both aspirational and operational frameworks, a process and a destination. Creating the ASWWU Racial Equity Core Committee will help us anchor and drive the center of this work. I've created the Racial Equity Core Committee to have one representative of each ASWWU office to ensure that we have a broad and equal representation of the ASWWU. Once the ASWWU Racial Equity Core Committee is established, initial activities will include community building, envisioning, and training. Then the Racial Equity Core Committee is ready to embark on developing priorities and plans."
3. Molina stated that he has placed himself as the chair of the ASWWU Racial Equity Core Committee, and that the co-chair will be selected by the Core committee. He stated that each quarter the committee will have a newly appointed chair and co-chair to ensure that one individual is not burned out.
4. Brock asked why the chair (the AS VP for Diversity) and the appointed AS Student Senator are non-voting. Molina responded that these positions already have a lot of power in the AS. Molina explained that this would allow members of student government to share their opinions but to not hold too much power.
5. Handa stated that she is in favor of the two student government members as non-voting.
6. Ballard stated that she was considering advocating for the AS VP for Governmental Affairs to sit on the committee as a non-voting member as the conversations happening on the committee concerning racial equity would be helping to inform the lobbying agendas and efforts.

7. Alexander stated that there are two things that make Charge and Charters powerful; granted authority, and duties. He suggested fleshing out these two things and consider utilizing two advisors for support on the committee. He stated that the board is very internal in membership and suggested looking at adding Students At-Large to the committee for outside voices. Alexander suggested adding the language “or designee” to accommodate for members who may not have time for a quarter or year to serve on the committee.

MOTION ASB-21-W-9 by Molina

To add fifteen more minutes to the ASWWU Racial Equity Core Committee Information Item.

Second: Ford

Vote: 7-0-0

Action: Passed

Yes:

No:

Abstaining:

8. Handa stated that there are eight members and a Student At-Large would be able to break this tie. Handa stated that for every Executive Board Member that is on a committee, there should be a Student Senator as well to even out the representation.

X. Consent Items (subject to immediate action)

A. Counseling, Health, and Wellness Committee- Jade Hedeon

1. Brock stated that no student has technically received notice that they have been accepted onto a committee, but this has been cleared up.

B. Student Enhancement Fund Committee- Blake Gibson

1. Brock stated that both members have been approved by the Committee Council.

XI. Discussion Items

A. Honors College- Handa

1. Handa stated that the Honors College is a push from Sabah Randhawa and something that many Fairhaven Student Senators and BIPOC honors program students are opposed to. Handa stated that pros include: bring more money to the University, make WWU more competitive, provide support to honors students, pay more to faculty who are working within the program. Handa stated that cons include: shifting attention for in-state students to out-of-state students, non-transparent source of money, serves advantaged and less-diverse students, reduce attendance and funding to Fairhaven College.
2. Handa stated that the Honors Board, who voted on this decision is majority white and students on the board felt pressured to vote “yes” on this decision. Handa stated that all Honors Program students are required to take courses 103 to 106, and 105 and 106 both sometimes include books from

the colonizer's perspective, which BIPOC students have stated as traumatizing. Handa stated that the creation of the Honors College isn't a problem, it is the time and energy that is being put towards its creation currently rather than towards the Ethnic Studies College.

3. Handa asked: how will this new college make WWU a more diverse and anti-racist institution, how will it be funded, will it take away resources from other programs, what is the proposal for the budget, what is the retention rate for BIPOC and first-generation students within the Honors Program, why is the University pushing for this proposal when the support for an Ethnic Studies College has been presented for year, why is the proposal happening during the time of a global pandemic, how is the Honors Program not merit based, how will WWU ensure that the labor to create the College would not be put on the faculty of color, is the college focused on admitting more in-state or out-of-state students, and if out-of-state how does this serve WWU's mission of serving Washington students.
4. Handa stated that it is incredibly unethical to invite more BIPOC students into a program that has historically BIPOC people, without addressing these issues.

B. ASWWU Constitution Taskforce- Handa

1. Handa stated that the Student Tech Fee is \$35 every quarter, with CARES funding Western got twenty mobile hotspots which now need monthly funding. The Student Tech Fee (STF) Committee only has \$180,000 to allocate to proposals and there are \$480,000 worth of proposals currently. Handa asked why the Senate Pro-Tempore is handling these decisions as the AS VP for Student Services seems like a more fitting role.
2. Brock stated that this seems more like a service-related task, and he could envision the switch to his position taking over this task. Brock stated that it may be helpful for him to attend STF meetings this year to have more insight to add to the legacy documents for the next person in his position.
3. Alexander stated that the easiest way to shift to this would be to bring a proposal to the STF committee which would then have to be approved through the Executive Board, and to change the job descriptions at the end of this year.
4. Handa stated that the membership on the taskforce would be: the Senate Pro-Tempore, the VP for Diversity, the AS President, two Student Senators, the Business Director, the AS Elections Coordinator, and two Students At-Large.
5. Brock stated that he was concerned with such a large taskforce on how to schedule meetings. Brock proposed working with a smaller group and then bringing it to other offices for feedback.
6. Handa stated that she could take off the Business Director, Elections Coordinator, and two Students At-Large.
7. Alexander stated that the goal of the taskforce would be to complete its work before the Spring Elections. The other option would be to create a Summer Taskforce.
8. Ballard stated that she would feel better about a larger taskforce because she would like the document to have a more balanced perspective. Molina

agreed. Ballard proposed taking the Senate Pro-Tempore off the committee as the two senators would bring the academic perspective.

9. Handa stated that herself and one other senator would count as the two senators. Ballard asked if the removal of the senator from the taskforce was due to capacity or due to Handa feeling strongly about the Senate Pro-Tempore sitting on the committee. Ballard stated that since the Executive Board often has more power than the Student Senate, using the Senate Pro-Tempore in place of a senator may cause an uneven perspective. Handa stated that she considers herself a liaison between the two branches.
10. Ford stated that the AS Student Government will have to consider the role of the Senate Pro-Tempore, and whether they should still sit on the Executive Board. Ford asked what the position of the Senate Pro-Tempore would be if the Senate lacked funding and was not able to exist. Ford stated that the board needs to be realistic with themselves on the timeline of the taskforce.
11. Handa stated that she will bring a list the following week of the taskforce's leadership, values, and goals.

C. Housekeeping: Job Descriptions/Charge & Charters, Legacy Documents, and BSO Demand Quarterly Updates- Handa/E. Alexander

1. Alexander stated that the job description updates are under the responsibilities of the board members who should work with their advisors and bring it to the board as a Discussion Item. Alexander stated that there is a list of committees that the board members are responsible for; the Charge and Charters must be updated per biennium to stay active.
2. Brock stated that the Committee Council is working on updating the committee website, and if board members have a description of the committee to be posted on the website, they should send it to him. Brock stated that because of COVID-19, his job has changed and asked how to address this on the job description.
3. Alexander stated that there may be language that the board adopts to ensure student representation continues in the online environment. Alexander proposed putting these uncertain tasks under an "as needed" section and adding a description of what this work is.
4. Ford stated that a lot of the transitions to the online environment could be marked on the legacy document which could be posted online. Alexander recommended writing the job description with the assumption that work would be done primarily in-person.

XII. Board Reports

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President stated that he met with Randhawa and Huskey who informed him that the Multicultural Initiative Director has been posted internally.

Keenan Kaemingk, VP for Activities stated that he has been working on the end of the year wrap up and on transitions to the Fall Quarter from online to in-person.

Zarea Lavalais, VP for Sustainability stated that she has been contacting environmental clubs on campus, some of which are concerned about how they can

get involvement in the Shred the Contract. Lavalais proposed channeling this energy to cutting excessive waste on-campus until there is an opportunity to change the contract with Aramark. Lavalais stated that she is planning on talking to the Environmental Dean as well as the Zero Waster organization.

Ranulfo Molina, VP for Diversity stated that he has shared to the ESC and ESJ about the Resident Director job opening, which will be working with the Black Affinity Housing. Molina stated that the Undocumented and Mixed-Status Student, Staff and Faculty Council are planning to meet up in the near future, and that the hiring committee for the Assistant Director of Multicultural Engagement is moving forward.

Nicole Ballard, VP for Governmental Affairs stated that she has been working on preparing for Western Intersectional Lobby Day and working on the University Budget Committee. Ballard stated that the OCE is actively posting Black History Month events and information on social media.

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

Sargun Handa, Senate Pro-Tempore did not have anything to report.

XIII. Senate Reports

None

XIV. Other Business

A. None

Abdul Malik Ford, AS President, adjourned this meeting at 2:40 p.m.